



Dear readers,

We are on the eve of Boon Conference in relation to Afghanistan on the 5th of December 2011, which is a historic moment in term of our relationship with International community. The conference will bring more than 90 Foreign Ministers and representatives of International bodies including United Nation. This conference will be hosted by Germany and will be chaired by the government of Afghanistan. The government of Afghanistan, the parliament and the civil society of Afghanistan will deliver the desires, hopes and demands of our people to the international community in this Conference. It's worth to mention that 25 percent of the Participants from Afghanistan are allocated to women. The main topic that are going to be discussed in the Boon Conference are: Long term commitment to Afghanistan, international community's engagement after 2014, capacity building in order of training of Afghan national security forces and the ways forward. It should be clear that Taliban are not part of Afghan delegation. However, the peace process has been considered as the only political way to put an end to war and conflict in Afghanistan. Ever since the negotiation and peace talk with the Taliban is part of our political policy in the conference, we hope that we can bring all Afghans together to solve their problems. I believe the international Bonn Conference on Afghanistan will open a new phase in term of our relation with the world. Reviewing the past 10 years, Afghanistan faces many challenges which need to be recognized and revised.

Peace,

Manizha Bakhtari
Ambassador

Verification of Afghanistan and US Strategic Partnership by Traditional Loya Jirga



Photo: peaceserve.wordpress.com

Committees in the Traditional Loya Jirga completed their work on the two main issues; the Strategic Partnership Agreement and the peace process in Afghanistan. On the closing day of the Traditional Loya Jirga, members of the Jirga expressed support for signing a strategic partnership treaty with the United States in a 67-articles declaration.



Photo: Outlookafghanistan.ne

In the declaration, members of traditional Jirga said that U.S. military bases should be established in the areas close to the Afghan borders. They argued that building military bases alongside Afghanistan can prevent threats posed beyond the border to Afghanistan. The attendees of the Jirga also agreed that the United States should sign either a strategic partnership agreement or treaty with Afghanistan; otherwise, it should not be signed between the two countries. The declaration also mentioned: "The United States should provide practical guarantees to abide by the agreement and that both countries have the right to dissolve the agreement. Members of the Traditional Loya Jirga also agreed that in the agreement the United States shall not violate

Afghanistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity and the United States does not have the right to use Afghan soil to fight against other countries. The members of the Jirga also said that the peace process should continue in the country and that changes should be made into the structure of the current High Peace Council. They also said that the Afghan Government armed oppositions should have a clear address. In the Jirga, it was also decided that the assassination



Photo: Demotix.com

of Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, the head of High Peace Council, should not be compromised and should be seriously investigated.

A Strategic Partnership Treaty will be signed between Afghanistan and France

Officials from Afghanistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs said to the media: "French Foreign Minister H.E. Alain Juppe has handed over a draft document of strategic partnership between Afghanistan



Photo: Crossed-flag-pins.com

and France to H.E. Dr. Zalmay Rassoul, Afghanistan's Foreign Minister during a visit in France."The strategic partnership agreement was proposed by French President Nicolas Sarkozy during his recent visit to Afghanistan.

Istanbul Conference on Regional Cooperation



Photo: State.gov

In Istanbul Conference all of Afghanistan's neighbors and Western powers participated in a one-day conference, with delegates committing to cooperate and work together to help and develop Afghanistan. Regarding the conference H.E. Dr. Zalmay Rasul, Minister of Foreign affairs of Afghanistan said: "The Istanbul Conference was driven by Afghanistan's needs and represented an important step for the region." H.E. Dr. Zalmay Rasul described the Istanbul Conference as a process that will allow the countries in the heart of the Asian region to implement important confidence-building measures toward a more effective, broader, and deeper regional cooperation that promotes security, stability, and economic development in our region. Delegations in this Conference certified the pledge to protect Afghanistan's "sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity," and promised cooperation on the dismantling of "terrorist sanctuaries and safe havens." Countries represented in Istanbul Conference were from Afghanistan's immediate neighborhood, from the greater region, and from the West, including China, India, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and the United States. Delegates from NATO, the EU and the UN were also present.

Afghanistan Athletes come home with 17 medals from Turkey

The second round of European Competition was held in Turkey with participation of 18 countries, from November 11 to 22. From Afghanistan 15 athletes participated

in this competition. The athletes of Afghanistan achieved 4 gold, 4 silver and 9 bronze medals. Mojahid Hakimzada, Wahidullah Rostami, Freshta Hosaini and Mariam Khawri got gold medals. According to officials from Afghan National Olympic Committee, in this competition, Romania got the first position while Turkey and Afghanistan came second and third.



South Asian Karate Championship in New Delhi

Afghanistan karate squads obtained third position by earning seven several medals for the first time in South Asian Karate Championship. The Karate Championship tournament was held in the Indian capital, New Delhi.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation's (SAARC) member countries; Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Nepal, the Maldives, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka participated in the championship that ended on 23rd November 2011.



Officials from Afghanistan Olympic Committee said: "From the eight members of Afghan squad three earned gold, one earned silver and three earned bronze medals. Mina Asadi, the only female Afghan athlete taking part in the event, achieved a bronze medal.

Bonn Conference will be lead by Afghanistan

Mr. Michael Steiner, Germany's Special Representative to Afghanistan said that the Afghan Government will lead the upcoming Bonn Conference. During a press conference with H.E. Jawed Ludin, Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Michael Steiner said that the Afghan Government will raise its views in the Bonn Conference and will tell the International Community what type of country Afghanistan wants to be in the future.



Photo: Crossed-flag-pins.com

Mr. Michael Steiner added that the International Community will reaffirm its commitment toward Afghanistan and the Bonn Conference will be hosted by the Afghan Government. H.E. Jawed Ludin, Afghanistan's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, described the Bonn Conference important for Afghanistan and said: "The Bonn Conference is aimed for the future of Afghanistan."

H.E. added: "The second Bonn Conference will not be a follow up to the first Bonn Conference. In the second Bonn Conference important issues about the future of Afghanistan will be decided upon." Mr. Michael Steiner also met with H.E. Hamid Karzai, President of Afghanistan, and a number of other Afghan Government's senior officials and talked about issues to strengthen relationships between the two countries. Representatives of 90 countries will attend the Bonn Conference in Germany.

Swedish government will continue his cooperation with Afghanistan for long term



Photo: Embassy of Sweden Kabul

Mr. Torbjörn Pettersson, Swedish Ambassador in Afghanistan, visited the northern Samangan province, where the security transition is expected to take place, and vowed to continue his country's cooperation even after the Swedish troop's withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2014.

Pledging the continuation of cooperation between Swedish government and the people of Afghanistan after 2014, the acting governor of Samangan Province, Ghulam Sakhi Baghlani said: "The people of Samangan province had suffered much from the recent drought over the past several years and they are now facing with lack of drinkable and irrigational water. He added: "The youth are also suffering from unemployment and therefore they are leaving for other provinces for work as well as their intensely need for healthcare and schools." The acting governor of Samangan Province also appreciated the efforts made by the Swedish government in the area of health, education and other uplift projects costing up to \$ 6 million in some districts of the province, such as Khuram and Dar-Suf districts. Meanwhile, Mr. Torbjörn Pettersson, Swedish Ambassador in Afghanistan called the security transition from the international forces to the Afghan Security forces in the province, the most notable process and vowed to –

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Norway pays the suspended funds to Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund

Norwegian officials announced that they will start paying the suspended funds to Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund. In this regard, the former Norwegian State Secretary Espen Barth Eide said: "I am pleased to see that the Afghan authorities have fulfilled several of the requirements set by the donor countries for resuming the payment of funds to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund. This means that important projects in the areas of education, good governance and rural development will receive funding."



Photo: Defpro.com

The funds have been withheld until the Afghan authorities met the demands of the international community to clean up after the Kabul Bank corruption scandal. Norway will pay up to NOK 280 million to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund in 2011. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has presented the donor countries' requirements, in connection with its negotiations on a new agreement with Afghanistan. Important requirements for negotiating a new IMF agreement have included recapitalizing Kabul Bank, prosecuting those involved in the scandal, and recovering embezzled funds. Moreover, the donors have demanded an audit of another Afghan bank, with a view to reveal whether illegal activities may have taken place there as well. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the donors have noted that there has been significant progress in the cleanup efforts. The audit of the second bank under scrutiny has been almost completed, without finding any circumstances that give grounds for suspicion of fraud. Furthermore, the Afghan parliament has decided to recapitalize Kabul Bank. There has also been progress on the issue of recovering funds and prosecuting those involved in the scandal.

His Excellency Jamaher Anwari, Refugees and Repatriations Minister of Afghanistan visits Norway



Photo: Afghanistan Embassy in Oslo

On 22nd November 2011, H.E. Dr. Jamaher Anwari, Minister of Refugees and Repatriations arrived in Oslo to meet with Norwegian authorities in relation to the Afghan immigrants in Norway. Before meeting the Norwegian authorities, H.E. Dr. Jamaher Anwari participated in an Afghan gathering to discuss the challenges and difficulties of the Afghan asylum seekers in Norway. The gathering which was facilitated by the Afghanistan Embassy in Oslo, a large number of scholars, intellectuals and Afghan asylum seekers from the Norwegian Asylum camps participated to share their problems and challenges with H.E. Dr. Jamaher Anwari. In the gathering, a number of Afghan asylum seekers in Norway explained the challenges and difficulties of the camps in Norway, and H.E. Dr. Jamaher Anwari promised to explain their problems to the Norwegian authorities. During his visit to Norway, H.E. Dr. Jamaher Anwari met with Deputy Minister of Justice and Police, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Minister of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion, the Director of the Directorate of Immigration (UDI), the Migration Appeals Board (UNE), Director of the Norwegian Refugee Council and the Head of National Police Immigration Service in charge of Afghan asylum cases in Norway. At the meetings with H.E. Dr. Jamaher Anwari, Norwegian authorities expressed their concerns on the increasing number of illegal immigrants entering Norway. In his remarks in the meetings H.E. Dr. Jamaher Anwari asked the Norwegian authorities for more tolerance and more humanitarian approach in relation to Afghan asylum cases because of the sensitive political and security situation in Afghanistan- Continue to page: 4

Refugees and Repatriations Minister of Afghanistan visits Norway



Photo: Afghanistan Embassy Oslo

In meetings with Norwegian officials Afghan delegates once again emphasized that the Afghanistan government does not accept any forced deportation, the eviction of Afghan asylum seekers should be voluntary.

Swedish government will continue his cooperation with Afghanistan for long term



Photo: stockholmnews.com

-provide cooperation with the people of Afghanistan in different fields. He also pledged to remove the entire problems faced by the people that were mentioned by the acting governor of the province, such as of drinkable and irrigational water supply as well as health and education affairs. He said: "Water dams would be built, deep wells would be dug, the police forces would be strengthened, and the security would be paid enough attention, and health and education would be secured in the province." According to Mr. Torbjörn Pettersson, the Swedish government will continue its assistances and would never let the people of Afghanistan alone after the security responsibility is transferred from the international forces to the Afghan troops.

His Excellency Farooq Wardak, Education Minister of Afghanistan visits Denmark



His Excellency Farooq Wardak was invited by World Bank Global Partnership for Education to participate in a high-level conference on education (Education for All) in Denmark. He arrived in Copenhagen on Saturday 5th November 2011. On this visit H.E. Farooq Wardak, was accompanied by H.E. Manizha Bakhtari, Afghanistan's Ambassador to the Nordic Countries, Mr. Sarwar Azizi, Chief of staff at the Ministry of Education, Mr. Mirwais Masood, Director of HRDB at the Ministry of Education and Mr. Zabiulla Takal, Technical Assistant at the Ministry of Education. During his visit H.E. Farooq Wardak, met with Mr. Villy Søvndal, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Christian Friis Bach, Minister of Cooperation Development of Denmark. At the meeting Ambassador Manizha Bakhtari and a high-level delegation from the Ministry of Education accompanied H.E. Farooq Wardak. During his remarks in the meeting, H.E. Farooq Wardak, thanked the Danish people and government for their generous support to Afghanistan's education system. Further, H.E. Farooq Wardak emphasized the importance of the continuation of the Danish contribution to the stabilization and recovery of Afghanistan. As part of his speech in the meeting Minister Wardak explained that in 2011, around 8.31 million students get access to free and fair education in Afghanistan, 39 percent of these students are girls which are approximately Equivalent to three millions. He added currently 190000 qualified teachers are involved in teaching, 59000 of these teachers are females.

Female teachers represent 31 percent of all teachers in Afghanistan. 14,600 schools are open across Afghanistan, including areas that are unsafe. H.E. Wardak emphasized to the Danish officials in the meeting: "these figures reflects the fact that education in Afghanistan has grown very fast"

The Kingdom of Denmark will continue Its Assistance to Afghanistan for long term

H.E. Dr. Zalmai Rasoul Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and his accompanying delegation in Kabul. During the meeting H.E. Dr. Zalmai Rasoul thanked the government of Denmark and the Danish people for their cooperation in reconstruction and ensuring of stability in Afghanistan through participation of their soldiers within the framework of ISAF and cooperation in implementing of infrastructure projects and asked for continuation of this assistance.



H.E. Dr. Zalmai Rasoul added that Denmark has provided assistance in economic, education and reconstruction to Afghanistan for which we are thankful. In response The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark said Denmark is ready to increase its assistance for the people of Afghanistan, adding that Denmark will not reduced its economic assistance but compared to the past years will increase it. The total assistance of Denmark from 2002 up to 2013 will surpass USD 670 million and annually Denmark allocates USD 80 million for reconstruction and security in Afghanistan and Denmark's financial assistance in 2011 reaches around USD 100.



The Embassy of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Oslo
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