



June  
2014

# Newsletter

## Presidential election successfully held

Following first round of the presidential election in April, a second round was held on June 14th.

Voter turnout was high. More than 7 million voted, 38% of the women.

Results will be announced in July.



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## Latest News



### H.E. President Karzai shares message on World Children's Day

On June 1st World Children's Day, H.E. President Hamid Karzai shared a message to mark the occasion. The following is this message.

*First June is the World Children Day and the day is marked across the globe with the objective to respect children and pay attention to their health and education in human society.*

*We are celebrating the World Children Day at a time when the situation of children in our country has been very much improved than 12 years ago. Children mortality and outbreak of diseases among them have been reduced,*

*with thousands of children enrolled in school each year. And kindergartens got operational in most cities of the country. In addition to achievements, there are also problems to overcome. The future of the country depends on today's children. If our children are healthy, can go to school and get education, our country would get economic, social and cultural development in the future.*

*In addition to government and non-government bodies supporting children, it is the prime responsibility of the parents and all citizens to take care of the*

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*children in the fields of health, education and recreation.*

*At the end, I am congratulating the children over the day and thanking the ministry for information and culture and partner bodies for celebrating the World Children Day.*

**Ambassador Dr. Fatimie attends luncheon with Their Majesties the Emperor and the Empress**

On June 19th, Ambassador Dr. Sayed M. Amin Fatimie and Mrs. Fatimie had the great honor to attend a luncheon hosted by Their Majesties the Emperor and the Empress of Japan on at the Imperial Palace. The luncheon was organized to welcome the Ambassadors and Ambassadors of four nations .

In the course of the luncheon, the Ambassador was kindly extended the opportunity to express, on behalf of the people and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, heartfelt gratitude for the life-bettering cooperation provided by Japan, under the leadership of Their Excellencies, to Afghanistan's

peace and development. Their Majesties graciously in turn expressed appreciation for Afghanistan's contributions following the disasters of March 2011. The parties were then able to speak on reflections of Afghanistan and other issues of mutual interest.

**Ambassador Dr. Fatimie attends Funeral Ceremony for His Imperial Highness Prince Katsura**

On June 17th, Ambassador Dr. Sayed M. Amin Fatimie attended a Renso no Gi funeral service for His Imperial Highness Prince Yoshihito of Katsura at the Toshimagaoka Imperial Graveyard in Tokyo. The service was attended by about 560 people, including 15 Imperial family members, prominently represented by Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Crown Princess; H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, members of his Cabinet, and members of the Diet; Their Excellencies the Ambassadors of missions to Japan; and a number of other dignitaries.

At the service, there was a recitation of a prayer and the ceremonial offering of a tamagushi tree branch.

## Message from the Ambassador

Dr. Sayed M. Amin Fatimie



Dear friends,

This month has been one that greatly exemplified the forward movement of Afghanistan's young democracy. This was shown through the successful and highly peaceful holding of the 2nd round of the presidential election on the 14th. Great numbers of women and men lined up to choose a future leader from the final candidates. While the results will be released in July, we already know the winner: the Afghan people.

As I stated when I spoke at a meeting of the OSCE in Tokyo, the change over of leadership is one of three transitions we are currently going through. We are also completing the process of Afghan ownership of security and peace proliferation with the exiting of the majority of foreign security forces. Furthermore, we are experiencing an economic transition, as we move towards our goal of being able to fund our expenditures to the level of other developing nations.

There is cause to be optimistic. The participation in both rounds of the election demonstrated this. I have also been given evidence of our ability to succeed this month in speaking with motivated young Afghans. Just this month we welcomed to our Embassy Afghan students who graduated from the International University of Japan's graduate school and a group who are working with Japanese and international partners to develop a stronger strain of wheat suitable to our climate. In addition to these, I spoke over the Internet with a group of officials training with the United Nations Institute of Research and Development to increase capacity. All of these people have the ability and mindset to take us forward. With Japan's friendship as well, greater success is achievable.



Dr. Sayed M. Amin Fatimie  
Ambassador



**Ambassador Dr. Fatimie attends OSCE Conference**

Ambassador Dr. Fatimie attended June 16th sessions of the 2014 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)-Japan Conference in Tokyo. Representatives from 48 countries nations and international organizations participated. From the host nation, H.E. Minister for Foreign Affairs Fumio Kishida (pictured above, next column) was in attendance and delivered a speech, as did H.E. Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nobuo Kishi (pictured below). The OSCE was represented by Secretary General Lamberto Zannier. From the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Mr. Yasir Mohammad Karimi, Ms. Farima Orya Afzali, Mr. Ali Asghar Amiri, and Mr. Jason Pratt were also in attendance.



The event consisted of three sessions over two days. Ambassador Dr. Fatimie spoke during the second session regarding Afghanistan's efforts to encourage regional and international cooperation in projects in order to foster greater peace and prosperity.



At the reception following the first day's sessions, Ambassador Dr. Fatimie had the honor of meeting with a number of distinguished guests, prominently including H.E. Parliamentary Vice-Minister Kishi, to whom the Ambassador offered, on behalf of the people and the government of Afghanistan, deepest gratitude for the generous and effect-generating support to Afghanistan's peace and development extended by Japan. Ambassador Fatimie further met with OSCE Secretary General of the OSCE Zannier as well as Their Excellencies Japanese parliamentarians and Ambassadors from nations represented in Japan.

**Ambassador Dr. Fatimie hosts reception for SATREPS program partners and participants**



On June 20th, Ambassador Dr. Fatimie and the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Tokyo hosted a reception to celebrate the achievements made through the SATREPS program,

which focuses on developing a strong and resilient strain of wheat in Afghanistan. Participants were present from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Yokohama City University – including Professor Tomohiro Ban. Afghan students who were involved with the project also joined.

Ambassador Dr. Fatimie opened the event with a speech in which he spoke of the importance of the project, thanked the participants, and wished the best for the future. From JICA, Director General Toshihiro Obata also spoke (pictured below). Ambassador Dr. Fatimie presented to Director General Obata and Professor Ban certificates of appreciation. Lunch was served to those in attendance.

**Ambassador Dr. Fatimie hosts reception for PEACE Program graduates**



Also on the 20th, Ambassador Dr. Fatimie and the Embassy hosted a reception to congratulate graduates of Japan's PEACE scholarship program for Afghan students of higher education. Students who had recently completed their studies at the International University of Japan and their supporters from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) attended.

Following a lunch service, Ambassador Dr. Fatimie addressed the gathering, speaking on the central importance of education in positively influencing peace and

development. The Ambassador's speech was followed by comments from Deputy Director Rumiko Nomura (pictured below) of JICA and then by presentations by the students of their research. Ambassador Dr. Fatimie presented a certificate of appreciation to Deputy Director Nomura and certificates to commemorate the graduation to the students.



### **Ambassador Dr. Fatimie offers remarks to UNITAR Fellowship session**

Ambassador Dr. Fatimie on the 23<sup>rd</sup> offered remarks to participants of the United Nations Institute of Training and Research (UNITAR) 2014 Fellowship program. UNITAR works on capacity development in Afghanistan in conjunction with the Ministry of Finance and the Civil Service Institute, though participants come from a wide range of ministries and government bodies.

In his remarks, Ambassador Dr. Fatimie extended his deepest appreciation, on behalf of the people and Government, for UNITAR's cooperation through the capacity development program. Furthermore, the Ambassador spoke on the progress and the importance of the program to develop human resources to achieve an even brighter future.

### **'Will and Determination' award goes to Afghanistan**

Afghanistan was granted the 'Will



and Determination' award at the 67th World Health Assembly (WHA).

### **Baghlan health center being upgraded**

Upgrading work recently began on a health center in Guzarga-e-Noor district of Baghlan province with the support of the Afghan-German cooperation office. The center serves roughly 10,000 people. The center will also get a new perimeter wall. The project looks to be completed at the end of October.

### **Development projects completed nationwide**

16 National Solidarity Program sub-projects were recently completed in Balkh province's Charbolak, Charkent, Dawlatyad, Dehdadee, Keshandeh, Nahr-e-Shahi, and Sholgara districts, benefiting some 7,654 families. The projects included the graveling of rural roads and the construction of community centers, micro hydro power projects, retaining walls, irrigation canals, and schools.

9 sub-projects were also recently completed in the Ander and Jaghori districts of Ghazni province, benefiting 3,192 families. These projects included the construction of irrigation canals, community centers, retaining walls, micro-hydro power projects, and water intakes.

34 other sub-projects were completed in different parts of Kabul, benefitting 16,996 families, including the construction of social centers, retaining walls, and irrigation canals, as well as the graveling of rural roads. A new electricity transformer is also being installed in Kabul city. It will be able to generate around 20,000 kilowatt/hours of electricity, benefitting up to 30,000 families in the areas of Chilsatoon, Kart-i-Char and Kart-i-Naw, Kart-i-Sai, and Sanatorium.

In Badakhshan's Raghistan district, construction began on a new 2-story administrative center with the assistance of Afghan-German Cooperation. The building will house the District Governor's Office. 50 civil servants will work there, representing key government departments, including education, finance, agriculture and law.

Asphalting work began this month on the Herat-Badghis ring-road from Qala-e-Naw, Badghis province.

A number of development projects are scheduled for Maidan Wardak province, including the upgrade of a power dam on Behsud River in the Chak district and the rehabilitation of 8 canals.

6 development projects were recently completed in the districts of Mattoon Shamal and Nadirshah Kot of Khost province. The projects include the construction of retaining walls, irrigation canals, social centers, excavation of wells, and graveling of ru-

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ral roads. Approximately 1,290 families benefitted from the projects (road work in Khost pictured above).

**First domestic computer production begins**

In another sign of the technological progress underway, Blue Sonic has become the first domestic company to manufacture and assemble computers and components in Afghanistan. The company also assembles phones and other household devices. It will soon open a showroom in Kabul and plans to open shops throughout the nation.

Syed Hashmi, CEO, said, "Being an Afghan, it's my responsibility to bring business to the country, bring hope for the people, bring confidence for the rest of the people who are in business ... I see good opportunity. It's not only to make people happy, but it's realistic, it's real. There is a business. There is opportunity in Afghanistan."

**Afghan cashmere has potential to gain greater global reach**

Afghanistan is the 3rd largest producer of cashmere in the world, accounting for around 7% of the world's total output. 2/3 of Afghan cashmere is not currently being harvested, meaning the potential is still greater. In order to bring greater market penetration, the government is working on a project with the support of the United States of America.

**Palm crafts ready for greater export**



In Khost province, Mazari palm leaves are often used to make a range of household items, including beds, chairs, couches, dishes, and decorations. For furniture, they have the benefit of being cool during hot weather and for food they are also known to be good for preservation.

The Mazari palm tree is a speciality of this Khost, growing in the wild. It grows up to 4 meters tall.

The industry employs many men and women. Currently items are exported to Pakistan, but producers and sellers are hoping to

increase the market for palm-leaf items.

**National Museum being built in Khost**

Construction of a national museum in Khost province began this month.

**Bamiyan declared first SAARC Cultural Capital**

The city of Bamiyan, filled with history, has been declared the first South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Cultural Capital for 2015. The city was chosen for its cultural significance, with such aspects as its location next to ancient silk road routes, the remains of a 55 meter high Buddha statue, and its early Buddhist monastery, among other historical treasures and features.

