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Newsletter

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Latest News



H.E. President Hamid Karzai Offers Condolences on the Passing of World Icon Nelson Mandela

H.E. President Hamid Karzai offered his condolences earlier this month on the passing of former South African president and world leader Nelson Mandela. Mandela championed many ideals held within Afghanistan, including those of human rights, democracy and equality.

H.E. President Karzai made the following comments on the somber occasion: "Nelson Mandela has passed away, an icon of our time, for man's dignity, equality and freedom, a selfless human being, who struggled not only for the black South Africans against Apartheid, but for the dignity of all of us. History will throw a very kind light on him. Mandela deserves it."

HE President Hamid Karzai also joined other world leaders travelling to South Africa to offer their condolences at a memorial service held December 10th

H.E. Acting Minister Osmani Confirmed as Foreign Minister

H.E. Engineer Zarar Ahmad Osmani was nominated officially by H.E. President Hamid Karzai for the post of Foreign Minister this month. H.E. Engineer Osmani had been serving as Acting Foreign Minister.

Following 183 votes of confidence within the Lower House of the Parliament, H.E. Engineer Osmani was officially confirmed as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador Dr. Sayed M. Amin Fatimie sent His Excellency a congratulatory message following the decision.

**Ambassador Fatimie attends
receptions in honor of H.M. the
Emperor's birthday**

On the 23rd of December, Ambassador Dr. Sayed M. Amin Fatimie and the Ambassadors attended a reception at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo to celebrate the birthday of H.M. the Emperor. On this most important of occasions, Ambassador Dr. Fatimie had the great honor to express directly to Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress warmest congratulations, on behalf of the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and kindest wishes for continued health and happiness.

Their Majesties hold a very special place in the hearts of the Afghan people, having bestowed the honor of Their visit to the nation in 1971.

On December 20th, Ambassador Dr.



Fatimie also attended a reception to celebrate the same occasion hosted by H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Ambassador Dr. Fatimie was afforded the opportunity to wish to H.E. Minister Kishida sincerest congratulations, on behalf of the people and Government of the Islamic Re-

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Message from the Ambassador

Dr. Sayed M. Amin Fatimie

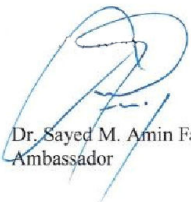


Dear friends,

As 2013 comes to a close, we take this chance to reflect on what has been an important year in Afghanistan's continued forward progress. 2013 was assigned with great significance, being one of the years of Transition, as our nation works towards greater ownership in all sectors. Our economic growth and development otherwise, as well as the leadership that we achieved in security showed that we are on the right track.

Japan also had many positive developments, including the further strengthening of its economy and the realization of the dream of hosting the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. I felt honored to be in Japan to bear witness. Regarding the Olympics in particular, Afghan athletes will be poised to strengthen our nations' relationship through participation in these historic games.

2014 will surely be another great year for our two nations. In Afghanistan, we will hold key elections, including the election to choose our President. While there will be much for this new President to accomplish, we take assurance in knowing that Japan will continue as a close and supportive ally. Together, our nations can achieve great things—and we will.


Dr. Sayed M. Amin Fatimie
Ambassador

public of Afghanistan, heartfelt wishes for continued longevity and health for H.M., and prosperity and peace for the noble Japanese people. Furthermore, Ambassador Dr. Fatimie expressed the truest gratitude of all Afghans for Japan's enduring and life-bettering cooperation in a composite of sectors. H.E. the Minister graciously offered assurances of continuing cooperation.

Ambassador Dr. Fatimie also had the honor of meeting with Chief of Protocol Shigeyuki Hiroki, who had previously served capably as the Japanese ambassador to Afghanistan; Their Excellencies the Vice-Ministers of Foreign Affairs; and key officials from the Ministry.

Fawzia Kofi Wins 2013 Remio Minerva Award



Hon. Ms. Fawzia Kofi, a prominent lawmaker, was awarded the Remio Minerva Italian Award for 2013 in recognition of her contributions to human rights and women's rights. Ms. Kofi has said that the award belongs not only to her, but to the people of Afghanistan.

57,000 Students to Receive Higher Education in 2014

It has been announced that in total Afghanistan's institutions for higher education plan to accept 57,000 new students next year.

Medical Clinic Construction Work Starts

The foundation stone was laid for a medical clinic in Kapisa's Kohbandha district on December 9th.

The clinic will be constructed with the cooperation of France.

Development Projects Continue Nationwide

Construction began on two 150-meter dams in Baghlan province's Tala and Barfak districts, respectively. The dams will help with irrigation issues and provide more water resources to some 750 families.

Two new bridges will be built in Nangarhar province within 14 months. The first bridge will be for the Jalalabad-Tourkham highway and the second will be built in Jalalabad.

Positive Economic Indicators and Developments Announced

According to the Ministry of Commerce & Industries, Qaraqul exports have increased by 4% already this year to about US\$1.5 million; this number will mostly likely increase further. Main export destinations include the United States, Russia, and European states.

A new town specializing in carpet weaving and processing will be established in Herat province, 30 km from the provincial capital. More than 1,500 residents will call the new city home.

Due to the increased economic development of Afghanistan, more foreign businesses are entering the market. U.S. automotive company Chevrolet has built its second franchise in the nation, in Mazar-e-Sharif, following the success of its branch in Kabul.

Afghan IT products were on display early this month for the first time at an international exhibition,

the 19th Azerbaijan International Telecommunication and IT Exhibition and Conference. Nine Afghan companies took part in the show; they were accompanied by H.E. Communications and Information Technology Minister Amirzai Sangin and a delegation that included Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) head Wafiullah Iftikhar.

Afghan products received excellent feedback and the companies were invited to join multiple joint ventures with other participating firms.

Based on this success, an international exhibition to attract local businessmen for investment in the IT sector will be held in the near future in Kabul.

An iodized salt factory was established in Logar province. The factory can produce up to two tons of salt per day.

First Section for National Museum's New Building Opened

The first section of the new building was opened for the National Museum early this month. With the growing collection and increased international prominence of the pieces, a larger and grander venue has been under development for some time.

The opening ceremony was attended by H.E. Dr. Sayed Makhdoom Raheen, Minister of Information and Culture and representatives from various countries and organizations.