



September 2010



## Latest News Democracy Embraced in Parliamentary Elections



### Highlighted Achievements from the Parliamentary Election

- 3.6 million voted.
- 5,500 polling stations were open
- 16% of candidates were women

The second lower house (Wolesi Jirga) parliamentary elections since October of 2001 were successfully held on September 18th.

More than 5,500 polling stations opened nationwide, allowing 3.6 million voters to cast their ballots and employing about 90,000. More than 2,500 candidates were competing for the 249 seats in the lower house. Of these candidates 16% were women, representing a 4% increase over the previous election.

This election was also the first in which Afghan national security forces took full responsibility for maintaining the security of the event. This is testament to the increasing stability and self-reliance of the government.

In a bid to ensure free, impartial elections, the Election Complaint Committee (ECC) was on present at the polls. They will make their ruling by October 24th.

The elections attracted national and international attention with a number of

international monitors, reporters, and observers being present.

The results from this latest election are expected to be announced on October 30th. The next parliamentary elections are scheduled for 2015.

### Female Police Provide Security for Elections

More than 5,000 female police officers watched over the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House) parliamentary elections on September 18th. The officers were stationed at polling areas nationwide.

### Foreign Minister Rassoul Meets Japanese Counterpart

On September 21st, H.E. Foreign Minister Dr. Zalmai Rassoul met with newly appointed Japanese foreign minister H.E. Mr. Seiji Maehara on the sidelines of the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. H.E. Foreign Minister Rassoul congratulated H.E. Foreign Minister Maehara on his recent appointment and expressed gratitude for Japan's contributions

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to Afghanistan's peace, security and development. H.E. Foreign Minister Maehara reaffirmed Japan's continued commitment for peace and security in Afghanistan, which will include Japan's contributions to the training and salaries of Afghan security forces, as well as a possible increased role in the agricultural sector.

### **Foreign Minister H.E. Dr. Zalmay Rassoul Meets with Japan Parliamentary Delegation**

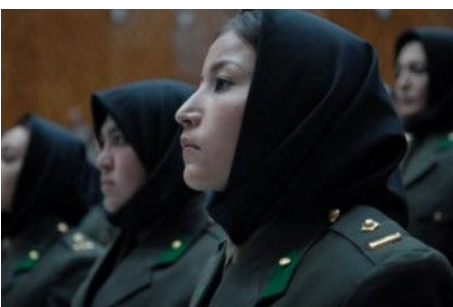
H.E. Foreign Minister Dr. Zalmay Rassoul met with a Japanese parliamentary delegation on Saturday, September 4th in Kabul.

At the meeting, the two sides discussed issues, such as enhancing good-governance, as well as peace and reintegration developments.

H.E. Foreign Minister Rassoul expressed appreciation for Japan's continued support to Afghanistan. He highlighted strengthening peace and security, good-governance, agriculture, education, reconstruction, and energy as priority areas of focus for the coming years.

### **29 women Graduate from Officer-Candidate Program**

The first group of women, 29 in total, graduated from a recent 20-week officer-candidate program in eastern Kabul. The women learned basic military and leadership skills. Each graduate holds the rank of second lieutenant.



The goal is to increase the amount of female soldiers from the nearly 300 now in service to 30,000, or 10% of the total force.

The graduates will not be deployed in battle, but will take administrative jobs in logistics and finance.

### **Bids Accepted for Hajigak Iron Ore Deposit from September 29th**

On September 29th, the bidding process will open for rights to develop the Hajigak iron ore deposit, one of richest known mineral fields nationwide.

Hajigak, which contains 1.8 billion tons of confirmed deposits at 62% (high by world standards), is located 100 kilometers west of Kabul.

Interested parties may find more information at:

[http://www.mom.gov.af/uploads/files/English/Feb%202010/Hajigak\\_Request\\_for\\_Expression\\_of\\_Interest\\_Final%2009232010.pdf](http://www.mom.gov.af/uploads/files/English/Feb%202010/Hajigak_Request_for_Expression_of_Interest_Final%2009232010.pdf)

### **Kabul Residents in High-Risk Districts Receive Vaccination on International Peace Day**

To mark International Peace Day, women and children in 23 locations without active health facilities were provided immunization against deadly diseases such as polio, meningitis, tuberculosis, measles, diphtheria and tetanus by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in conjunction with the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF. The goal was to reach over 50,000 children and women of child-bearing age.

### **New hospital to Open in Khost**

A new 100-bed hospital will open in Khost city this fall; the current 50-

bed hospital in Khost has been serving a population of nearly 1 million. The new hospital will be installed with an emergency room; male, female and children's wards; mid-wife and maternity wards; x-ray and oncology departments; laboratories; inpatient and outpatient care facilities; and office space for medical personnel. The hospital will also create a number of new jobs.

### **Seminars to Improve Educational Standards Started**

A 3-month seminar began in September to help teachers in Ghazni province to improve their teaching skills. The 300 participants represent a range of subject areas from science, geography, Dari, Pashto, and physics and teach grades 4 through 12. The seminar will help improve the way teachers deliver the material to their students. A separate 5-day seminar in Takhar province was held for school principals to analyze how to improve the level of education in schools, as well as how to train and support teachers.

### **School Building Inaugurated in Parwan**

Ghulam Ali Girl's Middle School in Bagram, Parwan province inaugurated a newly constructed 2-story school building in a ceremony attended by governor Abdul Basir Salangi, Ministry of Education officials, students, and teachers. The former facilities could not properly address the needs for the 478 students currently studying in the school. The construction of the new building, which has 16 classrooms, 8 administrative rooms, 10 privies, and a well, was supported by the United States Provincial Reconstruction Team.

**Two vocational Schools to be Constructed in Logar**

Two new two-year vocational schools will be constructed in Logar province's capital of Pul-e-Alam. To support the large number of people involved in farming in the province, one of the schools will specialize in agriculture. The other school will teach mechanics. The schools will be built with assistance from the Czech Provincial Reconstruction Team.

**Kabul Power Station to be Upgraded**

A power station in Dasht-i-Barchi, an area in western Kabul, will undergo an expansion that will include the installation of 90 new transformers and 3,200 electric poles. This new construction will in one year's time allow for better usage of the up to 700 megawatts of electricity available in Kabul, as current power supply networks only allow for 250 megawatts to be used. When completed, the upgrades will provide an additional 25,000 families with electricity. The project will be supported by the Indian firm Angelique International.

**Pur Chaman Granted Six Development projects**

The Pur Chaman district of Farah province, an area of 40,000 residents, has been granted six new development projects, including a micro-hydro plant to develop electrification, solar street lights, a boy's school, an expansion of a health clinic, a security wall around a girl's school, and a bee keeping facility to promote the district's vital honey production industry.

**Kandahar to Receive Further Infrastructure Development**

150 kilometers of footpaths will be built in Kandahar city, bringing the total length of footpaths to 200 kilometers. An 80-kilometer sewerage network will also be built in the city.

**36 Projects Executed in Badakhshan**

Thirty-six development schemes, benefiting 60,000 families, were completed under the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) in Badakhshan over the last month.

Projects were conducted in Kohistan, Deraim, Shahr-i-Bozarg, Shaki, Kufab, Kiran-wa-Manjan, Arghanjkhwa, Yawan, Shuhada and Yaftel Payan districts and in the provincial capital, Faizabad.

The projects included the installation of six hydroelectric power plants; the construction of six community centers, two schools with eight classrooms, six dams, a 240-meter retaining wall a 283-meter water head, a 14-kilometer road and a 3-kilometer water supply pipeline; and maintenance on a nine-kilometer canal.

**Logar Irrigation Systems Built, Improved**

A three-year project in Logar has been completed, resulting in the construction of three water reservoirs and several accompanying walls for protection and flood prevention. Two of the dams, Kabir and Bazak, are located in the Baraki Barak district, and one, Rahim Khan, is in Mohammad Agha. Together these projects are providing irrigation for 7,500 acres of agriculture land. The projects were supported by the Czech Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT). Additionally, other projects completed include a protection wall in the Sabagi area of Muhammad Agha, a water system in the Sulemankhel district, nine wells in Pul-i-Alam and Muhammad Agha,



*September 27, 2010: Dr. Bashir Mohabbat, Charge d'Affaires ad Interim, welcomes Madame Sadako Ogata, president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, to the reception in honor of Afghanistan's National Day at the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tokyo. (Photo by David Gomez)*

and the installation of a provincial weather forecast machine.

Another dam in the Muhammad Agha district also looks to be completed in the near future, as does a 30-meter protective wall for the Shahi canal in Pul-i-Alam, the provincial capital. Construction will also begin on another irrigation dam in the Sabagi area.

Workshops have been organized in conjunction with the Czech PRT to help farmers take advantage of the new irrigation opportunities.

**New Pipeline to Pass Through Afghanistan**

Afghanistan will host a gas pipeline that will extend from Turkmenistan to India. The gas pipeline framework agreement (GPFA), signed earlier this month, also calls for the pipeline to pass through Pakistan. Decisions will be made later on such issues as transit charges, gas prices, and a mechanism to operate pipeline.

**Business Booms In Mazar-e Sharif**

Balkh Province has become a national leader in income generation, increasing from some \$5 million in

2004 to some \$115 million this year. One reason for this amazing growth is that Mazar-e Sharif's security and environment attracts a number of Afghan companies and foreign businesses, including Turkish food product companies, Uzbek petroleum companies, and Russian fertilizer companies. Another reason for the strong business surge is that Mazar-e Sharif is a hub for trade across the Uzbek border, which supplies half of Afghanistan's imports. As a recently completed railroad linking Uzbekistan to Balkh's Mazar-e Sharif will begin operations in the coming months, Balkh's income looks to likely increase further this year.

### Wheat Self-Sufficiency Increases

Wheat self-sufficiency has increased from the 75%-67% range to 86%. As a result, only about 700,000 tons will need to be imported this year. Additionally, storage capabilities are improving as a newly created Strategic Grain Reserve for use in food emergencies will allow the national government to store away 70,000 tons of wheat.

### 'Peace Art' Exhibit Opens in Kabul

An exhibition of paintings by 12 young artists has opened at Bagh-e-Babur (the Garden of Babur) in Kabul. The exhibition was launched ahead of the International Day Of Peace on September 21 by the Firoz Koh cultural NGO; each painting depicts an image of peace.

### Sakena Yacoobi Wins Asia Social Entrepreneur of The Year Award

At the World Economic Forum's annual Summer Davos meeting held in Tianjin, China, Sakena Yacoobi was one of three businesspeople awarded the Asia "Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award."



Ms. Yacoobi founded the Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL) in 1995 in order to create a better educational atmosphere for women at a time of great regional turmoil. For her work in this regard, she was recognized as a leading social innovator in Asia.

AIL now provides primary and secondary education, university classes, as well as teacher training and human rights workshops – altogether benefiting more than 3.5 million people to date.

### National Heroes Win the Ramadan Cup in Pakistan!



The Afghan Youth Cricket Association team won the Dr. M.A. Shah Lephone Night Trophy 2010 competition, also known as the Ramadan Cup, in Karachi, Pakistan.

Thousands of fans were on hand and many more watching from their homes to witness the victory.

## Upcoming Events & Important Dates

10/2-10/3

### GLOBAL FESTA JAPAN 2010

10:00—17:00, Hibiya Park.  
Free admission!

Global Festa Japan 2010 is an event dedicated to improving public understanding and support for International Cooperation, including Official Development Assistance (ODA) and the activities of NGOs.

Booths are operated by many nations and organizations, teaching culture, providing goods from the nations, and selling foods. The Embassy of Afghanistan's booth is often one of the most popular!

10/5-31

### Afghan Culture month JICA Global Center, Hiroo Free admission

For the month of October, JICA's Global Center in Hiroo, Tokyo will showcase Afghan culture. Their display, which is free to visit, will feature Afghan cultural artifacts such as carpets and clothing, photographs, and lots of information.

The center's restaurant will also serve Afghan food for the month.

10/30-31

### INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL 2010 Tachikawa National Park Entrance

11/5-6

### AZABU-JYUBAN FESTIVAL

## *Recipe of the Month*

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### Firnee (milk pudding with Rosewater)



#### **Ingredients:**

½ cup blanched ground almonds  
1/3 cup cornstarch  
1 cup cold water  
4 cups milk  
½ cup honey or 1 cup sugar  
½ tsp. ground green cardamom seeds  
¼ cup ground pistachios  
2 tbsp. rosewater

#### **Instructions:**

Put the almonds in a small saucepan with double the amount of water and bring to a boil. Cook 3 minutes. Strain and rinse under cold water and remove brown skins. Grate or use a blender or a food processor with a portion of the milk.

Bring the milk to a boil and stir in the honey to dissolve and add the cardamom and almonds. Cook on a low flame.

In a small bowl, mix the cornstarch with the water until smooth. Gradually add to the milk stirring constantly. Cook 5 minutes over a low flame stirring occasionally until the pudding has thickened. Add rosewater and put into 4 salad plates. Apply pistachios.

## Language & Culture

Of the many languages spoken in Afghanistan, Dari and Pashto are designated as the official languages. Let's learn internet café phrases!

英語(English)	日本語 (Japanese)
ダリー語 (Dari)	パシュトー語 (Pashto)

<b>Excuse me, where is the nearest Internet Cafe?</b>	すみませんが、インターネットカフェはどこですか?
Bebakshet. Entanet cafe kujo ast? (ベバシエット エンタネット カフェ クジョ アスト?)	Bakhena gowaren chitadeh negdi Internet Center? (バヘナ ゴワレム チタデネディ インターネット カフェル?)
<b>Do you have any computers available?</b>	コンピューターはありますか?
Bebakshet. Computar ast? (ベバシエット コンピュータル アスト?)	Tasee computer lari? (タシー コンピューター ラリ?)
<b>How much does it cost for 1 hour?</b>	これはいくらですか?
Darai yaksohat chandast? (ダライ ヤクソハ チャンダスト?)	Deyo sat Internet qimat sode? (デヴォ サト インターネット ギマット ソード?)
<b>Can you help me?</b>	割引してもらえますか?
Lotfan komak kone? (ロトファン コマック コネ?)	Mosara merasta kawaleshi? (モサラ メラスト カワレシ?)
<b>The internet connection is slow.</b>	高すぎます。
In entanet slowest. (イン エンタネット スロワスト)	Internet mo ru de. (インターネット モルデ)
<b>My computer is not working.</b>	私は~を探しています。
Computer eman haropshoda. (コンピューター エマン ハロショーダ)	Zuma computer karnekevi (ズマ コンピューター カルネケヴィ)
<b>How do I type in English?</b>	買います。
Chitor ba Inglesi type konam? (チター イングレシ タイペコナム?)	Senga English type okhram? (センガ イングリッシュ タイプ オクラム?)
<b>Can I pay now?</b>	いいえ、結構です。
Ole pordokit konam? (オレ ポロドット コナム?)	Zupesi war kawale shom? (ズペシ カワレ ショム?)

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Thank you for reading the September edition of our newsletter. Visit our frequently-updated website for even more news:

[www.afghanembassyjp.org](http://www.afghanembassyjp.org)

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions regarding this newsletter or the Embassy, please send an e-mail to the embassy's Public Affairs Officer, Jason Pratt:

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