

With \$65 Discount, Aryana Airlines to Carry Hajj Pilgrims this Year

KABUL - The state-run Aryana Airlines would carry pilgrims to Saudi Arabia to perform this year's hajj under a contract signed on Saturday, fixing the airfare at \$980.

The contract was signed between Deputy Hajj and Religious Affairs Minister Daiul Haq Abid and Aryana Airlines deputy director Abdul Ali Farooq in Kabul.

According to Abid, 24,000 pilgrims and 250 government employees would perform this year's



pilgrimage with \$65 discount in return tickets costing a total of \$980 for each passenger against last year's 1045 afs price.

After signing of the contract, Farooq said a total of \$1.6 million would be reduced in the airfare cost of pilgrims this year. The national carrier was well-prepared and ready to deliver good services to pilgrims, he said. Last year, the Afghan government charged \$2,350 in entire hajj expense from each pilgrim. (Pajhwok)

Governor Demands Reinforcements as Baghlan Clashes Continue

PUL-I-KHUMRI - The governor on Saturday asked the central government to dispatch additional security forces to northern Baghlan province to drive militants from the conflict-hit areas.

Abdul Sattar Barez said clashes between security forces and insurgents were underway in Dan-i-Shahabuddin and Dand-i-Ghori areas on the outskirts of Pul-i-Khumri, the provincial capital.

Taliban militants recently mounted attacks on security posts in different areas of Baghlan, particularly in Dan-i-Shahabuddin and Dand-i-Ghori areas. (More on P4)...(13)

6 Police, 5 Taliban Dead in Farah Clashes

FARAH CITY - Six policemen and five Taliban have been killed during separate clashes in Pushtud district and Bala Buluk districts of western Farah province, sources said on Saturday.

Ghasuddin, the Pushtud town's administrative chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News Taliban rebels staged attacks on police posts in Shah-i-Khuna, Nawbahar and Mullah Aman areas of the district yesterday.

In the ensuing clash, he said, five Taliban attackers and one policeman were killed and seven Taliban gunmen were wounded. He said the clash stretched into Saturday morning and the rebels had retreated from the areas.

Also on Saturday evening, a large number of militants attacked police posts. (More on P4)...(14)

Would-Be Suicide Bomber Arrested in Kabul

KABUL - A would-be suicide bomber, allegedly planning to attack a hotel in capital Kabul, has been detained, the spy service said Saturday.

A statement from the National Directorate of Security (NDS) received by Pajhwok Afghan News identified the alleged bomber as Khalid aka Sohail.

Network, the bomber wanted to attack one of the hotels in Kabul City with two bombs controlled by mobile telephones, the NDS statement said.

The would-be bomber was arrested by intelligence forces before reaching his target, the statement added, but did not mention the time and location of his arrest. (Pajhwok)

3 Female Chechen Militants among 10 Killed in Logar Operations

KABUL - At least seven Chechen militants including three women were killed during an operation in central Logar province of Afghanistan.

According to the local security officials, the women were killed during an operation that triggered gun battle in Kharwar district. Provincial governor's spokesman Salim Saleh said three commanders of the militants were also killed along with 7 militants from Chechnya. He said the operations were conducted as part of Zarqoon operations to suppress the militants activities and clear the areas under their control in Logar. The anti-government armed (More on P4)...(20)

Ministry of Defense

ANSF Engaged in Offensive Operations in 12 Provinces

KABUL - The Ministry of Defense (MoD) said the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) are engaged in offensive operations in at least 12 provinces.

MoD spokesman, Dawlat Waziri, said currently 15 offensive operations are being conducted by the Afghan security forces to suppress the militants who are looking to stabilize the country with their spring offensive.

Waziri further added that the Taliban militants launched a major attack in Kunduz but



it was repulsed by the Afghan forces, causing heavy losses to the militants.

According to Waziri, at least 40 militants were killed and 50 others were wounded during the gun battle triggered

Governor Dubs Kunduz City Security as 'Satisfactory'

KUNDUZ CITY - The governor on Saturday called as "satisfactory" the security situation in Kunduz City, the capital of northern Kunduz province.

But a security official, who declined to be named, told Pajhwok Afghan News Taliban militants captured four check-posts on the Kunduz-Khanabad Road and held 30 Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel hostage.

Governor Asadullah Umarmkhel, who met several people in Kunduz City, said the security situation in the provincial capital had



improved and there was nothing to be worried about. He told Pajhwok Afghan News Taliban attacks had been thwarted in most parts of the province and assured that there was no major threat.

Hayatullah Amiri, the Khanabad district administrative chief, warned if the town's security could not be improved, the Taliban might overrun the district. Col. Qurban Musavi, a senior military official, said at least 80 insurgents had been killed and more than 50 (More on P4)...(16)

First Commercial Sterilized Soymilk Factory will Soon Launch

KABUL - Nutrition and Education International (NEI) is partnering with an Afghanistan business partner to create a commercial sterilized soymilk for Afghanistan's private sector in the coming months.

The factory will be able to produce soymilk on a large scale for the Afghan market. The soymilk factory will produce 40,000 single serving size pouches daily, equaling 2,050,000 liters per year. The soymilk pouches will

have a 10-month shelf-life without refrigeration. It's the largest soymilk factory established by NEI and thanks to the donation of the Republic of Korea government.

The construction of the soymilk equipment is by Daesung Food Tech Corporation in Korea. When ready, it will be shipped within the month to Kabul for NEI and their partner to produce soymilk for Afghanistan. NEI's factory in Kapisa already (More on P4)...(17)

Kandahar's 10-MW Solar Power Plant in Doldrums



KANDAHAR CITY - Power utility officials in southern Kandahar province say the process to acquire land and stretch wires as part of a 10-megawatt solar power project has been completed, but the assisting organization has stopped work on the

plant's installation since winter.

The residents of Kandahar also complained against the delay in completing the solar power project and asked the authorities concerned to avoid negligence in this regard. (More on P4)...(18)

Lashkargah-Sangin Road Opens after Year-Long Closure

LASHKARGAH - Afghan security forces were able to reopen the road leading to troubled Sangin district of southern Helmand province after remaining closed for one year, an official said on Saturday.

Maj. Gen. Mohammad Moin Faqiri, the 2015th Maiwand Military Corps commander, told Pajhwok Afghan News the road between Sangin and Lashkargah, the provincial capital, was reopened for traffic as a result of months-long military offensive. During the operation, he said, a dozen Taliban militants were killed and some others were wounded and 150 landmines planted on the road defused.

Baryalai Nazari, a member of the provincial council, confirmed the road had been reopened, but said only security forces could travel on the road and civilians were yet to be allowed to commute.

But Karim Khan Atal, the provincial council head, rejected the road had been reopened, saying the operation (More on P4)...(19)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You are inclined to participate in social activities today but it's smarter to take some time to think about your involvement in the wider context of your life. Curbing your enthusiasm helps you minimize complicated emotional entanglements but you might not be able to avoid getting hooked if you see positive potential, even in a challenging situation.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Although you prefer to sail on smooth waters, you might purposefully stir up a few waves today if your emotions clash with someone else's. You could be drawn into an irresolvable disagreement if you think your needs are more important than the desires of others. There is a fine line between maintaining your integrity and just being plain stubborn.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

People seem unreasonably optimistic in their approach to life today. Although you don't want to appear overly negative, neither do you want to mislead others by blindly endorsing their plans. But they may grow annoyed if you decide to dig for too many details. Turning over every stone leads to trouble -- and you will find there are no quick and easy answers to your questions.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Some of the apparent tensions in your emotional life have abated, but you still may be uncertain about the direction you have chosen. You're attempting to stay between the limits of too little and too much, but avoiding extremes is not as easy as it looks. Don't be overly concerned today if you can't find the peace of mind you seek.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Freely demonstrating your emotions enables you to add your unique perspective to the ongoing discussion today. But your relentless Lions can be quite fixed in your opinions and your stubbornness could make everyone's day nearly unbearable now if you let it. There's no need to worry about changing your mind; what's crucial is that you are receptive to new information.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

An unresolved relationship issue is on your mind and you're doing your best to put it all into perspective. Your diligence has earned you the right to feel good about your personal connections, but you may face another annoyance today as you try to find a balance between what you want and what you are willing to pay for it. Thankfully, no decision is required just yet.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Everything you do today seems to be totally amazing or simply not good enough, with very little in between. It's as if someone placed a distortion filter on the volume control of your senses. Now that you know what you want, people may tell you that you shouldn't ask for so much. But you don't think your expectations are out of line at all. Hang in there; there's nothing that needs to be resolved today.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You may feel stuck as you attempt to separate your personal situation from the frustration and pain of the world. The important lesson buried here is simple: life doesn't always need to be an all-or-nothing proposition. You possess the incredible power to move boundaries. Even if you keep up with the news and passionately discuss current events with anyone who will listen, you.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Although you can describe your new plan with great passion today, it's not as easy to drill down to the key details. Opinionated Jupiter tricks you into believing that you're able to tell the difference between useful ideas and unrealistic fantasies. Your talent for justifying your desires challenges you to know your limits. Naturally, there's no harm in having fun as long as you don't set responsibilities aside in search of sensory fulfillment.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

You're in touch with the most practical issues in your life, even though circumstances seem to be pushing you toward inflationary thinking. Nevertheless, you're easily misdirected by the irresistible charms of someone special today, and this attraction could lead to major trouble if you're not careful. Listen to your emotions, but for now follow your logic instead of your heart.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You're weary of struggling to transform your best ideas into concrete form. Nevertheless, it's difficult to ignore your thoughts even if they seem to be on the outrageous side. Setting your goals too high ensures frustration today and could prompt you to give up prematurely. However, you might not push yourself to accomplish something extraordinary if you don't aim high enough.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

A thick fog is settling in and you feel as if you're drifting without a map to guide you. Additionally, the emotional landscape continues to change while you explore your need for pleasure. Unfortunately, you don't seem to be able to get exactly what you want today. Although you are growing more aware of your desires, there's no quick route to satisfaction.

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66					67				68			
69					70				71			

Across

1. Change, 6. Not stereo, 10. Harbor, 14. Rental agreement, 15. Affirm, 16. District, 17. Thin, 18. Jump, 19. Window ledge, 20. Placenta, 22. Hard work, 23. Killer whale, 24. Central Intelligence, 26. Hindu princess, 30. Be unwell, 31. Pen part, 32. Ends a prayer, 33. Canis lupus, 35. Eyelets, 39. Nouveau-riche, 41. Palatable, 43. Quaked, 44. Mats of grass, 46. A soft sheepskin leather, 47. Chief Executive Officer, 49. Effeminate, 50. Fender blemish, 51. Dependable, 54. No charge, 56. Droop, 57. Pullover, 63. Decorative case, 64. Hue, 65. Egyptian peninsula, 66. Counterteror, 67. If not, 68. Finally (French), 69. Adolescent, 70. Marsh plant, 71. Filched

Down

1. Aquatic plant, 2. Foliage, 3. Tight, 4. Feudal worker, 5. Backward-looking, 6. Malevolent, 7. In general, 8. Tidy, 9. Parentless child, 10. Composition board, 11. Heavenly hunter, 12. Museum piece, 13. Add up, 21. Muscle, 25. Aureate, 26. Whacks, 27. Nursemaid, 28. Roman emperor, 29. A type of prayer, 34. United, 36. Double-reed woodwind, 37. Scheme, 38. Dispatched, 40. Barely managed, 42. Heretofore (2 words), 45. Umbrage, 48. A type of bivalve, 51. Perspiration, 52. Name of a book, 53. Wash out with a solvent, 55. S S S S, 58. Sly trick, 59. Clue, 60. Data, 61. Train track, 62. Prong

Yesterday's Solution

ADDLE FLAIN HACK
 CREAM FAME TRINU
 MUMBOJUMBO NAME
 EGESTTA BIN TREE
 ERRODE SEATS
 ANUS RANGER
 FERTURE TRILOGY
 SENE AZULEA
 STARLET AMENITY
 TAKING DOSS
 DECOY TEETH
 WEAR JAG HARAIS
 ERGO ANAULTICAL
 LIEU VITE ELEMU
 LLESS ACED RESET

active, answer, anvil, attention, before, blames, brood, canal, cavity, denote, desire, examination, hollow, hustle, intent, invest, label, longest, mere, minor, moon, mouth, pale, pants, pinna, polo, predator, prevent, prompt, saga, send, signify, sing, sleep, stand

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