



Salim Who Defused Thousands of IEDs Says Ignored After Losing Limbs

GHAZNI CITY - A soldier, who defused thousands of landmines, says the government did not help him after he lost both of his legs, eyes and one hand to a landmine blast three years ago.

The former soldier, Mohammad Salim, is a resident of central Ghazni province, and had served in the national security for 14 years in south-eastern Paktia and eastern Nangarhar provinces besides his own province. In an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, Salim said he had defused 3,775 improvised explosive devices (IEDs) during his service.

"It was 3,776th landmine that went off when I was neutralizing it in Achin district of Nangarhar and injured me seriously," he said. Salim lost one of his hands, both legs and eyes in the explosion.

"My wife was with me in hospital for few days and when she returned home, our house was looted by robbers, there was nothing left," he said. Mohammad Salim complained the government did not extend him any help in the last three years.

"I cried and begged to officials in the office of the martyrs and disabled for help, but no one listened to me, later the head of Youths Association met me and helped me," he said.

Salim, who lives with his wife and their two daughters, was worried about the future of his children.

"I have no legs and hands, my little daughter asks me why I am very small and other men are tall." Salim has received appreciation letters from officials in recognition of his great performance during his service, but now he says he has to start begging ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Taliban Delegation in Tehran for Discussion on Peace Talks

TEHRAN - The Afghan Taliban representatives have held negotiations with Iranian officials, Iranian foreign ministry spokesman said on Monday.

The Taliban delegation had arrived in Tehran on Sunday and launched peace talks with Iranian officials, Bahram Ghasemi said.

The talks are designed to set parameters for negotiations between the Taliban and the Afghan government.

"A Taliban delegation was in Tehran yesterday. They had comprehensive negotiations with the Iranian deputy foreign minister," Bahram Qasemi said in a news conference broadcast live on state television on Monday.

This comes after Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said on December 28 that Iranian officials have met with the Taliban and that its ...*(More on P4)...(14)*



Uruzgan's Chinarto District Under Taliban Siege Since 3 Years

TIRINKOT - The Chinarto district of central Uruzgan province has been besieged by Taliban insurgents for the past three years and since local residents have been struggling with shortage of daily use items.

Uruzgan Governor and other officials yesterday travelled to the district and met with some tribal elders.

The district personnel and local people urged the visiting delegation to provide them with basic assistance.

Raz Mohammad, a resident of the Bazaar area of the district, told the delegation that the Taliban militants had closed all roads to the district for the past three years, not allowing food and non-food items to be shifted there. He said residents of the district faced hungry and price hike. ...*(More on P4)...(15)*



District Police Chief Killed in Takhar Bombing



TALOQAN - A district police chief for Durqad district was killed and three other people wounded as a result of an explosion outside the governor's house in northern Takhar province on Monday.

A credible source told Pajhwok Afghan News the explosives rigged at the car of police chief Col. Omar went off in front of governor's house. Jawad Hijri, the governor's spokesman, said the district's administrative chief was killed and three other people wounded.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast. *(Pajhwok)*

At Least 7 Individuals Assassinated in Parwan Last Week

CHARIKAR - Unidentified gunmen have shot dead a 22-year-old man in the Bagram district of central Parwan province, officials said on Monday.

Abdul Mateen Qudosi, a member of provincial council, told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident took place in Mahegir village of the district on Sunday evening.

Unknown armed men gunned down a young man, he said, adding the motive behind the murder was yet to be known.

Wahida Shahkar, the governor's spokesperson, confirmed the killing of Abdul Hafiz at his house with Kalashnikov at 6:30 pm. She said the dead body had been evacuated to civil hospital for further investigation.

Mujeeb Shuresh, another member of provincial council, said at least seven individuals had been assassinated over the past 10 days in Bagram district. ...*(More on P4)...(17)*



Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



You may not feel in sync with the day's energy, Aries. Something about it may not sit right with you. Your natural instinct to want to take the lead may be overshadowed by an unwillingness to even get up. You may feel like your internal fire is squelched, especially when it comes to love and beauty. If your mind is cloudy, don't worry about it.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Issues regarding love and romance should be going well for you now, Taurus. You will find that your natural tendency to ground and plan is working perfectly with your desire to find what you want in a mate. Things may be about to come to a dramatic climax in your emotional realm. A foggy, dreamy feeling may make it difficult for you to keep your feet on the ground.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



You may want to escape into your dreams today, Gemini. Trying to do something practical may be met with opposition, as the general mood of the day calls for things to be more ethereal and elusive. Connect with your sensitive side and feel free to spend time on artistic projects. You may have to take a more grounded approach when it comes to matters of love.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



You will be able to find a greater connection to your inner soul today, Cancer. You will also find that you're more psychic than usual. Trust your intuition. The more you look inward, the more you're apt to find the solutions to your outward questions. Combine a sense of dreamy emotion with a grounded feeling of love and beauty.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



You may have many irons in the fire today, Leo. People and projects could demand your attention, yet you may feel so dreamy and unmotivated that it could be hard to make progress on any of them. Creative solutions are the best route for you. Be flexible and open to other people's ideas, and make sure you consider the unlikely ways to tackle the issues.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



This is going to be a great day for you, Virgo. Strangely enough, you will find that tension may help you get things done. There's an easiness today that will create openings for exploring creative outlets. Regarding love and romance, try to stay grounded. You and the object of your desire may have two different points of view on the relationship. Communicate clearly.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



You may need to let go and release your control, Libra. You know what you want, so just trust your intuition. If you continue to let your brain do all the work, you will probably miss valuable information that can only come when you slow down and look within. Connect with others on sensitive issues and feel free to let your guard down. Let your mind work freely.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



This is an excellent day for you, Scorpio. You will find that things automatically flow your way. You will receive more attention than usual and be the center of any social gathering. The one difficult point might be intimate relations with others. Romantic issues may take on a more serious, grounded tone at this time.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



You may feel a bit lazy and unmotivated today, Sagittarius. It could be hard to drag yourself out of bed. In terms of love and romance, there's apt to be some tension, as one part of you wants to make plans while another part is feeling up in the air and in the clouds. These two different viewpoints might make it difficult to make a move in any one direction.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Love and romance are apt to be going quite well for you now, Capricorn. You should find that it's easier to be yourself in a partnership. Let your romantic side shine through. Indulge in delicious candlelit dinners and share your deepest fantasies with those you love. If your partner resists this energy now, you may want to consider looking elsewhere for romantic company.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

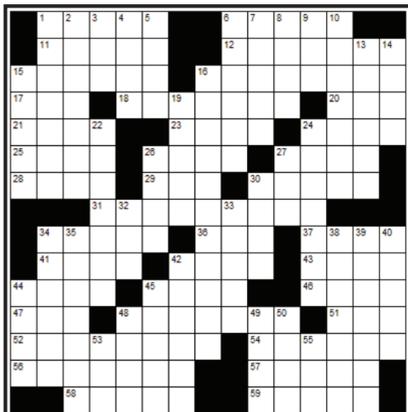


You may feel a great deal of nervous energy today, Aquarius. Tension could come to you from all angles. Indecisiveness might be your biggest problem. You may be in a frenzy trying to figure out where to move next. The key is to slow down and relax. Don't make a move without evaluating things. Be careful about acting too hastily, especially when it comes to matters of the heart.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Issues having to do with love and romance are in your favor today, Pisces. You're more in touch with your emotions. You will find that your attitude toward love is more grounded than usual. Feel free to let go of some control. Let fate take you where it will in this department. Also make sure that you don't worry so much about things. Worrying will cause doubt, something you don't need.



Across

1. Flowerless plants, 6. Writer, 11. French farewell, 12. A type of bottom-dwelling fish, 15. Sharpshooter, 16. To form cavities, 17. Not on, 18. Greek goddess of fertility, 20. Born as 21. Nonclerical, 23. Beers, 24. Pigeon, 25. Killer whale, 26. Garden tools, 27. Peddle 28. Clairvoyant, 29. Sphere, 30. Test, as ore, 31. Surrounds, 34. Streamlined, 36. "Eureka!" 37. Border, 41. Hue, 42. Anagram of "Ties", 43. Back, 44. Wagers, 45. Agitate, 46. Dogfish, 47. Anger, 48. Bravery, 51. N N N N, 52. Pardon, 54. Funeral vehicle, 56. Soft light woolen fabric, 57. Courtyards, 58. Vigorously passionate, 59. Celebration,

Down

1. Ostentation, 2. Building, 3. Tear, 4. Require, 5. Certain, 6. Wanes, 7. Roof overhangs, 8. Blend 9. Frequently, in poetry, 10. Player piano, 13. Unbending, 14. Pay attention to 15. Flies , alone, 16. Jubilation, 19. New Zealand native, 22. Lurches, 24. Mosaic tile, 26. Pawn 27. South southeast, 30. Wings, 32. Mesh, 33. A pungent stew, 34. Unsaturated alcohol, 35. Genuine 38. Mark for misconduct, 39. Dispute, 40. Delete, 42. Painfully, 44. Clout 45. Face with masonry, 48. Ancient units of liquid measure, 49. Fellow, 50. Bristle, 53. African antelope, 55. Arrive (abbrev.),,

Yesterday's Solution

BLAB DIADO DOES
AIDS AVERS EDOE
REVS DECAE POOR
OUESTS RACEHORSE
GATILLOS EPHICS
EPILOGUE ATOLL
ENS STELE NED
SERIS LATITCED
AREGLA WARKLE
A FAITH TELL
ASPIRATES KNIFE
GLAIR RANCH EARL
RAPE SINAI STEM
EGAD NAME SEES

ahead, balloons, bells better, bright, celebrate, champagne, clock, closure clue, count, days family fireworks, friends, future gather, last, memories, midnight, much, music pare, party, roaredsees sorrow, streamers

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