



Dear Readers,

Yesterday, another barbaric attack was carried out in Afghanistan, this time at Kabul University, taking the lives of more than twenty students & members of faculty and leaving many wounded. This is the second attack on an educational institution in the past two weeks, signifying a clear but ill-fated attempt by Afghanistan's enemies to undermine the country's future generation from playing their part for stability in their country. We're grateful for the outpouring of international condemnation of the attacks & expression of solidarity with the people of Afghanistan during this difficult time. The people of Afghanistan will remain defiant in preventing any such barbarity from weakening their resolve. Later this month, Afghanistan and the int. community will come together at the international Geneva Conference to endorse a new framework of cooperation for the period (2021-2024). ANPDF-2 will set out Afghanistan's new development objectives in sectoral categories. At the core of the new strategy is a strategic objective to advance social and economic progress and help set the right conditions to build, nurture & consolidate peace in the aftermath of a potential peace agreement. As emphasized by President Ghani, ANDPF-2 is about peace-building in the post-peace phase. We are approaching the Conference aware that the new era of cooperation between Afghanistan & the international community will be based on mutual & reciprocal commitments. This month, we have also begun the process of renewing our Strategic Partnership with the Kingdom of Norway, which is the basis of our bilateral cooperation. The renewal of our SPA will reflect a refined approach in light of new priority programs, to further enhance our cooperation in various areas. We look forward to enhancing & deepening our cooperation across various sectors to achieve our common and shared goals of peace, stability and prosperity.

Regards,

Youssof Ghafoorzai
Ambassador

Ambassador Ghafoorzai participated in Annual Embassy Seminar on Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration in Norway



Ambassador Ghafoorzai participated in the "Annual Embassy Seminar on Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration in Norway" hosted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) on 19th October. Norwegian Officials from the UDI, Ministry of Justice and Public Security, National Police Immigration services, Senior Officials of the International Organization of Migration (IOM) Office in Norway were among the participants. Ambassador Ghafoorzai started his remarks by thanking IOM, UNHCR and other development actors for their continued partnership and support, which has facilitated the return of millions of Afghans in the last years, mainly from neighboring countries, but also from abroad. Ambassador Ghafoorzai said "for such return and reintegration to be successful and sustainable in any setting, the right conditions in the ground are required, as well as the peoples' confidence about the country's future direction. To that end, the partnership between Afghanistan and the international community had enabled the return of close to ten million refugees from abroad since 2002, mainly from neighboring countries Pakistan and Iran. Ambassador Ghafoorzai finished his remarks by bringing into greater attention and focus worldwide on the benefits of migration, rather than only it's challenging aspects. He pointed that Afghan migrants not only integrated in their communities of adoption, but also bring innovative ideas, talent and contribute to the societies they live in.

Embassy of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Oslo collaborated with Global Medical Aid

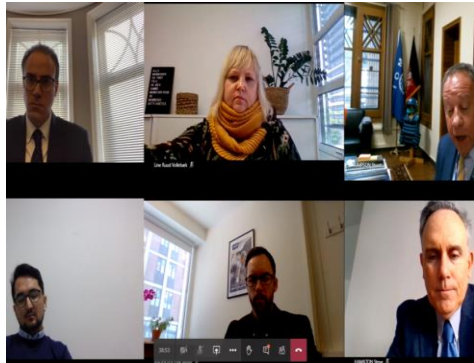
The Embassy of Afghanistan in Oslo collaborated with Global Medical Aid (GMA), a Danish NGO based in Copenhagen, for the donation of a Siemens Ventilator and supply of Diklofenak medicine to the Ministry of Public Health of Afghanistan (MOPH). The delivery of the medical equipment is of particular importance at this time, in light of the need of medical equipment and other support in Afghanistan, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. GMA has been supporting developing countries for years, including Afghanistan, Nepal, and Burkina Faso among others, with different equipment by Danish hospitals, where medical instruments are often replaced with newer models.



Speaking to the President of GMA, Mr. Hans Frederik Dydensborg, and Ambassador Ghafoorzai conveyed his gratitude and appreciation for the GMA's donation as a clear gesture of humanitarian support and solidarity with the people of Afghanistan. He also noted the special value of such support as it had a direct and tangible impact on people's lives, while stating that the donation of the ventilator and medicines to Afghanistan is also reflective of the people and government of Denmark's partnership and solidarity with Afghanistan. Ambassador Ghafoorzai also reaffirmed the Embassy's commitment and desire for continued collaboration with GMA in the way forward. To that end, he noted that the recent donation of the ventilator and supply of medicine would be the start of a new point of collaboration between the Embassy and GMA. They also discussed different initiatives to bring on board other international aid organizations for joint collaboration. The shipment of the ventilator and medicine has taken place on the 3rd of October and is received by authorities of the Ministry of Public Health in Kabul.

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Oslo, held a Virtual Discussion on the Negative Impact of Human Trafficking

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Oslo, in a joint initiative with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), held a virtual discussion on the negative impact of human trafficking and the Government of Afghanistan's strategy for voluntary and dignified return. Ambassador Ghafoorzai, Mr. Steve Hamilton, IOM Chief of Mission in Oslo; Mr. Ghulam Murtaza Rasouli, Legal Protection Director of the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation of Afghanistan (MoRR);



Mr. Stuart Simpson, IOM Chief of Mission in Kabul; Mrs. Andreas Furuseth, Acting Secretary General of NOAS; and Mrs. Line Ruud Vollebæk, researcher and social worker specialized in unaccompanied minor migrants and victims of trafficking and Mr. Juma, professional storyteller and member of the Afghan diaspora, who told his personal story of migration were among the participants. The participants discussed the voluntary and dignified return of Afghans, new strategies and policies to combat smuggling and human trafficking and ways to increase collaboration between the Embassy of Afghanistan in Oslo, IOM, MoRR and other relevant organizations. Ambassador Ghafoorzai highlighted the key points of the Government of Afghanistan's National Strategy for Dignified and Voluntary Return and Reintegration. The participants agreed in the need for effective collaboration between host countries, Afghan authorities and diplomatic missions, as stated in the Memorandum of Understanding and other international treaties on the issue of migration.

Acting Foreign Minister Mohammad Haneef Atmar met with the Norwegian Ambassador to Afghanistan Mr. Ole Andreas Lindeman



Acting Foreign Minister Mohammad Haneef Atmar met with the Norwegian Ambassador to Afghanistan Mr. Ole Andreas Lindeman. At the outset, Minister Atmar expressed his appreciation of the Norway's continued support and commitment to the Afghan peace process and its cooperation with Afghanistan over the past 19 years. Both sides then exchanged views on the latest developments in the peace process including the mechanism to monitor reduction in violence, strengthening and consolidating regional consensus on peace talks and the importance of preserving the gains of past two decades.



Ambassador Lindeman called for a reduction in violence, saying that the high level of violence, including the alarming levels of civilian casualties and recent attacks are not conducive to the success of the peace talks. In closing, while emphasizing further strengthening bilateral ties between the two countries, Minister Atmar appreciated the Norwegian Ambassador's goodwill towards Afghanistan.

Ambassador Ghafoorzai Visited the Nobel Peace-Center

H.E. Mr. Youssof Ghafoorzai, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Oslo, visited the Peace Centre on Friday, 16 October, at the invitation of Ms. Kjersti Følgestad, Executive Director of the Norwegian Nobel Peace Centre. During the meeting, Mr. Youssof Ghafoorzi and Ms. Kjersti Følgestad discussed the implementation of joint programs between the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Norway and the Nobel Peace Centre in Oslo.



Mr. Ghafoorzai first acknowledged the importance of peace in war-torn countries and in relation to the Afghan peace process. He gave an overview of the Afghan peace process in Qatar, outlining the challenges and opportunities, practical steps taken by the Afghan government and people to start and advance peace talks, the importance of regional and international consensus in peace talks and issuance. The role of the international community was of great importance for the success of the process. Ambassador Ghafoorzai emphasized on preserving the achievements of the last two decades and the importance of illuminating the face of a new Afghanistan for the international community, especially the countries that have sacrificed and cooperated in the building of a new Afghanistan in the last two decades. In this regard, discussions included collaboration between the Embassy and the Nobel Peace Center, including on the possible holding of a photo-exhibition depicting the new Afghanistan and the importance of preserving past achievements, under the Embassy's cultural and peace diplomacy initiatives.

Ambassador Ghafoorzai, met with Richard Riley, Chargé d'Affaires of the United States Embassy in Norway

Youssof Ghafoorzai Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Oslo met with Richard Riley, Chargé d'Affaires of the United States Embassy in Norway, to discuss the Peace process at the US Embassy in Oslo. Regarding the peace process, Mr. Ghafoorzai said that the negotiation process had begun as a result of a series of measures taken, including the release of more than 5,000 Taliban prisoners, which signified a major compromise and initiative on the government's side to create a conducive environment for success of talks, based on building trust and confidence for talks to move forward steadily in the right direction.



Unfortunately, since then, attacks had only increased in several provinces of the country. They also discussed the important role of the international community in support of an Afghan-led process to end the four decades-long conflict and achieve a durable and dignified peace in the country. Subsequently, Charge d'Affaires Riley reaffirmed the strong commitment of the United States for a successful outcome of the peace process, which was a shared goal of both Afghanistan and the United States. To that end, he also highlighted the importance of an agreement that preserves the foundational achievements of the last two decades, especially in relation to democracy, fundamental rights and freedoms and women's empowerment. They also discussed possible collaboration between their two Embassies in Oslo in the area of arts and culture, with a message on peace.

Ambassador Ghafoorzai Spoke as Guest Speaker at the 47th Seminar of the GPAJ



Ambassador Ghafoorzai spoke at the 47th Seminar of the Global Peacebuilding Association in Japan (GPAJ) as a guest speaker on the topic of "The role of the UN in Afghanistan since 2002 and the Afghan peace process underway in Doha, Qatar." He was joined by Ambassador Tadamichi Yamamoto, former UN Special Representative for Afghanistan. Ambassador gave a presentation on the work of the UN within the UN Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the way in which it had impacted some of the important positive achievements made in the country in the past two decades. Praising the important work the organization, he said the UN was among the first of the many international partners to mind in the context of support for stability and prosperity in the country. That said, he noted that the UN's solidarity and support for Afghanistan extends decades prior to 2001. "The UN was a central component of the international community's strong stance for the liberation of Afghanistan during the 1980's." And during the 1990's the UN sought a political settlement to the very conflict for which we're seeking a comprehensive political settlement today, through its former Special Mission for Afghanistan (UNSMA)." He also gave a detailed overview of the current peace process underway in Doha and the important role of the int. community, including the UN, to achieve the "end-state" desired by the people of Afghanistan. He also briefed the seminar on the upcoming Geneva conference later this month and the government's new ANPDF-2, which will be presented therein.

A meeting was held between Members of the Negotiating Team and members of the United Voice of Afghan Women for Peace Policy Group

Dr. Alema, Deputy Minister of Human Rights and Civil Society at the State Ministry for Peace, said at the beginning of the meeting that the State Ministry for Peace facilitated the group's activities and that the gathering aimed to establish dialogue and collaboration with the negotiating team of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.



Sayed Sadat Mansoor Naderi, State Minister for Peace, said that the four female members of the negotiating team were a strong part of the team's joint emphasis on protection and advancement of women's rights in the context of any potential agreement. One of the members of the negotiating team, Mr. Ghulam Farooq Majroh, said that: "We have a plan for how to implement the ceasefire, because we believe that the practical step that can lead to the success of the negotiations is a ceasefire. We will put our effort in this regard." At the end, the State Minister for Peace said that the Ministry will continue its role to facilitate the work of the consultative group of the United Voice of Afghan Women for Peace Policy. Zohra Motahari, Deputy Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation, said: "It is an important point that every action and decision we make in the peace process affects the destiny of 16 million women in Afghanistan." Concluding the meeting, Fatema Gailani, member of the negotiating team, said that we will work for the success of the negotiations according to the criteria and expectations of the people and the confirmation of the final result will be with the people of Afghanistan.

Process of renewal of the Bilateral Strategic Partnership Agreement between Afghanistan and Norway has begun



Acting Foreign Minister Mohammad Haneef Atmar met with the Norwegian Ambassador to Afghanistan Mr. Ole Andreas Lindeman. Both sides spoke about the review of the Strategic Partnership Agreement between the two countries, especially about the expansion of economic cooperation within the framework of the SPA.



The Norwegian Ambassador referred to his country's interest in investing in the infrastructure, renewable energy and industrial sectors and the role of Norwegian Public Investment Fund in implementing projects. The bilateral strategic partnership agreement between Norway and Afghanistan is to be expired on 31 of December 2020. This agreement was signed in February 2013 renewed in 2017.

First Paper Mill with magnificent Facilities Starts its Production in Afghanistan

The first paper mill has begun operations in Afghanistan, at an industrial park in Kabul which is called Pul-e-Charkhi. Reportedly, the factory has an initial production capacity of 120 metric tons per day. According to the officials, there is limited access to raw material which decrease the production volume for the paper mill, so it fills the gap by collecting 15 to 20 metric tons of wastepaper per day to recycle from the streets and the remaining import from abroad. Small business as such is very important to the economy of Afghanistan as this factory is providing jobs for almost 200 people.



The companies and individuals who collect wastepaper from the streets say the paper Mill has created a good market for the wastepaper which they are collecting every day. According to figures issued by the officials, Afghanistan uses over 10,000 tons of paper annually and a big part of it is imported from other countries in the region.



Analysts said such factories can prevent the flow of millions of dollars out of the country for the purchase of paper and provide jobs to the local people.

400 Male and Female Runners Compete in Marathon in Afghan Mountains



Over 400 runners participated in the 2020 Marathon of Afghanistan in Bamiyan province. Organizers said 40% of the participants were women. Runners from Afghanistan, Wales, Scotland, France, Swiss, USA and Russia took part in the race to compete in 42 kilometers and 10 kilometers distances. Afghan runners participated in the event from eight provinces. According to the organizers, 300 runners competed in 42 kilometers and 100 runners competed in 10 kilometers.



Mohammad Karim Yaqt from Kabul got the first position. Nabi Hussaini and Jawed from Bamiyan got second and third positions respectively. Karim Yaqt completed the race in 2 hours and 53 minutes. Yaqt said he has attended such races for the last 18 years. He has won three gold medals. From among the women, Hafiza Hussaini got the first position. Marzia Naziri and Aqila Hashimi got the second and third positions respectively. It was the sixth year the



The Embassy of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Oslo
Accredited to Norway, Denmark and Iceland

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