

Department Failed to Protect Natural Resources: Director

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Director of mines and petroleum for northern Balkh province on Wednesday acknowledged his department failed to protect natural resources in the province due to absence of needed facilities and other resources.

In his exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, Habibullah Kohmandi said that Balkh was one of the richest provinces of the country in terms of reserves of natural resources.

The province has abundant reservoirs of crude oil, glass, salt, construction and others precious stones, he said, adding due lack of vehicles officials of his department were unable to monitor the sites of natural resources and prevent illegal excavation.

In addition, he said, interrupted power supply hampered progress of



routine office work. The employee had to wait for several hours to turn on their computers to complete their assignments.

Kohdamani said most of the times, contractors created hurdles in the payment of taxes which was another headache for them. Such behavior of contractors caused cancellation of the contract with a particular firm, he recalled.

He ... (More on P4)...(16)

Spring Plantation Drive Kicked-Off

ZARANJ - The spring tree plantation campaign began officially in southwestern Nimroz province, an official said on Monday.

Agriculture Director Mohammad Akbar Sharifi said around 19,000 saplings would be planted in Zaranj, the provincial capital, ahead of the spring season.

He said the saplings would be distributed among people free of cost for plantation. The trees could be planted on roadsides, streets sides and courtyards, he added.

The agriculture department had distributed 19,000 saplings early winter for plantation, but local said that 80 percent of ... (More on P4)...(23)

Heavy Avalanche Blocks Highway

PUL-I-KHUMRI - An enormous avalanche blocked the vital Baghlan-Takhar Highway, forcing passengers of over 100 vehicles to take refuge in locals' houses, the residents said on Wednesday.

The avalanche rolled down from a mountain on Tuesday afternoon in Guzargah district of Baghlan province, covered over one kilometer of the highway.

Khudaidad, a driver, said: "The road has been blocked since yesterday. If the government doesn't take quick action it will multiply people's problems."

He told Pajhwok Afghan News the residents have given refuge to hundreds of passengers and were running out of food and other daily use ... (More on P4)...(24)

Majority of Families Conceal Rape Cases

KABUL - A new research has found that majority of families in Afghanistan were concealing cases of rape and sexual harassment, and that women and girls were not safe.

The research, conducted by Women and Children Legal Research Foundation (WCLRF), showed that major reasons for such harassments were family enmities, domestic disputes, poverty, bias towards women, superstitions and illiteracy.

Shahzada Akbar, Open Society head in Kabul,



said cases of sexual harassment against women were on the rise. "Women are being mistreated by their husbands, parents, siblings, neighbors at schools, university and outside of their homes."

She said it was important for families to teach children how to behave with opposites after age of seven. She asked for stern action against those behind harassment of women. Meanwhile ... (More on P4)...(17)

Janikhel Police Chief Killed in Roadside Bombing

SHARAN/QALAT - The police chief for the Janikhel district of south-eastern Paktika province was killed in a roadside bombing near his house on Wednesday.

Second Lt. Shah Faisal was on his way to the district headquarters when his vehicle struck a roadside bomb 200 metres away from his home, killing him and one of his guards, an official said on condition



of anonymity. Residents confirmed Faisal had died in the

Husband Beats Pregnant Wife to Death

TALEQAN - A 22-year-old woman has lost her life after being severely beaten by her husband for unknown reasons in northeastern Takhar, police sources said on Wednesday.

The victim, Acha Gul,

succumbed to her injuries when shifted to the hospital in Kalafgan district, Police Chief Haji Mohammad Agha said, adding the victim's husband was under police custody. "This woman was ... (More on P4)...(20)

8 Rebels Dead in Drone Attack

JALALABAD - 8 militants were killed in a drone strike in the Khogyani district of eastern Nangarhar province on Wednesday, an official said.

The missile attack took place in the Fathi Khani locality in the afternoon, Col. Ayub Hussainkhel, police commander of the 301st eastern border zone, told Pajhwok Afghan News.

He said Noor Khan, a dreaded Taliban commander, was among the dead. However, he did say whether it was a US drone strike or a missile fired by the Afghan security forces. ... (More on P4)...(22)

Construction Work on 2 Dams Starts

KHOST CITY - Construction work on two small irrigation dams was launched on Wednesday in southeastern Khost province.

The World Bank-funded dams are being constructed east of Khost City on a natural steam crossing through the Farm Bagh area.

Acting governor Abdul Jabbar Naemi, who laid the foundation stone, said the dams were being built at a cost of 30 million afghanis.

The projects also includ-



ed the construction of two water channels, he said, adding the dams would be completed over the next few months.

"The steam water flows but people cannot benefit from it. The dams would hold back water

Woman Dead in Suicide Attack

KANDAHAR CITY - One woman was killed and three others wounded in a suicide bombing in southern Kandahar province on Wednesday, an official said.

The bombing occurred in front of the teaching hospital in Kandahar City, the provincial capi-

tal, Police Spokesman Zia Durrani told Pajhwok Afghan News.

"The suicide bomber blew himself up before reaching his intended target. Police identified him before he detonated his explosive that's why he triggered his explosion ... (More on P4)...(21)

8 Held on Charges of Killing, Human Trafficking

HERAT CITY - Security personnel in western Herat province detained seven people on charges of killing a 16 years young boy, police spokesman said on Wednesday.

Abdul Rauf Ahmadi said the arrested persons including Hikmatullah, Barakatullah, Mustafa, Ghulam Jilan, Ghulam Mahboob, Firoz Ahmad and Haji Jilan.

Police, he said was interrogating the detained persons. Separately, border police arrested a human trafficker who wanted to take six Afghans to Iran illegally, Commander of 705 western zone, told Pajhwok Afghan News.

Brig. Gen. Juma Adeel said the human trafficker was apprehended red-handed in the border ... (More on P4)...(25)

Huge Weapons Cache Seized

QALAT - Police in southern Zabul province claimed recovering huge quantity of weapons and bullets from a truck during a search, an official said on Wednesday.

Col. Ghulam Jilani Farahi, deputy police chief, said his force recovered arms and ammunition following a tip-off from the intelligence.

The truck, he said was stopped at Shajoi district for search and police recovered 180 Kalashnikovs, five machine guns, 50 walkie-talkies, over a thousand bullets and other weapons of different brands.

He said preliminary reports suggested that weapons were being smuggled to Ghazni from Kandahar province. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)
Cooperation from your friends is a blessing in disguise now because it might also make you anxious if you believe the support comes with conditions. Nevertheless, you are able to work together to solve just about any problem -- even longstanding stubborn ones. You may bring this same productive attitude to organizing social events as well.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)
This may not be the best time to share your feelings; in fact, it might seem as if you missed your chance to take a conversation further. However, emotions have a sneaky way of surfacing over the next couple of days. In the meantime, reflect carefully before going out on a limb and expressing what's in your heart. Avoid getting lost in a negative space by optimistically looking to the future.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)
There are no limits as to where your innovative mind might travel today. Although intelligent people provide the social stimulation that you need now, you don't want to be stuck with those who are overly serious. Instead, you prefer to hang out with friends and associates who can match your clever repartee and fast wit. You shine the brightest when others appreciate the mental games that you love to play so much.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)
Drama in a close friendship or intimate relationship may turn your world upside down today. Your emotions are unpredictable and you may not feel like you're standing on solid ground. However, it's possible that the game is changing right before your eyes, so it's not a sensible time to glorify the past. Be brave and cultivate ways of authentically connecting with others.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)
Don't fall into the trap of believing you are on your own just because others are giving you wide berth today. Use this time to create a new vision of the future without trying to meet everyone's expectations. Fortunately, an individualistic Sun-Uranus alignment allows you to consider unorthodox behavior if it helps you find more freedom.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)
You are eager to try ingenious approaches to your work, a favorite hobby or a domestic chore. But first you must toss out the old rules today so you're free to create new ways of executing a familiar task. Keeping an open mind prevents you from becoming bogged down in needless discussions of which method is better. Getting the job done now is more important than being right.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)
Pursuing playful encounters, romantic interests and artistic endeavors are appropriate expressions of today's cosmic energy. Whether you are interacting with children or just having childish fun, the word of the day is play. However, if you feel as if you're under pressure now, take a short walk to get revitalizing oxygen into your lungs and fresh hope into your life.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)
Complex issues could slow you down at home today, but only if you let them. You actually have more choices than you realize now, though it might not feel like it. Don't worry if you aren't thrilled with your current options; it's just a temporary loss of perspective. Everything is about to change, so do whatever you can to bring new energy into your life.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)
Put your current state of restlessness to good use today by investigating uncharted territory. You have a taste for the unusual now, so get off the beaten track and discover new pleasures. You can enjoy the fruits of your activities if you consciously seek out fresh stimulation. Be thankful for the unique experiences you encounter that sweep away the cobwebs from the corners of your imagination.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)
You might resent the notion that others are free to be weird and off the wall while you Goats are often left behind to be the central core of reason. It's like going through life as the designated driver; the truth is your dependability encourages others to lean on you when times are tough. Luckily, today's cosmic energy provides you with an opportunity to explore the edges of reality and bring back a few wild ideas of your own.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)
You are still in the throes of wide emotional swings now, especially if you're not happy with some aspect of your personal story. However, someone may offer enough hope today that you start to itch for change. It's more advantageous to choose what will happen than wait for it to choose you. If you attempt to hide inside your cocoon of old habits, something will likely come along to shake up your world.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)
There are tempting goodies all around you but it seems as if you're not allowed to have them yet. It's like standing in front of a store filled with beautiful things and no way to get inside. Naturally, this dilemma can heighten your frustration, but you have the power to turn the entire situation around now by collecting and storing the images in your mind for future reference.

Across

1. Relative of a giraffe, . Radar signal, 10. Highest point, 14. Smooth brown oval nut, 15. Roman moon goddess, 16. Killed, 17. Small slender gulls, 18. Boats, 19. Arid, 20. Drowsiness, 22. Makes a mistake, 23. Writing liquid, 24. Annoying, 26. Present-day, 30. Double-reed instruments, 32. American aloe, 33. Decoration, 37. Bristle, 38. Submarine, 39. Decorative case, 40. Adolescents, 42. Serpent, 43. Fish respiratory organs, 44. Shred, 45. Lacquer ingredient, 47. Unhappy, 48. Angle of a leafstalk, 49. Mediator, 56. French for Finished or Done, 57. Beige, 58. Climb, 59. Beers, 60. Store, 61. Half of six, 62. Lease, 63. Scatters seeds, 64. Church council

Down

1. Chooses, 2. Ship part, 3. Unit of land, 4. Piece of glass, 5. Exhort, 6. Void of expression, 7. Attraction, 8. Writing fluids, 9. Travel document, 10. Appraisal, 11. Office worker, 12. Joyous, 13. Female sheep (plural), 21. Hotel, 25. Poetic dusk, 26. Spar, 27. Curved molding, 28. A romantic meeting, 29. A preacher, 30. Smells, 31. Feathery scarves, 33. Cain's brother, 34. French for "State", 35. Microwave (slang), 36. Layer, 38. Hideousness, 41. Ambition, 42. They love to inflict pain, 44. Make lace, 45. Banish, 46. Flax fabric, 47. Broths, 48. A long way off, 50. Reflected sound, 51. Get bigger, 52. Sore, 53. Mountain pool, 54. Margarine, 55. Marsh plant

Yesterday's Solution

absorb, after, angle, bark, broker, buried, carry, cease, choice, claim, corner, could, cure, early, feel, fresh, gear, guard, heal, houses, information, little, medal, never, number, ogle,paws, pocket, potato, raise, share, sheet, slide, small, straight, sweep, sweet, their, tight, towel

P O T A T O C L A I M C S
S T R A I G H T T S X H K
I L I T T L E E F M A O C
N A N G L E K K S A B I A
F R E S H C S X W L S C R
O A Q S O T O W E L O E R
R I Z P A W S R E A R L Y
M S L I D E B H P E B T B
A E G W S N C R A H T H U
T C D U Q T O C O R N E R
I O O A A Y U V M K E I I
O H P W L R L A F T E R E
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