

# COMMUNITY BULLETIN

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## AFGHAN IMAMS VISIT NEW YORK

On Tuesday January 28, 2003, Afghan Communicator had the pleasure of welcoming a group of seven imams from Afghanistan, brought to the US by the US Department of State for a greater understanding of Islam in America. The State Department kindly contacted Afghan Communicator to arrange an informal meeting in which the Afghan community in New York welcomed and informally interacted with the recently arrived guests.

Gharib, Director of Majma-e Elmi of Ministry of Hajj and Endowment, from Kabul; Mr. Shams al-Haq Hashimzai, General Director of Administration Research Center for Islamic Studies of Ministry of Hajj and Endowment, from Kabul; Mr. Fazal Ahmad Qazi-

Director of Nangarhar Canal Projects, from Jalalabad in Nangarhar Province; Mawlawi Hanif Shah, Advisor to Governor of Khost, Department of Religious & Tribal Affairs Director and Director of Hajj and Endowment Affairs, from Khost in Paktia



Province; and Haji Abdul Zahir, Political Advisory to Nangarhar Governor Din Mohammad, Commander of the 14<sup>th</sup> Frontier Brigade, from Jalalabad in Nangarhar Province.

Present at the meeting were Mr. Hajrudin Eqbal, Chief Editor of Daily Hewad, from Kabul; Mawlawi Ghulam Mohammad

zada, Magazine Editor Association of Religious Scholars (Ulama), from Kabul; Mr. Mohammad Asef Qazizada, Deputy Governor of Nangarhar and

Also accompanying the group was Mr. Daud Ayazi, State Department interpreter. From Afghan Communicator were

*(Continued on page 3)*

FROM ALL OF US  
AT AC, EID  
MUBARAK AND  
NAWRUZ  
MUBARAK!



R.J. Moshref in Prague's Radio Liberty



Z. Noori, Keynote Speaker in Prague Youth Conf.

## PRAGUE YOUTH CONFERENCE

Responding to an invitation sent by Civic Concepts International, Rameen Javid Moshref, Execu-



tive Director of Afghan Communicator, traveled to Prague, Czech Republic in January 2003, to take part in the International Youth Leadership Conference as a facilitator.

As described by its sponsor: "The International Youth Leadership Conference, Prague 2003 is a week-long student forum on the future of world leadership and international relations." The theme of the conference was "A cross-cultural exchange of young ideas on the future of world leadership." For more information, please visit their website at : [www.czechleadership.com/](http://www.czechleadership.com/).

Based on Model UN, this conference was for youth between the ages of 17-24 who are studying

or planning to study politics, international relations, trade and economics to acquire a better understanding of the internal workings of the United Nations General Assembly, Security Council, and the World Court at the Hague, as well as the European Parliamentary system.

Addressing a group of 200 students, Mr. Moshref explained the activities of Afghan Communicator, while also shedding light on the concepts of Islam, current Afghan politics, and the

*(Continued on page 2)*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRAGUE CONFERENCE	2
BIG BROTHER BIG SISTER	2
IMAMS VISIT NY	3
LAWYERS HELP AFGHANS	3
CHILDREN'S PRESS	4
CLASSIFIEDS	4

## BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

Would you like to make a difference in a young person's life? Do you know of a young person in need of a positive role model? Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC has initiated a new program to provide a One-to-One youth mentoring program with a focus being on children of immigrant families. Since 9/11, life has become even more difficult, especially for youth of or youth who appear to be of Middle Eastern descent. In our program, volunteers spend about 4 hours with a young person twice a month, for one year. We are currently looking for adult volunteers (21 or older) to become Big Brothers and Big Sisters in our program. We are especially interested in volunteers who are first generation and have specific language skills. Volunteers are carefully screened and matches are supervised by a trained social worker. If you would like more information about volunteering, or know of any children or youth that may benefit from the individual attention, friendship and role modeling that a Big Brother or Big Sister could provide, please contact Tamanna Vaswani at (212) 686-2042 ext. 222.



## برادر بزرگ خواهر بزرگ

آیا میخواهید که در زندگی یک نوجوان تغییر مثبت بیاورید؟ آیا نوجوان را میشناسید که ضرورت به یک نمونه مثبت (رول مادیل) داشته باشد؟ برادر بزرگ خواهر بزرگ نیویورک یک پروژه جدیدی را آغاز نموده برای فراهم نمودن پند دادن به نوجوانان در شکل یک به یک. این پروژه زیاد تر توجه به اطفالی فامیل های مهاجر مینماید. جریان جذب و تحلیل در جامعه آمریکا یک تقلا بزرگ بشمار میآید. این نوجوانان باید به کلتور، زبان و عنعنات نو آشنایی پیدا کنند در حالی که به احساسات تنهایی، جدایی و تبعض روبرو میشوند. بر علاوه، این نوجوانان باید راه حل برای کلتور فامیلی و احساسات جدیدی که اثر آن جامعه آمریکایی است پیدا کنند. زندگی برای نوجوانانی که ظاهرًا مسلمان معلوم میشوند بعد از ۱۱ سپتمبر دشوار گردید است. قسمی که ساینس روانی بارها نشان داده است، ما میدانیم که بهترین راه حل این مشکل جوره کردن یک نوجوان با یک شخص بالغ برای پندگیری و همراه بودن است. بدین ترتیب میتوان شانس یک نوجوان را برای کامیابی بیشتر ساخت. درین پروژه، اشخاص بالغ بطور رضامندانه (داوطلبانه) برای ۴ ساعت، دو بار در یکماه، با نوجوان در طول یکسال سپری مینمایند. موسسه برادر بزرگ خواهر بزرگ فعلاً اشخاص که از ۲۱ سال بلندتر باشند، جهت یک برادر بزرگ و یا خواهر بزرگ در پروگرام میپذیرد. همه اشخاص بصورت جدی تحقیق میشوند و تمام ساعات پندگیری تحت مراقبه میباشد. علاقمندان میتوانند به شماره ذیل برای معلومات بیشتر با دوشیزه تمنا واسوانی تماس بگیرند: 212-686-2042 ext. 222

## کانفرانس جوانان در پراگ

بدعوت از افکار مدی بین الدول (Civil Concept International)، رامین جاوید مشرف، بنمایندگی موسسه هماهنگی جوانان افغان بحیث معلم و میزبان بشهر زیبا پراگ در جمهوریت چک در جنوری ۲۰۰۲ سفر کرد تا در کانفرانس بین المللی برای کدرهای آینده سهم گیرد. در آنجا گروه ۲۰۰ نفری را خطاب کرده و فعالیتهای موسسه هماهنگی جوانان افغان، فکار و تاریخ اسلام، سیاست و تاریخ فعلی افغانستان، و افغانهای خارج از کشور را تشریح داد. در حین حال آقای مشرف از سفارت جرمنی و رادیو آزادی نیز دیدار نمود.

## PRAGUE YOUTH CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 1)

situation of Afghans abroad. Mr. Moshref also visited the German Embassy in Prague and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.



Rameen Moshref & group members at the German Embassy in Prague.

Immigration attorneys, Rahmani and Anderson assisting an Afghan with documentation in the AC office. Story, page 3.



# نو روز مبارک

## AFGHAN IMAMS VISIT NEW YORK

(Continued from page 1)

Rameen Javid Moshref, Executive Director and an AC volunteer. Also present from Afghanistan Peace Association, was Dr. Dawer A. Nadi, President.

As the group had a busy schedule, the engaging meeting lasted just under two hours. It was clear, however, that both sides found the discussion interesting. The guests were curious about the reaction of ordinary US citizens to the possibility of war in Iraq, the return of young educated Afghans to Afghanistan for reconstruction, and the possibility and willingness of Afghans to help the reconstruction process. Everyone made some personal connection and the discussion, although short, was very productive for everyone. The group went on to do some sightseeing in New York City and then on to their next stop, Salt Lake City, Utah.

### روحانیون از افغانستان در نیویورک تشریف آوردن

سشنبه ۲۹ جنوری ۲۰۰۳، یک گروه از روحانیون افغانی که بدعوت وزارت داخله امریکا برای دانست متقابل اسلام در امریکا و اوضاع افغانستان بنیویورک آمده بودند، همراه موسسه هماهنگی جوانان افغان (Afghan Communicator) ملاقات کردند. دفتر وزارت داخله امریکا در نیویورک از موسسه هماهنگی جوانان درخواست نمود که این ملاقات شکل غیر رسمی داشته باشد و یک فضا برادرانه تا بهتر از مهمانان گرامی استقبال شود. اعضا گروه روحانیون شامل از آقای هجرالدین اقبال، مدیر روزنامه هیواد؛ مولوی غلام محمد غریب، رئیس مجموعه علمی وزارت حج؛ آقای شمس الحق هاشمی، آمر مرکز تحقیقات برای دروس اسلام وزارت حج؛ آقای فضل احمد قاضیزاده، مدیر مسسول مجله انجمن علما؛ آقای محمد آصف قاضیزاده، معاون والی ننگرهار، رئیس پروژه کانال در جلال آباد؛ و مولوی حنیف شاه، مشاور والی خوست در مدیریت دین و قبایل، و رئیس حج در خوست. از جامعه افغانی در نیویورک، آقای رامین جاوید مشرف، رئیس موسسه هماهنگی جوانان افغان؛ دوشیزه سحر مرادی، همکار دفتر هماهنگی؛ و آقای داکتر داور احمد نادی، رئیس انجمن صلح افغانستان تشریف داشتند. گروه مهمانان علاقه‌مند دانستن وضع افغانهای مقیم نیویورک، عکس العمل مردم امریکا در مقابل امکان جنگ در عراق و بازگشت جوانان تحصیل کرده افغان در افغانستان بودند. بخاطر فشردگی وقت مهمانان محترم جلسه برای دو ساعت ادامه داشت. روز بعدی مهمانان عازم شهر سالت لیک در یوتا بودند.

### IMMIGRATION LAWYERS HELP THE AFGHAN COMMUNITY

The INS has required all men from Afghanistan, as well as men from many other Muslim countries and North Korea, to register in their offices, if they are without legal status. The deadline for Afghans to register was Friday February 7, 2003. Afghan Communicator arranged for two immigration lawyers, Ms. Karin Anderson of New York Immigration Coalition and Ms. Elinor Drucker Rahmani, an independent attorney, to come to our office in Flushing on Wednesday, February 5, 2003 from 4 pm to 7 pm to give free legal advice to Afghans who had questions about their status.

Many thanks to Ms. Anderson and Ms. Rahmani who both traveled great distances to come to our office. Unfortunately, few people from the Afghan community came to take advantage of this free service. This was most likely because Afghans who are out of status were afraid that the lawyers had some connection with the INS that would result in their detainment or arrest. Afghans are not alone in feeling vulnerable and suspicious of authorities. Due to an overwhelming reaction from the groups that have been targeted by this act, the US Congress is voting on cutting off funding for this operation. Please write to your representatives and express your opinions regarding this matter.



### ۲ وکیل امیگریشن به هموطنان ما کمک کردند

قسمی معلوم، دفتر امیگریشن از افغانهای مذکر که ویزا ندارند (همراه با یکعده دیگر از متابعین ممالک دیگر اسلامی) خواسته اند که بدفتر امیگریشن خود را ثبت نام کنند. روز آخر برای ثبت نام برای افغانها جمعه ۷ فبروری ۲۰۰۳ بود. موسسه هماهنگی جوانان افغان (Afghan Communicator)، با کمک از دو وکیل های متخصص قوانین امیگریشن، که در روز چهارشنبه ۵ فبروری ۲۰۰۳ بدرخواست ما بدفتر ما در فلاشنگ - کوپینز جهت همکاری برای هموطنان ما تشریف آورده بودند بهموطنان کمک نمودند. خانم کارین اندرسن و خانم ایلینور دراکار رحمانی راه دوری را بدفتر ما برای همکاری بهموطنان پیمودند. تشریف آوری شان را از صمیم قلب تشکر میگویم. البته باید گفت که سبب نیامدن اکثر هموطنان جهت بهره گیری از این سرویس رایگان ترس از گرفتار شدن شان توسط وکیل ها حدث زده شد. برای هموطنان اطمینان میدهم که دفتر هماهنگی جوانان برای خدمت و دفا از حقوق افغانهای مقیم نیویورک و امریکا هیچوقت هموطنان عزیز را در خطر دستگیری نمی اندازد. از ایشان خواهشمندیم که بدفاتر خیریه برای استفاده نمودن از کمک های مدنی مراجعه فرمایند.



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عید مبارک

#### CHILDREN'S PRESSLINE INTERVIEWS AFGHAN GIRLS

AC Board Member, Kabir Amir, spent a chilly January morning as a volunteer translator for Children's Pressline in their overseas telephone interview with three young Afghan girls in Kabul. The request for assistance came from coordinator Katina Paron of Children's Pressline, a NY-based organization which uses the "oral journalism process" with children ages 8 to 13, and editors ages 14 to 18. The organization gives children early exposure to the field of journalism, allowing them to investigate issues of their own choosing, including hot topics currently in the news.

Three American children came to the midtown office early Saturday morning, armed with questions they had prepared for the girls in Afghanistan. After some technical difficulties, a telephone connection was finally made, allowing the young reporters to make contact with the girls in Kabul. After a round of introductions, the two hour dialogue began. Overall, the interview went smoothly, with some surprise questions obviously reflecting the curiosity of the Americans about cultural differences between the US and Afghanistan. An eleven year old boy was curious as to how the girls interacted with boys, whether they wore burqas and what would be the one thing they could wish for that they do not already have. To the last question, one Afghan girls responded with a wish for electricity, so that they could make use of the computers that some organizations had donated to their community. In general, the girls also expressed great relief at being liberated from the Taliban regime and were appreciative of the role the US played to that end.

Based on the questions that had been prepared for the girls, it was evident that the impressions these journalists had of life in Afghanistan were largely shaped by the extensive media coverage after 9/11/01 as well as information they had heard in school or at home. Hopefully, the dialogue helped to give the children a sense of understanding of the daily lives of their Afghan counterparts. The interviews will soon be accessible at [www.nypost.com](http://www.nypost.com) as well in print in the Amsterdam Press.

For more information on Children's Pressline, please visit their website at [www.cplmedia.org](http://www.cplmedia.org).



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