

Women Complain "Baad Custom" Still Exists in Khost

KHOST CITY - Despite significant women gains over the past 13 years, still a large number of women in eastern Khost complain of violence, especially forced marriages and "Baad", a tradition aimed at settling dispute by giving a girl to the victim party. "Still the custom of Baad exists," a female Khost resident Nasreen Ehsani complained. "Many young girls are forced to marry old men." According to the locals, the tradition of Baad exists in several parts of

the province which then creates huge problems in a girl's life. Women are among the most vulnerable Afghans who have been affected by the absurd traditions ruling in the country for centuries. Baad is among those traditions which are offered to compensate men's crimes and settle disputes among tribes. Khost women's affairs director, Dr. Malalai Wali, admitted the problem, saying this tradition persisted in a number of villages.



"In most of the villages where fathers and brothers commit murder, they give their daughters or sisters as compensation to the victims," Wali declared. "Many others give their daughters or sisters in exchange for a huge amount of money." Meanwhile, the head of Khost Religious Scholars ...*(More on P4)...*(17)

Insurgent Commander Arrested; Arms Dump Seized

KUNDUZ CITY/FAIZABAD - A Taliban commander has been detained and an arms dump seized in north-eastern Kunduz and Badakhshan provinces, officials said on Thursday. Kunduz police chief, Brig. Gen. Abdul Saiboor Nasrati, told Pajhwok Afghan News Mullah Abdul Ghayr, the militant commander who was involved in planting bombs and armed attacks in Khanabad district, was detained this morning. *(Pajhwok)*

Dand District Chief's Guards Beat Old Man

KANDAHAR CITY - An elderly man on Saturday claimed he was beaten and threatened by security guards of the Dand district chief over a land-ownership claim. Mohammad Amin Akhonzada, a grey-bearded man, told Pajhwok Afghan News he was formerly a schoolteacher. Currently, he works on his farms and orchards in the Zala Khan area of the district. Akhonzada's family, including paternal cousins, owns 55 acres of land in the area. However, some of his cousins, who went to the United States and settled there, decided to sell their share of land. Akhonzada said he, along with another resident, Haji Dad Mohammad, jointly purchased the land. The partnership turned into a dispute after Mohammad encroached on extra land. A day earlier, Akhonzada claimed he was busy working in his orchard with some labourers. A group of armed men arrived and asked "who is Akhonzada? As I said I am Akhonzada, one of them twisted my hand and started hitting me with fists and kicks." The gunmen bundled him into a vehicle. "All this happened in front of villagers. The man who beat me is named Nadir and everybody knows he is a security guard of the district chief, Mohammad Hashim." Akhonzada said Nadir had asked him to withdraw the landownership claim in favour of Dad Mohammad. "Otherwise I would be killed." "The problem is that despite repeated requests, my partner is not ready for talks. That's why he has befriended the district chief and wants to use force," Akhonzada alleged. He urged the government to investigate the case and bring to justice the man who had beaten and threatened him. But the district chief, Mohammad Hashim Agha, expressed unawareness about the incident. Meanwhile, the governor's spokesman, Samim Khpalkwak, said they had contacted the district chief, but he had expressed his unawareness. He said the matter was being investigated and anyone found guilty would be dealt with in accordance with the law. Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) spokesman Tawab Ghorzang also said they were aware of the issue and condemned the beating of the elderly man. He said the provincial government had been directed to investigate the issue and keep the IDLG informed about the ...*(More on P4)...*(21)

174 Suspected Terrorists Arrested in Kabul

KABUL - Security Forces have arrested 174 suspected terrorists in past two weeks in Kabul. Abdul Rahman Rahimy, Kabul Police chief says the arrested men were involved in assisting terrorist groups, robbery, kidnapping and other crimes. Rahimy said that cases were registered against the arrested terrorists and they are under further questioning. Kabul Police say they will continue anti-terrorism operations until there is a secured environment for residents of Kabul. *(Tolonews)*



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Ghor Residents Demand Representation in Cabinet

FEROZKOH - Residents of western Ghor province on Saturday complained of having no representation in the new-ly-introduced cabinet. The much-awaited Council of Ministers was unveiled last week and its members are scheduled to seek a vote of confidence from parliament this week. "In the last 13 years, our youth joined army and police ranks to defend



and stabilise the country. We hoped for overall political participation in matters of national importance," they said. In a joint statement, provincial council members, civil ...*(More on P4)...*(18)

Gunmen Shot Education Director Dead in Ghor

CHEKHCHARAN - The acting education director of Saghar district was shot dead Friday night by unknown gunmen in western Ghor province, local officials said on Saturday. Ahmad Khan was attacked when he left the Mosque for home after offering evening prayers, said the acting Police Chief, Sayed Ahmad Salangi. The police have started investigations but no one has been arrested in this connection so far, he added. However, no group including the Taliban has claimed ...*(More on P4)...*(19)

Liquefied Gas Price Dips; Lax Govt. Control an Issue

KABUL - Liquefied gas prices have fallen in Kabul as a result of increased imports, officials said on Saturday. In most parts of the capital, one kilogram of gas accounts for 40afis, while in some areas the prices were as high as 55afis. Gas prices shot up to 75afis a six months back. But the rates plummeted to 42afis a kilo last week. Abdul Moqim, a high school student in Tani Kot areas, said in his neighborhood a kilo of gas sold up to 55afis. Faiz Mohammad, a resident of Deh Afghanistan, complained the prices did not decrease much in his area. "This is a city where nobody asks questions. Everybody sells things at prices they wish." The residents urged the Ministry of Commerce to control gas prices. Haji Mohammad, an official of Khurasan Company, linked the lower prices to world market trends and an increase in imports. He anticipated in the next few days the prices would come down to 35afis a kilo. He asked retailers not to charge more than 42afis a kilo. Officials at the Ministry of ...*(More on P4)...*(20)

27 Insurgents Killed in Nationwide ANSF Raids

KABUL - At least 27 Taliban insurgents were killed during a nationwide operation led by the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in the past 24 hours, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said in a statement on Saturday. Six insurgents were injured and eight others arrested in the operations. The operations were conducted in Kunar, Ghazni, Herat, Paktika, Paktia, Kandahar, Balkh and Khost provinces to clear the insurgents, the



statement said. In addition, the security forces have discovered explosive devices and weapons. "During the same 24 hour period, the Police discovered and defused 62 different types of IEDs placed by the insurgents for destructive activities in Kandahar, Ghazni, Khost, Herat and Helmand provinces," it said. The statement, however, did not provide details of possible ANSF casualties. *(Tolonews)*

Newborn Care Training Center Inaugurated in Kabul

KABUL - With the help of the United States Aid Agency for Development (USAID), the Newborn Care Training Center is inaugurated in Kabul' Indira Gandhi Hospital to train doctors and midwives from across Afghanistan. The training facility will train doctors and midwives from across Afghanistan in newborn healthcare and strengthen their ability to save babies' lives. Simultaneously, USAID launched a pilot electronic medical records system, which will help Afghan medical staff track patients and offer improved care to every patient. The existence of an electronic system (as opposed to the current paper system) will better ensure the confidentiality of patients' medical records. *(Wadsam)*

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr. 20)

You may be thinking about heading to your dream destination with the Moon moving through your 9th House of Faraway Places. But this isn't just about a vacation. You are on a mission as you search for your special place on Earth. Forget about immediate gratification; this journey is important enough that you shouldn't take no for an answer now, even if you can't follow through on your explorations yet.

Taurus (Apr. 21-May 20)

A dilemma could surface today around your need for simplicity, even within a complex situation. You are driven to find the most practical solutions to your problems, but it's not as easy as you wish. You may inadvertently contradict your intentions by saying more than necessary. Stirring up someone's wrath isn't the best path to a peaceful day.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Although you often enjoy bantering with people who are as clever as you, today you may actually try to avoid others because you're not interested in debating your opinion on every subject. Unfortunately, seeking solitude isn't the best way to deal with smart people who might contradict your stated position. Be open to learning something you don't already know.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You are typically cautious in how you present yourself, but today you could consider drastic action in your haste for self-improvement. Nevertheless, it's better to test an idea by discussing it first, instead of just jumping in and making changes you can't undo. Taking the time to think your plan all the way through ensures that your actions will have the greatest positive effect on your future.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Romantic inclinations can make your life more interesting today, but you may have mixed emotions as to whether or not to act on your feelings. The Moon is skipping through your 5th House of Love and her alignment with cold Saturn and hot Mars is simultaneously discouraging and encouraging.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You may be able to tell that an emotional power struggle is brewing beneath the surface today, even if others are acting as if everything is copasetic. However, someone may be less than friendly, although you haven't a clue why. Be patient and don't ask too many questions; it could take a few days for the real issues to manifest.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You're quite capable of turning on the charm, even in the most difficult situations. But your friends might notice an emotional chill from you now that the Moon is hooking up with somber Saturn in your 3rd House of Communication. Fortunately, you can still make your point as long as you don't try to cover up your true intentions with social niceties.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)

Your relationship to your material possessions is undergoing a dramatic shift as you reconsider what you want these days. You might be willing or even eager to let go of once-prized belongings that have turned into unneeded baggage.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 20)

You do not want to waste precious energy on a communication mix-up today. Nor do you want to be misled by anyone because your feelings are strong and your patience is short. You just don't have time for playing games now; you expect everyone to get right to the point. Your emotions may be raw, so give yourself time to process inwardly before revealing any insecurities to those who have not already earned your trust.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan 19)

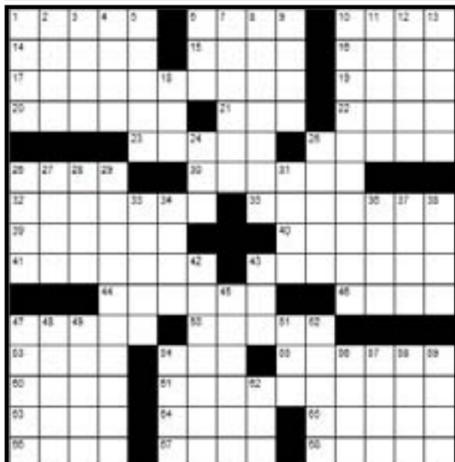
A lighthearted daydream can morph into an obsessive fantasy if you let your guard down. Oddly enough, the more you try to set your thoughts aside, the more they linger and gain strength. Suppression doesn't work now, so just let your imagination play through even if it raises uncomfortable fears or desires.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb. 18)

You may be overly demonstrative about a social or political issue with the Moon camped out in your 11th House of Groups. However, you are less interested in going along for a ride than you are in focusing your efforts on making a difference. With karmic Saturn so close to the Moon, your contribution will most likely be appreciated by others.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

You might think you're being straightforward today, but your actions don't necessarily support your intentions. At first, your behavior could be awkward as you hold your feelings in. But then, when you realize you're not being authentic, you can overcompensate by revealing too much. Ultimately, you must find a healthy outlet for your conscious expression that, like Goldilocks, is not too hot and not too cold, but just right.



Across
 1. Perpendicular to the keel, 6. You (archaic), 10. Gentle, 14. Prod, 15. A magician's tool, 16. Bright thought, 17. Hades, 19. 1/100th of a dollar, 20. Heavy and filling food, 21. 24 hours, 22. Be worthy of, 23. Aromatic solvent, 25. Flies alone, 26. Nonvascular plant, 30. Cherubim, 32. Commemoration, 35. Teach, 39. Calm, 40. Orchards, 41. Responses, 43. Evening worship service, 44. Acid neutralizer, 46. Sea eagle, 47. Portion, 50. Loamy deposit, 53. Group of cattle, 54. Band booking, 55. Benni, 60. Dash, 61. Delinquent, 63. Nights before, 64. Pearly-shelled mussel, 65. Shades of blue, 66. Marries, 67. Knife, 68. Binge

Down
 1. Rectum, 2. A lightly-hit baseball, 3. Cocoyam, 4. Matured, 5. Mix together, 6. Pair, 7. Toughen, 8. Make larger, 9. Countercurrent, 10. Used to see small things, 11. Something to shoot for, 12. Slowly, in music, 13. Days of the month 18. Damp, 24. Derivative laugh, 25. Aspersions, 26. Plateau, 27. Not closed, 28. Knights, 29. Flight attendant, 31. Border, 33. Anoint (archaic), 34. Benefit, 36. Affirm, 37. Small slender gull, 38. Being, 42. Prominent 43. Compete, 45. A roofed arcade, 47. Termagant, 48. Throw with effort, 49. Cambered, 51. South southeast, 52. Religious splinter groups, 54. Wildebeests, 56. Stair, 57. A long way off, 58. Stubborn beast, 59. If not, 62. Toss

Yesterday's Solution
 access, across, beneath, blast, bother, care, corridor, counter, crush, cubic, doses, effort, entire, geology, giant, increase, inside, lack, level, operate, party, peat, peer, permit, place, sets, shell, shock, short, shout, simple, slur, sort, space, stir, support, target

