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Flour, gold prices down, rice up in Kabul

KABUL, May 17 (Pajhwok Afghan News): Prices of gold and flour decreased but rice rates went up in Kabul markets during the outgoing week, dealers said on Thursday.

As usual gold prices fluctuated as result of international market volatility, in Shahr-i-Naw jeweller Abdul Basir told Pajhwok Afghan News. The Iranian gold rates fell to 820 afghanis this week from last weeks 850 afghanis while the Arabian variety came down from 1050 afghanis to 950 afghanis.

Khan Ali, a shopkeeper in Kart-e-Seh neighbourhood of Kabul, said the price of a 100-kg flour sack declined from 1410 afghanis to 1350 afghanis. He linked the decrease to the calling off of a strike by **truckers** delivering food supplies from neighbouring Pakistan. The **truckers** had gone on a strike to protest against road security officials extorting bribes from them.

Khan Ali added rates of green tealeaves increased by ten afghanis from 130 to 140 afghanis per kilogram; prices of per 50kg rice also rose from 2500 afghanis to 2600 afghanis. The rate of a 50kg bag of sugar slightly came down from 1120 afghanis to 1110 afghanis, with shopkeepers saying black tea prices remained stable at 140 afghanis per kg. A tin of five-kilogram cooking oil cost 330 afghanis. Prices of petroleum, gas and diesel also remained unchanged.

Haji Muhammad Rafi Azimi, head of the money-changers association in Sara-e-Shahzada Market, said one dollar accounted for 50.5 afghanis and 1000 Pakistani rupees for 826 afghanis.

(THROUGH ASIA PULSE)

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