



June 2010



Embassy of Afghanistan in Japan Afghan News

Latest News

H.E. President Karzai makes official visit to Japan



Highlighted Achievements

- 22 television stations, 100 radio stations and hundreds of newspapers created since 2001.
- Foreign reserves are now \$4.5 billion compared with \$180 million in 2002.
- 60 embassies in Kabul today compared with 3 in 2001.

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H.E. President Hamid Karzai visited Japan from June 16th to 20th, H.E.'s fourth visit to the nation. H.E.'s visit marked the 80th anniversary of official Afghan-Japanese relations that were established with the signing of a treaty of friendship in 1930.

During his five-day visit, he met with several prominent governmental and non-governmental parties, including H.E. Prime Minister Naoto Kan, H.E. Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada, and Madame Sadako Ogata, the president of JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency).

During the last 2 days of his stay, H.E. President Karzai visited Nara, Kyoto, and

Hiroshima, attending meetings with local Mayors and Governors. In Hiroshima, H.E. the President visited Hiroshima Peace Park and offered a floral tribute at the centograph. Arriving in Kyoto the same day, President Karzai held a talk with students at Doshisha University. Finally in Nara, he visited Heijo Palace, Shosoin temple, and Todaiji temple – home to artifacts decorated with the first known Lapis Lazuli stones to come to Japan from Afghanistan.

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H.E. President Karzai meets with H.E. Prime Minister Kan



During his official visit to Japan, H.E. President Hamid Karzai met with H.E. Prime Minister Naoto Kan. H.E. the President expressed deep gratitude for the Japan's role as the second-largest partner in Afghanistan's development. Stressing the political and historical bond between Afghanistan and Japan, which dates back more than 1000 years, Prime Minister Kan expressed that he hopes that this relationship will extend into another millennia or more.

At a joint press conference following their meeting, the two leaders addressed the following topics:

- Efforts by the Afghan Government to address various challenges
- Reconciliation and Reintegration with those willing to denounce violence and join in the peace process
- Japan's support to development and reconstruction
- Perspective of bilateral relations
- Establishment of the Japan-Afghanistan Policy Consultation framework

In closing, Prime Minister Kan added that "The situation in Afghanistan is not only important for the people of Afghanistan, it is extremely important in realizing world peace."

National Consultative Peace Jirga ends with 16-point resolution

From June 2nd – June 4th, 1,600 participants, representing all sectors of Afghan society, converged in Kabul at the National Consultative Peace Jirga to create a mechanism for reconciliation and the reintegration of those who are ready to lay down their arms and join in the peace process. A resolution of 16 points resulted, detailing such points as a call for reconciliation efforts, the release of those prisoners imprisoned without properly substantiated causes, the removal of certain individuals from the UN blacklist, further strengthening of security forces, and increased investment in a number of sectors. A High Peace Council has been tasked with following up upon these declarations.

The successes of this Jirga will be built upon at the Kabul International Conference to be held July 20th.

Ghazni City As 2013 Center for Islamic Culture

In 2007, it was announced that Ghazni City has been selected as the Asian capital of Islamic civilization for 2013 by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at a conference in Libya. The choice of Ghazni is due to the city's rich past and historical landmarks, like the Citadel in Old Ghazni City, the Palace of Sultan Masood and the Minarets.

A number of projects are eyed to prepare the city for this honor. A recent launch of a reconstruction project to rebuild 10 ancient monuments in Ghazni province was attended by the Minister of Information and Culture, Dr. Sayed Makhdoom Raheen, and a number of Afghan and foreign officials. Minister Raheen has stated that it is his goal to have 42 historic monuments reconstructed.

300 Million Dollar Power Station Built In Kabul

Afghanistan's Ministry of Water and Energy announced today that construction on a new 105 Megawatts power station has been completed. The new station is located in the village of Tarakhel in Kabul province. The station will be used in emergency conditions.

Kabul has about 400 extra megawatts of power, and there are plans to transmit the extra power to other provinces.

School for the deaf to be built in Kabul

Work has recently begun on a new school that will educate deaf children will be built. Construction may finish as early as the end of this summer.

The Afghan National Association for the Deaf (ANAD) is working with the nonprofit organization Mountain2Mountain on the project.

Once completed, the school will be able to accommodate up to 1,000 students – both boys and girls from Kindergarten through High School. The school will include a program to train teachers to teach deaf students, and a farm to provide vocational training in agriculture for the deaf. The headquarters for the Afghan National Association for the Deaf (ANAD) will also be there.

Assembly election campaign begins

Campaigning began across the country on Wednesday for the national assembly election on September 18th as campaigners began putting up posters for their candidates. More than 2,500 people have announced their candidacies for the 249 Lower House seats that are up

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for election.

This is the second parliamentary race since 2001.

Madame Sadako Ogata awarded honorary Afghan Citizenship



At a reception hosted by the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tokyo on June 18th to commemorate the visit of President Karzai, the 80th anniversary of diplomatic relationship between the two countries, and the official opening of the Embassy, H.E. President Karzai awarded Madame Sadako Ogata of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) honorary Afghan citizenship, as endorsed by the Afghan diet. This honor, which follows the bestowment of the Malalai Heroine of Maywand War medal upon her in 2007, was commemorated with H.E. presenting Madame Ogata with a certificate and an honorary official passport. Madame Ogata expressed that Afghanistan is the first country that has awarded her this honor.

500 scholarships awarded to Afghan students

It has been announced that Japanese education institutes will offer new scholarships to 500 Afghan students over a period of five years in such areas as engineering and agriculture. These scholarships will be arranged by the Japanese Ministry of Education, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the Japanese Embassy in Afghanistan. Japanese universities including Doshisha University in Kyoto are expecting to host the program.

Women's national cricket team established

Afghanistan's cricket team has been a story of success and courage. In May, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton reflected the sentiment, commenting, "I might suggest that if we are searching for a model of how to meet tough international challenges with skill, dedication and teamwork, we need only look to the Afghan national cricket team." The men's national team has surprised the world, building itself in a couple of years into a world player, as it was one of 12 top teams to compete in this year's International Cricket Council Twenty20 international cricket tournament.

Now, the first national women's cricket team has been established, practicing in Paghman, west of Kabul. Started last year by Mohamed Naeem Barakzai as a way to let his four cricket-loving daughter's play, his son Mohammed Ajmal Barakzai has also taken on the role of assistant coach. The team is looking overseas for competition and will travel to India to participate in a tournament next month.

The cricket team is the latest of over two dozen women's teams to be registered across 21 sports with the Afghan Olympic Committee — all developed since 2002. "Six months after the collapse of the Taliban, we started to go into schools to establish teams," says Shamsol Ayot Alam, head of social women's sports at the Olympic Committee. Around 2,000 female athletes participating in sports in Kabul — most of them in schools.

Women's cricket has become so popular that the Barakzai family now runs 200-member cricket workshops.

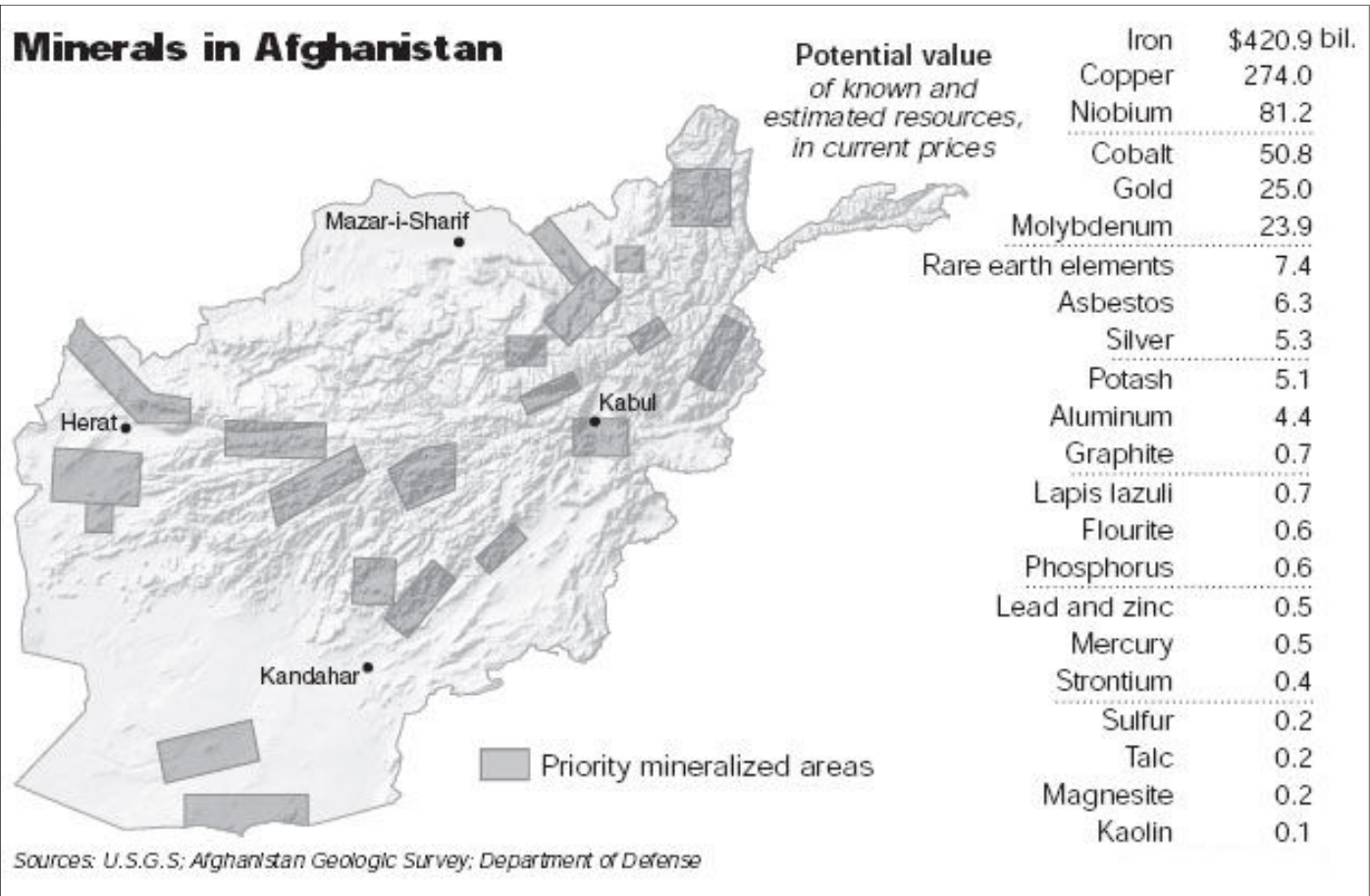
\$1 trillion in mineral resources discovered in Afghanistan

Long known to locals and experts to be a resource-rich nation, Afghanistan was officially declared by the U.S. Geological Survey to have at least US\$1 trillion of untapped mineral deposits within its territory. In addition to the great copper resources that are to begin development by a Chinese state-run group, there are also verified significant deposits of iron, cobalt, gold and critical industrial metals like lithium. In addition, there are also vast deposits of natural gas, cement-grade limestone, and precious and semi-precious stones. Much more remains to be verified; H.E. President Hamid Karzai has said that the value could be at US\$3 trillion.

Bidding opportunities, when available, can be found at http://www.mom.gov.af/index.php?page_id=7

Japanese Companies to be given Priority in mineral resource exploitation

During his official visit to Japan from June 16 - 20, H.E. President Hamid Karzai made reference to the recent findings that point to an estimated US\$1-3 trillion in mineral resource deposits Afghanistan, adding that priority in development would be given to Japanese companies. Speaking at an event organized by the Japan Institute of International Affairs, H.E. said, "Afghanistan, once again, expresses its appreciation for the massive support Japan has provided for the development and stability of our nation and we would like to return that massive support in a small way by inviting your businesses to invest in Afghanistan and benefit from Afghanistan's resources." H.E. the President



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called upon select members of the Japanese business community during his visit.

Interview with Mr. Ghulam Qadir Hairan , President of the Afghan Power Lifting Federation

How did you get involved in body building?

In 1986 when I was practicing Taekwondo, I saw some pictures in a Bazaar - body building magazines. It seemed unbelievable that I could one day become like that. I started researching to find gyms in Kabul and I found 4 gyms in Kabul, i joined a gym in the center of Kabul City - it was so small with terrible equipment.

Why do you think this sport has become so popular in Afghanistan

lately?

First of all, Afghans like any sports, specially body building. In my opinion all Afghan youth possess pride, high morals, and a sense of heroism; this makes them want to be strong, have a great body, and be a champion - and they want become famous.

What is the most difficult challenge for Afghan body builders?

As you know, first of all, the conditions of war create obstacles for the development and maturity of Afghan athletes. Secondly, its economic problems. Right now there are many body building gyms without good trainers. We are trying to find a good solution.

Are there women bodybuilders or gyms for women in Kabul and other parts of Afghanistan?

Right now in Kabul there are 3 Gyms, allowing for body building, fitness, and power lifting. We also train some girls and ladies for competitions. There is also a body building gym for ladies in Herat province.

Do you think that body building inspires Afghans to improve the country?

As you know, sports are very good for people's health and mental condition. Therefore, they are good for life and civilization.

Upcoming Events & Important Dates

July 20, 2010: Kabul International Conference

Representatives of over X nations and international organizations will meet in Kabul to rededicate efforts towards Afghanistan's development

Omar's Kitchen



Each month, Omar will offer a recipe for authentic Afghan food.

Qabili Pullo (Bejewelled rice)



Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 2 med. Onions chopped
- 1 lb. cubed boneless lamb stew
- 2 tsp. whole cumin seeds
- 4 cinnamon sticks, broken in half
- 8 Green cardamom seeds
- 1 large Carrot, julienne
- 1 cup Dark raisins
- 4 oz. Blanched almonds
- 19 oz. Long grain brown rice
- 40 oz. Water
- 1/4 tsp. salt (optional)

To cook:

In a saucepan with a lid (or a pressure cooker), heat the vegetable oil and add one chopped onion, 1 tsp. cumin, 2 cinnamon sticks and 4 cardamom seeds. Sauté lightly, add the lamb and brown gently. Add water to cover the meat, cover the pot and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until the lamb is tender and cooked (approximately 45 minutes). A pressure cooker will reduce the time to 20 minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste.

In a small saucepan, bring 6 oz. of water to a boil and add the shelled almonds. Boil for 5 minutes, then drain and run cold water over them. Remove brown skins and set aside.

Wash the carrot using a vegetable brush and julienne it until they are toothpick-size slivers.

In a Dutch oven, pour off any oil from the cooked lamb and use it to sauté the remaining chopped onion and spices, adding more oil if necessary. Add washed rice and water and bring to a boil, cover with the lid wrapped in a light dishtowel and steam until rice is tender (but not thoroughly cooked). Bury the drained meat in the center of the rice with the almonds and make a nest of the carrots and raisins in the center. Set oven to 300 degrees Fahrenheit. Cover the Dutch oven and bake for 20 minutes or until the rice is done. Mix thoroughly and serve on a platter. Serves 6.