



Oct. 2011

Embassy of Afghanistan: Tokyo, Japan



Afghan News

Upcoming Events

November 5, 6
International Friendship Festival: SEKAI FUREAI MATSURI

Green Culture Zone, Showa Memorial Park, Tachikawa, Tokyo

The Festival hosts a number of diverse booths from local food to handicrafts, to sporting teams, and more. The Afghan Embassy booth will sell Afghan handicrafts, jewelry, and other items, and will provide activities such as name-writing in Dari language.

November 5, 6
JAPANTEX 2011
Big Sight, Ariake, Tokyo

The Embassy, together with Yazdani corporation, will participate in its largest Afghan carpet exhibition and sale in decades as part of the JAPANTEX 2011 interior show.

Over 300 pieces will be on display and for sale, including silk and antique carpets, the award winning design from the Domotex exhibition this year, and a carpet made for a Japanese prince in 1924 that features Japanese designs.

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Latest News



H.E. Prime Minister Noda's letter of condolence on the martyrdom of H.E. former president Rabbani presented to H.E. President Karzai

H.E. Ambassador Reiichiro Takahashi of Japan presented a letter of condolence on the martyrdom of H.E. former president Professor Burhanudeen Rabbani from H.E. Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda to H.E. President Hamid Karzai on September 21st. The letter expressed the sympathies of H.E. Prime Minister Noda and the Japanese people, stating that despite the problems from the March 11th disasters, Japan is committed to fulfilling its pledges of support to Afghanistan.

The letter further stated that with the international community. Japan strongly supports Afghanistan's peace process as it goes forward. It is also mentioned in the letter that Japan is prepared to take active part in the international discussions for

regional economic cooperation prior to the forthcoming Bonn Conference in December of current year and is ready to play important role after the Bonn Conference as well.

In a letter dated October 22nd, H.E. President Karzai responded with gratitude for the sentiments regarding H.E. Professor Rabbani as well as for Japan's continuing commitment to Afghanistan's development and peace process, stating that "in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake, we are extremely grateful for this generous gesture of continued friendship, solidarity, and support."

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Ambassador Fatimie, JICA host ceremony to officially open new scholarship program

Ambassador Dr. Sayed M. Amin Fatimie and the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan joined Madame Sadako Ogata and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on October 21st in hosting a ceremony to officially open JICA's new scholarship program for Afghan students. The initiative, which plans to invite 500 Afghan government officials to do research or Masters programs over 5 years, opens this year with 47 participants, of which most were in attendance at Friday's ceremony. The students will study a number of disciplines at 20 schools across Japan. The event featured speeches by Ambassador Fatimie; Madame Ogata, Director General Kazuhiko Koshikawa of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan; Director General Fujishima of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan; H.E. Deputy Minister Dr. Baray Seddiqi of the Ministry of Higher Education of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan; and Sayed Jamaluddin Firozi, the students' representative. Firozi pledged to contribute to the develop-

ment of Afghanistan by learning at Japan's top-notch academic institutions.

Norika Fujiwara visits Embassy booth at Global Festa 2011

Renowned Japanese actress and former Miss Japan Norika Fujiwara visited the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's booth at

Global Festa 2011 in Hibiya Park, Tokyo on Saturday, October 1st. Ms. Fujiwara, who has previously visited Afghanistan, purchased several products made from the Afghan famous deep-blue stone lapis lazuli, complimenting the excellent pieces.

In total, roughly 110,000 people visited the 2-day festival this year. The Afghan booth allowed visitors to acquire jewellery, clothing by designer Zolaykha Sherzad, and special accessories, as well as to try henna art.

To buy a bracelet like the one Ms. Fujiwara chose, visit Afghan Brothers jewellers in Ueno. Goto-bldg Tokyo Branch 1F, Ueno 5-12-1, Taito-ku, Tokyo
Tel: 03-3835-8636

Education reaching more children

A 22-classroom building for Sharak-e Mehdiya High School and a 12-classroom building for Syedul Shuhada High School were inaugurated in Kabul. Both schools were built over the course of one year



and furnished with the assistance of Japan.

Ten new classrooms in total were constructed for Rahmatabad and Imam Yahya high schools in Saripul province with the assistance of the United States of America. Nearly 1320 girls study at Rahmatabad high school and 800 boys at Imam Yahya high school.

In Khost province, the provincial governor recently laid the foundation stone for a new one-story, 12-classroom secondary school building. Hundreds of boys and girls who currently study under trees or in tents will take classes at the new school.

More than 200 schools were provided with modern equipment, including textbooks, computers, tables, and chairs, with the assistance of the World Bank as part of efforts at improving educational standards in Samangan province.

Development continues nationwide

Eight projects, benefiting more than 1960 were completed in Baghlan province. The projects include the reconstruction of a 6.5 km road, the construction of a small bridge, the digging of five wells, a hydro-electric power project, the construction of a water supply network along with three water reservoirs, and the launching of a tailoring course.

Several projects were inaugurated in the Karukh district of Herati benefiting over 1500 families. The projects include hydro-power projects with the capacity to produce 10 Kw of power and an irrigation project that involved installation of a 20 Sqm water reservoir.

A solar energy project was completed in Chaghchran, Ghor to help small business owners. According to Mayor Mohammad Usman Asmat, nearly 124 roadside solar pylons were in-

stalled in the city over a period of three months.

Reconstruction Work On Ekhtiaruddin Castle Completed

Reconstruction work was finished this month and , in a ceremony led by Dr. Sayed Makhdoom Raheen, Minister of Information and Culture, Ekhtiaruddin castle in Herat was reopened. The work on the castle, the oldest in the nation, was supported by the United States of America.

Herat's National museum of archive was also renovated and reopened after one year with the assistance of Germany.

Herat has classified nearly 780 historic monuments and places as cultural treasures to preserve.

Farmers in Samangan to grow world-quality saffron

1500 kilograms of saffron onions from Balkh have been distributed to farmers in eight villages of Aibak, Samangan with the assistance of the Red Cross for cultivation. Saffron products from Afghanistan have proven to be very successful, with an anonymous official for the Red Cross saying that Afghan saffron is the best in the world. Currently a kilogram of saffron is sold for an affordable US\$5,000 in

Herat compared to US \$7,000-8,000 in other world markets.

Sports stadium inaugurated in Khost

A sports stadium with the capacity to hold 20,000 spectators was recently inaugurated in Khost in a ceremony attended by provincial officials, members of parliament, and H.E. Governor Abdul Jabbar Naeemi. The stadium will host racing, volleyball, basketball, football, and cricket games.



*** * Afghan cookie recipe * ***

The Embassy chef, Abdul Rauf Logari, will offer an Afghan recipe from his kitchen to yours each month. This month we feature the recipe for an Afghan cookie, “abe dan dan”



Ingredients

- Flour 120g
- Butter 80g
- Sugar 60-70g
- Baking Powder (a little)
- Oil (one small spoon)
- Rose water (one big spoon)
- Cardmom (one small spoon)
- Salt (a little)
- Pistachio

Preparation

1. Mix butter and sugar in a bowl until it gets creamy
2. Add the flour and mix it again
3. Add the cardmom, baking powder, salt, and rose water to the mix and put it in a blender for 5 minutes
4. Scoop spoonfuls of dough out and roll them into ball shapes with your hands. Put these dough balls on a cooking sheet.
5. Put a pistachio, removed from its shell, on the top of the each cookie.
6. Preheat the oven and then bake the cookies for 10 to 12 minutes

Please see our Potcast on Itunes and see Abdul Rauf preparing the cookies!!! – search “Embassy of Afghanistan” in Itunes!!

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