

# Taliban's Plan to Overrun Helmand Thwarted: Governor

LASHKARGAH - The governor on Monday said militants' attempts to capture southern Helmand province had been foiled and areas lost to the Taliban would be recaptured this new year. Mirza Khan Rahimi, addressing a gathering of tribal elders and government officials, called the just ended solar year as full of troubles, bloodshed and loss of civilians and security forces, but said the Taliban's plan to overrun the province had been frustrated by security forces. The governor said recapturing areas under Taliban control would be his



government's top priority as part of the New Year strategy to deal with militancy. He promised major development projects besides boosting agriculture and power sectors of the province. Maj. Gen. Mohammad Moin Faqir, the 2015 Maiwand Military Corps commander, said the Taliban's plan to capture Helmand had failed. He asked residents of Helmand to play a proactive role in strengthening the law and order situation and also asked the Taliban to join the reconciliation process and shun violence. ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

## Zazai Maida Dwellers Say Their Sacrifices Ignored

KHOST CITY - The people of Zazai Maida district in southeastern Khost province say no development projects, except those executed under the National Solidarity Programme, have been implemented in the district during the past 14 years. They say they have repeatedly visited government offices in Khost and Kabul, but they were only deceived by fake promises. They claim losing thousands of youth to the conflict while serving ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

## 8 Daesh Militants Killed as Drone Strikes Vehicle in Kot

JALALABAD - At least eight Daesh militants have been killed during a US drone strike in eastern Nangarhar province, police said on Tuesday. The drone struck a vehicle carrying the rebels in the Khwargai locality of Kot district on Monday night, the provincial police spokesman said. Lt. Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashriqwal told Pajhwok Afghan News a for ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

## Nationwide 'Operation Shafaq' Has Been Launched

KABUL - A batch of another 2,000 soldiers completed their training at the Kabul Military Training Centre (KMIC) on Tuesday. Addressing the graduation ceremony, Chief of Army Staff Gen. Qadam Shah Shaheed said a new nationwide operation codenamed "Shafaq" for 1395 New Year had been launched and the offensive would have effective results because the Afghan security forces had learnt a lot from last year's "Op-



eration Zafar". He said the 1394 solar year, which ended on March 21, was a test case for the Afghan security forces who experienced some troubles, but were able to frustrate the enemy's designs. He said the rebels last year wanted to overrun some provinces after foreign forces' departure, but they were unable to do so. The army chief ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

## Herat Farmers Speak out about Problems

HERAT - Farmers in Herat said Tuesday that they face numerous challenges and that they have received little support from the government to date. They have accused government of turning a blind eye to their problems. "Farmer's Day has been celebrated for the past few years, however, it does not help farmers. We want government to provide us with improved seed," said Gholam Sakhi, a Herat farmer. According to the local farmers, there is no storage facilities for fresh produce in the province, which results in their harvests going off quickly. "We don't want the government to give us money, we want it to ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

## Govt. Needs to Start Keeping its Promises: Analysts

KABUL - Experts have warned that the National Unity Government's failure to keep promises is widening the gap between themselves and the people. Heralding in the new year, leaders have once again made promises to the nation but analysts say promises made last year still need to be kept - promises such as the holding of elections and of a Loya Jirga, fighting corruption, creating jobs, support-



ing domestic product markets and many more. Experts also believe that the National Unity Government (NUG) does not even have a proper plan in place to move forward with ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

## At Least 10 Killed in Zabul, Herat Incidents

QALAT/HERAT CITY - Five security personnel were killed in an overnight roadside bombing in southern Zabul province, an official said on Tuesday. The explosion occurred on the Arghandab-Qalat highway on Monday night, Arghandab district chief Mullah Zarif told Pajhwok Afghan News. He said four police and a National Directorate of Security (NDS) official were killed in the blast that ripped through their vehicle. Meanwhile, a former police officer was killed in Khan Village of Shah Joy district, a resident of the district, Abdul Matin, said. A Taliban spokesman, Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, claimed the fighters killed an Afghan Local Police deputy commander in Shah Joy. However, Zabul security officials have not yet commented regarding the incident. Elsewhere, a Taliban's shadow district chief and three other militants were killed in Ghorian district of western Herat province. Police spokesman Jilani Farhad said militants stormed the Ghorian district center, but faced with stiff resistance from the Afghan forces and were pushed back. He said Mullah Bashir, the Taliban's shadow district chief for Ghorian district, was killed along with three other militants during the clash. (Pajhwok)

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## Thousands Flock to Gulghundi to Enjoy New Year

CHARIKAR - Thousands of people on Monday flocked to Gulghundi Valley of central Parwan province to enjoy the second day of the new solar year. On Sunday, a large crowd of people participated in the traditional flag-hoisting ceremony, marking Nowruz-- the Persian New Year -- at the Hazrat Ali Shrine in Mazar-i-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province. As many as 6,000 people, including women and children, on Monday arrived in Gulghundi Valley and



enjoyed the second day of the new year. Music, dance and other programmes were also arranged in the valley to double the celebrations. Clad in traditional dresses, the visitors prepared a verity of food items. Naseer Ahmad, 40, a resident of Qala-i-Najaran, ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

### Outlook Horoscope

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

Finishing your work may be impossible today, especially if you underestimated the size of the job. If you hit a wall now, your first impulse is to rev up your engines and plow ahead while you have the energy. But you could be stuck dealing with mundane responsibilities that are more pressing than your long-term goals. Don't work yourself into a state of high anxiety.

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

You're determined to make progress on your goals today, but your attention may be required in different areas of your life. Although you realize there are many paths for growth, you still grow annoyed if you don't have the freedom to choose which one to take. Rather than chasing your professional dreams, concentrate on more personal aspirations for now.

#### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You might feel as if someone has tied your hands, preventing you from following through with the work that's been assigned to you. Sometimes, you're easily distracted but you're not willing to give up now, since you believe that your persistence will pay off. Be careful not to assign blame to the apparent obstacles. Others may play antagonistic roles in your life, but in the long run their presence will only make you stronger.

#### Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Your nurturing spirit may be met with indifference now, making you reconsider if being nice is really worth the effort. As much as people might not be appreciative of your contributions today, it's still important to take the high road while coming from a place of love. Happiness will become even more distant if you allow anyone's negativity to subdue your heart.

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

Just as you are beginning to understand how self-restraint can effectively increase your creativity, something happens that tempts you to let go of the controls. You might momentarily think that taking a risk and saying what's on your mind will lead to a communication breakthrough today. However, resisting the urge to loosen your grip will actually sustain your relationships for the long haul.

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

Your smile is big now, fooling others into forgetting how serious you are while you keep them off guard with your easygoing attitude. Still, behind your happy face, you're just as cautious and critical as ever, working to tie up each and every loose end. But there's really nothing to be gained from struggling today, for no matter how hard you try to appear a model of perfection, you simply can't control everything.

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

Opposition comes from others today, apparently because you're the one pushing the group into new territory. However, just because you can see the big picture better than anyone else, people are not willing to blindly follow your lead. Take your time and share all the information you have at your disposal. It really doesn't pay to keep anything to yourself now; when everyone knows what you know.

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

You're searching for a new wave of illumination in your life. But your attention may need to be temporarily redirected as real world responsibilities get in the way of your metaphysical meanderings. You have recently survived a few years of hard work and character testing where you didn't have much time for contemplation. Although the tables have turned, you still need to respect common sense.

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

The motivational power of your key planet Jupiter often inspires you to face life with great enthusiasm. However, stern Saturn moving through high-minded Sagittarius is raining on your parade now and confronting you with one reason after another to wave the white flag. Although your optimism can lead you astray, it's not useful if you succumb to the illusions of negativity. Adjust your sights to take reality into consideration and then slip back into gear.

#### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

Although your energy level is returning to normal, you may be daunted by the commitments you made. Exuberant Jupiter is taunting your key planet Saturn, encouraging you to take on more work than intended. But don't waste energy worrying if you can deliver the goods. Just narrow your focus and get on with the tasks at hand. Even if you aren't performing up to your own exacting standards.

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

You must stand up to an individual powerhouse today as someone tries to block your forward movement. However, confident Jupiter is on your side and you should be able to easily overcome any resistance as long as you don't overstate your position. Your best strategy is to seek a way to stay on your present course without turning an opponent into an enemy.

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

Your vision is vast now and others seem to just expand your perspective even more. Buoyant Jupiter is your traditional ruling planet, yet it doesn't feel so great today when it runs into taskmaster Saturn. On a deeper level, someone in control can block your path, even as you're being lured into the distant future. If you are insisting on yes while your boss is saying no, rethink your plans before continuing on your journey.

**Across**

1. Gentlewoman, 6. Break, 10. Russian emperor, 14. Redress, 15. Brass instrument, 16. Fit, 17. Plunders, 18. Ends a prayer, 19. Quaint outburst, 20. Unmixable, 22. Quick note, 23. Charged particle, 24. Lariat, 26. Borne on the water, 30. Grin, 32. Instruct, 33. Shore, 37. Ear-related, 38. Increase, 39. Voice Over Internet Protocol, 40. Monetary, 42. Fight with swords, 43. Relaxes, 44. Renter, 45. Female horses, 47. A gesture of assent, 48. Part of the outer ear, 49. Unable to read, 56. Computer symbol, 57. Beasts of burden, 58. Kingly, 59. Fashionable, 60. 3 times 3, 61. Warning signal, 62. Cabbagelike vegetable, 63. Seats oneself, 64. Harps.

**Down**

1. A landlocked African republic, 2. "Smallest" particle, 3. Bad end, 4. Against, 5. Savior, 6. Spot, 7. Deaden, 8. Cain's brother, 9. A member of a panel, 10. Reflexive form of "them", 11. Mentors, 12. San Antonio fort, 13. Start over, 21. Small portable bed, 25. Altitude (abbrev.), 26. At the peak of, 27. Celebration, 28. Nonclerical, 29. Happening, 30. Turns bad, 31. Numerous, 33. Jacket, 34. Charged particles, 35. Agreeable, 36. Type of sword, 38. Assignments, 41. Born as, 42. National, 44. A parcel of land, 45. Chocolate-flavored coffee, 46. Agitated, 47. 9 9 9 9, 48. Pass the tongue over, 50. 62 in Roman numerals, 51. Gave temporarily, 52. Depend, 53. Food thickener, 54. Container weight, 55. Shade trees.

**Yesterday's Solution**

again, allot, brink, broken, bust, castle, catch, chosing, control, cream, crying, destruction, every, excite, figs, floor, friend, grave, guitar, hollow, horse, hotel, leak, morning, orbit, patch, projection, protect, skies, stall, stars, stash, thick, thing, tilt, tote, twang, vines, waist.

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