

# Poppy Cultivation Increases in Nangarhar: Officials

KABUL - Local officials in Nangarhar said Wednesday that most farmers in the eastern province have resumed poppy cultivation in their areas, accusing government of focusing on security issues rather than assisting them in agriculture. "Poppies have been cultivated in 12 districts in Nangarhar over the past year. We are trying to stop the trend with the help of the people and the farmers," said provincial counter-narcotics director Edris Sapai. Meanwhile, Nangarhar police said they will try to find an alternative for poppy cultivation in the province and that



they will encourage farmers to avoid the illegal practice. "We have some plans for counter-narcotics campaign and we want to eliminate poppy cultivation in Nangarhar in the near future," said Nangarhar Police Chief Fazl Ahmad Shirzad. Farmers meanwhile said government's inattention towards them and a lack of market opportunities for their products have pushed them to cultivate poppies on their land. "Government promised us years ago to distribute fertilizers and fertilized seeds for us. Also it vowed to support the market for ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

## 16 Quakes Hit Ghazni since Thursday, Causing Panic

GHAZNI CITY - Consecutive earthquakes since a week have worried residents of southern Ghazni province. Ghazni residents said 16 quakes rocked districts since last Thursday, causing panic but no financial damage or casualties. They said a black smoke was also seen rising into the skies in Tamki area in Gahwara mountains between Qarabagh and Jaghori districts. The power of the quake was strong in villages nearby the mountains. Momin Khan, a resident of Ghazni City, the provincial capital, said Ghazni was hit by several minor earthquakes over the past few days. The quakes were mostly felt in Nahor, Waghaz, Gilan, Jaghori, Qarabagh and Jaghato districts, he said. "Strong sounds were also heard at the time of earthquakes, the sounds are like a fighter jet comes down and drops bombs," Khan said, adding that consecutive quakes had worried Ghazni people. "My children could not sleep ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

## 169 Refugees – Mostly from Afghanistan – Live in Kyrgyzstan

BISHKEK - 169 refugees live in Kyrgyzstan currently, the State Migration Service told AKIpress on Wednesday. Among them, 106 people are from Afghanistan, 50 - Syria, 10 - Ukraine, 2 - Iran and 1 - Morocco. 129 applications for refugee status from 176 foreign citizens were registered in the country last year in accordance with the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic. Reports on foreign citizens applying for refugee status are sent to the Anti-Terrorist Center of the State Committee for National Security each month in order to use the information during the procedures of preparing the status of refugees.



95 interviews were conducted with asylum-seekers to implement the procedures of preparing the status of refugees and the work was conducted to check the provided information and documents. (AKIpress)

## 18 Militants Eliminated in Paktia Drone Strike

PESHAWAR - Eighteen Pakistani Taliban have been killed in a drone strike in Afghanistan's southeastern Paktia province, an official was quoted as saying. The Pakistani militants trying to sneak into Afghanistan when the drones rained down missiles on them in Gomal district, the Paktia governor's spokesman Nabiullah Peerkhel, citing reports from South Waziristan, told Radio Mashal 14 of the militants killed belonged to the Mehsud tribe and four others to the Ahmadzai Wazir tribe. Some of the dead were buried in villages near the porous border. A compound of Pakistani Taliban, led by Said Khan Sajna, is situated in the Bir-mal of Waziristan. (Pajhwok)

## AMP Lends Weight to 4-Nation Talks

KABUL - The Afghan Millat Political (AMP) party on Wednesday put its weight behind the four-nation push to revive the stalled peace talks, saying it welcomed every step taken to achieve peace. In a statement, the party, led by Abdul Qayum Arif, said unfortunately efforts made for peace during the past years did not bear clear results despite spending millions of dollars. Keeping in mind the past experience, the Afghans remained unsure if Pakistan would be realistic in the peace process, but this time around the renewed push to revive the peace process was different from timing, conditions and mechanism perspectives, the Afghan Millat Party said. Countries involved in the Afghanistan case had shown their interest and the quadrilateral coordination committee meetings involving the US, China, Pakistan and Afghanistan had raised hopes among the Afghans that Pakistan would be ready for cooperation, the party said. The committee had so far held two meetings, with the first taking place in Islamabad and the second in Kabul. A third meeting of the group is scheduled for Feb 6 in Islamabad. At the Kabul meeting last month, the group said in a joint statement the talks "made progress on a roadmap toward initiating peace talks with Taliban groups." The Afghan Millat party said ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

## 3 Uruzgan Security Personnel Killed in Taliban Attack

TIRINKOT - An Afghan National Army (ANA) officer and two policemen were killed and three other cops wounded in an insurgent attack in the central province of Uruzgan, officials said on Tuesday. Taliban attacked the security personnel on Monday evening when they were evacuating five injured policemen from Deh Rawood district to Tirinkot, the provincial capital. The insurgent attack happened in Achakzai area, the district police chief, Mohammad Nabi, told Pajhwok Afghan News. One ANA ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

## Afghan Military Kills 27 Insurgents in 24 Hours

KABUL - The Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) have killed 27 suspected Taliban insurgents across the country within the last 24 hours, defense ministry said on Wednesday afternoon. A total of 14 militants were wounded and five others detained by the ANSF, the ministry said in a statement. The joint forces also discovered and confiscated rounds of light and heavy ammunition and defused several landmines, said the statement, which provides daily operational updates. It also confirmed the loss of 11 army personnel during clashes in the operations and as a result of separate attacks across the country over the same period. The Taliban militant group has yet to make comments. (Xinhua)

## Two Bomb Blasts Leave 3 Wounded in Nangarhar, Khost

KABUL - Two bombs exploded a few hours apart from each other in Nangarhar and Khost province on Wednesday. The first one which was a landmine exploded on a Ford Ranger vehicle leaving two people wounded in Behsood District of Nangarhar province. Atullah Khogyani, spokesperson for the governor of Nangarhar province said the Ford Ranger was on its way to the capital ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

## Taliban Embark on Arson Campaign in Kunduz

KUNDUZ CITY - Local officials said militants had started torching houses of Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel and uprising members in a number of districts of northern Kunduz province. They said the rebels began the arson campaign 10 days ago and had so far set ablaze several houses of pro-government people. Mohammad Nabi, an ALP commander in Qalazal district, said militants had



decided to loot houses belonging to ALP forces and uprising members before torching them. Nabi, who also spearheads an uprising group, said: "Militants plundered and then torched my ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

### Outlook Horoscope

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

Someone isn't playing fairly today and there isn't a lot that you can do about it yet. A coworker may have ulterior motives for whatever scheme he or she is plotting. But don't try to force the issue, even if you believe something important is being kept from you. Struggling for resolution won't necessarily bring satisfaction. You're better off to let the events play out on their own.

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

Normally, you lean toward being more obstinate than unconventional. However, you could play the rebel in your group today, although you might not be ready to accept the responsibilities of this role yet. If you're working with a team, everyone else may seem more conservative in their thinking than you. You really don't intend to create any waves.

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

You're pretty certain someone is purposefully blocking your path to happiness today. However, this assumption could be part of your secret strategy to avoid taking personal responsibility. There's no reason to place blame on anyone else; instead, search within to gain understanding about your contribution to the present situation. Ironically, altering your own attitude might be the most sensible way to improve your current circumstances.

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

You might believe you don't have many options today. Fortunately, you are resigned to work within the constraints of the current situation while you're busy figuring out how to make real changes. You may be patient by nature, but you probably can't continue holding out much longer. There's no need to give up your power and accept the status quo.

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

You're tempted to play hooky today, but you won't likely be able to take time off for fun as the Moon bumps into taskmaster Saturn in your 5th House of Creativity. You're driven to keep your guard up now as you're pulled from one unstable demanding situation to the next, without much time in between. Thankfully, you still can have a stabilizing impact on others if you set your personal desires aside.

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

Your personal concerns overtake your professional ambitions today, and dealing with them could distract you from your job. You might try to overcompensate by demonstrating to others how willing you are to cooperate now, but they could misinterpret your flexibility as a sign of disinterest. It's not wise to keep to yourself while taking the course of least resistance. Explain your position as succinctly as possible before you relinquish control.

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

You're not in a position to get exactly what you want today, but you still could end up feeling emotionally satisfied. You probably won't be able to leverage your position to reach the top, but, fortunately, you won't likely go down in defeat either. No matter what reality throws at you now, remember that you will have the opportunity in the next few days to reclaim any ground you've lost.

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

Although everything appears to be perfectly in order, you may run into an obstacle that stops you in your tracks today. Fortunately, you are blessed with a deep reservoir of stamina from your two key planets, energetic Mars and relentless Pluto. There's no reason to wave the white flag just because you're being tested.

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

You're often known for your irrepressible optimism, but your perspective is more realistic today as the Moon runs into austere Saturn. Although you might be acting out of character, it's wise to let others see your more serious side now, even if your position differs from everyone else's. Conflict can weigh heavy on your heart, but you'll gain respect by holding your ground.

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

Your finances could be the cause of concern today; nevertheless, you must be willing to stand up and state your needs clearly. People are free to make incorrect assumptions if you don't inform them of your goals. But the rules of social etiquette won't stand in your way when you speak your truth as directly as you can. Others will appreciate your honesty if you share your point of view without editing it for political correctness.

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

Dig down to the source of your uneasiness today if you're uncomfortable with the level of concentration that your current work assignment requires. You may not like how closely you are being managed or, perhaps, you're simply bored with your job. Your current restlessness is heightened by your inventive ideas, especially if you can't figure out a way to share them.

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

You take your performance on the job quite seriously while the Moon networks with hardworking Saturn in your 10th House of Career. You want to have all your ducks in order before you share your opinions with anyone else. You need others to believe in your reliability, but your thoughts are erratic now and you might not trust your own instincts. Fortunately, you can think outside the box.



#### Across

1. Unwakaable state, 5. Bouquet, 10. Sitcom set in Korea, 14. Iridescent gem, 15. Type of retinal cells, 16. Greasy, 17. Multiplicative inverse, 19. Percussion instrument, 20. Historic period, 21. Thomy flowers, 22. Seminal fluid, 23. Fine particles of wood, 25. Extreme, 27. Commercial, 28. Instructing, 31. Winged, 34. A river through Paris, 35. 52 in Roman numerals, 36. Wicked, 37. Flip over, 38. Animal companions, 39. Snake-like fish, 40. Growing old, 41. Center, 42. Remorsefully, 44. Enemy, 45. A type of plastic, 46. Panorama, 50. Supporting column, 52. Portents, 54. Louisville Slugger, 55. Anthracite, 56. Vengeful punishment, 58. Pot, 59. Ganders, 60. Forearm bone, 61. Encounter, 62. Law and, 63. Beloved.

#### Down

1. Essential parts, 2. A drama set to music, 3. Long-tailed parrot, 4. Anagram of "Ail", 5. Not down, 6. Perch, 7. A single time, 8. Quantifying, 9. American Sign Language, 10. Present-day, 11. Sent on a plane, 12. Swing around, 13. Song of praise, 18. A very proper person, 22. Anagram of "Ties", 24. A romantic meeting, 26. Territory, 28. Little, 29. Pesky insects, 30. Essence, 31. Affirm, 32. Place, 33. Assuage, 34. Extra, 37. Not pretty, 38. Jetty, 40. Parental sister, 41. Antlered animal, 43. A boneless steak, 44. Digit, 46. Compacted, 47. Popular tree, 48. Bread from Heaven, 49. Fragrant oil, 50. Fraud, 51. Anagram of "Note", 53. A fitting reward (archaic), 56. Yore, 57. Muck.

#### Yesterday's Solution



ahead, angle, apple, assign, belief, blind, cheer, choirs, early, expanse, fortune, frigid, glade, gusty, inform, insipid, near, paroles, pest, prison, prude, rage, rapid, reach, redundant, refined, repetition, rode, safe, saloon, stain, stale, taste, tong, tray, twelve, twitch, urea.

