

'Mother Sold Me to 94-Year-Old Man for Afs 100,000'

KABUL - A 20-year-old woman, who is married to a 99-year-old man, says she has been suffering from mental illness and is worried about her and her children's future. Hailing from Nijrab district of central Parwan province, she was 14 years old when she was married to the old man in southeastern Khost province. His two other wives had died and has around 20 grandchildren. The woman who provided her name as Zakia told Pajhwok Afghan News: "My husband is now 100-year-old. He is bed-ridden and in terrible health condition and when I think about her death, I fall to the ground and become unconscious."



"On return to senses, I see myself in terrible condition and signs of self-inflicted torture on my body." Zakia, who looked sad and tired, said five people could not control her when she became unconscious. She was married in teenage and she knew nothing about marital life and never thought about her future. "But now there is no way out and I have to accept I am the wife of an old man." "I don't want to marry someone young because in our society widows are not allowed to get another marriage." The mother of two sons and a daughter, when asked why she ... (More on P4)...(9)

Helmand-Kandahar Highway Blockade Ends



LASHKARGAH - The Kandahar-Helmand highway has been reopened for traffic after remaining closed for about five days, but the road is yet to be commuted by civilians in southern Helmand province, officials said on Monday. Brig. Gen. Ghani Abrar, chief of staff at the 215 Maiwand Military Corps headquarters, told Pajhwok Afghan News the road was reopened as a result of a joint operation involving Afghan National Army (ANA), police, intelligence personnel backed by NATO forces late on Friday night. A week back, Taliban militants blew up some culverts on the Helmand-Kandahar highway in Greshk district of Helmand. Brig. Gen. Wali Mohammad Ahmadzai, the 215 Maiwand Military Corps commander, said some vehicles travelled on the road today, but small vehicles faced problem in crossing mud at the sites of newly reconstructed bridges. He said the militants tried twice to bring the highway under control but security forces' strong action pushed them back. ... (More on P4)...(10)

Farah ALP Officer Wounded in Gun Attack

FARAH CITY - Afghan Local Police (ALP) deputy head Mohammad Esa has been wounded in a militant attack in western Farah province, an official said on Saturday. Mohammad Nasir Mehri, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News Esa was on his way home when he was attacked in Bagh Kafi locality on the outskirts of Farah City. He said the attackers were in a vehicle and managed to flee the area after shooting the police officer, who was evacuated to a local hospital. He is said to be in stable condition. Earlier, he discharged duty as counter-terrorism head at the police headquarters in Farah. The ALP was created seven years back in Kabul to improve coordination between the people and the government. Later, the force was deployed to other parts of the country. (Pajhwok)

Five Afghan Teens Convicted of Rape in Sweden

KABUL - A Swedish court on Friday convicted five Afghan teenagers of raping an Afghan minor, but rejected the prosecution's request that they be deported after serving their sentences, DPA reported. The five defendants and the victim were unaccompanied minors who had applied for asylum in Sweden. The court sentenced four of the defendants to 15 months in juvenile detention and the fifth to 13 months. They were also ordered to pay



damages of 250,000 kronor (\$27,600 USD) to the victim. The court heard that the teenagers forced the victim, who was 15 at the time of the incident, into a forested area on the outskirts of Uppsala in October - where they raped the individual. Part of the assault was recorded on a mobile phone. (Tolnews)

1 Dead, Newly-Wed Couple Injured in Car Gas Cylinder Blast

KABUL - One person has been killed and three others, including a newly-wed couple, were wounded in a gas cylinder explosion in a car in Kabul, police said on Saturday. The 119 police chief, Mohammad Humayun Aini, told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident happened Friday night due to the poor quality of the gas system in the vehicle. Dr. Mohammad Sabir Naseer, chief physician at the Isteqal Hospital, said the injured were being provided medical care. He added the bride and another woman were in critical condition. (Pajhwok)

ANA Commander Injured in Logar Clash

PUL-I-ALAM - An Afghan National Army (ANA) commander has been wounded during a clash with insurgents in central Logar province, an official said on Saturday. Crime branch police chief Col. Mohammad Jan Abid told Pajhwok Afghan News security forces launched a joint operation codenamed 'Niza' in Charkh, Kharwar and Barak-i-Barak districts of Logar on Friday. The ANA's 203rd Military Corps' 4th Brigade commander, Gen. Raziq, was wounded along with three other soldiers during the operation in Charkh district on Saturday morning. Abid said the wounded commander and soldiers had been evacuated ... (More on P4)...(11)

2 Robbers in Police Uniform Arrested in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - Two imposters, who robbed passengers in border police uniform, have been arrested in eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Saturday. Attullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told a press conference that the National Directorate of Security (NDS) personnel arrested the two men while searching a vehicle in Tamirat area of Behsud district on Friday night. He said a car and a weapon were recovered from the two who had confessed to their crime. They were currently being



under investigation with NDS officials. The two had been fleecing people under various pretexts. They would set up a check post and wear border police uniform to ask drivers for money. The duo had installed photos of national ... (More on P4)...(12)

ANA Soldier among 6 Dead in Logar, Nangarhar Incidents

JALALABAD/PUL-I-ALAM - Two security men and four rebels have been killed in separate incidents of violence in eastern Nangarhar and central Logar province, officials said on Saturday. Salim Saleh, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News militants killed Qari Zubair, an Afghan Local Police (ALP) member's brother, in Pul-i-Alam, the capital of Logar province on Friday night. Sayed Akbar Agha, a resident of the area, said Zubair was a com-



mon man and had no personal enmity with anyone. Separately, an Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier was killed in a drive-by shooting in Mohammad Agha district, he said. Three ... (More on P4)...(13)

2 Uprising Group Members Dead, 5 Hurt in Jawzjan Blast

SHIBERGHAN - Two members of a local uprising group were killed and five others wounded when a bomb attached to their vehicle went off in the Mangajak district of northern Jawzjan province, an official said on Saturday. Mohammad Raza Ghafoori, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident happened when the local uprising member were on their way to a friend's wedding ceremony. "Noorullah and Attiqullah were killed and five others including Commander Shakoore were wounded in the explosion," he said. Dr. Najibullah Farhang, chief physician at the Aqcha district hospital, said police evacuated the five injured and two bodies ... (More on P4)...(14)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

You've probably worked hard enough over the past few days to deserve an amazing night of celebration. Nevertheless, you might have a twinge of doubt about whether or not to go out on the town. You could slip into a bit of a funk, wondering if joining in the party mood tonight will do more harm than good to your emotional state of mind. Although this may seem like an important choice in the moment.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Although establishing a list of goals for the future is your top priority now, you're eager to take a break and let loose. However, at the last minute you might decide that you would prefer to stay home and host an intimate gathering of friends instead of being pushed around in a loud and unruly crowd. All the analysis in the world won't help you make up your mind.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You're usually not one to turn down a party invitation, but the New Year's Eve chaos and commotion might be too much for you tonight. There is so much drama around you these days that you could get carried away and spill your life story to a well-meaning stranger who can't help you in any way that matters. Perhaps it's best to hedge your bets and make it a low-key evening.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Relationship issues may take precedence over holiday celebrations today. It's not that you are avoiding crowds; it's just that you want to kick the new year off right by honoring your resolutions. The aloof Aquarius Moon is roaming through your 8th House of Transformation, which doesn't necessarily lend itself for a night of frivolity.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You could use a fun distraction tonight, but you'll need to overcome a strange lingering resistance. Fortunately, the friendly Aquarius Moon's presence in your 7th House of Others widens your perspective and strengthens your desire to connect with those you love. Celebrate any way you choose, but make sure you schedule some quiet time for yourself, too.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You may be feeling pretty indifferent about the whole season of celebration, even if you agree to spend the evening with a few friends to ring in the new year. You're somewhat doubtful whether any social endeavors will be worth the extra effort now, but don't cancel your plans on a sudden whim of negativity. Thankfully, your energy level improves throughout the day and you'll be happy to be in the flow of events once the festivities start and the music begins to play.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You may be itching to head out on the town and kick up your heels to celebrate the new year. Fortunately, the futuristic Aquarius Moon is busy in your 5th House of Fun and Games, encouraging you to play with wild abandon. Although you might worry that your priorities are out of whack, it's healthier to take a night off than to hide away due to the uncertain state of the world.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You're not interested in the bright lights and loud music tonight, unless the evening includes a chance to communicate with interesting people who could teach you something new. But your current curiosity about psychology, metaphysics and spirituality aren't necessarily the topics of conversation at your typical New Year's Eve event.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You're usually the first one to coordinate a boisterous New Year's Eve event, but your energy is more contained this year and you're leaning toward keeping the noise to a minimum. A small dinner party and some lively discussion might fit the bill as the intelligent Aquarius Moon strolls through your 3rd House of Communication. Whether you decide to go big or small, be prepared for anything to go down when the clock strikes midnight.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

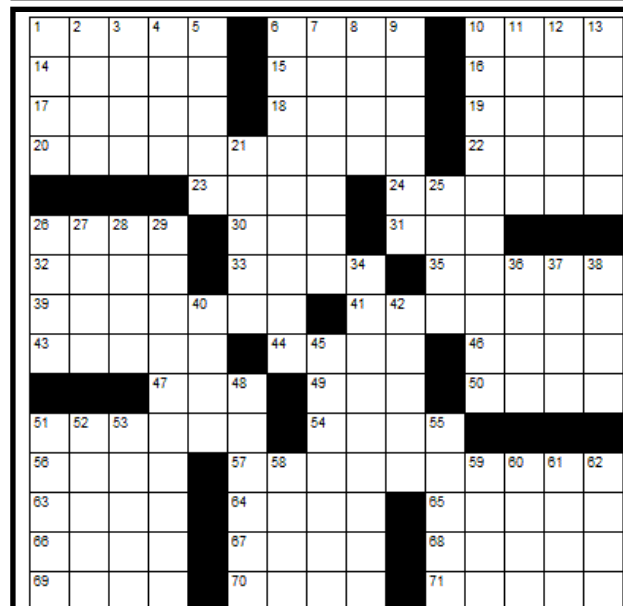
You may evade the question if you're asked about your plans for tonight. The rational Aquarius Moon is transiting your 2nd House of Finances, making you acutely aware of the amount of cash you might spend on entertainment. But even if there is money burning a hole in your pocket, you're still not sure if you want to make such a big deal out of the evening just to be trapped in a wild crowd of rowdy people.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

You're perfectly content to let your friends, spouse or partner make your holiday plans for you today. You're in an anything-goes mood and could be happy wherever you end up for the evening. The reflective Moon is humming a tune in your eccentric sign, and you're willing to dance to whatever cosmic music she plays. However, you're not in the mood for obnoxious people.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

This might be one of those New Year's Eves where you watch the ball drop on TV and then just quietly slip into bed afterwards. The independent Aquarius Moon inhabits your 12th House of Inner Peace, inspiring a more introspective slant on the day. But don't work yourself into a corner with a fixed attitude; sometimes the universe has a better idea in store. You might change your mind later when trickster Mercury dances with joyous Jupiter.



Across

1. Yards of grass, 6. Unwakaable state, 10. Part in a play, 14. Of a pelvic bone, 15. Not odd, 16. Sweeping story, 17. Hindu mendicant monk, 18. In order to prevent, 19. Lady's escort, 20. Involving three parties, 22. District, 23. Scoff at, 24. A task requiring a trip, 26. Implored, 30. Genus of macaws, 31. 16 1/2 feet, 32. Abundant, 33. Rodents, 35. Slake, 39. Quirky, 41. Bloodline, 43. Plateaux, 44. Distinctive flair, 46. Gull-like bird, 47. Utilize, 49. And so forth, 50. Clairvoyant, 51. Declare null and void, 54. As a result, 56. Nursemaid, 57. A delayed flavor sensation, 63. Satisfy, 64. See the sights, 65. Lacking leadership, 66. Russian emperor, 67. Behold, in old Rome, 68. Pile, 69. Evasive, 70. Perished, 71. Celebration.

Down

1. Elevator (British), 2. Winglike, 3. A collaborative website, 4. Found on a finger, 5. Scrawny one, 6. Make merry, 7. Overindulge, 8. Plateau, 9. Anagram of "Rental", 10. In spite of everything, 11. A drama set to music, 12. Flax fabric, 13. Toward the outside, 21. Crown, 25. A soft sheepskin leather, 26. A formal high school dance, 27. Vitality, 28. FFFF, 29. Drunken revelry, 34. Spread thickly, 36. Body of water, 37. Chills and fever, 38. 365 days, 40. Being, 42. Bring upon oneself, 45. An informal term for money, 48. Jubilant, 51. Hindu social division, 52. Astound, 53. Area of South Africa, 55. The base part of a tree, 58. Central points, 59. Dwarf buffalo, 60. Aspersion, 61. Canvas dwelling.

Yesterday's Solution

HABIT DOSS FANE
URINE OPAL TIBIS
MERCANTILE NETS
SALAMAT ALID GLIERE
SIBIRIA BIEBER
GASPULSE TONNAGE
IMPULSE TONNAGE
BEANIE WEARER
ENTICED ASSISTANTS
SIBIRIA BIEBER
FIGHT ROOMS
IDEM WET ENAMEL
LINE AFTICIONADO
MOON YUCA GAMES
SITAT SLEW SLAINT

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