

### Maiwand Corps' 3rd Brigade Commander Killed in Helmand



LASHKARGAH - Commander of the 215th Maiwand Military Corps' third brigade has been killed in a Taliban ambush in southern Helmand province, an official said Monday. Maj. Sher Mohammad and another soldier were killed and two other soldiers were wounded in the attack, an official of the corps told Pajhwok Afghan News. The source, who wished not to be named, said the incident took place in southern region of Naad Ali district on Sunday night. Maj. Sher Mohammad was heading to a security post which was under attack for reinforcement when Taliban ambushed his vehicle, the official said.

Helmand governor's spokesman, Omar Zwak, confirmed the loss of the commander and two other soldiers, saying another two soldiers were wounded in the attack.

He said the Taliban also suffered heavy casualties in the battle that lasted almost two hours.

On the other hand, Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi said that the fighters besides inflicting casualties on Afghan forces in Nad Ali also killed seven soldiers and destroyed two military tanks in Marja district. Elsewhere in the province, three Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were killed by an infiltrator at a security post on the Kanahar-Lashkargah highway on Sunday night.

Omar Zwak said the infiltrator managed to flee after the attack. There were five soldiers in the post and their commander had gone to another post when the incident happened, he said. (Pajhwok)

## Taliban's Attempt at Capturing Kunduz City Beaten Back



KUNDUZ CITY - Hundreds of Taliban stormed Kunduz City, the capital of northern Kunduz province, but the attack was repulsed and heavy casualties were inflicted on the rebels, a top security official claimed on Monday. Col. Manzoor Stanikzai, the provincial police chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News the Taliban wanted to overrun Kunduz City but their

attempt was foiled. He said around 250 militants attacked the strategically important provincial capital but security forces stopped the fighters in their tracks. Stanikzai added eight security forces were killed and 18 others injured while 20 militants were killed and as many wounded in the clashes. Gen. Hilaluddin Helal, deputy defence minister who spearheaded the

government response, said the Taliban aiming to overrun some major cities of the country to gain more influence at negotiating table. He said the attack was repulsed and the group suffered heavy losses. The situation in Kunduz City and on highways was normal and residents could move freely to their work, he continued. ...*(More on P4)...*(10)



### Sar-i-Pul: Taliban Besiege Sancharak District Center

SAR-I-PUL - Taliban militants have laid siege to the center of Sancharak district in northern Sar-i-Pul province, a public representative and officials said on Monday.

Asadullah Khurram, a provincial council member who has been stuck in the district's center for the last three months, told Pajhwok Afghan News over the telephone that the Bazarbashi locality of the district had been captured by the Taliban militants. He said the Taliban were only one kilometer away to the district building and were likely to capture the district's center.

Zabihullah Amani, the governor's spokesman, also confirmed to Pajhwok the Sancharak district was under high threat from the rebels, but said reinforcements had reached the district to normalize the situation.

He also said Taliban militants stormed security check-posts in Baghawi and Saoqbil localities of Sar-i-Pul, the provincial capital, late Sunday night. In the clashes,

### Gunfire at Khost Wedding Party Kills 5, Injures 13



KHOST CITY - Five people have been killed and 13 others wounded as a result of gunfire on a wedding party in southeastern Khost province, an official said on Monday. Local officials said the incident took place in the Dargi area of Tanai district at around 9pm on Sunday night, the district's administrative chief told Pajhwok Afghan News.

Zamary Haqmal said that an intoxicated individual opened fire at the participants of the wedding party. Three people were killed and 13 others wounded, he said. The victims were all relatives of the killer, who managed to escape, the district chief said. Sakhil Mohammad, an eyewitness, told Pajhwok that five people were killed in the overnight gunfire. (Pajhwok)

### 2 Would-Be Suicide Bombers Blow Themselves up in Khost



KHOSTY CITY - Two would-be suicide bombers blew themselves up before reaching their target in southeastern Khost province, an official said on Monday. National Directorate of Security Director Col. Mohammad Ashraf Safi told a press conference here that the

incident happened in the Toshipla locality of Ismailkhalaw Mandozai district late on Sunday night. He said the suicide bombers blew themselves up before reaching their target and both of them were killed. The Taliban have not yet commented on the incident. (Pajhwok)

## Outlook Horoscope

### Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Romance is in the air today, Aries. Alas, it seems to rain down on everyone but you. You must have put on your romance-repellent raincoat before leaving the house this morning. Don't fret. Your time will come. Try to focus your passion on a creative endeavor. If you've been thinking about trying your hand at writing or painting, do it now.

### Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Your creativity is at an all-time high, Taurus, so take advantage of it. This would be an ideal day to paint or write. Even though you consider your talents well below amateur status, you may be surprised by what you're able to produce. Ignore your strict internal editor and work for the pure pleasure of creating. You will be delighted with the results.

### Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Your inspiration and creativity are high today, Gemini. If you've been thinking about taking up painting or poetry, this would be an ideal day to get started. Make sure your perfectionism doesn't get in the way of your creative urges. You can be a critical editor. For now, don't worry about the end product. If you enjoy the creative process, the end result will reflect your joy.

### Cancer (June 21-July 20)



It's bad enough having too many cooks in the kitchen, but when those cooks argue not only about how to cook the meal but also about how to design the kitchen, you know you have trouble on your hands. Tempers are likely to flare today. Everyone has an opinion about how you should decorate your home. Whoever pays the mortgage gets to make the final decisions.

### Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Your self-confidence is at a low point these days, and this is making you especially vulnerable. It's likely that a recent confrontation with a close friend has you worrying about the overall health of the relationship. With all kindness, Leo, you're overreacting. It's likely that your mate feels just as troubled as you right now. Why not meet halfway?

### Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



You may feel some frustration over your perceived inability to reach an important milestone in your career. It's possible that you only need to reevaluate the benchmarks you've set in order to see that you've made more progress than you thought. Remember, ultimately, the time it takes you to reach a goal matters less than the fact that you reach it.

### Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Sometimes you can be too passive and let others trample all over you. Your lack of ego is admirable, but only up to a point, Libra. Why let others take credit for your ideas? There could be a situation where you feel compelled to speak up. Protect your rights and defend yourself against an unethical person intent on downplaying your contribution. Hold your ground and you will be vindicated.

### Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



An unethical acquaintance could be spreading unfounded rumors. Don't take anything you hear today at face value, Scorpio. Get all the facts before drawing conclusions. Equipment being installed or acting up adds to the confusion. If the situation weren't so frustrating, it would be comical. Take deep breaths throughout the day. Tomorrow things will be on a more even keel.

### Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



A longtime friend may become something more today, Sagittarius. It could be that there has always been a certain spark between you, but you haven't been able to acknowledge it until now. Make extra sure that the time is right, however. You don't want to hurt anyone else's feelings as you begin to explore the new aspects of this old relationship.

### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



You may be frustrated today, Capricorn. An anticipated romantic encounter may be postponed or canceled. There's no reason to consider it a major setback in the relationship. If you feel doubt and uncertainty, it's likely for other reasons. You're agitated and not in a good place to make any sweeping judgments. Let your head clear for a few days and then plan the next steps.

### Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

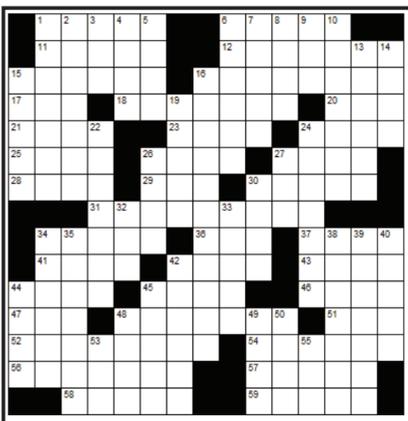


You could feel a bit low today due to disappointment in someone important to you, Aquarius. It could be that a mentor no longer supports you or perhaps an authority figure has shown his or her true colors. Rather than casting about for a new role model, why not follow the path that you know is right for you? You're experienced enough now not to need anyone else to lead the way.

### Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



You're likely changing your mind about something that has been important to you, Pisces. Perhaps you're questioning your job, career path, or choice of a mate. Confusion may dominate your thoughts today. Don't expect to arrive at any concrete answers by day's end. This is a situation that will only be resolved with time. Try to be patient.



### Across

1. Thick slices of something, 6. Scraped gently, 11. A quantity of paper, 12. Perform surgery on, 15. Pinnacle, 16. Trapped, 17. Bar bill, 18. Demesnes, 20. Implore, 21. Wings, 23. Beers, 24. Eat, 25. Canines, 26. Dry, 27. Untruths, 28. God of love, 29. Goblin, 30. Pantywaist, 31. Crossed eye, 34. Molest, 36. "\_\_\_ Maria", 37. Decay from overripening, 41. Baroque composer, 42. Goulash, 43. Roman moon goddess, 44. Not less, 45. Blend, 46. Hens make them, 47. Mistake, 48. Unreal, 51. Gangster's gun, 52. Accommodation for animals, 54. Carport, 56. Amaze, 57. Feudal lord, 58. Relieves, 59. Ceased

### Down

1. Dirtiness, 2. Backache, 3. Sight, 4. French cheese, 5. Collections, 6. Absolutely still, 7. French for "After", 8. Knows, 9. Before, poetically, 10. Handcuffs, 13. Very small, 14. Border, 15. Ancient unit of length, 16. Making fine adjustments, 19. Fortuneteller's card, 22. Gist, 24. Incapacitate, 26. Greeting at sea, 27. 52 in Roman numerals, 30. Gush, 32. Comes after Mi and Fah, 33. Blatant, 34. Terminates, 35. Provide commentary, 38. Baggage, 39. Betrothed, 40. Flavor, 42. Gets to one's feet, 44. Plateau, 45. Gleam, 48. Add, 49. Leer at, 50. Principal, 53. Type of snake, 55. Scarlet,

### Yesterday's Solution

ACRE, BIRD, SUED, WHIM, SONIC, INGA, LOBE, MYNAH, MIRY, SPORT, SEED, TLOUS, FAUN, RENAI, TALLBOY, MARACA, ACAD, EMIC, TRACT, XIV, SPANIO, QUO, IDIOT, DORMIAS, SNARES, GREAVES, RILEO, ESNE, PALS, OVE, RIS, TA, RIPS, ALUM, ET, APE, COAL, CORA, SHTES, LULU, TEEN, ENIOS, ESSIE

already, apart, , bacon, brace, , care, carrier, cloud crash, creep define, dent, depression, diet, dive final happen hasten ,hectic, herd, hints,, integrate, inventory , ast, legacy, , maybe, mone, nightmare,

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