

Kite flying

Flying kite (*bodbarak*) is one of the children's games known from the ancient times. Kite is made from cardboard of 45x65 size attached to a wood sticks, a piece fabric, called «tail» which is to support kite's balance and can be 2 to 3 meter; and a long piece of string of flying and holding the kite. Kites are flown when there is wind with desirable speed. Children hold to their kits by one hand and hold the string by another

and run against the wind flow and as soon as the kite «catches' the wind it is let to fly and no need to run but hold the string and navigate the kite, which can go up as high as 40 or 50 meters.

There is a type of kite called «stork» and is popular in Khujand and Istaravshan cities. During the Navruz celebration in Istaravshan a competition called «flying storks» is held from the heel where the Mugh fortress is. Young



adults from the surrounding areas come together to compete in kite flying i.e. «stork flying». This festive competition is hosted by the branch of the Ministry of Culture of the Istaravshan city and the winners are given prize.

In Khujand the stork (a local name *laylak*) and kite flying is believed to be symbol of the arrival of the spring and Nawruz. Local beliefs state that stork (*laylak* or *laklak*) is a holy bird and when it comes and makes nest, lays egg and its chicken comes out is considered to be sign of productive, peaceful and abundance year. It is also known that in past day people would organize kite flying in Navruz and at night time they would attach a candle into their kites and flown at night it would give a pleasant site.

