

Over 6000 Families Benefit from Development Projects



KABUL - As many as 33 development projects have been completed in Adraskan, Shindand, Enjil, Ghorian and Gulran districts of Herat province at a cost of 65,243,083. The projects are implemented by the National Solidarity Program (NSP), which works within the framework

of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD/NSP). According to the provincial manager of NSP in Herat province, these development projects include the extension of water supply networks, excavation of wells, construction of embankments, kariz

(underground canals), conduits, social centers, irrigation canals, protective walls and culverts, paving a water spring and graveling rural roads. Approximately, 6,569 families in various communities have benefited from these development projects. Since its inception, the

NSP has disbursed 6,064,769,476 AFN for implementation of 5,342 development projects in different sectors such as transport, water and sanitation, irrigation, power, livelihoods, education, etc. Thousands of residents of Herat province have benefited from these projects so far. (Wadsam)

Taliban Capture IS Leader Mullah Rauf, 45 Supporters

LASHKARGAH - The Taliban on Wednesday captured Mullah Abdul Rauf Khadim, an Islamic State (IS) ally, along with 45 supporters in the Kajaki district of southern Helmand province, a reliable source confided to Pajhwok Afghan News. However, security officials expressed unawareness about the detention of Rauf, who became a recruiter for the IS group in Afghanistan after falling out with the Taliban. Rauf, a former Guantanamo Bay detainee, was a military commander in Herat and Kabul during Taliban's regime. He recently joined the IS, a jihadi group which controls large swaths of land in Iraq and Syria, and has been leading hundreds of masked gunmen in northern districts

of Helmand. A Taliban commander in Helmand, wishing anonymity, told Pajhwok Afghan News they disarmed Rauf and his 45 gunmen and detained them on Wednesday in compliance with directives from the Taliban's governor for Helmand, Mullah Abdul Rahim Akhund. He said the men were in their custody and their fate would be decided by

Taliban religious leaders and judges. The Taliban commander said they had been directed to arrest Mullah Rauf because he was against the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, the Taliban's official name. He said Mullah Rauf was involved in anti-Islamic activities. A tribal elder in Kajaki, Abdul Ahad Masoomi, also ... (More on P4)... (16)



Taliban Set Free 5 Kidnapped NGO Workers in Herat

HERAT CITY - Five employees of an NGO, abducted by militants in Western Herat province, were rescued from their captives on Wednesday, officials said. Four doctors and their driver were kidnapped by armed insurgents on a highway in Ghoryan district some weeks back, the provincial police spokesman said. Col. Abdul Rauf Ahmadi told Pajhwok Afghan News the kidnapped men were released from militant captivity in Adraskan district following hectic efforts by local elders. The men worked for BNN, an NGO, working in the health sector, he added. However, Taliban have not yet commented on the issue. Separately, an enraged

Russia Promises Tajikistan Military Aid

DUSHANBE - Russia has pledged aid for Central Asia's Tajikistan in building up its armed forces amid military and political developments linked to international coalition forces leaving neighbouring Afghanistan.

Consolidation of defense capabilities are of top priority for countries assessed strongholds of the Collective Security Treaty Organization in the region, Russian Deputy Defense Minister Anatoly Antonov told Tajikistan

President Emomali Rahmon in Dushanbe on Wednesday. Relations between defense agencies of the two countries are "businesslike" in seeking to ensure Central Asian security, Antonov said. (TASS)

2 Militants Killed, Huge Narcotics Cache Seized



MAIMANA/ZARANG - Two militants were killed and some others injured in northwestern Faryab province, official said on Wednesday. Sultan Sanjar, Andkhoi district administrative chief, said Taliban and security forces locked in intense gun battle when the former were planning to block the vital Andkhoi-Jawzjan Highway last night. The ensuing gunfight left two insurgents dead, he confirmed.

Col. Ali Muhammad, commander of border police in Faryab said a policeman was injured in the firefight. He said police recovered two machine guns, three motorbikes and seized other weaponry from the militants. Taliban have not yet commented on the incident. In another operation, police claimed recovering 90 kilograms of narcotics in the southwestern Nimroz province. Col. Amanullah, commander of Afghan National Army (ANA) in Nimroz, told Pajhwok Afghan News that security forces also recovered some ammunition and impounded a car being used by militants during operation in Dihmazang locality of Khashrod district. He said police arrested two suspects during the offensive. Brig. Gen. Muhammad Qasim Jangalbagh, police chief, said his forces recovered 82 kilograms of heroin and more than five kilograms of opium. The contraband, he said was being smuggled to Iran. (Pajhwok)

NDS Seize 47 Weapons Imported from Peshawar to Kabul

KABUL - The Afghan intelligence operatives confiscated at least 47 weapons along with their ammunition during an operation in Kabul city. The National Directorate of Security (NDS) said Tuesday that the weapons were purchased from the Ring Road area of Peshawar city and were imported to Kabul through Nangarhar province. According to a statement by NDS at least three suspected mili-

tants who were involved in the smuggling of weapons and ammunition were arrested by the intelligence operatives. The statement further added that the weapons which included 7 AK-47 assault rifles and 40 pistols were hidden in a Toyota Pickup vehicle. NDS said the smugglers were looking to sell the weapons to militant groups who are looking to stage coordinated attacks across Kabul city. The ... (More on P4)... (17)

8 People Including Policemen Injured

KANDAHAR - Samim Khpalwak, spokesman for governor of Kandahar province says that explosives were placed in a motorcycle. He said Afghan National Police were on usual patrol in Arg Bazaar area of Kandahar city when the explosion took place late yesterday. He added that four policemen and four civilians sustained injuries in the explosion but no one was killed. No group has immediately claimed responsibility for the attack but such attacks have been carried out by Taliban insurgents in the past. Kandahar has a long border with Pakistan. Officials say Pakistan is sending bombs and insurgents through border areas for terrorist activities in Kandahar. Yesterday Kandahar security officials said they seized a tractor laden with bombs and other explosives which had arrived from Pakistan to Dand District. Several insurgents including suicide attackers and Taliban commanders have been arrested in Kandahar province in the past. National Directorate of Security (NDS) in their investigations have learned from terrorists that they receive terrorist training in Pakistan and then cross border into Afghanistan for terrorist activities. NDS recently arrested a suicide attacker by the name of Rahmatullah, a ... (More on P4)... (1)

father gunned down his daughter in Herat City on Wednesday, the spokesman said. The incident occurred due to a family dispute. (Pajhwok)



Female Police Officer Killed in Blast

KABUL - A female police officer was killed and a policeman was injured in a bomb blast in western Herat province, local officials said. The incident took place Wednesday when the explosives placed inside a police check post exploded in Islam Qala road,

local security sources confirmed. The sources added that investigations are underway to know how the explosives were taken and placed at the check post. No group including the Taliban has claimed responsibility for the blast so far. (Tolonews)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr. 20)

An inflexible attitude can create problems today, especially if you get into a disagreement about something that's important to you. You're confident about your point of view, but you might feel as if someone is conspiring to change your mind. Avoid escalating a passionate discussion into unnecessary conflict.

Taurus (Apr. 21-May 20)

Although you reserve the prerogative to change your opinion often today, don't expect your friends to keep up with your uncharacteristic mood swings. The Moon's current visit to your pragmatic sign reassures you that your emotions make sense and no one else has the authority to tell you how to react.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You might not be interested in expressing your emotions today while the Moon squares talkative Mercury from your 12th House of Privacy. If you do choose to share your feelings, your words may be misconstrued as more aggressive than you intend. Wait until tomorrow when the reflective Moon enters your sign before telling everyone what you think.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You are at your best today when you're involved in a community project or part of a team at work. However, you might not be able to assume the identity that's necessary for you to fully merge with the rest of the group. Your current resistance to assimilation encourages non-conforming behavior, but don't be afraid of stepping into the center of the circle -- even if you believe you would be more comfortable standing out on the edge.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You may be asked to pitch in and help someone out now, even if you're weary of putting your needs second. But your generosity of spirit prevails because the Moon's presence in your 10th House of Public Responsibility indicates your need to assist others in reaching their potential.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Your efficiency is challenged by people around you today as they make their dreams sound fascinating enough to distract you from your path. However, the determined Taurus Moon goes a long way toward keeping you on track. Nevertheless, you still need to pay attention to the boundaries of your coworkers (or the lack of them) if you want to feel good about your accomplishments by the end of the day.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You prefer to keep things light and easy now, but could get drawn into intense discussions about your feelings, anyhow. You might be annoyed with this emotional detour today while the sensible Taurus Moon visits your 8th House of Deep Sharing. But don't try to hide your feelings behind a friendly smile. Let others know that you are available to partake in an uncomfortable conversation as long as it's constructive, but you're not willing to feed into any negativity.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)

You may have an encounter with a friend or a lover today that temporarily turns him or her into an opponent rather than an ally. However, it's not in your best interest to acquiesce too quickly because some things shouldn't be negotiable. Your current nemesis might appear to be quite determined, but will likely give in under your persistent pressure.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 20)

A simplistic approach to your life is a healthy antidote today to your hectic schedule. Instead of seeking the peak experiences of inspiration, you're motivated to meet your responsibilities in a timely manner because you don't like the heaviness of unfulfilled promises weighing on your mind. Although it goes against your nature, you could benefit greatly now by letting go of the big picture and concentrating on the details one item at a time.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 19)

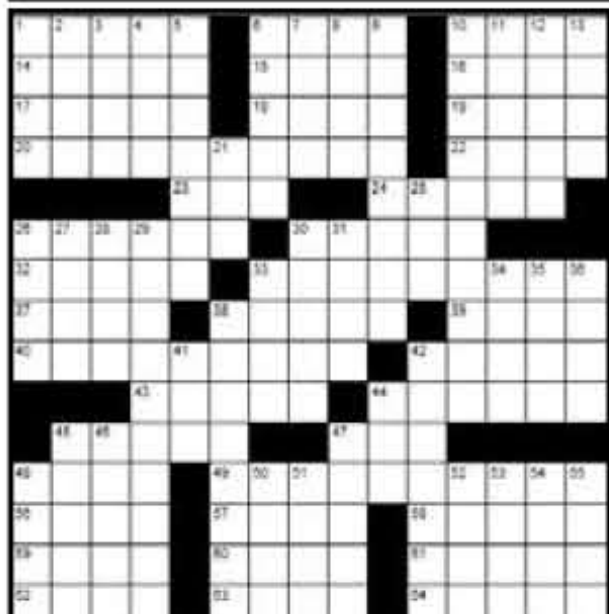
You have a magical touch now and can transform the most mundane chores into fantastic opportunities for personal fulfillment. But don't let financial considerations stand in your way; it should only take a few days to resolve any stressful money issues. Luckily, you can achieve personal satisfaction even while working today because the earthy Taurus Moon assists you in a practical manner while traveling through your 5th House of Love and Creativity.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb. 18)

You can sense a shift in the cosmic energy as beautiful Venus leaves your sign for the greener pastures of your dreams. You might feel a bit disoriented if your needs don't align with where you seem to be heading now. Unfortunately, the more you try to find your way back to the basics, the more complicated everything becomes.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

You could become singularly focused in your quest to accomplish your goals today because you might be trying to justify taking time off later. But this strategy is ineffectual if you have already overloaded your calendar with so much to do that it will be a miracle if you can meet your own expectations. Instead of dreaming about a possible escape in the future, embrace the beauty of the present moment.



Across

1. Melancholy, 6. Backside, 10. Exam, 14. Audio communications, 15. District, 16. Fully developed, 17. Alter, 18. Tab, 19. Doing nothing, 20. The B in the NBA, 22. Legumes, 23. Timid, 24. Female reproductive organ, 26. Refinement, 30. Waste conduit, 32. Sarcasm, 33. Fascinating, 37. Nothing (British), 38. Acted presumptuously, 39. Bright thought, 40. Holds sacred, 42. Pilfer, 43. Remove the pins from, 44. Afternoon nap, 45. Plateaux, 47. Martini ingredient, 48. Sandwich shop, 49. Sin, 56. Operatic solo, 57. Hawkeye State, 58. A green fabric mixture, 59. Offers, 60. Brusque, 61. Swelling under the skin, 62. Flower stalk, 63. Lock openers, 64. Basic belief

Down

1. Seize, 2. Tibetan monk, 3. Poems, 4. Pig sound, 5. Propriety, 6. A type of cat, 7. Murres, 8. Peddle, 9. Sanctified, 10. Three-party, 11. Duck down, 12. Spread out, 13. T I T I, 21. Your (archaic), 25. Animal doctor, 26. 3 times 3, 27. Weightlifters pump this, 28. Domesticated bovine animals, 29. Zeal, 30. Femme fatale, 31. Nights before, 33. Hindu princess, 34. Midmonth date, 35. Tidy, 36. Big party, 38. Fluid level gauge, 41. Ribonucleic acid, 42. Undershirt, 44. Female sib, 45. Excellence, 46. Leave out, 47. Mosquitoes, 48. Applies lightly, 50. Debauchee, 51. Askew, 52. Was a passenger, 53. Not odd, 54. Identical, 55. Immediately

Yesterday's Solution

about, agree, boulder, bring, carry, cease, char, corner, cuss, destiny, event, father, fellow, great, hire, house, hover, kissed, later, least, level, march, minute, money, nourishment, overdo, point, quiet, right, role, sass, seer, sets, shell, shift, shine, shore, slump

