



His Excellency

Zahir Tanin

Ambassador Extraordinary and
 Plenipotentiary Permanent
 Representative of Afghanistan to
 the United Nations

H.E. Dr. Zahir Tanin is the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations. He presented his Credentials to H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations on 19 December 2006.

During his tenure as Permanent Representative, he also served in a number of other capacities within the United Nations including as a Vice-President of the 63rd and 65th Sessions of the General Assembly and currently during the 67th session on behalf of the Asian Group. Ambassador Tanin served as acting President several times including during High Level General Assembly Sessions.

Ambassador Tanin was appointed Vice-Chair of the Open-ended Working Group and Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) on Security Council Reform during the 63rd General Assembly in 2008. He was reappointed to chair the ongoing negotiations during the 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th and 68th sessions. Before his appointment as Permanent

Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Tanin worked for eleven years with the BBC World Service as a Producer from 1995 to 2000, as a Senior Producer from 2000 to 2001, as an editor for BBC World Service,

Afghanistan and Central Asia from 2001 to 2003 and as an Editor for Afghanistan of the BBC Persian/Pashto Section from 2003 to 2006.

Ambassador Tanin is a graduate of Kabul Medical University. He began his career in 1980 working as a journalist in Kabul. He was Editor-in-Chief of Akhbar-e-Haftah and Sabawoon Magazine until 1992 and served as the Vice President of the Journalist Union of Afghanistan from 1987-1992. He co-authored The Communist Regime in Afghanistan, a study of the political and social changes in Afghanistan from 1978 to 1992. He also authorized

Afghanistan in the Twentieth Century. His corresponding landmark 29-part program, The Oral History of Afghanistan in the 20th Century, was broadcast on the BBC.

Ambassador Tanin is married to Dr. Zarghoona Tanin and has two children.

"Increasingly, Afghanistan finds itself in the middle of world events, and political unrest. Ambassador Zahir Tanin will offer his insights into the 'New Imperatives and Challenges in Afghanistan.' Our students will benefit greatly from our guest's expertise"

**Associate Vice President
 for UVU International
 Affairs & Diplomacy, Rusty
 Butler**

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WHO WE ARE

The Office of International Affairs & Diplomacy actively supports UVU's global engagement efforts by advancing UVU's presence and prestige in the International community; helping UVU students become globally competent graduates; promoting cultural literacy and diversity both on campus and in the community.

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INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT Afghanistan

THE FLAG OF Afghanistan



HISTORY

The flag of Afghanistan was adopted by the transitional government of Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan in 2002–2004. This flag is similar to the one flown in Afghanistan during the monarchy between 1930 and 1973. The difference is the addition of the shahadah at the top of the coat-of-arms in the center. The new flag was adopted January 4, 2004. This flag consists of three stripes of the colors black, red, and green. This has been present on most flags of Afghanistan in the last twenty years. The center emblem is the classical emblem of Afghanistan with a mosque with its mihrab facing Mecca.

Afghanistan has had more changes of its national flag during the twentieth century than any other country in the world.

"دا افغانستان اسلامی دولت" The Islamic State of Afghanistan has been replaced with simply "افغانستان" Afghanistan in the newest flag.

Information gathered from: wikipedia.com, cia.gov.

- Afghanistan officially the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is a landlocked country in Southern Asia, north and west of Pakistan, east of Iran.
- Afghanistan is the world's 41st largest country (249,984 sq.mi - 647,500 km²).
- The population of Afghanistan is 31,822,848 (July 2014 est.) The dominant ethnic group in Afghanistan is Pashtun - 42%, Tajik 27%, Hazara 9%, Uzbek 9%, Aimak 4%, Turkmen 3%, Baloch 2%, and other 4%
- The most spread religion in Afghanistan is Islam: Sunni Muslim - 80%, Shia Muslim - 19%, other 1%
- Burqa (common in Afghanistan) is a type of veil and body covering that conceals all of a woman's body Including the eyes.



- The official language is Afghan Persian or Dari - 50%. Turkic languages such as Uzbek and Turkmen are second popular languages - 11%. There are 30 minor languages (primarily Balochi and Pashai) that make up 4%.
- Afghanistan's economy is still recovering from the decades of conflict. The economy has improved significantly since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001
- The culture of Afghans expresses pride in the religion, country, ancestry, and above all, their independence



- Buzkashi is a national sport in Afghanistan. It is similar to polo and played by horsemen in two teams, each trying to grab the goat carcass.
- The Naan bread or Afghan bread is one of the tasty breads made in Afghanistan, it is always part of the meal & is made of chapatti flour (finely milled whole-wheat flour).
- Afghanistan's natural resources include gold, silver, copper, zinc and iron ore in the southeastern areas; precious and semi-precious stones such as lapis, emerald and azure in the north-east of the country.
- Afghanistan is a mountainous country with the highest point Nowshak at 7,485 m (24,557 ft) above sea level. Large parts of Afghanistan are dry , and fresh water supplies are limited. The country has a continental climate with hot summers and cold winters.

