



Peach Yield up, Poppy Down in Helmand: Farmers

LASHKARGAH - A number of farmers and agriculture department officials say that peach yield has significantly increased and poppy cultivation reduced for the first time in southern Helmand province.

Around 95 peach gardens have been established in different parts of Helmand, including one in Nawa district which produces one ton peach each day.

Owner of the garden in Nawa district, Gul Agha, told Pajhwok Afghan News that for the first time peach yield had surged considerably.

"We supply nearly one ton of peach to the market every day and the taste of the fruit peaches is very good compared to the peaches of other countries," he added.

Another farmer Musa Jan said peach was very beneficial than poppy cultivation. "Peach production is profitable and have a good market, we have one garden and efforts are underway to set up more," he informed.

Agha Mohammad, another owner of a peach garden, held similar views and said the agriculture department should help farmers increase the fruit yield further.

"Peach cultivation is new in Helmand and we are not familiar with its growth, but still we received good yield from it. If the agriculture department cooperates with us in this regard, the yield would further increase," he remarked.

Regarding the significant yield of peach this season, provincial agriculture director Zalmai Aloko said Helmand produced good yield of peach and peach gardeners would earn millions of afghanis from the yield as the market was good.

According to Aloko, about 95 peach gardens have been established on 103 acres of ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Heavy Flooding Kills 24 in Afghanistan



KABUL - The Afghan government says at least 24 people have been killed and 11 others injured in the past month as a new wave of heavy rains and flooding has swept parts of the country. A statement released Saturday by the Afghan Ministry for Disaster

Management and Humanitarian Affairs says flooding has affected six of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, including the capital, Kabul.

Around 500 people were rescued in central Bamyan province's Sheber district, according to the ministry. Nationwide, floods have destroyed

more than 220 homes this month and partially damaged 116 more, it added. Heavy snowfall across Afghanistan this winter had cut off many areas. So far this year, around 150 people have died as heavy rains and flooding swept away homes in different provinces. *(AP)*

88 Arrested After 10 Injured in Celebratory Firing



KABUL - Around 88 individuals have been arrested after 10 people were injured in celebratory gun-firing over Afghanistan's victory against Pakistan in a warm-up cricket match on Friday night.

Last night Afghanistan clinched a surprise three-wicket win over Pakistan in a World Cup warm-up match in Bristol city of England.

After the winning, a number of jubilant countrymen started firing into the air and others performed national dance (Attan) across the country.

Nasrut Rahimi, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MoIA) spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News that police had arrested 43 individuals in capital Kabul, 31 in eastern Nangarhar and 14 others in south-eastern Khost provinces connection with celebratory gun firing over the cricket victory.

He said Kabul police also seized 30 different types of weapons from the detainees. He said six individuals in Kabul, three in Nangarhar and ten in Khost provinces were injured in the last night firing.

However, Nangarhar Civil Hospital said it had received three injured people from the last night gun firing.

Meanwhile, Nangarhar governor's spokesman Attaullah Khogyani said the injured were in critical condition. *(Pajhwok)*

5 NATO Soldiers Injured in Kandahar Blast



KABUL - Five NATO soldiers hailing from Romania were injured in a blast in southern Kandahar province on Friday, a media report said.

The five soldiers on mission in Afghanistan were injured, at around 12:30hrs, EEST, as they were conducting a joint patrol mission with US soldiers in their area of responsibility, Romanian national news agency reported. Staff sergeant Marian Rusu, corporals class 2 Florin Anton and Florin-Alexandru

Stefan, corporal class 3 Petrica Apetroaie and private Nicolae Petcu, according to a press statement released by the Romanian Defence Ministry (MAPN).

According to the MAPN, the injured soldiers are in a stable condition and are hospitalised at a ROL 3 facility at the Kandahar Air Base. "At the level of the battalion, a panel was set up to investigate the circumstances of the event, led by the chief of staff of the unit". *(Pajhwok)*

US Military Helicopter Destroyed in Afghanistan 'Hard Landing'



KABUL - Passengers and crew aboard a US military helicopter were injured when the chopper they were travelling in was destroyed during a "hard landing" in Afghanistan, a US official said Saturday.

According to Colonel David Butler, a spokesman for US Forces Afghanistan, a CH-47 Chinook helicopter "hit the ground hard on the way to drop passengers off" during a mission in Helmand province.

Butler said the helicopter had been

totally destroyed during the landing. "Both Afghan and US personnel were injured but all are stable and expected to recover," he told AFP. "No hostile fire or enemy contact involved."

Chinooks, easily recognizable because they have one rotor at the front and one at the back, are the work-horse aircraft for foreign forces in Afghanistan, and are used to ferry troops and supplies across the country. *(AFP)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



You may desire freedom today, Aries. Projects involving partnerships could get a strong push forward because you're feeling especially motivated to get things done. Your partners could be inspired to get the ball rolling, and all of you may feel courageous enough to try the impossible. Don't confuse courage with foolhardiness. Caution is always called for in tricky situations.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



You may have been working on projects that make you feel good over the past few weeks, Taurus, particularly projects that relate to attaining more independence in your career. In the process, you've probably developed some new skills and now feel confident enough to use them. Today's one last burst of determination and inner power could complete the process and reach the goals you

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



A surge of romantic passion could move you to rendezvous with a lover no matter what obstacles bar your way. Take care to notice what your partner wants! Enterprises that you may have been pursuing with business colleagues could take a giant step forward, as both you and your partners are feeling especially strong and motivated. Move forward with caution, Gemini, but move forward.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Minor ailments may awaken a new determination to improve your health. You feel especially energetic today, Cancer, so you might go to the gym. Just don't overdo it. You might also be considering several changes you'd like to make in your home or workplace. Give them careful thought before moving ahead.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



The desire to bring important personal projects to a close might have you focusing a lot of energy on them, Leo. You might need to run several errands before you can finish. Your energy is high, so consider playing some sports or getting a good workout at the gym. Push yourself, but not beyond your limits, Leo. "No pain, no gain" is a fallacy!

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



The desire for independence may have some family members thinking about breaking out on their own. Others could desire to make some extra money for their own projects. Your house could be busy today, if you're in it at all. Don't be surprised if everyone spends most of the day somewhere else.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Your mind is especially acute today, Libra. You may come up with ideas for new projects. You're feeling especially motivated and courageous. Don't be surprised if you try to achieve the impossible. Friends or groups could play a strong role in whatever you try. Move ahead cautiously, but move ahead. Don't let the day's advantages pass you by.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Strong intuition concerning ways to generate extra income might pop into your head all day. Some of them may seem off the wall, but don't let that stop you. Look into the possibilities. They might not be that outrageous. This is definitely a day to move your interests forward, Scorpio. You have the energy and motivation to do wonders. Make the most of today!

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Group activities or projects you're working on with friends could prove inspiring today. Your enthusiasm is high, Sagittarius, as is your energy, so you're likely to want to channel your personal power into whatever goals you have. Today you have the courage to focus on matters that others wouldn't even attempt. Move forward with caution, but go to it!

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan.19)



A surge of inner power and intuition could have you thinking about embracing an unusual profession. Your desire for independence is strong now, Capricorn, so you might be thinking about working on your own, perhaps in an artistic field or a service profession. You have the power to do wonders today. Be practical and move forward with caution.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

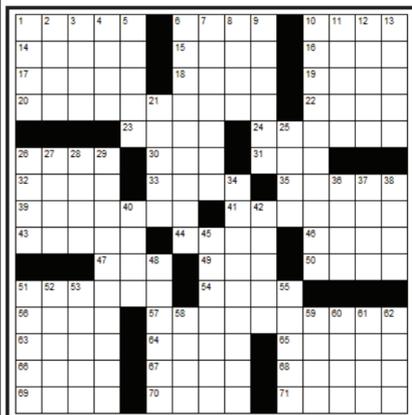


Today you might channel one final, powerful burst of energy into completing a goal that means a great deal to you. Your courage and determination are high, and you have the ability to accomplish a lot at this time, Aquarius. If you've been considering projects that others think are impossible, this is the day to act. Move forward with caution, but go for the gold!

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Determination could advance career and money matters today. If you've been thinking about striking out on your own, Pisces, this is the day to start. Some in-depth research might be required. Your need for independence in career matters is high, as well as the courage to go for what you want. Use caution and discretion, but move ahead anyway. Don't let the day's advantages pass you by!



Across

- Cluster, 6. Unhearing, 10. An enclosure, 14. Not urban, 15. Wicked, 16. Sister and wife, of Zeus, 17. Licorice-like flavor, 18. Portuguese folksong, 19. Colored part of an eye, 20. Reduced priority, 22. Citrus fruit, 23. Catch, 24. In truth, 26. Beige, 30. A farewell remark, 31. Debutante, 32. Custard dessert, 33. Afflicts, 35. Lane, 39. Hopeless, 41. Jump jet, 43. Drive, 44. Get bigger, 46. Russian emperor, 47. Play a role, 49. Historic period, 50. Female chickens, 51. Tent fabric, 54. Anagram of "Ties", 56. Double-reed woodwind, 57. Refugee, 63. "Phooe, y!", 64. Trigonometry (abbrev.), 65. Nosed (out), 66. To be, in old Rome, 67. Satisfy, 68. _____ in = aware, 69. Outbuilding, 70. Visual organs, 71. Little,

Down

- Fourth sign of the zodiac, 2. Roman moon goddess, 3. Relating to urine, 4. Disguise, 5. The common people, 6. Paying, 7. Gospels, 8. Adjutant, 9. Excessively ornamented, 10. Having a baby, 11. Eagle's nest, 12. Filth, 13. Alleviated, 21. Anagram of "Urban", 25. Close, 26. FFFF, 27. Coagulate, 28. Unusual, 29. Made without yeast, 34. Deficit, 36. Small, medium or large, 37. Low-fat, 38. Makes a mistake, 40. Killer whale, 42. Expect, 45. Break, 48. Sleeping sickness carrier, 51. Cyphers, 52. Daunt, 53. Like the Vikings, 55. Construct, 58. Roentgen ray, 59. Doing nothing, 60. Chills and fever, 61. Adolescent, 62. Countercurrent,

Yesterday's Solution



abandon, black, bogus brook, , cascatch, creek , emergency, enjoyf a i r - grounds, forge, fruit gleam, gorge, heel, horse, hues, hurry latex, lines, , measure murmur, , nerve ,people, plead, point

