

Corruption Seen Behind Substandard Projects in Parwan

CHARIKAR - A retaining wall, a madrasa building and two roads have been constructed, but the quality of all these projects in central Parwan province is poor, Pajhwok Afghan News findings indicate.

Some people see administrative corruption, award of contracts to powerful figures and intervention from some government officials behind the inferior quality of the schemes.

Roads Abdul Matin Qudusi, a provincial council member, alleged a 3.5-kilometre road built in Ajmil and Qalandari areas of the provincial capital was of dismal quality.

The executing agency was the Rashid Sultani Company. He said the project cost 30 million afghanis paid by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD).

"A 100-metre stretch of this road was wet. We told the company to gravel and fill it ... (More on P4)...(15)



Notorious Commanders among 23 Rebels Killed in Faryab

MAIMANA - At least 23 Taliban militants, including two notorious commanders, have been killed during a fierce clash in northwestern Faryab province, an official said on Sunday.

The clash erupted two days ago when a convoy of 100 tank and vehicles was carrying supplies for the units involved in a clearing operation. The security personnel came under attack in Dawlatabad, Sherin Tagab and Khawaja Sabzposh districts.

Abdullah Masomi, administrative chief for Khawaja Sabzposh district, said dreaded insurgent commanders Rahimdad and Makhdum were among those killed. Several other fighters were wounded during the clash involving artillery shelling. A local source revealed that Abdul Shakoor Arab, who had assassinated Maulvi Sadiq Naseh three years ago in Khawaja Sabzposh, was also killed in an airstrike along with a local singer as the injured militants were being evacuated from the site.

He believed security forces and civilians might have suffered casualties during the battle, which left eight tanks and military vehicles destroyed and some houses damaged.

Rahimdad was an infamous Taliban commander in Faryab. Earlier in the year, he had surrendered along with 65 fighters ... (More on P4)...(18)

Taliban Assassinate District Police Chief

KABUL - Taliban insurgents ambushed and assassinated a district police head and his three bodyguards late Saturday in Helmand province, while a separate attack in the southeast of the country killed at least five members of the government forces.

Omar Jan Haqmal, the police chief of the Nad Ali district, was traveling to Lashkar Gah, capital of Helmand province, when he came under attack.

Some reports quoted provincial officials as saying the slain officer was on a routine patrol.

A Taliban spokesman claimed his group plotted the deadly attack. Haqmal was the fourth high-profile security chief to have been killed by insurgents in Afghanistan in about a month, underscoring the high casualties being inflicted on Afghan forces.

On Thursday, a ... (More on P4)...(17)

Herat Man Says Sorry to Friends before Suicide

HERAT CITY - A 24-year-old man has committed suicide by shooting himself in the head after saying "sorry" to friends on Facebook in western Herat province, an official said on Sunday.

Rashid Aria uploaded his last video on his Facebook account, saying "sorry" to all friends and relatives for taking the extreme step. Aria said he was committing suicide after losing hope in life.

He also said in his video that he had travelled to many countries but it had no positive impact on life.

Herat civil hospital officials said they received the body of Rashid Aria with a bullet hole in his head.

Mohammad Rafiq Sherzai, the hospital's spokesman, said the young man had been suffering from mental illness.

He used his own pistol to take his life in Bakarabad area of Herat city. The body would be released to his family after the investigation, Sherzai said, (Pajhwok)

5 Taliban Killed in Clash with Daesh in Jawzjan



SHIBERGHAN - Daesh militants killed five Taliban rivals in a clash in the Qush Tepa district of northern Jawzjan province, an official said on Sunday.

The clash between the two rival rebel factions occurred on Saturday evening and lasted half-an-hour, the district administrative head, Aminullah, told Pajhwok Afghan News.

He said five Taliban gunmen were killed and two Daesh fighters were wounded in

the clash. The remaining Taliban gunmen retreated to Shorqodug and Turkmen Qodug villages, despite receiving reinforcements from Faryab and Sar-i-Pul provinces, the district chief said.

Najmuddin, a resident of nearby Chiqma Choqur village, said all shops were closed after the two sides were seen preparing for a battle.

"They exchanged ... (More on P4)...(19)

Mobile Phone Service Blackout Has Kunduz Residents Fuming



KUNDUZ - Kunduz residents speak out about ongoing mobile phone outages at night - a move enforced by the Taliban in the province.

Kunduz residents have spoken out about the lack of telecommunication systems in their province at night which has been an ongoing issue for more than a year.

According to them the Taliban consistently threatens telecoms companies in a bid to get them to switch off services overnight.

Residents have said that the Taliban threaten to blow up towers if their orders are not followed.

"Now the armed opponents are ordering the termination of telecom services during the nights, it is now one week that the telecom services are being cut off in Kunduz at night," said head of Kunduz provincial council Amruddin Wali.

According to residents, threats against telecom services have created major problems for them as they have no phone service at night.

"There should be pressure on telecommunication companies to keep services operational during the night, because there is ... (More on P4)...(16)

Aliabad District Police Chief Injured in Taliban Attack



KUNDUZ CITY - Police chief of Aliabad district of northeastern Kunduz province was injured in a Taliban attack on Sunday, an official said.

Police Chief Brig. Gen. Abdul Hameed Hameedi told Pajhwok Afghan News Aliabad District Chief Commander Jan Agha was injured in the Taliban ambush before noon.

He said the incident happened in the Guldeen area of the district. Jan Agha was currently under treatment at Kunduz Civil Hospital.

A soldier of the Public Order Police was also injured in the incident, he said, adding that a Corolla model car of the militants was captured by Afghan forces.

Hameedi said security forces reached the site of clash and situation was under control.

The Taliban have not yet commented about the incident. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Aries Although the open road beckons, your car is stuck in the repair shop today. You're itching for adventure once the Moon enters your 9th House of Travel. However, Saturn the Taskmaster is adamant, refusing to let you go anywhere until you finish your work. You can't talk your way out of this one.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Taurus You want to demonstrate your willingness to explore your feelings with someone special, but caution keeps the lid on your desires today. You can imagine the wonderful rewards that await you if you take a calculated risk and open your heart. However, you're afraid of starting something you cannot finish.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Gemini Fantasies of a romantic interlude are enticing, but you're too preoccupied with domestic matters to make your wishes come true today. Fortunately, conjuring up a scenario in your imagination could be enough to revitalize your spirit. Joyfully envisioning a future different from your current reality is one way to stir your ambitions. Robert Louis Stevenson wrote, "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant."

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Cancer Unrealistic expectations encourage you to bite off more than you can chew today. You may be tempted to create a lengthy to-do list, only to discover that you are setting yourself up for disappointment. However, a more pragmatic approach to managing your calendar empowers you to reach your goals in a timely manner.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Leo You're aware of the resources at your disposal today, and intend to make the most of them. However, you're inclined to skip out on your obligations in order to create room in your day for fun. Unfortunately, karmic Saturn won't support your ill-considered plan now.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Virgo You recognize that your overanalytical approach sometimes creates a gulf between you and others. Nevertheless, you're ready to set your data aside and fully engage reality today, whatever might be waiting in the wings. However, the Moon's shift into your 4th House of Security reminds you that you can't always ignore your basic needs. Acknowledge your desire to break free and move into uncharted territory now.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Libra Although tension pulls you in various directions today, you possess a composure that enables you to move gracefully through any unexpected challenges. You are blessed with a healthy dose of confidence while the optimistic Sagittarius Moon supports the willful Sun in your 1st House of Self.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Scorpio Your sense of self can go from one extreme to another today. One moment, you know how irreplaceable you are and what skills you bring to the table. But just a short time later, you may be caught up in a whirlpool of self-doubt that has you questioning your competence. Although you can't do everything all at once, your ability to stick to a job until it's done makes you a valuable player on any team.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Sagittarius You may carry the weight of the world on your shoulders today, but you also have an escape plan in your mind. Although the Moon's return to your sign puts you in touch with unrealized dreams, restrictive Saturn draws your thoughts back to work. Unfortunately, your current commitments could prevent you from gallivanting off in search of adventures.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Capricorn You appear competent today as if you're in complete control of your environment. However, your heart may not be in your work now, and upon closer examination others might see you wistfully gazing off into the distance. Nevertheless, rational Mercury's dynamic square to your key planet Saturn requires you to limit your sphere of activity until you accomplish your assigned tasks.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

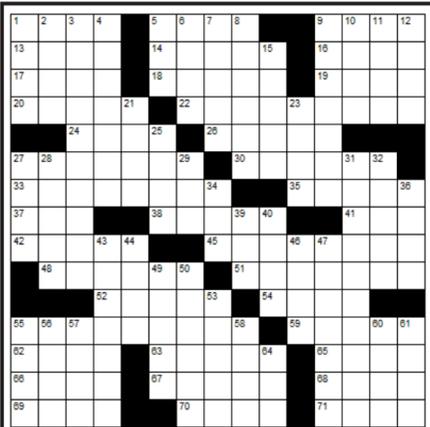


Aquarius Surrounding yourself with like-minded people reveals unexplored paths into the next chapter of your life. The Moon's presence in your 11th House of Long-Term Goals shifts your thinking from the present circumstances to future probabilities. Unfortunately, you can't make the jump from here to there unless you do the hard work that authoritative Saturn demands.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Pisces You dream of being at the top of your professional game now, but you don't necessarily want to climb all of the necessary steps to get there. You're perfectly capable of achieving wonderful accomplishments on your own, but it's nice to know that others are standing by ready to assist. Unfortunately, it's not in your best interest to adopt a cavalier approach to your career trajectory just because the know-it-all Sagittarius Moon has set up.



- Across**
- Academician, 5. Identical, 9. Grave, 13. Magma, 14. Submarine, 16. Operatic solo, 17. Hawaiian strings, 18. Donkey, 19. Tumbled 20. Compassion, 22. Townspeople, 24. Mortgage, 26. Daughter of a sibling, 27. Adult male chicken 30. Free, 33. Periods of applause, 35. African language, 37. Detachable container, 38. Manicurist's concern, 41. Tin 42. Mourful poem, 45. Germs 48. Loathsome 51. Nouveau-riche, 52. Dawn, 54. Require 55. People addicted to luxury, 59. Genus of heath, 62. A purring sound, 63. House style 65. Black, in poetry, 66. Astringent, 67. Muse of love poetry, 68. Thin strip, 69. Distribute 70. If not, 71. French for "Head",
- Down**
- Damson, 2. Garden tool, 3. Filled to excess, 4. Right-winger, 5. A type of large sandwich, 6. Adjoin, 7. Fool, 8. A type of insect 9. A crisp lustrous fabric, 10. Chocolate cookie 11. Foundry, 12. Hesitate, 15. Laser printer powder, 21. Abominable Snowman, 23. Anagram of "Cabs", 25. A noble gas, 27. Lasso 28. Convex molding, 29. Ribonucleic acid, 31. Beyond belief, 32. Spot, 34. Bro or sis, 36. Two-toed sloth, 39. One time around, 40. Glance over, 43. A bladed medieval weapon, 44. Not mine, 46. Tall woody plant, 47. Tallest mountain, 49. Come together, 50. Surgical stitch, 53. Foot lever, 55. Fraud, 56. Christmas season, 57. Very dry, as wine, 58. Drunkards, 60. Jacket, 61. Stake, 64. Caviar

Yesterday's Solution

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

alike, apple, best, burial, canal, catch, center close, color, debunk either, error, farce, female, field, flick, font, force, forward, friend germ, heap, large, lowest, march, morning, motor, offense,

