

Food Prices Rise As Holy Ramadan Arrives

KABUL - The principal challenge of Ramadan is the holy month's dawn-to-dusk fasting, but for the poorest in Afghanistan, breaking the fast come nighttime can be more difficult, at least in practical terms, than keeping it during the day.

That's because Ramadan, which started on Monday, 6th June, is often accompanied by exaggerated food prices.

Sharply rising meat and other goods prices in Kabul have hit celebrations for the holy month of Ramadan, during which tradition dictates that families host large meals, and prompted concerns over food price inflation across the region.

The increase in the cost of meat comes as rising world food prices have sparked fears too.

The trade leaders and retailers with



deepest concern said that the good prices in Kabul market increased as Ramadan arrived and this is the matter of great

concern for the nation. The absence of full control over good prices and sustainable natural resources

management has led the country to extreme poverty. Most of the citizens with low job opportunities spend more than half of their income on food while the house rent remains completely dependent on the same amount of their earnings whereas most of them are living in rented houses; therefore, they cannot even cope with their fundamental necessities.

In the meantime, Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) said that these problems will be solved up to the next week. Despite government efforts to control prices, the cost of food can increase during Ramadan as demand surges for staples such as rice, bread and sugar. Increases in the cost of basic food items have already contributed to a return of inflationary pressures this year. (Agencies)

Commanders Killed in Past two Months

KABUL - Nearly 15 key Taliban leaders have been killed following a special operation under the name of "Shafaq" by Afghan Special Security forces in the past two months.

The Ministry of Interior Affairs said that Afghan troops' main target and focuses are killing Taliban commanders.

In the first days of Shafaq operation, Taliban shadow district governor, Mazmal along with two other key Taliban leaders killed in Marja district of Helmand province.

Next time, in another special operation of Afghan se-

curity forces, Mullah Janan and Mullah Ghani, the two top Taliban commanders killed in Greshik district of Helmand province.

In a joint operation by Afghan police and army, the Taliban shadow governor, named Hayatullah and Ahmad Shahyari in Kandahar province. During clashes between Afghan forces and the insurgents, Mullah Ghani, deputy of Taliban district shadow governor killed in Farah province. Commander Nuryalai has also killed by Afghan Special Forces in Ibrahim Khail village ... (More on P4)... (12)

Logar Chief Prosecutor Among 7 Dead in Taliban Raid

PUL-I-ALAM - A Taliban attack on a courthouse killed seven people, including the chief prosecutor, and injured 23 others in central Logar province on Sunday, the governor said.

Governor Mohammad Halim Fidai told reporters here that the group attack started at around 9:00am and came to an end after two hours with the killing of all the three attackers. He said chief prosecutor Mohammad Akram Nijat, two civilians, four workers of the appellate court and the three attackers had been killed. He said the court building was



damaged and nearly two dozens of people were wounded. Police had opened their investigation into the attack, he added. Logar provincial hospital director Ashuqullah confirmed receiving seven

dead bodies and 23 wounded people at the hospital. He said some of the wounded were shifted to Kabul for treatment. Mohammad Usman, an employee of the appellate court, said: ... (More on P4)... (13)

Heavy Clashes Still Ongoing in Helmand's Marja

LASHKARGAH - Local officials of southern Helmand province said on Monday that heavy clashes are still ongoing between the security forces and insurgents in Marja district of the province. Hayatullah Hayat, Provincial Governor said that the security forces are making progress in the battle in the district and added that security forces were able to re-open the route from Marja into Lashkargah the capital of the province.

"In the war with insurgents the road from Marja into Lashkargah has been



re-opened from a Taliban blockade. The security forces have also re-taken control of a number of villages in the district and local officials soon will start

developing projects in the district," Hayat said. He said that insurgents have suffered heavy casualties in the Marja battle. ... (More on P4)... (14)

Young Couple Hold Wedding in Mazar Park

BALKH - In a complete break from tradition, a young couple from Balkh province chose to forgo the expensive wedding hall and instead hold their wedding ceremony at a recreational park in Mazar-e-Sharif city, where their main guests were orphans. Mukhtar Wafae, 25, a journalist, and Nilofar Langar, 22, a university lecturer, said they invited the children so as to bring a smile to their faces and to add more joy to their wedding ceremony.

Nilofar, who was surrounded by dancing children, told the little guests: "Love each other, do not fear each other. You are wise, beautiful, and you have nice souls. You are lovable." Around 300 children attended ... (More on P4)... (15)

27 Daesh, 4 Taliban Rebels Eliminated in Nangarhar, Logar Offensives

JALALABAD - Twenty Seven Islamic State (IS) or Daesh militants and four Taliban have been killed in eastern Nangarhar and Central Logar provinces, official said on Sunday.

Attullah Khogyani, the governor spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News and 27 IS rebels had been killed and 18 others wounded in security forces offensive codename Shahin-13 in Kot district of Nangarhar from the past two days.

He said Laghar Joy, Khoragi, Wachkot and some other ar-



reas of the district had been cleared of the rebels in the operation.

Security forces seized weapons and ammunition and suffered no casualties in the offensive, he said.

Separately, officials of the Na-

tional Directorate of Security (NDS) detained 3 Taliban and five other suspects for having links with IS from Kot, Baktikot and Jalalabad City, the provincial capital, a statement from the governor house said. In ... (More on P4)... (17)

Man Allegedly Killed His 2 Wives in Kandahar Province

KANDAHAR - A man has allegedly killed his two wives in southern Kandahar province of Afghanistan, local officials said Monday. The incident has taken place in the first police district of Kandahar city

on Sunday afternoon with the local officials saying the two women have apparently been killed due to domestic violence. Provincial governor's spokesman Samim Kholwak said they are aware regarding the killing of two

women in Kandahar city but did not elaborate further. The man has been arrested and is in the custody of the police for further investigation but has rejected the murder of his two wives. ... (More on P4)... (16)

U.S. Embassy Condemns Recent Attacks

KABUL - The U.S. Embassy in Kabul on Monday strongly condemned attacks on justice workers in Logar, the murder of Parliamentarian Sher Wali-

Wardak, and violence in Helmand that took the life of American photojournalist David Gilkey and Afghan journalist Zabihullah Tamanna. Our thoughts and prayers are

with the grief-stricken families and colleagues of those who died yesterday, and with all Afghans who suffer daily the ravages of senseless violence. (PR)

Ghor Peace Committee Member Gunned Down

FEROZKOH - An unidentified gunman shot dead a member of the provincial peace committee in western Ghor province, an official said on Monday. Nasrullah Nasrat, also a former commander of the Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA), came under attack from a gunman on a motorcycle in front of the operational police unit in Ferozkoh, the provincial capital, when he was buying fruits at a stall late on Sunday, said Abdul Hai Khatebi, the governor's spokesman.

Ghor police chief Mustafa Hussaini said guard of Nasrat had been detained because he did not retaliate when the peace committee member was attacked.

A number of peace committee members and other key figures had previously been shot dead in the province. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr. 20)

Sometimes people depend on you to take care of business because they know that you will quickly assess a situation and figure out what needs to be done. But you might not be willing to drop your immediate plans today in order to make someone else's dreams come true. With a little finesse you can minimize your involvement without creating a conflict in the process.

Taurus (Apr. 21-May 20)

Your heart is set on following its own course today, yet it seems as if one thing after another impedes your progress. No doubt, people truly want to help you achieve your goals, but their good intentions might create trouble when you realize how different your workstyles are. Instead of placating others by going along with their wishes, stick to your original agenda.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Although your careful analysis of the current situation leads you to one conclusion, your instincts tell you something else. Facts and figures can be misleading because they don't take your feelings into consideration. Those closest to you might be shocked at first when they realize you're playing by your own rules. Don't be too distracted by the resistance your actions seem to precipitate if others question your decision.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Everyone seems overly concerned about your well-being today. Normally, all this fuss would make you feel loved, but now you wish that others would practice a bit of self-restraint because it seems as if they are interfering in your life rather than helping. Don't feed into anyone's negativity now or you'll only make matters worse. Instead, thank people for their concern without acting in a defensive manner.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You don't appreciate people who poke and prod at you until you respond, especially when you wish they would just leave you alone. Your calendar is already overbooked and there's no time to waste fending off unnecessary distractions. However, that which you resist will only grow stronger and more irritating today. Being clear from the start prevents a gulf of misunderstanding from widening between you and others.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You may be overly self-protective today if someone's behavior make you second-guess a recent choice. In fact, you could withdraw so suddenly that your actions seem out of place to those close to you. However, your heightened sensitivity can become your greatest strength if you don't overreact out of fear. There's no sensible reason to make a permanent decision based on a temporary emotion.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Recent events seem to be out of alignment with your long-term goals, making you wonder whether or not you're traveling on the right track. Although you might be overly cautious today, your logic is sound and your conclusions are valid. Nevertheless, it's not wise to shake everything up just yet. Continue to weigh the pros and cons of taking a new path until you explore all your

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)

There's nothing casual in the way you engage with reality. However, sometimes it's necessary to set your intense passions aside so you can come up for air and catch your breath. Fortunately, you have an opportunity to retreat and cultivate a healthier perspective on a complicated relationship. But don't step back too far or you could send the wrong message to someone you love. Extreme emotional reactions may be the

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 20)

Although it appears as if external circumstances are pulling you off course today, your biggest problem can be seen in a mirror. You might not realize how your attitude of superiority is slowing you down, but emotional baggage becomes heavier the longer you carry it. If your values are in conflict with someone else's, stop trying to persuade them that your position is the right one.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan 19)

You may want to make a run for it today, but your sense of duty prevents you from doing something you might soon regret. Nevertheless, settling into a familiar old routine is not advisable, since your frustration will grow until it erupts. Fortunately, sharing your concerns with a friend eases your mind. But don't make the mistake of thinking that you need a final answer; simply talking about your dilemma.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb. 18)

Your creativity demands expression today, but you are unsure of the best way to do it. It may be as simple as relying on a talent, whether it be drawing, writing, or making music. However, sharing your love is also a meaningful path to self-realization. Thankfully, you don't need to surrender your identity now to reveal your feelings. Your spirit soars if you have the courage to follow your heart.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

Spending quiet time at home might sound like a perfect way to unwind, but responsibilities in the real world prevent you from escaping today. Rather than being discouraged because you have to work, put all your effort into meeting your obligations. The satisfaction you gain from doing what's right makes it all worthwhile. Luckily, the frosting on the cake is the peace you find later in the evening when you finally experience the solitude you wanted all along.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues provided.

Across and Down crossword clues: 1. Not in danger, 5. Winglike, 9. Stem, 13. 2 2 2 2, 14. A heavy wooden pole, 16. District, 17. Ailments, 18. Swelling under the skin, 19. Lunch or dinner, 20. Glacial ridge, 22. Street baseball, 24. Winter precipitation, 26. Contemptuous look, 27. Proving by direct argument, 30. Fears, 33. Unnecessary, 35. Daughter of a sibling, 37. Beer barrel, 38. Creepy, 41. Directed, 42. Make improvements, 45. Warbling, 48. Excite, 51. Candidate, 52. Russian emperors, 54. Not yours, 55. A large quantity, 59. Units of paper, 62. Silence, 63. Improvise, 65. At the peak of, 66. Away from the wind, 67. Look closely, 68. Mongolian desert, 69. Egghead, 70. Accomplishment, 71. At one time (archaic).

Yesterday's Solution crossword puzzle grid with clues: armor, bacon, boom, croak, crouch, dainty, divergent, divulge, dolt, enjoy, fastidious, gopher, gripe, grunt, hoed, hogs, lampoon, learn, listen, nauseous, nervous, pile, prude, queasy, quell, rend, roleplay, score, silo, small, squealer, stink, tike, volume, wiggle, winter, writhe.

Word search puzzle grid with words: FASTIDIOUS, WIGGLE, LENGTH, LAMP, POON, CROUCH, CROAK, SSBDR, CTUPI, OQIRT, RLWNI, EEIDK, NAUSEOUS, DRNERVOUS, ENJOYS.