



### Ghor Residents Worried about Skyrocketing Fuel, Food Prices

**FEROZKOH** - Prices of fuel and food items have increased with the arrival of winter in western Ghor province, complain residents, with residents blaming the local administration for their reluctance to take steps to check price hike.

Residents claimed prices of flour, sugar firewood, gas and fuel had shot up in the capital and different districts of the province with the advent of the harsh Afghan winter when most link roads are closed by snow.

The authorities concerned had not assessed the prices of fuel, helping dealers and shopkeepers to fix exorbitant rates, they alleged.

Syed Mohammad, an inhabitant of Ferozkoh, the provincial capital, told Pajhwok Afghan News the local administration had been reluctant to take steps to check price hike. As a result, prices of essential items have jumped.

"Fuel price was lower last year," recalled the resident, who said one kilogram of gas accounted for 50 to 60 afghanis a few days back. But now the rate has been jacked up to 80 afghanis.

Daulat, another resident of the province, expressed deep concern at the high prices of fuel. There was also a lack of food items in the ongoing winter season, he complained, saying the price of one kilogram of gas recently rose to 130 afghanis in some districts of the province.

However, gas dealer Sirajuddin told Pajhwok Ghor was one of the coldest provinces, where increased fuel prices were common. He hit out at municipal ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

# Americans Serious About Troop Pullout: Taliban



**KABUL** - The Americans appear serious about withdrawing troops from Afghanistan, a long-standing Taliban demand, claims a senior negotiator of the rebel movement.

Sher Abbas Stanikzai, who led

the Taliban at peace negotiations with the United States in Qatar, said: "I think the US is very serious about withdrawing troops from Afghanistan."

In a video message released by Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, Stanikzai said: "I am hopeful that US envoy Zalmay Khalilzad will play a key role in the Afghan peace process."

"Our jihad has forced the Americans to leave Afghanistan and now they are pursuing ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - The Northern Urea and Power Plant in northern Balkh province has stopped production over the past 15 days after Taliban militants blew up a gas supply pipeline, officials said Thursday.

Abdul Rahman Afghan, the factory director, confirmed Pajhwok Afghan News that their factory had stopped productions for the past 15 days after gas supply from the Shiberghan gas fields in neighbouring Jawzjan province was stopped to the plant. He did not know why the gas supply was halted, but said they would resume productions once the gas supply resumed.

However, 209th Shaheen Military Corps spokesman Hanif Rezae told Pajhwok that Taliban militants had cut off the gas supply pipeline to the factory.

He said the militants had demanded four million afghanis from the factory about 15 days back and threatened the factory if their demand was not accepted. "When Taliban did not receive the money, they cut off the gas pipeline between the Shiberghan and Mazar-i-Sahrif in Chamtal district." ...*(More on P4)...(12)*



### Balkh Urea Factory Stops Production after Gas Supply Cut

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### Daesh Commander Killed in Kunar



**ASAD ABAD** - A Selab Military Corps statement said the operation was carried out in Manogi district.

Three Daesh fighters including their commander were killed during a National Directorate of Security (NDS) forces operation in Kunar province, the 201 Selab Military Corps said in a statement.

According to the statement the operation was conducted in Manogi district.

Najmuddin, a Daesh commander, was also among the dead, the statement added.

No more details were provided regarding the operation nor about any military or civilian's casualties. (Tolo news)

### Salang Pass Closed for Heavy Traffic After Snowfall



**CHARIKAR** - The strategic Salang pass, linking Kabul with northern parts of the country, has been closed for trucks as a result of heavy snowfall, an official said on Wednesday.

Abdul Basir Habibi, the highway maintenance commander, told Pajhwok Afghan News the road had

to be closed for heavy traffic due to snowfall at 8pm on Tuesday night. He said the snowfall that started on Tuesday continued so far reached 25 centimeters.

In the winter, traveling the highway is dangerous for passengers due to heavy snow and cold weather. (Pajhwok)

## Outlook Horoscope

#### Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Are you involved in an ambitious, creative project of some kind, Aries? You might have so much to do that you decide to take on a partner, if you haven't already. When you and this person work together, the whole is definitely greater than the sum of the parts. Without him or her, you might try to do the whole project yourself.

#### Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



The desire to improve your home's appearance might suddenly come over you today, Taurus. Whether you're planning some redecorating, landscaping, refurbishing, or simply a thorough cleaning, you will probably take the bull by the horns and concentrate on nothing else. The results will speak for themselves. Get family members to help you.

#### Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Much of your day may be spent running around your neighborhood, Gemini, perhaps in the company of your partner. You may have a lot of errands to run, or perhaps you're just antsy and unwilling to spend the day indoors. Whichever it is, you may come into contact with some unusual people and events. Take a notebook and camera. You might want a record of it all.

#### Cancer (June 21-July 20)



A financial windfall might come your way, Cancer. This may not be a lottery win or surprise inheritance. It's probably something you've worked hard for, but more than you expected. As a result, you could walk around in a daze for much of the day. Don't try to make plans for it. Put it aside until you're used to the idea of having it.

#### Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



You're probably feeling full of energy, Leo, and looking for an outlet for it aside from the usual jog or workout. A hike along a scenic path would be just the thing. Phone a friend and see if you can arrange to do it together. Your friend will probably be as enthusiastic as you. You may enjoy yourselves so much that you decide to make it a weekly event.

#### Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Your subconscious mind is active today, Virgo, perhaps releasing old traumas from the past. Memories from long ago could pour into your mind as though floodgates were opened. Many of them won't be pleasant. This is good nonetheless. You're releasing obstacles caused by these memories. By the end of the day you will feel so much lighter. Make the most of it.

#### Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



You tend to be an adventurous soul by nature, Libra. Today the desire to do something you've never done before could be overwhelming. You might toy with outrageous ideas like learning to skydive or bungee jump. You probably won't go that far, but you could opt for something like river rafting or mountain climbing. You have a lot of options open to you.

#### Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



If you've been thinking about studying astrology, Scorpio, this is the day to do it. Even if you already know the field, you might decide to branch out into a newer or more radical aspect, such as Draconic or galactic astrology. You will learn more quickly and retain more of what you learn, so no matter what interests you, this is the day to put some effort into learning more about it.

#### Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Your innate sense of adventure is active today, Sagittarius. Travel is on your mind. You and some friends may kick around ideas for an unconventional trip to an exotic place, such as sailing to Tahiti. The urge could pass, but it might not. Do some research and find out what your options really are. It might not work out as you visualized, but a little adventure could do you some good.

#### Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Career matters may involve some touchy circumstances that require ingenious methods to solve, Capricorn. You're in the right frame of mind to come up with them. You're definitely up for a challenge, and you will probably dig right in and come up with lots of great ideas. These concepts will not only get you through the current situation but also prove useful in the future.

#### Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

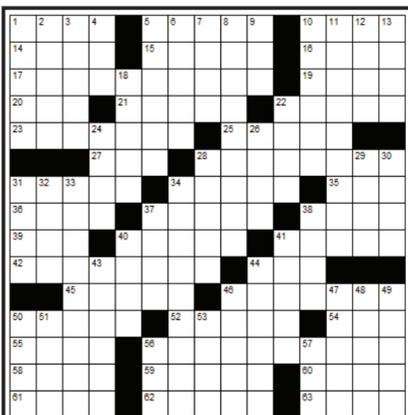


A social event could bring you into contact with some interesting people in fascinating fields, Aquarius, some from distant places. Discussions could turn you on to one or more new interests, which you will probably want to pursue later. You might receive an invitation to visit an exotic place. If you're single, you could meet a potential lover. This will be an evening to remember.

#### Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



A burst of physical energy might have you spending hours working out today, Pisces. You might decide to try a new and ambitious exercise program. Take care not to push yourself past your limits. A heightened sense of adventure combines with a powerful desire to be fit, and it might drive you to exhaustion if you aren't careful. You have to learn to crawl before you learn to walk.



#### Across

- Cut away, 5. Endure, 10. It was (contraction), 14. Brute, 15. Indicates, 16. Protagonist 17. Jungle, 19. Coarse file, 20. Anagram of "Bid", 21. Hawaiian veranda, 22. Relieves 23. Trap, 25. A steel wire rope,, 27. Rescue, 28. Moved down the computer screen, 31. Grill 34. Spot, 35. Frozen water, 36. Jazz phrase, 37. Rise, 38. Ancient Peruvian, 39. F, 40. Expect 41. "\_\_\_ wilco", 42. Towards the sunset, 44. Ancient unit of measure, 45. Furtive looks 46. Adult male chicken, 50. Rowed, 52. Spook, 54. Furrow maker, 55. Trickle, 56. Deprive 58. Eat, 59. Not lower, 60. Leave out, 61. Wise one, 62. SSSS, 63. Family lines,

#### Down

- Mob, 2. Another time, 3. Baby beds, 4. Cognizance, 5. On the train, 6. Carried, 7. Bright thought, 8. Drying agent, 9. Eastern Standard Time, 10. Someone held in bondage, 11. Equivocating, 12. Backside, 13. Absorbs 18. Thrash 22. Black, in poetry, 24. Childlike, 26. Very dry, 28. Seclude, 29. Behold, in old Rome, 30. Beloved, 31. Beer, 32. Abundant, 33. Prog, 34. Interstellar spacecraft (plural), 37. Exchange, 38. Charged particles 40. Blown , way, 41. Violent disturbances, 43. A Native American tent, 44. Awards, 46. Indian monetary unit, 47. Motif, 48. A red fluorescent dye, 49. Relaxes, 50. Probabilities, 51. Diva's solo, 53. Vipers, 56. Fitting, 57. Soak,

#### Yesterday's Solution



favor, forgery, fortunate fussy, grain, house, humiliate, labor, legislation, lots mount, mutual night none, party, petal piece, point, pout rally, reply, same share, small, soil, spell, submarine, suet,

