

## WFP asking for global support to help deal with hunger in Afghanistan

The World Food Program (WFP) for Afghanistan is getting worse and tens of millions of people in this country needs food aid.

The crisis and of increasing poverty in the country. Most of the population living in remote areas of the country has no access to healthy food.

Shah Gili and Shakiba, two residents of Kabul, are living with various economic problems. In interviews with The Kabul Times, said they used to sit in front of bakeries (bushbush) begging from bread to eat.

"We go and roam on streets to get bread for our children. As you witness and see, we have no other choice, except begging on the street. You see most of the women are not working and poor, therefore, they try to 'beg' or 'roam'."

Among the people sitting on the street in front of bakeries in Kabul are those who had lost income in the past, but now they are unemployed. They have no other choice, except begging or roaming on streets to sell something and earn money.

Maj. Ellen, head of the WFP for Afghanistan, has said that the organization needs global support to help and deal with the hunger of the people in Afghanistan. WFP said that it had helped 20 million people in Afghanistan so far. According to UN, all children people in the country of Afghanistan cannot find one meal a day. He added that the focus of

this institution is to help the hungry, 900 million dollars are needed by the end of this year.

"Some resources are available and we will get \$100 million for winter and for remote areas, but we will have a lot of shortages, what we will do is to prevent the action that are facing severe hunger, while humanitarian relief has become a big problem. I hope we get more resources," said Ellen.

The head of the WFP in Afghanistan considers the province of Ghazni, Bamyan, Badkhashan and Herat to be very needy and added that the organization will

increase its assistance to them in the coming months.

"For this reason, our prices are high and our assistance is given every month, and those who are in very vulnerable sectors receive assistance. For twelve months in a year, and those who are in other sectors receive assistance eight times a year that they get."

Based on the investigation of WFP, 15 million people live in severe hunger and providing assistance to homeless women, disabled families and families with many children is most are prioritized.

Meanwhile, the UN's humanitarian chief has also urged donors to assist finding the Afghanistan, warning that 6 million Afghans are at risk of famine while more than half of the country's 39 million people need humanitarian help.

It is time for the international community to give hands to the people of Afghanistan and provide more aid to the people, he said. The U.S. should release the frozen assets of Afghanistan's central bank so that all businesses would start and help in reduction of poverty in the country.

Shahria Khatami



## Increasing number of domestic & foreign tourists visiting Bamyan

The tourism industry, considered one of the largest and most profitable industries in the world, includes an important part of the domestic income of countries. People sometimes travel for fun and for Afghanistan visit the park for recreation and leisure.

Also, with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) known, foreign tourists visit this historical place.

Currently, most Afghan families try to pass the country situation in the country visit the park. Bamyan's Bamiyan's Amir Dargah is one of the historic sites in the province, but unfortunately no proper accommodation has been constructed in the park, adding that all visitors need to install tents in the night there.

A number of tourists, call the historical and recreational places

of Bamyan as unique, but they are complaining about the lack of facilities and accommodation in Amir Dargah.

"We've come from Herat to visit Bamyan's Amir Dargah as it's considered a good place for entertainment and tourism," said Masrur, a tourist.

Complaining about the lack of facilities and proper accommodation in the park, Masrur said that the park needed to have a proper accommodation, but provided security in the province.

Another visitor Mohammad Naim was Bamyan's Amir Dargah is one of the historic sites in the province, but unfortunately no proper accommodation has been constructed in the park, adding that all visitors need to install tents in the night there.

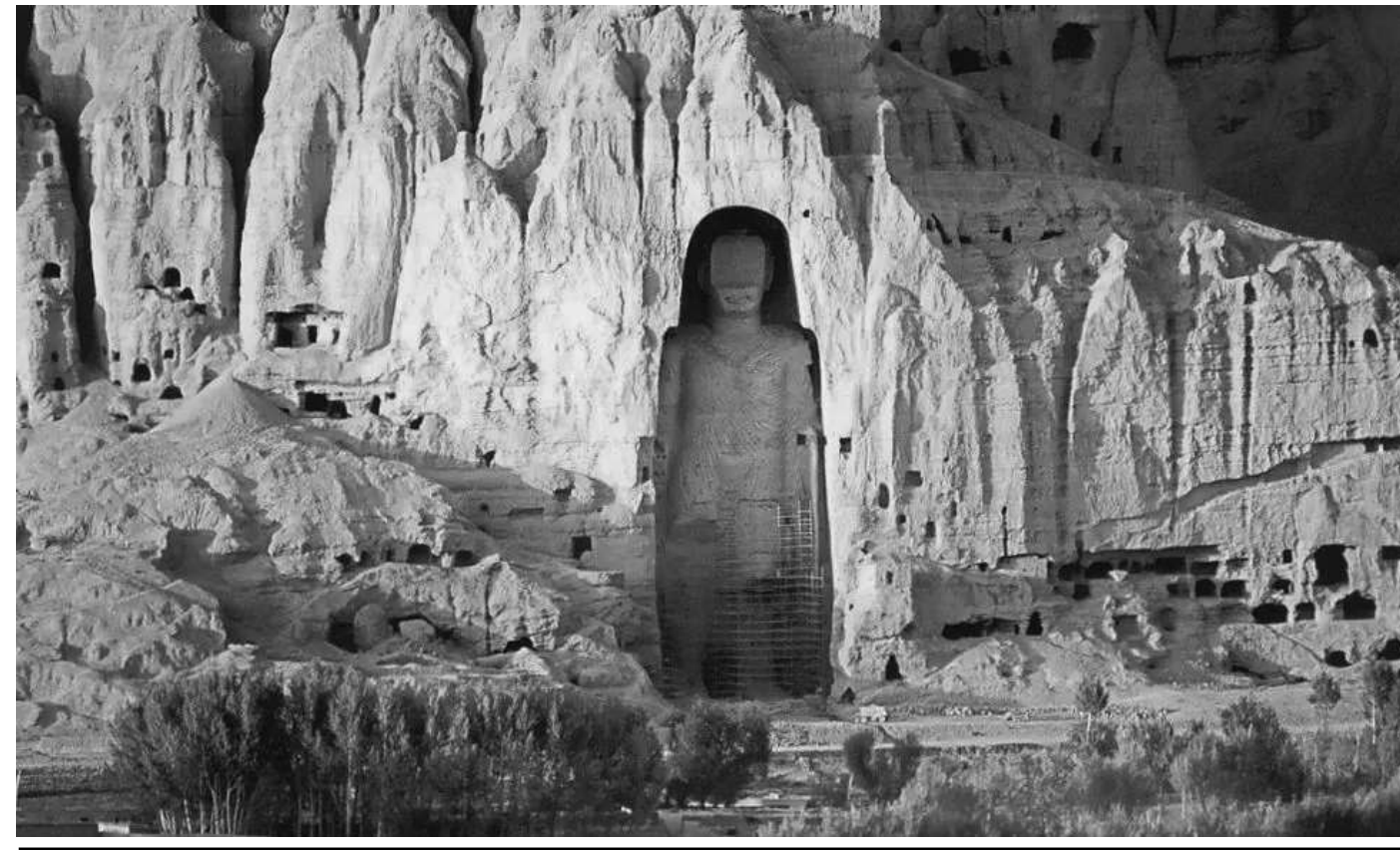
Masrur Haidi, head of tourism in Bamyan, said that the number of domestic and foreign tourists visiting Bamyan particularly the Bamiyan's Amir Dargah and national Park has recently increased unexpectedly.

He said that the culture of tourism has improved in Bamyan, therefore, more families are now visiting the country's historical sites.

According to the tourism department of the ministry of information and culture, efforts are underway to provide further facilities and proper accommodation for tourists to stay during nights.

It is worth mentioning that Bamyan's Amir Dargah has currently ten small restaurants, small hotels to rest rooms and tents to rest.

Sada Amin



## IEA allocates 4 billion Afghanis as national budget for retirees



Council of Ministers of the Islamic Emirate (IEA) in its recent meeting has discussed budget plan for pensions. The country's ministry of finance has asked for 4 billion afghanis budget for pensions.

A spokesperson to the ministry of finance said that after the approval of that plan, they would start to pay pensions.

He said 4 billion Afghanis has been allocated to the budget for retirement salaries and retirees would receive their salaries from the bank.

According to the finance ministry's spokesperson, Ahmad Wali Haqqani, the council of ministers meeting held this Monday discussed the budget plan for pensions.

The Ministry of Finance said they want their final plan for pensions to the Council of Ministers, and after the approval of this plan pension will be paid.

Previously, the spokesperson of the ministry of finance had said that there were some challenges, and they solved them and made a plan with the cooperation of the Science Academy and sent it to the council of ministers and they would discuss, adding that after the approval of that plan, they would start to pay pensions.

He said 4 billion Afghanis has been allocated to the budget for retirement salaries and retirees would receive their salaries from the bank.

A number of retired government workers and veterans who claim to have not been paid pensions have asked the Islamic Emirate to approve the allocated budget for pensions. The retirees said they have not received their pensions this year or last year.

Samirah Mammad

the IEA) to approve the budget for pensions so that they can get their pensions, saying that they're in bad economic condition.

According to ministry of finance, currently there are 149,468 retirees in the country. The ministry says the number of retirees reaches 110,245 and the passed away reaches 39,583. It is a number of retirees who have facing retirees in getting their salaries have been increased.

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Samirah Mammad

## Products worth \$1.3 billion exported in a Year, official

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan during govern-

in order to attract investments, and strengthen and expand commercial and transit relations, have

the country's industrial parks to directly create employment for tens of thousands of people.



ment accountability program said that worth 1.3 billion U.S. dollars Afghan products were exported in a year from the country.

In a press conference held at the Government Media and Information Center (GOMIC), the Commerce and Industry Ministry, Nooruddin Aziz, in their accountability program said that Afghanistan has exports reached to 1,346 million dollars to the world's top 10 countries in last year.

At least 200 meetings were held to meet the obstacles and challenges of the private sector and to support their activities, said Aziz.

He said that his led ministry made efforts that about 8 percent of Afghanistan's export items to the world's top 10 countries in last year.

According to Aziz, in the past year, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce has been able to distribute more business and investment licenses to more than 6,500 domestic and foreign applicants and to attract investments worth about 127 million USD in

made official trips to Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Iran, and Russia, as well as during that official trips discussed with representatives of the private sector in China, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Turkey, Malaysia, Russia and other countries in the region and the world, he said.

Aziz, reduction in money transfer restrictions through foreign exchange transfer and facilitating the process of purchasing raw materials, turning Afghanistan into a crossroads of the region, reactivating air corridors to the domestic budget, providing facilities for raising business from regional countries to Afghan business, were the efforts and achievements made by the Commerce Ministry, Aziz added.

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During the meeting, Mohammad Qasimullah Jafari, Deputy Ministry said. Before the start of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, about 30% of factories were active in the country, but now more than it operates from 70% of factories.

He added that the construction of 4 industrial parks is underway in the country, 12 planned industrial parks and 10 proposed industrial parks are on hand, and with their completion, we will have a total of 45 industrial parks in the country.

It must be said that the Ministry of Industry and Commerce operates in the sector of industry, commerce, and services sectors, adding that the aim of the Ministry is the development of Afghanistan's economy through increased investment, the expansion of industries, and small and medium enterprises, and the growth of balanced trade in order to create employment and increase the income of the country's citizens.

Masrura Qasimullah