



Fuel Prices Down, Flour, Gold up in Kabul

KABUL - The prices of diesel and petrol have dipped while that of flour and gold increased during the outgoing week in capital Kabul, market sources said Saturday.

Abdul Hadi, a worker at Wazirabad Fuel Station in Kabul, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the price of one liter of petrol decreased from 54 Afghanis to 51 Afghanis and the same quantity of diesel from 54afis to 52afis. Ahmad Javid, a liquefied gas seller in Taimani area of Kabul, said the price of one kilogram of the commodity stood at 60afis.

Ghulam Sakhi, a firewood seller in Charahi Taminai area of Kabul said the price of 560 kilograms of peeled oak was 7,500afis and the same quantity of cedar 6,800afis.

In food items, the price of only Kazakhstani flour has increased. Food Traders Union head in Kabul, Fazal Rahman, said that the price of 50 kilograms of Kazakhstani flour increased from 1,320afis to 1,340afis. However, he said 24 kilograms of Pakistani rice cost 2,000afis, 49kg of Pakistani sugar cost 1,720afis and a tin of 16 liters of Khurshid cooking oil 1,000afis, the same rates of last week's.

Noor Ahmad Khairkha, 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 1,410afis, a 49-kg bag of sugar for 1,800afis, 24-kg of Pakistani rice 2,400afis a 16-litre tin of ghee for 1,100afis, one-kg of Indonesian green tea for 300afis ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Afghan Security Forces on the Offensive: Resolute Support

KABUL - The United States Forces - Afghanistan spokesman Col. Dave Butler said that the Afghan Security and Defense Forces will continue to fight the Taliban if they refuse to sit at the peace negotiations table.

Butler said war does not benefit any of the warring parties and asked Taliban to leave violence and start negotiations.

"If the Taliban wants to continue to fight, we will fight. If they want to stop fighting and talk, we will stop fighting and (will) talk," said Butler.

However, he said if the group continues fighting, the ANDSF will defend their interests.

According to Butler, currently Afghanistan's security and defense forces are on offensive status to fight the Taliban.

"The most important thing about putting ...*(More on P4)...(10)*



Salang Pass Reopens to Traffic after 16 Hours

KABUL - The Salang Pass, one of the country's main routes, was reopened to traffic after 16 hours of closure due to heavy snowfalls and avalanches on the southern side of the pass, local officials said Saturday.

Abdul Basir Habibi, the highway maintenance commander, said snowfall has stopped and that the pass was reopened at around 10:00am.

Habibi said this morning four avalanches hit the southern Salang pass but there is no casualties.

The snow thickness reached to southern Salang side more than a meter and the storm has calmed down, Habibi said.

Habibi asked the passengers and



drivers to be equipped with winter facilities while traveling through the pass. (Tolo news)

Samangan: 3 Killed as Passenger Vehicle Ploughs into Truck

AIBAK - Three people have been killed in a traffic accident in the Dulkhaki tunnel in northern Samangan province, an official said on Saturday.

Traffic Director Mohammad Ibrahim Yazdanparast the fatalities occurred late on Friday when a passenger vehicle into a truck parked on the roadside due to technical faults.

He said three persons aboard the vehicle -- going from Samangan to Balkh province -- when were killed. A Kalashnikov, a pistol and two hand grenades were recovered from

the car. The accident happened due to reckless driving, he said. (Pajhwok)



Taliban Suffers Losses in Urozgan, Zabol Provinces

KABUL - At least six Taliban insurgents were killed and 10 others wounded in two separate military raids in Urozgan and Zabol provinces, the 205th Atal Corps said in a statement on Saturday.

According to the statement, the Afghan security forces have conducted two separate military operations during the last 24 hours in Trinkot, the center of Urozgan province and Shinkai district of Zabol province.

The statement says, during the operation in Trinkot, at least four Taliban militants were killed, seven others were injured, and three suspected insurgents were detained by security forces.

Two Taliban insurgents were killed and three others wounded in a separate operation in Shinkai district of Zabol, the statement further says. ...*(More on P4)...(12)*



Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Your social life might suddenly be busier than you expected, Aries, perhaps because of the appearance of some interesting new people. This could involve a group with which you're affiliated, perhaps one with a humanitarian focus. Expect to be busy over the next few weeks, as this trend isn't likely to slow down soon.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

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Gemini (May 21-June 20)

If you're currently romantically involved, expect your relationship to reach a new understanding and sense of unity, Gemini. If you aren't involved, you could meet someone special today, and it might be like love at first sight. An instant bond could form between you because of mutual intellectual interests. You might have a lot to talk about, as your own projects are going better than you'd hoped.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

An old friend you haven't seen in a long time could turn up. This should be a pleasant surprise, Cancer, as you will have a lot of catching up to do. You might have good news, as you've been busy and could have come across some very exciting information. Take a walk at the end of the day or you might not be able to sleep.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Some great news could come today that turns your life upside down momentarily. Leo, you will find it very exciting. New neighbors could move in and you might spend some time getting acquainted. Much of your day could be spent seeking information in a field that interests you. Expect a busy day, but remember to rest now and then.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

News might bring exciting opportunities for increasing your income, Virgo. Perhaps you will learn of ways to start your own business. Maybe the demand for people with your skills has increased. You might discover the efficiency some new technology for managing your finances. Discussions with others should bring many new ideas your way. Make the most of them.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Discussions could bring some exciting information your way that alters your thinking slightly. You tend to be oriented toward social, political, or humanitarian issues, Libra. Today you might have the chance to put your talents to work. Someone could ask you for assistance. You have the mental and physical energy to go for it.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Today you may take up the study of astrology, numerology, alchemy, or other occult discipline. Your intellectual abilities are particularly sharp, Scorpio, so you may want to combine them with your tendency toward mysticism. This should keep you busy for much of the day, but you need to watch out for intellectual overload. You don't want to forget what you've learned. Take notes.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

New friends, new goals, and new attitudes could all appear on the scene, Sagittarius. Unexpected developments within a group are likely to require reevaluating a course of action. This is probably a positive development, and it could be exciting, but it's going to mean some immediate adjustments. As your mental energy is still sharp, this shouldn't be too difficult.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

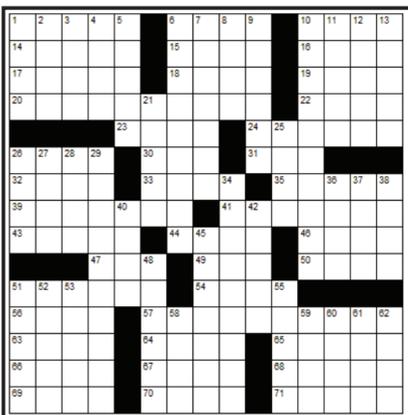
If you've been aiming for a specific career goal, Capricorn, it might suddenly manifest with the current planetary energy. You could be catapulted into the public eye in some way. The possibility of an increased income could arise, although it might be speculative at this point. Your mental energy continues high, so you should be able to easily grasp all the ins and outs of your situation.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

This should be a stimulating day, Aquarius. The possibility of a journey might arise unexpectedly. This could be exciting as some close friends or a romantic partner might accompany you. A new turn in your intellectual or spiritual interests could have your mind going a thousand miles an hour. You will want to learn more about it. The Internet could have useful information.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Unexpected economic developments might make a sudden and positive difference in your situation, Pisces. Perhaps your field becomes more competitive, and people with your skills are more in demand. Whatever it is, you can expect more money to come your way in the future. Legal papers could be involved, as could some interesting people you haven't met before. Your mind is likely to be buzzing.



Across

- Plant life, 6. Pins, 10. Attired, 14. Loads, 15. Angle of a leafstalk, 16. Ascend, 17. Inuit boat
- Worry, 19. Leave out, 20. A decorated dart, 22. On the left or right, 23. The yarn woven across, 24. Shingles = Herpes _____, 26. Beige, 30. Yes to a sailor, 31. Sharp high-pitched cry, 32. Metal money, 33. Adriatic resort, 35. About a US quart, 39. Sentence, 41. Set aside
- Church officer, 44. Happy, 46. Cover with plaster, 47. Ribonucleic acid, 49. Consumed food, 50. Evasive, 51. Selected, 54. Male turkeys, 56. Pervert, 57. Allure, 63. Against, 64. 53 in Roman numerals, 65. AM/FM device, 66. Stigma, 67. A single time, 68. Flip over
- Fur, 70. G G G G, 71. Mouths of birds, , ,

Down

- Bungle, 2. Tibetan monk, 3. Norse god, 4. Absorb written material, 5. Out of kilter, 6. Placating, 7. Extolled, 8. Lass, 9. Squalid, 10. A transverse brace, 11. Circumscribe, 12. Comment to the audience, 13. Discourage, 21. Kingdom, 25. Anagram of "Silo", 26. Behold, in old Rome, 27. Not warm, 28. Peel, 29. A type of men's undergarment, 34. Speeches, 36. Tall woody plant
- Wicked, 38. Depend, 40. Sea eagle, 42. Swelling under the skin, 45. Framework of strips of wood, 48. Not digital, 51. Fastener, 52. Therefore, 53. In base 8, 55. Scour, 58. Prong
- Adhesive strip, 60. Bright thought, 61. Pig sound, 62. Gestures of assent,

Yesterday's Solution

AMOUR THAT GILL
REINER AERO TOEA
ILLITERATE NITS
ADSORB LITO GOUT
SPAM CHAPER
ELLIPSE NONSTOP
REASON GENEVA
FARGEUR STAITES
EMBALM PENT
BALLS VAULT
ANAL SLITS TILIFY
SODA HOSPITABLE
EDEN OLLIO AVIAN
DENY DIED NESTIS

soccer, sore, taste
tear, tease, teeth, torch
,verse, victory, while, lure,
maintain, mercy, mess,
mete, miniature, mirror, ,
nimble pinch
rebel, risky, rotten, savor
silo, simulation

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