

Food Briefs National

- ❖ The export of mango from Pakistan would commence from May 2018 during the current season of mango while the export target of mango has been set as 100,000 metric tons. Foreign exchange of USD 95-100 million would be generated by attaining the export target of 100,000 tons. The Pakistani mango would be part of an essential menu for millions of Muslim fasting globally while its export during the holy month of Ramzan would be an added advantage for the export.
- ❖ Punjab Agriculture Minister Sardar Tanvir Ilyas has said the provincial government is devising the ways to disseminate latest production technology/techniques to the farmers on their doorstep.
- ❖ A local cattle farm is all set to be inaugurated in June, 2018 to give people of Karachi an opportunity to buy quality sacrificial animals under a scientifically controlled, well managed and organized environment that is altogether missing in other makeshift animal markets established in the city every year during the season of Eidul Azha.
- ❖ The Saudi government recently handed over a gift of 80 tons of dates to the World Food Program for distribution among the needy people of Pakistan to help meet their nutritional needs. The Charge d' Affairs of the Embassy Habiballah Al-Bukhari handed over the consignment of dates to the World Food Representative Finbarr Curran before inking an agreement, at a ceremony held here at the embassy of the Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ Experts have stressed the need for the promotion of ostrich farming, which is a lucrative business. Addressing a ceremony to mark the Farmers Day recently, livestock expert Dr Taimoor Alam said that all types of assistance with subsidy was also being provided to farmers. The Livestock and Dairy Development Department was also providing Rs 10,000 subsidy per ostrich, he said and added that ostrich farming could also contribute to eliminate unemployment. The ostrich meat is a great food for human health, he said. He urged farmers to consult with the livestock department for the promotion of ostrich farming.
- ❖ The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) recently said that CPEC will make the bumpy road to country's self-reliance smooth. The journey will begin from self-reliance in the field of energy which will soon include many other sectors including local and regional trade, it said. The project will also boost Pakistan's production, revenue, defence capability, internal security, political strength, international image and sustainable development, said Dr Murtaza Mughal, president PEW.
- ❖ Agriculture is the single largest sector of Pakistan's economy, which accounts for a quarter of GDP. Despite its relatively lower contribution in the GDP, the importance of agriculture lies in the fact that it employs 44 % of the labour force, supports about 75 % of the population and accounts for more than 60 % of foreign exchange earnings. Textiles comprise 64 % and food products 11 % of total Pakistani exports-both are largely dependent on agriculture. ◆

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- ❖ In Adelaide region, Hundreds of thousands of sterile fruit flies will drop from the sky this month kicking off the plan to reduce the numbers of an endemic pest.
- ❖ At the end of April or beginning of May, the US market would once again have lemons from Tucuman, said the governor of Tucuman, Juan Manzur. He said that they had complied all regulations and that this news was "superior, as the products from Tucuman had achieved opening the most demanding market."
- ❖ The leading strawberry producers worldwide are China, the US, Spain and Japan, which produce almost 5 million tons of fruit. In Brazil strawberry production has increased a lot over the past decade thanks to the high yields and a transformation in the cultivation process. It produces around 3,500 tons of strawberries in the states of Minas Gerais, Rio Grande do Sul, Paraná, Santa Catarina, San Paolo, Espírito Santo, Distrito Federal, Bahia and Ceará.
- ❖ Since 1980's, Ontario's garlic industry has been growing commercially, being held back only by knowledge. A decade later a few but fervent growers, including The Garlic Box, emerged to facilitate full-scale production and growth of this one-time cottage industry. An element for success was to inform consumers about what differentiates local garlic from offshore.
- ❖ In order to increase production costs and shorten the product's shelf life, which reduces the competitiveness of the Peruvian vegetable, fresh asparagus exports to the United States have to be fumigated.
- ❖ According to Nicola Antonacci from Zetapack, "People always talk about fruit that is ready to eat, however, this requirement clashes with automatic sorting solutions. The machines developed so far do not guarantee the same degree of automation and respect for the produce as our solution, which is innovative and unlike any other on the market."
- ❖ After the constant rain and the catastrophic harvest conditions in some regions in the autumn of last year, uncertainty existed as to how long organic potatoes will remain stable in the warehouses also contributed to this uncertainty.
- ❖ PrimeLINE ONE, a new refrigerated shipping container developed through a joint initiative of Carrier Transicold and Singamas Container Holdings Ltd., a leading manufacturer of shipping containers, was announced this week at Intermodal Asia 2018.
- ❖ DropCopter out of Corning, California, works on the automated pollination of orchard crops via unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). It strives for farming efficiency, the promotion of new technologies and healthy crop yield growth. Every year growers need bees to pollinate their flowers. If there are not enough bees, there's not enough fruit. Dropcopter basically supplements the amount of lost bees by flying over those same flowers and dropping pollen using a drone. ◆