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Editorial



Afghanistan possesses vast expanses of fertile land; however, due to inadequate water management practices, more than half of this land remains barren and unproductive. Recognizing the significance of proper water utilization, the Islamic Emirate has been steadfastly undertaking measures to address this issue. A shining example of their endeavors is Bakhshabad Dam, situated on Farah River, which was ceremoniously inaugurated on May 20, 2023. Although the initial groundwork for this project was laid during the reign of Sardar Muhammad Dawood Khan, its progress was impeded by the country's occupation. Sadly, subsequent governments failed to accord the necessary attention and priority to this monumental dam, alongside other water-related infrastructural projects. However, the Islamic Emirate, with its unwavering commitment to progress, has seized the opportunity to revitalize these vital initiatives. During his visit to Farah

province on May 20, the esteemed Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, inaugurated the remaining construction activities of the dam.

In his address at the opening ceremony, Mullah Baradar Akhund emphasized the paramount importance of the Bakhshabad dam, declaring it a critical and indispensable project for Farah Province. He assured the audience that every effort would be made to ensure its timely completion. The Deputy PM also candidly acknowledged the challenges that have hindered the remaining work of the dam's construction. Undeterred, he underscored the Islamic Emirate's resolute commitment to reconstructing Afghanistan's economic infrastructure, emphasizing the magnitude of the undertaking required to effect transformative changes in the economic realm.

The completion of the Bakhshabad Dam is not merely an infrastructural achievement but also a catalyst for economic progress, particularly within the agricultural sector. The Islamic Emirate's unwavering dedication to infrastructure development is poised to yield constructive outcomes, amplifying the nation's economic prosperity. Moreover, the imminent culmination of the dam's remaining tasks holds the promise of mitigating electricity shortages and propelling Afghanistan closer to achieving self-sufficiency in agricultural production.

This transformation will engender an environment conducive to expanding businesses and industries, fostering job creation, and ultimately augmenting per capita income. As the Islamic Emirate forges ahead with its ambitious infrastructure plans, it is evident that the prosperity of Afghanistan hinges upon robust water management practices. The completion of the Bakhshabad dam marks a significant step towards realizing this vision, heralding a brighter future for the nation and its people.

The Tunnel Construction of Bakhshabad Dam Inaugurated



The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, and Minister of Water and Energy, Mullah Abdul Latif Mansoor, inaugurated the commencement of tunnel construction of Bakhshabad Dam. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, speaking at the opening ceremony, emphasized the crucial significance of Bakhshabad Dam for Farah Province and assured their unwavering support for its completion. He stressed that their commitment extended beyond mere words, and they would earnestly carry out the necessary tasks. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, expressing the commitment of the Islamic Emirate, highlighted their responsibility to address the challenges faced by the people of Farah. He acknowledged that while they should have tried last year to have the water controlled this year, the Islamic Emirate has inherited a multitude of long-standing issues that cannot be instantly resolved. The reconstruction of Afghanistan's economic infrastructure demands extensive efforts, and he assured that he has earnestly begun working towards witnessing positive developments in the economic domain.

During his address, Deputy PM for Economic Affairs acknowledged the sacrifices made by the people of Farah for the establishment of the Islamic system. He underscored the importance of addressing their concerns and executing major projects that would alleviate their economic hardships. Utilizing available resources, he pledged to complete the remaining tasks of Bakhshabad Dam and urged the contractor to demonstrate trustworthiness and dedication in their responsibilities. In conclusion, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund assured the entire nation that the officials of the Islamic Emirate are dedicated and honest, committed to the country's development and prosperity, and asked them to stand



shoulder-by-shoulder with the government in the reconstruction of the country. Bakhshabad Dam, with its forthcoming completion, holds the capacity to irrigate 68,590 hectares of agricultural land through a 50 km canal on the right side and a 52 km canal on the left side.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund Visits a Carpet Manufacturing Factory in Herat



Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, visited a carpet manufacturing factory in Herat. During his visit, he met with a number of investors and businessmen from the carpet manufacturing industry in Herat. In the meeting, the investors and businessmen shared their concerns and issues related to business and investment, seeking cooperation from the Islamic Emirate. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, in response, encouraged investors and businessmen to invest in the country, emphasizing the importance of their contributions to Afghanistan's economic development. He expressed pride in the operation of the large and standardized carpet factory in Herat highlighting the transformation that has taken place, as Afghan carpets, once exported under the names and trademarks of other countries, are now proudly exported under the name of Afghanistan. The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs assured the investors and businessmen that their concerns would be addressed and pledged full cooperation from the Islamic Emirate. He reiterated the government's support for businessmen and investors and expressed readiness to assist them in any possible way.

The Impact of Bakhshabad Dam on Economic Growth

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Introduction

Water plays a crucial role in human life, significantly impacting economic activities. The global significance of drinkable water cannot be understated, given its scarcity and high demand. Countries worldwide strive to manage their water resources effectively, harnessing them for electricity generation, agriculture, and drinking purposes.

Research indicates that rivers and canals are the primary sources of water usage in Afghanistan, surpassing other alternatives. Afghanistan boasts a diverse network of rivers, both large and small, spanning across all provinces. According to available data, rivers, and canals account for 84% of the irrigation system, followed by springs at 8%, qanats at 7%, and wells at 1%.

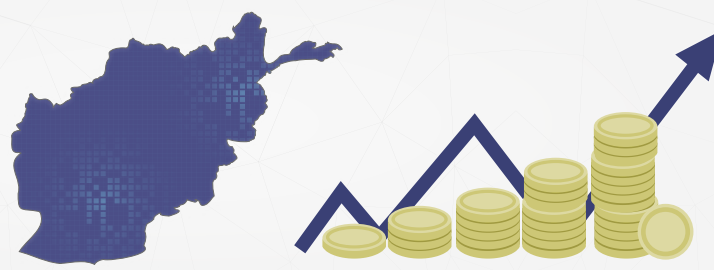
Most of Afghanistan's water reserves are concentrated in central and mountainous regions, as well as the western deserts. The country's water resources primarily stem from the Hindu Kush mountain range, characterized by towering peaks and abundant snowfall in areas such as Wakhan, Pamir, East and West Hindu Kush, and Baba Mountain. During the spring and summer seasons, the snowmelt feeds various waterways. Proper management of this abundant resource is crucial for maximizing its potential.

Constructing dams along flowing water bodies represents a pivotal water management strategy. These dams serve the dual purpose of irrigating agricultural lands and meeting the escalating electricity demands of nations. In pursuit of this objective, the Islamic Emirate has taken proactive steps, undertaking the construction of new dams and ensuring the completion of previously initiated dam projects across the country.

Among these projects, the Bakhshabad dam in Farah province holds significant importance. The Islamic Emirate has allocated funds to finalize the remaining construction tasks, and active work has already commenced. This endeavor reflects the commitment to leverage the potential of the Bakhshabad Dam to foster economic growth.

Bakhshabad Dam and its Economic Significance

On the 20th of May 2023, the completion of the remaining works of the Bakhshabad Dam in Farah province was inaugurated by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, the Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, accompanied by several high-ranking officials.



It is projected that the dam's construction will be finalized in the near future, marking a significant milestone. The Bakhshabad Dam boasts the capacity to store approximately one billion cubic meters of water annually, irrigate 68,590 hectares of agricultural land, and generate 27 megawatts of electricity.

The construction of this dam will address the depletion of underground water reservoirs and curb unnecessary water consumption. Furthermore, it will effectively control floodwater and surface water, contributing to improved water management. The agricultural and livestock sectors will witness substantial growth as a result of the dam's construction, leading to increased productivity. Consequently, the per capita income in the province is expected to rise.



Conclusion

Water is an indispensable resource for nations, making the construction of large and small dams a crucial endeavor in water management at the national level. While the construction of water dams incurs costs, it is essential to build and complete dams to address issues related to surface water supply, underground water reserves, and unnecessary water consumption.

This approach brings forth significant benefits, including the growth of the agricultural and business sectors within the country, as well as reduced reliance on imported electricity. By resolving existing electricity challenges, Afghanistan's industrial sector will flourish, leading to economic stability and rapid progress.

Taking into account these factors, the Islamic Emirate has taken proactive measures in water management, exemplified by the successful completion of the remaining works of the Bakhshabad dam in Farah province. Officials of the Islamic Emirate consistently emphasize their commitment to the development and prosperity of Afghanistan.

During the dam's inauguration ceremony, Honorable Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund stated, "Bakhshabad Dam is a crucial and essential project for Farah

province, and we have stood firmly with the people of Farah to ensure its completion." He further emphasized the significant efforts required for the reconstruction of Afghanistan's economic infrastructure, expressing a dedicated commitment to driving positive transformations in the economic sector.

The Deputy PM for Economic Affairs also highlighted his intention to utilize available resources effectively for the completion of the remaining works of the Bakhshabad dam, urging the contractor company to execute their entrusted tasks with unwavering trust. With its 50 km canal on the right side and 52 km canal on the left side, the Bakhshabad dam has the capacity to irrigate 68,590 hectares of agricultural land.

In summary, the construction and completion of dams play a pivotal role in water management, agricultural development, industrial growth, and overall economic advancement. The Islamic Emirate's steadfast dedication to these endeavors, exemplified by the Bakhshabad dam project, showcases their commitment to Afghanistan's progress and prosperity.

Extending Beggar Collecting Committee Operations: Addressing Poverty Across Provinces

To address the needs of impoverished citizens and facilitate their access to sustainable employment, the Beggar Collecting Committee of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has initiated operations in several provinces, namely Kabul, Balkh, Nuristan, Nangarhar, Logar, Paktia, Kandahar, and Herat.

In Kabul alone, the committee has successfully collected a total of 32,658 individuals as of May 26, 2023. After careful assessment, it has been determined that 6,177 women, 1,595 men, and 5,265 children are deserving of support. Among the deserving children, there are 71

unaccompanied child beggars who have been taken into the care of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. Their biometric data has been recorded, and they have been placed in the shelter school specifically established for their well-being.

The officials of the Beggar Collecting Committee are actively providing financial aid and food assistance to the identified beggars not only in Kabul but also in other provinces. It is their earnest aspiration that this support will continue unabated, offering much-needed relief to those in dire circumstances.

