

Asphalt Work on Lataband Road Begins from Kabul

KABUL - Asphalt work on a 27-kilometre portion of the 52-km Lataband Road began in central Kabul province on Thursday, a \$17 million project to be completed in one and a half years, an official said. The asphalt repairs were started from Budkakh locality near capital Kabul and the \$17 million cost would be provided by the Ministry of Public Works. At the ground-breaking ceremony for the long-sought-after project, Acting Public Work Minister Noor Gul Mangal urged residents to help his ministry provide security for the project, otherwise it would be difficult to complete it. He urged Ahmad Zia Massoud, the president special envoy for reforms and good governance, to increase budget for the project. The Ministry of Finance, he said, had set aside \$1.5 million in this fiscal year's budget, but the project required \$17 million. Massoud, who was present at the ceremony, said the Lataband road, once repaired, would help ease travelling for people and energise trade and economic activities. He reiterated the government's resolve to reconstruct roads and connect districts with provincial capitals in the coming years. He said construction of roads was an important part of infrastructure development and was vital for economic growth. Mangal said without people's support, the construction company would be unable to complete the project. Two bridges, 80 culverts and retaining walls would be constructed as part of the project, he added. (Pajhwok)

Big Terror Bid Foiled as 2 Suicide Bombers Held

JALALABAD/QALAT - The National Directorate of Security (NDS) on Thursday claimed arresting six militants, including two suicide bombers, in Jalalabad City, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, an official said. Ahmad Zia Abdullahzai told Pajhwok Afghan News the two bombers, a suicide facilitator with three other rebels were detained. One pistol, five military uniforms, two grenades, bullets and some other equipment



were recovered from the men. The spy department claimed thwarting a hug sabotage act by detaining the men with huge explosive. A minor girl was killed in a bomb blast in southern Zabul province. A security official Ghulam Jilani Farahi told Pajhwok Afghan News the explosion took place in Qalat City, the capital of Zabul province, on Thursday, which also left another woman wounded. (Pajhwok)

10 Rebels Dead in Pakistan's Airstrikes in Orakzai Region

KABUL - Ten suspected militants were killed in airstrikes conducted by Pakistani security forces in the restive Orakzai tribal region, a security official said. The military operation, Dawn.com reports was carried out in Shekhan area of the volatile belt, said the officials without quoting names. Six suspects were also arrested by forces and a dozen other militant hideouts were also smashed during raids. Meanwhile, three suspected militants died in Khyber Agency in Tor Dara area of Tirah valley. Security officials said suspected militants were reportedly preparing an improvised explosive device that exploded prematurely, killing three people. Pajhwok)

4 Insurgents Dead in Airstrike

GARDEZ - Four militants were killed in foreign forces airstrikes in the Zurmat district of southeastern Paktia province on Friday, a senior police official said. Col. Mohammad Zama said the attack took place at Sahako locality of the district early in the morning. The militants were travelling in car when they came under attack. Two commanders were among the dead, he said but neither the Taliban nor foreign forces commented on the incident as of yet. Zurmat is one of the most insecure districts of the province where fighting were taking between militants and security forces. (Pajhwok)

Gun Battle Leaves 5 Rebels Dead

GHAZNI CITY - Five insurgents were killed in exchange of gun fire with the security forces in the Ander district of southern Ghazni province, a security official said on Friday. Nazif Ullah Sultani, spokesman for the 203rd Thunder Corps, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the clash erupted Friday morning and five militants were killed in the ensuing battle. The security forces, Sultani said had recovered huge quantity of ammunition. However, he said security personnel remained unhurt in the fire fight. Abdul Mateen, a resident of the district, told Pajhwok Afghan News one security man wounded and he saw militants' dead bodies at the scene. Taliban have not yet commented on the incident. (Pajhwok)

Ghani, Abdullah Asked to Step Down over Insecurity

KABUL - A large number of enraged protesters on Thursday took to the streets in capital Kabul, demanding the president and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to step-down forthwith in the backdrop of boiling insecurity in parts of the country. The protest was held in Zarnigar Park area where demonstrators accused government leaders of locked in differences over appointing of their favorite choices to various



ministries. Pointing to recent casualties of Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers in northeastern and western parts of the country and unclear fate of 31 passengers abducted, the protesters chanted: "Death to the national unity government, death to ISIS and Taliban." ... (More on P4)... (16)

Prices of Fuel, Flour Down in Kabul

KABUL - The rates of fuel, flour and liquefied gas have dipped down while that of sugar and foreign currency increased during the outgoing week in the capital Kabul, market sources said Thursday. A filling station worker in Kampany locality, Abdul Malik, told Pajhwok Afghan News the price of one litre of diesel was 40afs and the same quantity of petrol 42afs, compared to last week's price of diesel 44afs and petrol 41afs. A large quantity of

diesel imports reduced its prices, he said. In food items, the price of flour has decreased while that of sugar edged up. Fazal Rahman, head of Food Traders' Union, said the price of 50 kilograms of Pakistani sugar has increased from 1,540 afghanis to 1,550afs while the price of 50kg of Pakistani flour has dipped down from 1,240afs to 1,230afs. Other food items remained steady. One kilogram of Vietnamese green... (More on P4)... (17)

Policeman, 20 Insurgents Dead in Gun Battle

SHIBERGHAN - One police officer and 20 Taliban have been killed in fierce firefight in northern Jawzjan province, provincial police chief said on Friday. Brig. Gen. Faqir Mohammad Jawzjani told Pajhwok Afghan News the gun battle erupted when heavily-armed militants ambushed convoy of Afghan National Army (ANA) and police near Arigh and Aqcha districts late Thursday. The Afghan security forces had prior information about the looming Taliban's waylay

when the forces were returning from Khamab district. The Afghan forces, he said exchanged heavy fire with insurgents. A notorious militant commander Naqib Ullah was also among the dead, he added. He confirmed the death of one of Afghan security forces official. He said two dead bodies of rebels were still lying in the area. Rahmat Ullah



Locust Attack Looms Large over Baghlan: Farmers

PUL-I-KHUMRI - Farmers in northern Baghlan province on Thursday said they were concerned about a looming grasshopper attack on their crops. Members of the agricultural cooperative and farmers asked the authorities concerned to pay urgent attention to the threat. The cooperative head, Mohammad Omar, said that the number of baby grasshoppers seemed to have doubled this year and could destroy all crops once took to the air. He said the young hoppers



would be able to fly in 10 days and might damage crops if not destroyed. He said wheat crop was grown on 20,000 acres of land in Gabr desert and the cooperative supervised 6,000 acres. A team appointed by the provincial Agriculture Department has so far sprayed 2000 acres of land with anti-grasshopper drug. But Omar said the small team could not eliminate the insect totally because the area was wider. "The agriculture department each year sends five teams for elimination of grasshoppers but the single team this year cannot perform the task alone," Omar added. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Waves of positive energy motivate you to take a chance and creatively express your feelings to someone you like. Although you appear to be lighthearted and even playful, there is more going on than meets the eye as the Aries New Moon forms an otherworldly alignment with mysterious Pluto. Don't be afraid to tap into the potent energies that lurk just beneath the surface.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Although you might appear relaxed and easygoing, you have a hidden agenda today that is influencing your most important decisions. But you're not about to share your innermost thoughts now that the independent Aries New Moon fires up your 12th House of Secrecy. However calm you seem to others, you're actually busy plotting and planning with great intention.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Although you love the electricity of the present moment, your thoughts are wandering off into the future with great hope and eager anticipation. Today's spontaneous Aries New Moon activates your 11th House of Long-Term Goals, making it tough to stick to your routine today. Rather than relegating your fantasies to the back burner, go along for the ride as if you were watching a movie.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You may be overly concerned now with your reputation in the neighborhood, at church or even in your family. You want to live up to everyone's expectations while the Aries New Moon emphasizes your 10th House of Responsibility. However, what people think about you is less important than how you feel about your current actions.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You might think your plans are practical, but your growing excitement overrules a more sensible approach to the situation. The enterprising Aries New Moon lands in your 9th House of Big Ideas, tempting you to use your charisma to sell your current cause. It's a mixed blessing that your newfound inspiration effortlessly lures others into your camp.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You could throw your normally cautious approach to intimacy out the window now as the reckless Aries New Moon stirs the energy of your 8th House of Deep Sharing. You're not content to filter out emotional intensity for the sake of analytical clarity. You feel a pressing sense of urgency, like you might miss an important experience if you don't take a risk right now.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Seeking balance in relationships is one of your primary directives in life. Today's active Aries New Moon draws your attention to your 7th House of Others, making you acutely aware of your role as peacemaker. But you could be so intent on helping someone else that you lose track of your personal needs. If you're not centered in your own energy, you won't be of value to anyone else.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Seize this cosmic adrenaline rush to make a serious dent in your current list of projects. However, you might mistakenly believe you can do everything all at once now that the self-directed Aries New Moon pumps up your 6th House of Work. No doubt, you are a force to be reckoned with when you focus your intentions like a laser light saber.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

It's never difficult for you to justify a play day, but it's even easier now that the ardent Aries New Moon highlights your 5th House of Fun and Games. Everyone seems drawn to you because they assume life will be more exciting when they are in your company. But they get more than they bargain now for because you're not as footloose and fancy free as you appear. Beneath your cheery disposition is your unrelenting drive to make this day as memorable as you can.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

You need a day off, one without your ambitious nature driving you to take on more responsibility. Instead of trying to produce tangible results now, give yourself the room to sink into your feelings and hang out with those you love. But don't just fill in your calendar with more things to do; cancel a social appointment and consider staying home tonight.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Filling up your day with one exciting activity after another will certainly keep your mind busy, but you might be better off if you took some time to smell the flowers along the way. The fiery Aries New Moon ramps up the energy of your 3rd House of Immediate Environment, making everything seem more important than it actually is.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

People might criticize your current priorities because they think you are scattered in too many directions now. But you have a concrete plan in mind, along with the enthusiasm and determination to execute it on schedule. Don't let anyone else's negativity plant seeds of self-doubt in the fertile soil of your imagination. Honor the Aries New Moon by channeling its creativity into your 2nd House of Self-Esteem.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-60.

Across: 1. Ancient Hebrew vestment, 6. Cocoyam, 10. Information, 14. Exotic jelly flavor, 15. Head covering, 16. Holly, 17. Interlace, 19. Achy, 20. Record player, 21. Chief Executive Officer, 22. A basic knitting stitch, 23. Style of interior furnishings, 25. Soft drinks, 26. A style of design, 30. Cherubim, 32. Supercilium 35. Stretchable, 39. Decrease, 40. Mountain range, 41. Gist, 43. Stress, 44. Unpleasant odor, 46. Male offspring, 47. Accumulate, 50. Blithely, 53. Medium-sized tubular pasta, 54. Arrive (abbrev.), 55. Overnight bag, 60. "Do ___ others..." 61. Impulsive, 63. A soft sheepskin leather, 64. Not odd, 65. Despises, 66. Makes a mistake, 67. Bristle, 68. Exchange. Down: 1. Auspices, 2. Kick, 3. Despise, 4. Not under, 5. Acted presumptuously, 6. Night before, 7. Church official, 8. Deviate, 9. Margarine, 10. Deprive, 11. Not silently, 12. Latin name for our planet, 13. Skating jumps, 18. Suffering, 24. Bird call, 25. Killed, 26. Expunge, 27. Visual organs, 28. To tax or access, 29. Fixations, 31. If not, 33. Leases, 34. A single time, 36. Threesome, 37. Press, 38. Tins, 42. Etch, 43. Your (archaic), 45. Rug, 47. Sky-blue, 48. Of lesser importance, 49. Fragrant oil, 56. 51 in Roman numerals, 52. Luxury boat, 54. Air force heroes, 56. Teller of untruths, 57. Greek letter, 58. Sought damages, 59. Being, 62. Ribonucleic acid.

Yesterday's Solution: RACE, THESE, OBEY, ERAS, HOPES, URSAL, IRREVERENT, TANK, NAPS, UNSETTLED, ESSENCE, ISLES, NEE, REALTIES, MILDLY, WANTS, MEO, EYES, DANCE, RARAP, TAG, BARGIE, SHEDS, EYESORES, ONE, NINTO, SMOTHER, CODDIE, OATHER, ODE, ALAS, TUMULTUOUS, PERT, ASIDE, SECT, SOVA, BEAST, EYES.

VERBO SEREE GDM SEAR CHISLQBNO IA OVEA OTLFTUU DYBPTOTREASON EAJ SHEPVENBFD BGE C F O B R R C P E O ACCOUNTAEYHAL RSTORKEORSASA JNIVYVRPGSTL FRONT EOSLEETO ZONES SRPARKSN ATTEMPTTTITLE AUTHORSPEAKER