



January 2011



# Afghan News

## Latest News

### Select Development Indicators

- Afghanistan has an international team in 22 women's sports.
- The Afghan economy has been growing in double digits in real terms for the last eight years, with 22% in 2009 alone.
- Revenue collection has grown 125% over the last two years.



### Wolesi Jirga Members Inaugurated

The new members of the Wolesi Jirga (House of Representatives) were inaugurated by President Hamid Karzai on Wednesday, January 26th. 28% of the members are women.

Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, which runs several programs nationwide to increase the technical skills and capacities of children in orphanages.

### H.E. President Hamid Karzai Finds Kids Education Center

H.E. President Hamid Karzai Wednesday is personally funding with money awarded along with a medal from an organization in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, a children's education center for orphans in Kabul. The center aims to educate and provide skills to orphans. H.E. President Karzai told a group of orphans visiting the Presidential Palace, "We provide you scholarships so that you can study and have a good future." Construction of the center was done by

### Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed earlier this month in Kabul by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and H.E. Jarullah Mansoori, Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD).

The agreement calls for the strengthening of the community-led Rural Development Support System that aims to

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improve quantity and quality of community-led development as well as to strengthening of the MRRD's system for supporting such development. The agreement will cover a period of four years and address needs in various provinces. In its preliminary stages, pilot projects will be implemented in Kabul, Bamiyan, and Balkh provinces.

Specifically, the project will include preparation of strategy and operational guidelines; establishment of an effective system for managing human resource development of MRRD staff in the Afghanistan Institute for Rural Development (AIRD); and capacity building of AIRD staff, Community-led Development Department (CLDD) staff, Rural Rehabilitation and Development Departments staff, members of Community Development Councils (CDC), and other relevant individuals and institutions in the pilot phase of the project.

### **43 Development Projects completed in Badakhshan's Tushkan District**

43 development projects have been completed by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) through the National Solidarity Program (NSP) in the Tushkan district of Badakhshan province, benefitting 4,688 rural families.

The projects include the repair and gravelling of 15.6 kilometers of road, construction of 15 micro-hydro power plants with a capacity of 247 kilowatts of electricity, construction of 12 safe drinking water networks and 12 reservoirs a total capacity of 231 cubic meters, installation of 220 spouts, construction of a Community Center, and construction of an eight-meter bridge.

### **Kabul's development continues**



Kabul, the capital and largest city, has long served as an example and measure of Afghanistan's development. The city continues to modernize and build, with new offices, hospitals, residences, and public toilets; reopened parks and cultural spaces; and a road system being renovated, complete with new buses donated by Japan. Kabul is also becoming greener with 650,000 trees planted in the past nine months; this time next year, there will be one million.

Mayor Muhammad Yunus Nawandish has expressed a number of goals for further development, including installing solar-powered street lights and the building of more new parks, roads, drainage canals, bus stops, bridges, sports centers, and more.

In addition to this work, progress continues on the new Kabul Metropolitan project, that will, in addition to improving further on Kabul, develop the nearby Dehsabz area.

### **Health Center inaugurated in Kabul**

Dr. Surya Dalil, Acting Minister of Public Health, inaugurated the Khwaja Mosafer Comprehensive Health Center (CHC) in Dah-e Arabab village of Paghman district of Kabul earlier this month.

Khwaja Mosafer Comprehensive Health Center was built with the assistance of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on an area of more than one hectare and equipped

with all necessary facilities. The center will provide basic health services for the more than 42,000 residents of the area.

17 hospitals and 43 health centers currently operate in Kabul. Nationwide, the OIC has contributed to the construction of 37 health facilities in 17 provinces.

### **Efforts underway to reduce child mortality rate**

Extension of vaccinations aimed at reducing the child mortality rate has been increased to 80% from around 40% nine years ago. In order to get to this level, the Ministry of Public Health launched a one-week vaccination program in the third period of the solar year, covering 31 districts of 17 provinces.

23,000 children under-2 years old have been vaccinated against diseases such as polio, influenza, tetanus, and diphtheria, while 83,000 under-5 years old were vaccinated for measles. Additionally, 47,000 mothers were vaccinated for tetanus.

### **50% of closed southern schools reopened**

The Ministry of Education has reopened around 40 schools, accommodating more than 200,000 students, in Kandahar, Helmand and Paktika provinces with the support of clerics and tribal leaders. With these 40 more, about 50% of those schools in the southern provinces that were closed have been reopened.

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**School buildings inaugurated in Baghlan, Helmand**

A new building for the Qarah Ahmad Primary School in the Dushi district of Baghlan province was recently inaugurated. The school building has 9 classrooms, 4 administrative rooms and 10 restrooms. It also has a surrounding wall and a well.

In Helmand province, Lashgar Bazar Girls Primary School received a new building with 4 classrooms, 2 administrative rooms and 5 restrooms, and Lashgar Bazar Boys Primary School one with 8 classrooms, 4 administrative rooms and 10 restrooms. Both of these projects were supported by the Danish government.

**Womens' parks open in Kabul, Ghazni**



The 8-acre Women's Garden in the Shaharara district of Kabul reopened in November after seven months of reconstruction supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

The park's attributes and facilities include five thousand pink rose bushes and 3,500 trees, fountains, gazebos, playgrounds, shops, a basketball court, a kindergarten, a restaurant, a mosque, a computer lab, and job training centers, all managed by women for women.

The park also contains a women's fitness center with exercise machines, free weights, and a twice-weekly taekwondo class taught by Leila

Hosseini, a bronze medalist at the first Islamic and Muslim Capitals' Women's Games in 2005.

The park has already contributed to women's professional lives as well. The first 10 graduates from the gem-cutting technical training center inside the garden recently opened the first women's gem cutting, polishing, and jewelry making shop in Kabul, "Sultan Razia," on Chicken Street. There are plans to teach driving and to start a taxi cab company.

In Ghazni province, Governor Musa Khan Akbarzada; Dr. Husn Banu Ghazanfar, Minister of Women's Affairs; and other Afghan and foreign officials recently attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open a new women's park. The park has a shopping center, a fountain, and large grassy areas, and was developed with the support of the Polish government.

**Clowns entertain in Kabul**



The nine-member Azdar acting troupe has been performing as clowns in the streets of Kabul.

Azdar was formed in 2006 by Guilda Chadverdi, the Vice President of Kabul's French Cultural Centre and a drama professor at Kabul University, with a group of her former students.

The group aims to contribute to a

revival of Afghan theater, which enjoyed a golden age in the 1960s and 1970s.

Azdar's previous productions include Antoine de Saint-Exupery's "The Little Prince."

Some of Azdar's members are also involved in Parwaz, a company of puppeteers who make regular tours around schools nationwide, putting on shows about social issues.

## Omar's Kitchen

For each of our newsletters, Omar offers an authentic Afghan recipe from his kitchen to yours. This month, we feature a food that is the most important part of the Afghan meal, Naan.



### Ingredients

(Serves four)

- 1 ½ lbs (5 ¼ cups) chapatti flour
- 1 ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 package quick rising yeast
- 4-5 teaspoons vegetable oil (optional)
- 2 cups warm water
- *Sia dona* (nigella seeds), poppy seeds, sesame seeds (optional)

### Preparation

Sift the flour with the salt into a bowl. Add the yeast and mix to combine the dry ingredients. Mix in the vegetable oil and rub in. Gradually add the warm water to the mix with the hands until a smooth, round, soft dough is produced. Knead for another 7 to 10 minutes until the dough is elastic and smooth. Form several medium balls, cover with a damp cloth and leave to rest in a moderately warm place for about an hour or until the dough has doubled in size.

Preheat the oven to 500 degree. Line a baking tray with aluminum foil and place in the oven to heat before use.



Shape or roll out the dough balls on a lightly floured surface into oval shapes to a thickness of about ½ inch. Wet your hand and form deep grooves down the center of each Naan. Sprinkle lightly with the *Sia Dona*, poppy seeds, or sesame seeds if desired.

Remove the hot baking tray from the oven and place the flattened bread dough onto it. Bake immediately for 8 to 10 minutes until the naan is golden brown. The bread should be fairly crisp and hard on the outside but make sure not over cook or burn.

When removed from the oven, the Naan should be wrapped in a clean tea towel or tin foil to prevent drying out.

## Language Lesson

People speak several languages in Afghanistan, with the official languages being Pashto and Dari. This month, let's practice Pashto and Dari phrases for buying Afghan carpets!

英語(English)	日本語 (Japanese)
پښتو ټولګه (Pashto)	دري ټولګه (Dari)

<b>That is a beautiful carpet.</b>	これは美しい絨毯ですね。
Da dear khaista qalin de.	Yi qaaliin qashang hast.
<b>What materials is this carpet made of?</b>	この絨毯はどんな材料で作られていますか。
De komo maweteda sarha goorshave da kolim.	Saakhtyie ey qaaliin chi hast?
<b>How much does it cost?</b>	おいくらですか。
Kimate ye sombra de.	Qimat chand hast?.
<b>When was it made?</b>	これはいつ作られたものですか。
Kila goorsha we.	Chi wakht saakhta shud?
<b>May I touch the carpet?</b>	絨毯に触ってもいいですか。
Aya zu pudi qalin la ekhadashum.	Ejaaza hast, qaaliin imtehan kunum?
<b>Is the carpet hand-made?</b>	この絨毯はハンドメイドですか。
Aya daqalin palas goorshave de.	Yi qaaliin kaare dastii hast?
<b>What style is it made in?</b>	これはどのような方式で作られているのですか。
Kom dole de daqalin.	Qism yi qaaliin chi hast? Dezain chi qism hast?

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