



\$2,800 for a bride!

Hunger forces Afghans to sell young daughters into marriage

AFP, Qala i Naw

Fahima has wept many times since her husband sold their two young daughters into marriage to survive the drought gripping western Afghanistan.

Oblivious to the deal, six-year-old Faristeh and 18-month-old Shokriya sit by her side in a mud-brick and tarpaulin shelter for displaced people.

"My husband said if we don't give away our daughters, we will all die because we don't have anything to eat," Fahima said of the choice now facing thousands of Afghan families.

"I feel bad giving away my daughters for money." The oldest commanded a bride price of \$3,350 and the toddler \$2,800 -- to be paid in instalments over several years until the time comes to join their new families, their future husbands still minors themselves.

Child marriage has been practised in Afghanistan for centuries, but war and climate change-related poverty have driven many families to resort to striking deals earlier and earlier in girls' lives.

Boys' parents can drive a harder bargain and secure younger girls, spacing out the repayments.

The World Food Program warned Monday that more than half the population of Afghanistan, around 22.8 million people, will face acute food insecurity from November.

In Qala-i-Naw, capital of the western province of Badghis -- one of the regions worst affected by the drought -- there is shame and grief.

Village and displaced people's camp leaders say the numbers of young girls getting betrothed started to rise during a 2018 famine and surged this year when the rains failed once more.

Among farmers driven from their homes, AFP journalists quickly found more than a dozen families who felt forced to sell their daughters into marriage.

Fahima's 25-year-old neighbour in the camp, Sabehreh, ran up a bill at a grocer's shop to feed her family. The business owner warned that they would be jailed if they could not repay him.

To cover the debt, the family agreed that their three-year-old daughter, Zakereh, would be betrothed to the grocer's four-year-old son, Zabiullah.

Another neighbour, Gul Bibi, confirmed that many families in the camp had resorted to child marriage.

Her own daughter Asho, aged eight or nine, is betrothed to a 23-year-old man to whose family Gul Bibi was indebted. The young man is away in nearby Iran, and she dreads the day of his return.

"We know it's not right, but we don't have the choice," commented Hayatullah, a passer-by who overheard the mother's sad tale.

In another Qala-i-Naw camp, Mohammad Assan wiped back his tears as he showed AFP photos of his girls, Siana, nine, and Edi Gul, six, now living far away with their young grooms.

"We've never seen them since," he said. "We didn't want to do that, but we had to feed our other children."

"My daughters are surely better off over there, with food to eat," he reasoned, trying to console himself as he showed AFP the crusts of bread his neighbours spared for him.

The Taliban's interim governor for Badghis province, Maulvi Abdul Sattar, told AFP: "These child marriages are due to economic problems, not to any rule imposed by the Islamic emirate, or the Sharia."

Junta boycotts Asean summit

REUTERS

Southeast Asian leaders sharply criticised Myanmar's junta as a regional summit opened yesterday without a representative from the country, following its top general's exclusion for ignoring a peace roadmap agreed six months ago.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) had said it would accept a non-political figure from Myanmar, but the junta on Monday rejected that, saying it would only agree to its leader or a minister attending.

In an unprecedented snub to the leader of a member state, Asean had decided to sideline junta chief Min Aung Hlaing, who led a February 1 coup that spiralled into violence and nationwide chaos, for his failure to cease hostilities, allow humanitarian access and start dialogue with opponents, as agreed with Asean in April.

The decision was a huge insult to Myanmar's military and a rare, bold step by a regional grouping known for its code of consensus, non-interference and engagement.

POST-COUP MYANMAR

- Myanmar a test for Asean's credibility: Thai PM
- US security advisor meets Myanmar shadow govt
- Suu Kyi denies junta charge of incitement to cause alarm



"Today, Asean did not expel Myanmar from Asean's framework. Myanmar abandoned its right," said Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, who will become the group's chairman next year.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said Asean had a slot ready for Myanmar, but it chose not to join.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo in his remarks to leaders lamented Myanmar's "unwelcoming attitude" towards Asean's diplomatic efforts, Retno said.

Thai PM Prayuth Chan-ocha, a retired general considered the Asean leader closest to Myanmar's coup-makers, said the issue was crucial for the bloc's reputation and a test of its resolve.

Asean made the call days after its special envoy Erywan Yusuf said the ruling State Administrative Council (SAC) denied him sufficient access, including to ousted, democratically-elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who is

charged with multiple crimes.

Asean leaders were due also to collectively meet leaders of the United States, China and South Korea, while US President Joe Biden attended a joint session by video link.

Biden called on the military rulers to free people unjustly detained in Myanmar.

US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan met on Monday with representatives of the NUG, an alliance of pro-democracy groups, militias and ethnic minority armies formed after the coup.

Meanwhile, Suu Kyi has denied a charge of incitement to cause public alarm, media reported yesterday, in her first court testimony since the February coup. Citing lawyers, BBC Burmese and Myanmar Now reported that Suu Kyi had denied incitement in connection with her party publishing a letter in February calling on international organisations not to cooperate with the junta.



Sudanese demonstrators flash victory signs by a roadblock made of burning tyres in the capital Khartoum, yesterday, as they protest a military coup that overthrew the transition to civilian rule.

PHOTO: AFP

MORE NEWS

For now, Turkey, West avert diplomatic crisis

Turkey and its Western allies climbed down from a full-blown diplomatic crisis on Monday after foreign embassies said that they abide by diplomatic conventions on non-interference, averting a threatened expulsion of 10 ambassadors. President Tayyip Erdogan, who said at the weekend he had ordered the envoys to be declared "persona non grata" for seeking the release of a jailed philanthropist, told a news conference they had stepped back and would be more careful. The ambassadors, including the US envoy, had called on authorities last week to free Osman Kavala, a philanthropist detained for four years on charges of financing protests and involvement in an attempted coup. He denies the charges.



Afghan women protest world's 'silence' over crisis

Women activists in Kabul yesterday held up signs that read "why is the world watching us die in silence?" protesting the international community's inaction on the crisis in Afghanistan. Around a dozen women risked the wrath of the Taliban holding banners affirming their "right to education" and "right to work", before the Islamists stopped the press from approaching the march. Symbolic demonstrations by women have become a regular occurrence in Kabul in recent weeks as the Taliban have still not allowed them to return to work or permitted most girls to go to school.

EU, Iran to hold nuclear talks in Brussels this week

The EU's top negotiator will meet his counterpart from Tehran this week in Brussels for talks on restarting negotiations over Iran's nuclear deal, a spokesman for the bloc has said. The EU and world powers are scrambling to try to get negotiations in Vienna aimed at reviving the 2015 accord back on track after the election of a hardliner in Tehran. Iran's chief negotiator on the deal, Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri, wrote on Twitter that he would be in Brussels today "to continue our talks on result-oriented negotiations". EU spokesman Peter Stano said the meeting would involve the bloc's lead negotiator Enrique Mora.

Indigenous Australians sue govt over climate change

Indigenous residents of low-lying islands off northern Australia filed a landmark lawsuit yesterday aimed at forcing the government to protect them from climate change through deeper cuts to carbon emissions. The Torres Strait Islanders say rising sea levels represent an existential threat to their homelands and culture, putting them "on the frontline of the climate crisis". It is believed to be the first such climate change class action launched by Indigenous Australians.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

Japan princess shuns royal status for love

AFP, Tokyo

Japan's princess Mako married her university sweetheart yesterday, but it was a low-key union bereft of traditional rituals, with the couple voicing sadness over the controversy that haunted their engagement.

Under the rules of the imperial family, Emperor Naruhito's 30-year-old niece Mako gave up her royal title as she wed Kei Komuro, who is the same age and works for a US law firm.

"To me, Kei is irreplaceable. Our marriage is a necessary step for us to be able to protect our hearts," she told reporters after the marriage was registered.

"I have been scared, feeling sadness and pain whenever one-sided rumours turn into groundless stories," she added as the newlyweds read out rehearsed statements in a soberly decorated hotel function room.

Since announcing their engagement in 2017, the couple has faced tabloid scandals and vicious online sniping over allegations that Komuro's family had run into financial difficulties.

After much delay, they finally tied the knot with no wedding ceremony, reception banquet or any of the usual rites -- opting to do so privately, away

from a public that has not always been kind.

Mako also turned down a large payment usually offered to royal women on their departure, reportedly up to 153 million yen (\$1.35 million), and they are now said to be planning a move to the United States.

Royals are held to exacting standards in Japan, and Mako has developed complex post-traumatic stress disorder because of the media attention, according to the Imperial Household Agency.

"I love Mako. We only get one life,

and I want us to spend it with the one we love," Komuro said.

"I feel very sad that Mako has been in a bad condition, mentally and physically, because of the false accusations."

Women in the imperial family cannot ascend the Chrysanthemum Throne, and lose their royal status when they marry a commoner.

TV footage showed the princess bid farewell to her family yesterday morning, bowing to her mother and father, Crown Prince Akishino, and hugging her sister.



Quote of the day

Taiwan has not been permitted to contribute to UN efforts. We encourage all UN member states to join us in supporting Taiwan's robust, meaningful participation throughout the UN system and in the international community.



US SECRETARY OF STATE ANTONY BLINKEN

URGES MORE INCLUSION FOR TAIWAN AT UN

DARK WEB STING OPERATION

150 arrested globally: Europol

AFP, The Hague

Police around the world arrested 150 suspects, including several high-profile targets, involved in buying or selling illegal goods online in one of the largest-ever stings targeting the dark web, Europol said yesterday.

Operation Dark HunTOR also recovered millions of euros in cash and bitcoin, as well as drugs and guns. The bust stems from a German-led police sting earlier this year taking down the "world's largest" darknet marketplace.

DarkHunTOR, "was composed of a series of separate but complementary actions in Australia, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy,

the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States," the Hague-based Europol said.

In the United States alone, police arrested 65 people, while 47 were held in Germany, 24 in Britain, and four each in Italy and the Netherlands, among others.

A number of those arrested "were considered high-value targets" by Europol. Law agents also confiscated 26.7 million euros in cash and virtual currencies, as well as 45 guns and 234 kilogrammes of drugs.

Italian police also shut down the "DeepSea" and "Berlusconi" marketplaces, "which together boasted over 100,000 announcements of illegal products", said Europol.

ঢাকা পানি সরবরাহ ও পয়ঃ নিষ্কাশন কর্তৃপক্ষ

৯৮, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ
কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫
Website: www.dwasa.org.bd

নিয়োগ বাতিল সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা ওয়াসার "উপ-ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক (মানবসম্পদ ও প্রশাসন)" - পদে লোক নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে গত ১৫/১১/২০১৯ তারিখে 'দৈনিক জনকণ্ঠ', 'দৈনিক সমকাল', 'দৈনিক ইত্তেফাক', 'The Daily Star' পত্রিকায় এবং ঢাকা ওয়াসার ওয়েবসাইটে প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি এতদ্বারা বাতিল করা হ'ল।

স্বাক্ষরিত/-

ওয়াসা-জঃতঃ-৩৫১/২০২১

ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক

GD-1920

ঢাকা ওয়াসা

Australia sets 2050 net zero emissions target

AFP, Sydney

Coal-rich Australia unveiled a much-delayed 2050 net zero emissions target yesterday, in a plan that pointedly dodged thorny details or near-term goals ahead of a landmark UN climate summit.

Widely seen as a climate laggard, Australia is one of the world's largest coal and gas exporters.

For the last eight years, its conservative government has resisted action to reduce emissions, routinely approving new coal projects and peddling scepticism about climate change. Under domestic and international pressure, Prime Minister Scott Morrison yesterday announced a shift in approach and acknowledged the "world is changing".

Australians want policy that "does the right thing on climate change", he said, adding the phenomenon "is real, it's happening. We understand it and we recognise it."

Just how Australia will get to net zero by 2050 carbon emissions remains unclear, with the government refusing to release its modelling.

The plan would invest US\$15 billion in low-emission technologies over the next decade, but it also leans heavily on unproven technologies and carbon offsets, which critics deride as an accounting gimmick.

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ান্স এন্ড সার্জনস্ এন্ড সার্জনস্ (বিসিপিএস) এর আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র স্থাপনের লক্ষ্যে চট্টগ্রাম, রাজশাহী, সিলেট ও যশোর শহরগুলোতে কমপক্ষে ৪০ ফুট রাস্তা সংলগ্ন প্রতিটি শহরে ০১ (এক) একর করে জমি ক্রয় করা হবে। জমি বিক্রয়ে আহাী মালিকদের (জমির প্রকৃত মালিক/পাওয়ার অব এ্যাটর্নি প্রাপ্ত) শতাংশ প্রতি জমির বিক্রয় মূল্য উল্লেখপূর্বক জমির তফসিল, দলিলের ফটোকপি, পর্চা (সিএস, আরএস, এসএ), মহানগর জরিপ (যদি থাকে), বিক্রয়যোগ্য জমির পরিমাণ, মৌজা মাপ, বিক্রয়যোগ্য জমির কেচ/লে-আউট নকশা, চৌহদ্দি, মোট মূল্য ও সংশ্লিষ্ট কাগজপত্র আগামী ১৫/১১/২০২১ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বিকাল ৪.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে সীলগালা অবস্থায় সরাসরি কলেজের প্রশাসন বিভাগে রক্ষিত বস্ত্রে দাখিল করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। জমিটি নিষ্কটক হতে হবে।

উল্লেখ্য যে, দাখিলকৃত যেকোন জমি গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা বিসিপিএস কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(অধ্যাপক মোঃ বিদ্বাল আলম)
অনারারী সচিব

বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ান্স এন্ড সার্জনস্ (বিসিপিএস)