

\$9m Contracts for Fruit, Saffron Inked at Dubai Exhibition

KABUL - The Dubai exhibition proved significant for Afghanistan as contract for over nine million dollars were signed with foreign clients, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock said on Saturday.

Afghanistan performed extraordinarily at the Dubai agriculture show, where more than nine billion contracts were signed for dry fruits, including \$1.2 million for purchase of Afghan saffron by Saudi traders.

A statement from the ministry quoted an official, Akbar Rustami, as saying that Afghanistan was able to secure contracts worth more than nine million dollars and there was a possibility the demand for dry fruits and agriculture might increase.

According to the ministry, expansion in ...*(More on P4)...(10)*



Diesel, Gas, Gold Prices Down in Kabul

KABUL - The prices of diesel, liquefied gas and gold have dipped while other items' rates remain steady during the outgoing week in the capital Kabul, market sources said Saturday.

Abdul Hadi, a worker at Wazir Abad Fuel Station in Kabul, told Pajhwok Afghan News one liter of diesel decreased from 44 Afghanis to 42 Afghanis while the same amount of petrol remained steady at 44 Afghanis.

He linked reduction in diesel prices to its rates in international markets.

Ahmadullah, a gas dealer in KolaPushta area, said the price of one kilogram of the commodity



dipped from 55afs to 50afs. However, the rates of firewood remain stable.

Haji Mir Hassan, a firewood seller in CharabiShaheed area of Kabul told said that the price of 560 kilograms of peeled oak remain

steady at 7,000afs and the same quantity of cedar 6,600afs. The prices of food items also remain unchanged.

Food Traders Union head, Fazal Rahman, said that 49kg of Pakistani sugar ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

2nd Round of Winter Anti-Polio Campaign Launched

KABUL - The Ministry of Public Health said on Saturday more than six million children would be covered by an anti-polio campaign in 21 provinces of the country.

A statement from MoPH said the campaign would cover areas vulnerable to the virus before being extended to other parts of the country.

It added 6.1 million children under five years of age would be vaccinated. Vaccinators would go home to home in residential areas to treat children. The ministry said the ...*(More on P4)...(12)*



7 Rebels Killed, 4 Civilians Injured in Logar Airstrike

PUL-I-ALAM - Local officials on Saturday said five militants were killed and four civilians wounded in a US airstrike in the Charkh district of central Logar province.

SalimSaleh, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News that American forces conducted the airstrike on a house in the Pangram area of the district on Friday night.

He said five militants were killed and two others wounded in the overnight raid, which also led to the destruction of some weapons and ammunition belonging to the insurgents.

The Taliban were in a civilian house when they came under bombardment that damaged six nearby houses, the spokesman said, adding that civilians suffered no casualties in the incident. Syed Baqir, a resident of the area, claimed many militants were killed in the bombardment. But he said four civilians were also wounded in the attack. The Taliban have not yet commented on the raid.

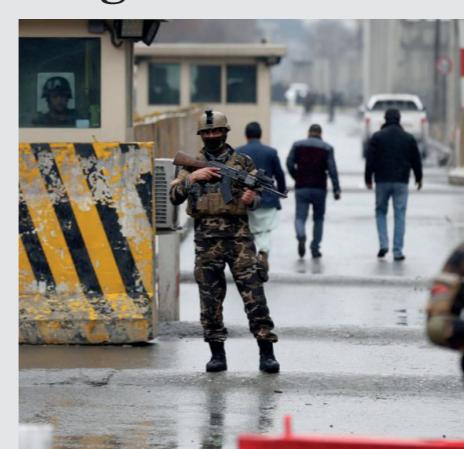
Also on Saturday morning, a shopkeeper was killed inside his shop in the capital of southern Ghazni province. A security official, ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Taliban, IS Claim Deadly Attacks across Afghanistan

KABUL - A series of suicide bombings and militant raids in Afghanistan has killed dozens of people, a day after construction work on the much-awaited Afghan section of an international gas pipeline began.

An Afghan Interior Ministry spokesman said a suicide bomber Saturday blew himself up near a security post in Kabul, killing at least three people and wounding several others.

The Islamic State terrorist group claimed it plotted the violence in the capital city. ...*(More on P4)...(14)*



Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Aries You might believe your actions will be well received, even if you're actually behaving badly. Red-hot Mars is firing up your energy today, prompting you to express your feelings with a heightened sense of urgency. But your excitement may be perceived as unnecessary drama if your emotions start to run off the rails.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Taurus Your friends and family can be the source of much heartfelt joy today. However, your assumptions about other people's participation may lead to disappointment if someone's behavior falls short of your expectations. Rather than facing one major setback, it's likely that you'll continue to rebuild your fantasies as they meet reality throughout the day.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Gemini You may be searching for a new direction in life, especially if you're disillusioned with your current circumstances. However, fantasies are running rampant today, inspiring you to put a positive spin on your career trajectory whether or not you are happy with where it is going. But you must be careful about taking your silent frustration out on anyone else.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Cancer There are time-sensitive items on your to-do list, but you're not very motivated to take your chores seriously today. You might prefer to daydream of future adventures or, perhaps, watch a movie about someone's epic journey. But your imagination only takes you so far; you will soon start to grow bored and seek experiences that are real instead of just imagined.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Leo You are caught in a dilemma of your own making today. You wish you could head outdoors because physical activity sounds good for your mind and body. But you're just as excited by the notion of hanging out at home, getting a few domestic chores out of the way, and maybe even taking an afternoon nap.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Virgo Your emotional rollercoaster ride continues today as people close to you send conflicting messages. You want to make good decisions based upon undeniable facts, but you don't know what to believe when you are told yes and no simultaneously. At first, you might assume that everything you hear is the truth, but soon realize you need to double-check all information for yourself.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Libra Your schedule is nearly impossible to manage because you're not particularly interested in timekeeping today. In fact, your dreams are more compelling to you now than any appointment. You might underestimate how long it will take you to complete a project, which can throw the rest of your day off track.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Scorpio Your intuition is the source of your power today. Refreshing your intellect by dipping into the magical waters of your subconscious washes away the buildup of worn-out assumptions and unneeded emotional baggage. But you're less likely to surrender your values, and stubbornness can lead to outright conflict now.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Sagittarius You are driven to put your action plan into motion now, but circumstances beyond your control require you to wait just a bit longer. Impulsive Mars in inspirational Sagittarius is like a personal coach, telling you that you cannot waste another day. But loving Venus in compassionate Pisces squares Mars, reminding you that you will fail at your endeavors unless you take other people's feelings to heart.

Rashid Khan
from Kuchi Team
to Global Fame

KABUL - Rashid Khan, who started playing as a batsman for a local Kuchi tribe team, shot to internationally fame in no time by recently achieving top position among ICC ODI players ranking.

Rashid joined India pace bowler JaspritBumrahBumrah at the top with 16 wickets in the series against Zimbabwe



which Afghanistan won 4-1 to become the youngest to attain top ranking. He also created two international records -- one getting ICC top bowler's slot in small age and breaking Pakistan's SaqlainMushtaq and India's SachinTendulkar's records.

His 51 runs in two innings in the series, including a brisk 43 in the final match in Sharjah, also helped Rashid break into the top-five in the list of all-rounders while he has also moved up 11 slots to take 115th place among batsmen. The Afghan teenage leg-spinning sensation has become the top-ranked ODI bowler, making him the youngest ever No.1 in men's rankings history just at 7,092 days of age.

Other Afghanistan players to gain in the latest rankings include batsmen Rahmat Shah (up 39 places to 42nd), JavedAhmedi (up 18 places to 83rd) and NajibullahZadran (up 23 places to 93rd) and off-spin bowler Mohammad Nabi (up seven places to 11th).

Afghanistan have gained four points to take 10th position with 55 points while Zimbabwe have lost three points to be on 50 points.

ICC, cricket media outlets, websites, renowned current and former cricket players, Afghan officials and thousands of fans have congratulated Rashid Khan on his sensational achievements.

Hailing from Shinwari district of Nangarhar, Rashid Khan was born in September 1998 and he is currently 19-year-old.

Besides his heroic performance for the national team, Khan has played for international ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Outlook Horoscope

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Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Capricorn You're willing to jump through all kinds of emotional and practical hoops in order to accomplish your goals. Your current stress comes from your inability to separate the most important considerations from the chatter and the chaos. Sifting through all the incoming data is time-consuming on a normal day, but it's even harder when your reality filter is slightly out of whack.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)



Aquarius It's more useful to have a 'theme song today than a detailed agenda. Your daydreams fuel your real-world intentions, and any attempts to squelch them are not in your best interest. However, flying through the day without a flight plan isn't helpful either. Be smart and work both ends of the spectrum.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Pisces Everything would be perfect today if there wasn't that little problem of reality. Several planets, including a fantasy-prone Mercury-Neptune conjunction, are clustered in your imaginative sign, amplifying the volume of your dreams. You can conjure up nearly anything in your mind now and believe it to be true. Unfortunately, the outer world doesn't necessarily support your inner visions and it falls on you to work out the differences.

Across

1. Bow, 6. Astringent, 10. Doorpost, 14. Pontifical, 15. Certain, 16. Maguey, 17. Spare, 18. Narrow opening, 19. Sheltered nook, 20. Unlikely, 22. Make a sweater, 23. Nil, 24. Pictures, 26. A division of a hospital, 30. Gist, 31. Tin, 32. Chills and fever, 33. Playthings, 35. Nigerian monetary unit, 39. Any dramatic scene, 41. Of an obscure nature, 43. Tall woody plants, 44. "Your majesty", 46. Behold, in old Rome, 47. Feline, 49. Born as, 50. Outbuilding, 51. Belt or girdle, 54. Donated, 56. Shade of blue, 57. Primary, 63. Lacking intellectual acuity, 64. Anagram of "Note", 65. Confederate States, 66. Jail (British), 67. Not sweet, 68. Heavenly hunter, 69. If not, 70. Anagram of "Seek", 71. Weals,

Down

1. Hurried, 2. Cab, 3. Chooses, 4. Paddles, 5. Featureless, 6. Diligent, 7. Cradlesong, 8. Murres, 9. System of weights and measures, 10. Whippersnapper, 11. Lengthwise, 12. Film, 13. Round red root vegetables, 21. Devilfish, 25. Numerous, 26. Light bulb unit, 27. Food thickener, 28. Country bumpkin, 29. Luscious, 34. Screechers, 36. Skin irritation, 37. Type of cereal grass, 38. Breezed through, 40. Brother of Jacob, 42. Female ruff, 45. An artless innocent young girl, 48. Sleeping sickness carrier, 51. Mooch, 52. Identical, 53. Japanese wrestlers, 55. Provide with a permanent fund, 58. Search, 59