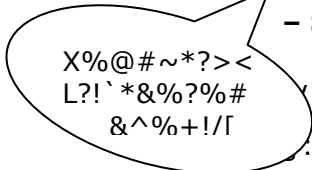




Talking About TV

- Sharon Fung (L6)

2nd November 2012 -



Abby : Did you watch the TV show "Opium Nation " last night? It was fantastic!

Mag : Oh no, I didn't. I wanted to but I fell asleep while doing homework and missed it. What a shame.

Abby : It's about a female Afghan called Fariba who had escaped to America.

Mag : How did she survive? I've heard that women in Afghanistan are being treated badly and are often forced to marry men they don't even know or like.

Abby : When she escaped to America, she was only eight. Her family managed to do that by bribing the soldiers and drug lords in Afghanistan.

Mag : What are drug lords ?

Abby : They are powerful people who sell drugs. Taking opium is very common in Afghanistan.

Mag : Oh...what happened next ?

Abby : Fariba grew up in America after she and her family had settled there.

Mag : So....that's it?

Abby : No. Twenty years later, she returned to Afghanistan to see how her homeland had become after two decades.

Mag : But how did she enter Afghanistan then?

Abby : She happened to have both the American and Afghan passports.

Mag : (puzzled) How can anyone have two passports?

Abby : Well, I don't really know. When Fariba returned to Afghanistan, she saw some drug lords and child brides. Those powerless child brides were forced to marry the drug lords because their fathers didn't have enough money to pay for the opium.

Mag :poor child brides.

Abby : Fariba also saw some poppy flowers. Poppies are used to make opium and they're actually banned in Afghanistan.

Mag : If poppies are banned, then how did Fariba get to see them ?

Abby : That's because the Afghans are so poor that they're forced to make money by doing illegal things, such as selling drugs or planting poppies. They don't really want to do bad, I'm sure.

Mag : Oh...I feel sorry for them.

Abby : After watching it, I feel that we're so fortunate to be living in Hong Kong. Some countries like Afghanistan are so poor that not everyone is treated fairly and equal before the law. North Korea is another example of a poor country.

Mag : After hearing what you have said, I also think that I am really lucky to be born in Hong Kong.

