



Tuesday, 14 December

## Bashardost Steps Down

Planning Minister Ramazan Bashardost resigned Monday after President Hamid Karzai rejected his call to shut down relief groups he accused of wasting money on expensive cars and houses. "I don't want to work in a position that carries no authority," said Dr. Ramazan at a news conference. [Radio Azadi](#)

## Karzai Consults Jihadi Leaders on Cabinet

President Karzai has consulted Jihadi leaders and politicians on the composition of the coming cabinet. In a list presented to the leaders Dr. Abdullah listed as Foreign Minister, Ali Ahmad Jalali as Interior Minister, Assad Nadiri as Minister for Economy, Amin Farhang as Minister of education, Ramazan Bashardost as Minister of Planning, Nimatullah Shahrani as Minister of Higher Education, Abdul Haq Waleh as Minister of Culture and Information, Mustafa Zahir as Minister of Rural Development, Anwarul Haq Ahadi as Minister of Finance, former governor of Hirat Ismael Khan, Parwan's governor Zarar Hanif Atmar and Amina Afzali would also be included in the new cabinet. The Jihadi leaders strongly opposed the list and Karzai promised to bring changes to it. [Radio Azadi](#)

Monday, 13 December

## Afghanistan Needs Food Stuff

Afghanistan is among those nations who are in need of food assistance, the acting spokesperson of UNAMA, Ariane Quentier told journalists on Sunday. Addressing a news briefing she urged the international community to provide seeds and fertilizers to the farmers. Commenting on the food security in Farah province, she said that farmers' require all the canals and water resources be dug up and cleaned. Ms. Quentier said: "We would extend our support to the farmers to meet their requests," [Radio Azadi & Radio Afghanistan](#)

Sunday, 12 December

## Jaishul Muslimen Chief Arrested

Sayed Akbar Agha, the leader of Taliban splinter group Jaishul Muslimen, was arrested in Karachi of Pakistan this week. Akbar Agha is said to have been behind the abduction of three UN employees in late October. "He was arrested along with his wives and children from Karachi," said a Senior Pakistani Minister. A Pakistani official said the women and children had been freed. The abduction of UN workers and their release, according to Sabir, led to rift between Akbar Agha and Taliban's leader Mullah Omar. Afghan officials said the three UN workers were freed without ransom. [Radio Kelied](#), [HNA](#) and [Anees](#)

Saturday, 11 December

## Cabinet to be Announced in Two Phases

The new cabinet is going to be announced in two phases, a reliable source said. According to the source, the key posts would be announced this week while the remaining may be announced in the coming days. Talks and consultations over the composition of the cabinet, according to the source are on going. The Ministry for Energy is going to be set up in the new government. [Hindokosh](#)

Friday, 10 December

## U.S. to Back Kabul's Reconciliation Program with Former Taliban Members

"Washington would back efforts by the Afghan government to reconcile with former members of the Taliban regime," said U.S. military spokesman Mark McCann on 8 December 2004. McCann explained that the Afghan government's view is that there is a peaceful way to engage former members of the Taliban aside from "a very select few." He added that United States and the coalition "stand firmly behind the Afghan government in their efforts to try to reconcile" with the militia. The issue of reconciliation with most members of the neo-Taliban was raised by President Karzai in a speech in April 2003 and has been elaborated on by U.S.



Ambassador to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad since April of this year. [Radio Kelied](#)

Thursday, 09 December

## 2,000 (I)NGOs Don't Assist Afghans

"Nearly 2,000 internal and external NGOs are not assisting Afghans, but are thinking of their own wealth," said Planning Minister, Dr. Ramazan Bashardost. He criticizes those NGOs, which are exempt from paying tax, but obtain state contracts. Dr. Ramazan says: "We want to make economic agreements with local companies. They should be controlled and monitored by the government." The Program Coordinator for ACBAR, Mohammad Hashim Mayar, said: "I don't think that the government will break its hand with its own foot." There are 3,000 National and International NGOs active in Afghanistan. [Radio Kabul & Benawa](#)

Wednesday, 08 December

## U.S. Military Base in Hrat to be near Iran

Iranian state radio, the Mashhad-based Dari-language service and The New York Sun reported on 6 December that U.S. military personnel have been scouting Afghanistan's Hrat province in order to establish a base there. The radio station cited locals who noted the increased presence of U.S. soldiers, and it also cited Afghan military spokesman General Azimi, who confirmed that the U.S. has chosen a location in the province for a base. American officials confirmed on 5 December interviews with The New York Sun that the area they have been scouting is in Hrat province and are some 20 miles from the Iranian border. They said this would mainly be an Afghan army base and that American aircraft "would probably be deployed there as well." [Radio Azadi](#)

Tuesday, 07 December

## Karzai Sworn in as President of Afghanistan

Hamid Karzai was sworn in as Afghanistan's first popularly elected president Tuesday, promising to bring peace and end the economy's dependence on narcotics. U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney and Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld, were among more than 100 foreign guests. The inauguration passed off peacefully, despite threats by Taliban that they would disrupt the investiture. "With international cooperation we can root out terrorism from Afghanistan," Karzai said in his acceptance speech. [Afghanistan TV](#)

Monday, 06 December

## Taliban Rejects US Amnesty Offer

Taliban movement has rejected the amnesty offered by US ambassador to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad last week. Khalilzad in a press conference last week urged Taliban to lay down their arms and join the ongoing peace process. Taliban's spokesman Abdul Latif Hakimi told Pakistan-based private news agency AIP that the offer was a tactic to divide the group. The US troops, he added had occupied Afghanistan and so no Taliban would accept Khalilzad's demand. Earlier President Karzai had offered similar amnesty to Taliban militias. [Iraada](#)

## Afghan Ulema Council Condemns Remark by Russian Defence Minister

The General Council of Afghanistan's Ulema (religious scholars) condemned in a statement issued on 5 December the remarks made by Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov during a visit to India on December 1, Afghanistan Television reported. Ivanov had criticized amnesty offers for moderate members of the neo-Taliban and had expressed Moscow's concern about attempts to "Pashtunize Afghanistan" In its statement, the council said the "irresponsible" remarks made by Ivanov "indicate his desire for the return of the



past chaotic situation in Afghanistan," which was mainly due to "intervention and aggression" by the Soviet Union. The council deemed the remarks made by Ivanov "direct interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs." The statement called on Moscow to clarify whether Ivanov's remarks reflected the official policy of the Russian Federation and asked India to react to its guests' remarks so as "to prevent harming" friendly relations between Kabul and New Delhi. [Radio Azadi and Afghanistan TV](#)

Sunday, 05 December

## US Distributes Seeds, Fertilizer to Nangarhar Farmers

The United States on Saturday began distributing seeds and fertilizers to farmers in Nangarhar province in a ceremony. Prominent among others at the ceremony were Ambassador Khalilzad, Agriculture Minister Hussain Anwari, RRD Minister Hanif Atmar and head of Counter Narcotics Force Mirwais Yasini. [TV Afghanistan](#)

## 31 Schools Renovated in Baghlan

"Out of 315 schools in Baghlan province only 31 have been rebuild or renovated," said Baghlan's governor Faqir Mohammad Mamozai. He added: "230,634 students including 61,906 girls are going to school in Baghlan. Out of 6,144 teachers in the province 1,195 are women. Some 41 girl schools are in Baghlan," He also said that over 600 students have been studying in Baghlan University and 31 teachers are in this university. Another 740 students are in teachers' training centers in Baghlan. The National Solidarity Program, the governor added has been covering 101 villages in Nahrin, Dahanai Ghor and Andarab districts. So, far Nahrin hospital was built by Italy while another one is being under construction in Baghlan city. Around 33,000 refugees have returned home and houses have been to 11,220 of them by IOM and other relief agencies. [Radio Azadi & HNA](#)

Saturday, 04 December

## Germany Inaugurate Female Student Dormitory in Kandahar

The German Ambassador, Dr. Rainald Steck, and the Minister for Higher Education, Dr. Sharif Favez, are

going to inaugurate a female students' dormitory for Kandahar University today, 4 December 2004. The female students' dormitory was financed by the Federal Republic of Germany with 110,000 US\$ and constructed with the assistance of German Technical Cooperation (GTZ). It will provide accommodation for up to 80 students and thus offer the unique opportunity for young women from Kandahar neighboring province to study at the university as secure living quarters are now available. [HNA](#)

## Education Situation at Kunduz

According to the head of Kunduz Education Dept. Sayed Omer the number of the students which was 15,000 during the Taliban, has been increased to 200,000 presently. He continued that 40% of the students are girls. They are studying in 285 schools. Sayed Omer added that the US, German and IOM organizations have been rebuilt eight schools in this province. Head of Kunduz Education Department declaring their problems said that they are faced to lack of professional teachers. He says 4,500 teachers are teaching the students but only 300 of them are professionals. [HNA](#)

Friday, 03 December

## Jihadi Commander Mullah Malang Arrests

A former Jihadi commander Mullah Malang was arrested on charge of involvement in kidnapping three UN workers. An associate with Mawlawi Khalis, Malang has been accused of cooperation with Jaishul Muslimin of taking hostage of the US employees late last October. The trios were released late last month in Kabul. [HNA](#)

## Ningarhar's Demand End to Operations by Foreign Forces

The Jalal Abad-Torkham highway, which was closed by local people on Sunday, re-opened yesterday. Reports say the elders of the Shinwar, Rodat and Bati Kot districts of Ningarhar held talks with each other, which resulted in the road's reopening. They also have asked local authorities not to let the foreign forces carry out operations in their areas, saying that governmental forces can undertake them, if necessary. Local people closed the highway after Coalition forces arrested four people – including one woman – in Rodat district. The



four were released after the Provincial Security Chief spoke with Coalition authorities. [Arman-e-Milli](#)

Thursday, 02 December

## Six Dead In Crash of U.S. Plane in Central Afghanistan

Three civilian and three military U.S. personnel died when their plane crashed in Bamiyan Province on 28 November, international news agencies reported on December 1. "The aircraft was located late on 30 November - it was up in the mountains in Bamiyan," a U.S. military spokesman told AFP. The spokesman said all six passengers were killed in the crash. The cause of the crash is under investigation, but hostile fire has been ruled out. [Radio Azadi](#)

Wednesday, 01 December

## Russian Guards Transfer Border Post to Tajikistan

Russian border guards handed over another section of the Tajik-Afghan border to Tajikistan today. The handover of the border unit in the Gorno-Badakhshan region is part of an October agreement between Russia and Tajikistan on transferring the state border under the control of Tajikistan's Border Protection Committee. Under the agreement, Russian border guards are to hand over some 50 frontier posts along the 881 kilometers of the Tajik-Afghan border to their Tajik counterparts. The transfer of another 100-km section of the Qalai Khumb border post on the Pamirs section of the Tajik-Afghan border is due to start tomorrow. [Radio Azadi](#)