



Gold Price up, Other Items Steady in Kabul

KABUL - The price of Russian gold has increased while that of other essential items remain unchanged during the outgoing week in the capital Kabul, market sources said Saturday. Haji Fawad Ahmad Salehzada, a jeweler in Timor Shahee area of Kabul, told Pajhwok Afghan News that one gram of Russian gold increased from 2,000 Afghanis to 2,050 Afghanis while the same quantity of Arabian variety stood at 2,550 Afghanis. The prices of fuel and firewood remain steady.

Abdul Hadi, a worker at Wazirabad Fuel Station in Kabul said one liter of petrol cost 48afis and the same quantity of diesel 47afis.

Ahmad Javid, a liquefied gas seller in Taimani area of Kabul, said the price of one kilogram of the commodity stood at 55afis.

Ghulam Sakhi, a firewood seller in Charahi Taminai area of Kabul said the price of 560 kilograms of peeled oak was 7,200afis and the same quantity of cedar 6,500afis, the same prices of last week's.

The prices of food items also remain unchanged.

Food Traders Union head in Kabul, Fazal Rahman said a bag of 49 kilograms of Pakistani sugar cost 1,680afis, 50 kilograms of Kazakhstani flour 1,320afis, 24 kilograms of Pakistani rice 2,000afis and a tin of 16 liters of Khurshid cooking oil 1,000afis, no changes have recorded in the rates.

Noor Ahmad Khairkhwa, a tea seller in Kabul Mandavi, said a kilogram of Indonesian green tea cost 280afis and the same amount of African black tea 300afis -- same prices as last week's.

Ahmad Samim, who owns a grocery store in Taimani area of Kabul, sold a 50-kg sack of Kazakhstani flour for 1,400afis, a 49-kg bag of sugar for 1,750afis, 24-kg of Pakistani rice 2,400afis a 16-litre tin of ghee for 1,100afis, ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

Germany's Merkel Warns U.S. Against Withdrawing from Syria, Afghanistan



BERLIN - German Chancellor Angela Merkel has warned that a hasty U.S. pullout from Syria runs the risk of strengthening the roles of Russia and Iran in the Middle East.

Speaking at the Munich Security Conference on February 16, Merkel questioned whether the

planned U.S. withdrawal was "a good idea."

"Will it once more strengthen the capacity of Iran and Russia to exert their influence?" she asked.

She also cautioned against a premature U.S. withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan, saying that NATO's Resolute Support mission in that

country was dependent on the U.S. military's commitment.

The German leader also called on Beijing to join the international disarmament process. Earlier this month, the United States announced it was withdrawing from the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty after ...*(More on P4)...(7)*



HRW Calls For 'Transparent Probe' Into PTM Member's Death

KABUL - The Human Rights Watch (HRW) on Friday called for a transparent investigation into the death of Arman Loni, a senior member of the Pash-tun Tahafuz Movement (PTM), also called Pashtun Protection Movement, a social movement for Pashtun human rights, based in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan.

Loni was one of the leaders of the PTM who was killed after returning from a sit-in protest outside Loralai Press Club in Baluchistan on Feb. 2, reports suggest.

The sit-in protest had been staged in protest against a recent terror attack. Pakistan media reports stated Loni had been sitting in a park after the protest when police arrested him.

Loni had attended the sit-in protest along with his sister, Wranga Loni.

"Pakistani officials should recognize the country's diversity as a strength and not a weakness. The government should listen to and engage the concerns of the country's many communities and allow for peaceful expression of dissent. As a start, the authorities should ensure the investigation into the death of ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

Commanders Among 21 Taliban Killed in Uruzgan Airstrike, Police Claim



TIRINKOT - At least 21 Taliban militants, including some key-commander have been killed in an airstrike in central Uruzgan province, an official claimed on Saturday. The airstrike took place in the Khanaqa locality of the Tirinkot, the provincial capital, late on Friday night, a police officer told Pa-

jhwok Afghan News. Malak Zainullah said 21 Taliban militants, including some notorious commanders were killed in the night raid. Sixteen dead bodies were still lying at the scene, he added. The Taliban have not yet commented on the air raid. *(Pajhwok)*

One Civilian Killed, 3 Wounded in Ghazni Explosion



GHAZNI CITY - One civilian was killed and three others were wounded as a result of a bomb blast in southern Ghazni province on Saturday morning, an official said.

Mohammad Arif Noori, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the blast resulted from explosives placed in a three-wheeler

in Ghazni city, the provincial capital. He alleged the explosive device had been placed by Taliban militants in motor rickshaw, killing a civilian and wounding three others. Civil Hospital official Dr. Noorullah confirmed receiving one body and three injured people. He said the wounded were in stable condition. *(Pajhwok)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



A surge of passion could dominate your day unless you find an outlet for it, Aries. Romantic passion is high, so an intimate evening with a lover is a good idea. Creative passion is strong. You could have a sudden inspiration, perhaps influenced by a distant place. Don't be afraid to take time from your mundane chores to pursue this inspiration.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



A romantic evening at home with your partner could bring you two closer together, Taurus. Your emotions are intense right now, however, so you need to use your intuition to judge exactly how much of your feelings you should reveal. An intellectual passion could also come your way.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Information received from far away could compel you to learn more about the subject, Gemini. You might be inspired to use your new knowledge in a project that includes a partner. Your mind is insightful now. If you face decisions, this is definitely the day to follow your heart. Don't be surprised if you also find your telepathic abilities expanded.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Money matters may be advanced through using your intuition and inner power today, Cancer. You might have a hunch that your idea for making extra money might just work. Look into it at least. Don't let anyone talk you out of it until you know the facts. You might also rediscover a long-neglected talent that you find useful now.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



A surge of inner power could make you feel like you can move mountains, Leo. If you've been contemplating actions that others believe impossible, this is the day to get them going. Career matters, romance, and creative projects could all be advanced today by careful effort on your part. Give it some thought, write down your ideas, consider all contingencies, and move ahead.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Memories from your distant past could resurface today, Virgo. You may wonder why you're suddenly thinking about them, but they probably represent a release of old emotional hang-ups that have been holding you back. By midafternoon you should feel more focused, determined, and ready to take on anything. This is definitely a great day to start a new project or complete an old one.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Today represents a new beginning in many ways. An old friend could reappear in your life and bring up memories that are both pleasant and disconcerting, Libra. Don't worry too much about this. It probably represents a needed release. You may also get involved with a group that has goals you embrace.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Emotions could be running high, Scorpio. Someone in your entourage may have a problem with an authority figure and political issues could come up. You're likely to feel especially powerful now, and so you might be tempted to throw your hat in the ring. It's better to stay out of anything political and channel that power and passion into your own project. That's likelier to bring positive results.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



You will enjoy a great deal of affection from others today, Sagittarius. You radiate an air of love and beauty. Love will come in strong, erratic bursts and you should be on the alert to expect the unexpected. New people will pop out of the woodwork to share their feelings. All group activities are favored, and you're sure to be the life of any party.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan.19)



Heightened mental powers might make you spend a lot of time reading or doing research of some kind, Sagittarius. Your curiosity is especially sharp right now. You might even consider advancing your education somehow, especially since new interests have been popping up for some time. New friends in fascinating fields might also have started you thinking.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

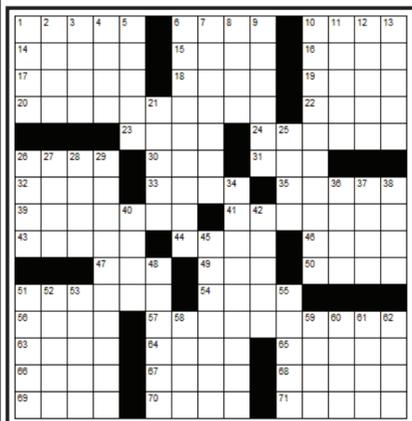


You should be feeling especially passionate now, Aquarius, especially regarding partnerships. Romantic partnerships definitely call for an evening alone together. Professional and creative ones, on the other hand, call for a new project that you both believe in. Look to events in distant states or foreign countries for inspiration. Something begun far away from home could capture your imagination.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



If you haven't been feeling like yourself lately, Pisces, a surge of inner power could push you over the top and make you feel strong and healthy again. You could decide to complete all your unfinished tasks today. You could get most of them done by day's end. Don't forget to take time out to enjoy yourself. You want to make the most of your newfound strength.



Across

- Displays, 6. Stigma, 10. Backside, 14. Complete, 15. Emanation, 16. Chancel, 17. Comment to the audience, 18. Naval jail, 19. Not under, 20. Multiplicative inverse, 22. Govern
- Ballet attire, 24. Far away from home, 26. Taxis, 30. Flee, 31. Henpeck, 32. Double-reed woodwind, 33. Quaint outburst, 35. Quoted, 39. Get worse, 41. Niceness, 43. San Antonio fort, 44. British title, 46. Wings, 47. Mayday, 49. Ribonucleic acid, 50. Permits
- A state of fitness, 54. Relative status, 56. Always, 57. Babblers, 63. Ice cream holder, 64. Hindu princess, 65. Prepared, 66. Anagram of "Seek", 67. Therefore, 68. Foundation, 69. Collections, 70. Adolescent, 71. All tucked out,

Down

- Celebrity, 2. A flexible pipe, 3. Ear-related, 4. Dry riverbed, 5. Napped, 6. Undermined
- Turmeric, 8. Operatic solo, 9. Type of sleeve, 10. Indigenous, 11. Variety show, 12. Aroma
- Dog-___, 21. Governs, 25. Visage, 26. Daughter of Zeus and Demeter, 27. Cain's brother, 28. South American weapon, 29. Dressmaker, 34. Ruin, 36. Scrabble piece, 37. French for "State"
- Colors, 40. Swimming hole, 42. Intended, 45. Set up, 48. Hush-hush
- Fecal matter, 52. Call forth, 53. Basic belief, 55. Curbs (British spelling), 58. Rabbit
- Harvest, 60. Despicable, 61. Norse god, 62. A covered garden walk,

Yesterday's Solution



across, admit, again agent, anyone, apart bask, beast, bread clean dream, embarrass expensive, hypocrite, imply known, loner, lunch, mascara mean, message, midday moment, music queue,

