

Afghanistan Review

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Comprehensive Information on Complex Crises



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This document provides a weekly overview of developments in Afghanistan from 10 – 16 April 2012, with hyper-links to source material highlighted in blue and underlined in the text. For more information on the topics below or other issues pertaining to events in Afghanistan, contact the members of the Afghanistan Team, or visit our website at www.cimicweb.org.

Economic Development

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Noorullah Delawari, Afghanistan's Central Bank chief, says the Afghan government [plans to sell scandal-hit Kabul Bank by June](#) of this year, says *Bloomberg*. He did not specify to whom the bank would be sold. Kabul Bank was severely undermined by illegal insider loans; when the extent of the illegal and risky dealings at the bank were reported by the media in 2010, the bank managed to avoid collapse only due to an infusion of nearly USD 1 billion by the Afghan government's Central Bank. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been pushing for the Afghan government to sell off the bank and to recover its missing assets, according to *Bloomberg*. However, as of January 2012, the Central Bank had only reclaimed USD 77.5 million, or less than 10% of the total. President Hamid Karzai earlier this month ordered all borrowers to re-pay all Kabul Bank loans within two months. However, Delawari offered a clarification on the two-month deadline, saying that borrowers who re-paid loans within two months would not be charged interest. The actual repayment period negotiated by the Central Bank is much longer; one group of individuals with Kabul Bank loans totaling USD 361 million reportedly have five years to repay their loans.

Businesspeople and shopkeepers in [Paktika](#) province are attempting to move away from the [use of the Pakistani rupees in local markets](#), finds *Pajhwok Afghan News*. The use of the Pakistani currency hurts traders who import items in afghani and then are forced to sell them in exchange for rupees, which are the predominant currency in eastern Afghanistan. Despite the fact that one rupee is lower in value than one afghani, many Afghans are accustomed to treating the currencies as if they were equivalent. The difference in value between the currencies, according to local traders, essentially wipes out their profit margins. Provincial government officials indicate that security personnel have been instructed to stop the exchange of rupees by money changers, though the Pakistani currency continues. Paktika Governor Muhibullah Samim tells *Pajhwok* that he will be taking further steps to reduce the use of Pakistani rupees on local markets. For further information on this topic, see the CFC Afghanistan Resource Desk Paper on "[Use of Rupees in East Afghanistan](#)", August 2011.

Several articles emerged this past week concerning agriculture. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) says that, on 12 April, the [Dai Kundi](#) provincial government hosted its [annual Almond Festival](#). The province's governor, Qurban Ali Oruzgani, said the event helps support the almond industry in the province. Almonds are the only Dai Kundi product which is exported out of Afghanistan on any scale, and Dai Kundi accounts for 11% of the country's almond production. Provincial agriculture officials told UNAMA that almond cultivation could be even more successful if the central government provided further support to the industry, which has been hard hit by crop disease in recent years. Afghanistan is one of the largest producers of almonds globally, according to data from the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. In 2010, the most

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recent year for which data is available, FAO's databases say Afghanistan was the 11th largest almond producer, growing [USD 105 million worth of the crop](#) and exporting nearly USD 60 million in shelled and unshelled almonds.

The British government and partners are launching an [Agricultural Support Programme \(ASP\)](#) in [Bamian](#) province in central Afghanistan which will benefit up to 50,000 farmers, according to the UK Department for International Development. The ASP will provide support, such as modern farming equipment and high-quality wheat and potato-seeds, to 40 farmer cooperatives. Tractors will be provided for shared use among cooperative members, and support will be provided to numerous seed businesses so that Afghans have sustainable access to high-quality seeds in the future. The ASP will assist 40 wheat seed businesses and 20 potato seed businesses in addition to 20 businesses specialising in livestock reproduction and genetics. The project, which will last three years and focus on Bamian Central, Yakawlang, Panjab and Waras districts, is also supported by the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock as well as New Zealand and the United States.

Afghanistan's carpet industry was the subject of two reports, one indicating challenges and another highlighting province-specific progress. *Tolo News* reports that exports of carpets from Afghanistan have [declined by 95%](#) over the course of the past five years. Officials from the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) say the decline has been caused by the lack of appropriate processing facilities in Afghanistan and freight trade relations with Pakistan. While Afghanistan can produce carpets, it does not have the ability to clean, wash and process them for sale on a large scale. In addition, the ACCI indicates that Pakistan has restricted exports from Afghanistan via Pakistani soil, thus preventing Afghan carpets from reaching international markets. To revive the industry, the ACCI has put forward three recommendations: (i) establish a carpet industrial production park, (ii) subsidise business loans to carpet producers and (iii) exempt raw materials for carpet from customs duties.

In contrast, the *Asia Times* suggests that [the carpet trade in Herat province](#) in western Afghanistan is improving. The provincial carpet association indicated that 60% more carpets were exported to Iran and Europe in 2011 than in 2010. [Herat](#) is Afghanistan's primary hub for trade with Iran and Turkmenistan, though goods from Herat are also exported, often through Iran, to the Middle East and Europe. Carpets were one of several Herati products which were increasingly in demand abroad, according to the article. Exports of items such as saffron, cumin, marble, animal skins and wool rose by 36% in March-September 2011 compared with the same time period a year earlier. Local businesspeople attribute the rise to a reduction in bureaucratic red tape and the work of the province's chamber of commerce.

Lastly, two days after India's steel minister met with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, a consortium of large Indian metals and mining companies announced it would be bidding on [copper and gold reserves](#) in Afghanistan, says *India Times*. The consortium will be led by the Steel Authority of India, Ltd (SAIL) and will include the same members that was awarded the rights to Afghanistan's massive Hajigak iron ore deposit in late 2011. Afghanistan and India have recently been strengthening economic ties with the two nations signing a memorandum of understanding concerning iron and steel on 09 April.

Governance & Rule of Law

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President Hamid Karzai is considering [calling presidential elections a year early](#), moving them from 2014 to 2013, so that they do not occur alongside the end of the security transition process in Afghanistan, according to the *Associated Press* (AP). President Karzai is currently serving his second five-year term, which will end in 2014, the same year in which the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) plans to have handed over full security responsibility to Afghan forces. Holding the vote in 2013 could, therefore, mean President Karzai would step down early since the Afghan Constitution does not permit a president to serve more than two consecutive terms. The Constitution says elections must be held 30 to 60 days before an incumbent president leaves office. An official with Afghanistan's election commission said preparations for the 2014 elections were still under way and that no one had approached the commission about amending the schedule. Abdul Satar Sauadat, a lawyer and constitutional expert, told *Pajhwok Afghan News* that any change to the presidential polls schedule would [require amendments](#) to the constitution. During a press conference with visiting NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, President Karzai said no final decision has been made concerning the scheduling of early elections.

In related news, Afghan legislator and women's rights advocate Fawzia Koofi has announced her candidacy for [the presidency](#) in 2014, *Reuters* reports. Koofi said she expects strong opposition, threats of violence and pressure against her family as her campaign gets underway. The article reports that, in the past, a near-death attack from the Taliban and threats on her life from the Haqqani Network had challenged her election as a lawmaker and later as first female deputy speaker. Koofi told *Reuters* in an interview that she will also face opposition from President Karzai's administration, which she blames for endemic corruption, violence and weak rule of law. A campaigner for girls' education, Koofi said President Karzai has also lost women's support: "He has lost the trust of this part of society - women, the civil movements, the activists, the Afghan youth and the intellectuals."

Women belonging to the organisation Young Women for Change [marched through Kabul's streets](#) on 14 April to protest violence against women, according to *Tolo News*. The women said that they would start protesting in front of the Presidential Palace if the government remained silent on violence against women. Meanwhile, on 15 April President Karzai stressed the need for the creation of a [joint group](#) of women parliamentarians from Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, according to *Pajhwok*. At a meeting with a delegation of Pakistani lawmakers, the president called for enhanced contacts between female legislators from Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The United Nations Special Representative for Afghanistan, Ján Kubiš, met with the chairman of Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission (IEC), Fazl Ahmad Manawi, according to [a press release](#) issued by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). Manawi outlined the IEC's plans for public consultation with a wide spectrum of stakeholders on electoral issues and also drew attention to the need to strengthen voter registration. Kubiš pledged to work with the government, its institutions and civil society "to strengthen the integrity of future polls".

The 70-member Afghan High Peace Council unanimously selected Salahuddin Rabbani, eldest son of the slain former Afghan president Burhanuddin Rabbani, as its [new chairman](#), according to *McClatchy News*. The move was aimed at reviving peace efforts that have been badly damaged, first by Burhanuddin Rabbani's assassination by a suicide bomber in September, and then again in March when the Taliban decided to suspend contact with US officials. "I believe it is only through peace that stability and security can be ensured in Afghanistan. We look at peace as a religious principle," Salahuddin Rabbani was quoted as saying. Salahuddin Rabbani is 41 years old and holds a master's degree from Columbia University in New York; he had been serving as Afghanistan's ambassador to Turkey. The appointment comes at a time when the High Peace Council is [meeting with leaders](#) of Hezb-e Islami, an insurgent group, according to the *AP*. A five-member delegation from Hezb-e Islami will meet in coming days with President Karzai and both of his vice presidents. Hezb-e Islami's European representative, Qaribur Rahman Saeed, said that the group's first official talks with the Afghan government were held in February 2010, when the group presented a 15-point peace plan. Then, in December 2011, a Hezb-e Islami delegation went to Kabul and met with representatives of the international community and Afghan government, including President Karzai.

Pakistan [will likely attend](#) the NATO Summit in Chicago this May, according to *The Express Tribune*. The conference, which will partly concern NATO's role in Afghanistan, will include nearly 50 heads of state and government. It has not yet been decided who will represent Pakistan at the event. Pakistan is seen as key to security and development in Afghanistan beyond 2014. NATO Secretary General Rasmussen said last year that "we need positive engagement of Pakistan if we are to ensure long-term peace and stability in Afghanistan and in the region. And my bottom-line is very clear: We need a strong partnership with Pakistan."

A delegation sent by Afghanistan's senate, the *Meshrano Jirga*, says that two of the country's major border crossings – Torkham in [Nangarhar](#) province and Hairatan in [Balkh](#) province – are [rife with corruption](#), according to *Pajhwok*. The claim came two months after Azizullah Lodin, chairman of the High Office of Oversight and Anti-corruption (HOOAC), announced that USD 3.5 billion in revenue from the Hairatan port had gone unaccounted for over the past two years. Hafiz Abdul Qayyum, who led the 10-member delegation from the *Meshrano Jirga*, said the delegation found a lack of transparency in the tax collection systems at Hairatan and Torkham as well as widespread irregularities at their customs offices. Other members of the delegation suggested that top customs officials were appointed in exchange for bribes. A spokesperson for the Afghan Ministry of Finance rejected such allegations and noted that the ministry had a record of combatting corruption. According to Qayyum, the governors of Balkh and Nangarhar denied that corruption in customs offices was taking place on such a large scale.

On 12 April, foreign ministers of the G-8 countries¹ urged the Afghan government to [address the issue](#) of corruption and work on improving governance, *Pajhwok* reports. While acknowledging the progress made by the Afghan government and people with the support of the international community, the ministers noted that significant work remained to ensure that progress is sustained.

Powerful warlords in the capital of [Zabul](#) province, Qalat, are trying to capitalise on the rise in real estate prices by [seizing state-owned land](#), an official told *Outlook Afghanistan*. The municipal government and residents said the land seizures have rendered many poor Afghans homeless. Mohammad Akram, who lives in a rented house, said that "[t]he government should make sure the grabbed lands are vacated and distributed to the poor". Qalat's mayor, Syed Ahmad Safi, confirmed the problem but said that dozens of acres of land had been re-claimed over the past week. Safi accused some government officials of trying to illegally seize state lands while also noting that some officials were committed to countering the land grabs.

Punishments such as [public lashings](#) are still common throughout much of Afghanistan, according to experts cited by *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*. Wadir Safi, a law professor at Kabul University, says *Sharia* law prevails in much of rural Afghanistan, while civil law takes precedence in urban centres. He notes Afghan law incorporates both Islamic and civil law, and leaves it up to individual judges and courts to determine which code of law to apply. "The difference in law is the person, the judge themselves," says Safi. "In Kabul, they act in one way, in Jalalabad another, and in Kandahar another. The law is the same law but the judges are different. They are [handing out punishments] according to their own [interpretation]."²

Afghanistan's Appeals Court of the Criminal Justice Task Force (CJTF) found 12 people guilty of offences related to [illegal drug activity](#), CJTF press officer Ajmal Tareen tells *Tolo News*. The sentences, which range from five to 20 years in prison, are awaiting approval by the Supreme Court. Authorities reportedly seized 33 kilograms of heroin, more than 100 kilograms of opium, more than 10,000 litres of chemical liquids and 150 litres of alcohol from the individuals involved. A police officer from Helmand who received bribes to allow smuggling was among those arrested, as was a Pakistani citizen. Head of the CJTF Yar Mohammad Hussain Khil said that more than 700 people had been arrested in drug trafficking-related cases in the past year; 28 of those arrested were members of the ANSF. In trafficking-related news, Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqi told *Tolo News* that "[\[o\]pen borders](#) are the main

¹ G8 members include Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

² Bracket insertions were made by *RFE/RL*.

cause of insecurity in Afghanistan”. Sediqi said that since criminal acts had increased in the country the government will take a more aggressive approach in tracking down and penalising criminal groups that are involved in smuggling.

Tolo News reports that Kabul police have [arrested four men](#) in association with the kidnapping and murder of a nine-year-old boy. The chief of the Kabul police Criminal Investigation Unit, Mohammad Zahir, said the kidnappers had taken the boy while he was on his way home from school about 12 days ago, and demanded his family pay USD 100,000. Despite the family paying the ransom, the boy was murdered.

Security & Force Protection

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Taliban gunmen [attacked multiple targets in Kabul](#) on 15 and 16 April, assaulting the parliament building and foreign embassies in the central diplomatic area, *NBC News* reports. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told the media the attacks as the start of the insurgency’s spring offensive. An Afghan official said on 16 April that the coordinated insurgent attacks in Kabul had ended and that [all attackers had been killed](#), *Tolo News* reports. At least eight policemen and five civilians were killed, while 41 others, including 36 police officers, were injured in the attacks, said Mohammad Zahir, the chief of the police Criminal Investigation Unit in Kabul. Officials said at least 18 gunmen were killed in the coordinated attacks on 15 and 16 April. In responding to the insurgent assault, Afghan Special Forces raided a construction site which the attackers had been using as a base, officials said. NATO helicopters supported the raid on the construction site, which overlooked ISAF Headquarters and several embassies, including the British and German missions. The coordinated insurgent assault on 15-16 April comprised the first major attack in Kabul since the September 2011 attacks on ISAF Headquarters and the American embassy.

However, the assault was [not confined to Kabul](#), according to *BBC News*. In other parts of the country, gunmen attacked government buildings in [Logar](#) province, the airport in Jalalabad and a police facility in Gardez, the capital of [Paktiya](#) province. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attacks, saying that they were intended to counter claims that the insurgency had been weakened. An Afghan Ministry of Interior (MoI) statement on 15 April said the assaults were the work of the Haqqani Network.

Afghan Defence Minister Abdul Rahim Wardak mentioned in a 10 April briefing at the Pentagon that Afghanistan needs a [long-term security partnership](#) with the United States and that some US troops would be necessary beyond the end of 2014, according to *The Washington Post*. US forces will be required to ensure Afghanistan’s stability and “give the right messages” to its population and its enemies, Wardak said. “The strategic implications will be more important than the physical number of troops.”

Admiral William McRaven, Commander of US Special Operations Command, is devising an Afghanistan war plan which includes a role for [small special operations teams](#) which would support Afghan forces as thousands of international troops withdraw, the *Associated Press* says. In their advisory role, these special operations teams would support the Afghan National Army (ANA) in offensive and defensive operations, share intelligence about the enemy and communications to call for air support if in danger of being overwhelmed by a superior force.

In addition to the small special operations teams noted above, [conventional US forces](#) are reportedly forming small teams of more senior US officers and senior non-commissioned officers to advise the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). *Gannett News* reports that the Security Force Assistance Team (SFAT) programme is viewed as a component of the transition strategy which aims to ensure that Afghan security forces are in the lead throughout the country by 2014. The US Army is preparing for the new, smaller mission in Afghanistan, where they will train and advise ANSF commanders as the United States withdraws its combat troops and the ANSF takes over security responsibility nationwide. The SFAT concept is modelled after a similar program used in Iraq.

Afghanistan is [training female soldiers](#) to join elite Afghan special forces on operations such as night raids, reports *Reuters*. Afghan special forces have recently taken the lead for night raids and are planning to use the female soldiers to engage with women during such operations. One is Sergeant Sara Delawar, a former policewoman from [Jowzjan](#) province. “Before we joined this unit, our operations were done by foreign troops and they did not know our culture. People were critical so we joined to help out,” Delawar said; “I have already fought the Taliban. My comrades were martyred in fights with the Taliban and we have killed them too.”

The Afghan MoI announced the establishment of a [Community Police Secretariat](#) aimed at building trust between police and the public, *Pajhwok Afghan News* reports. The secretariat would help boost public confidence in police and encourage the force to serve the nation in a better way, the deputy interior minister, Lieutenant General Abdur Rahman Rahman, announced at a ceremony inaugurating the initiative. “We live in a country where war has forced police into fighting rebels and forgetting about their real job, which is law enforcement, fighting crime and serving people,” he said, blaming the current situation for the gap between police and people.

Humanitarian Update

For the second consecutive week, a boat containing Afghan asylum-seekers faced troubles [in Indonesian waters](#), says *Voice of America*. An Australian refugee coordinator, Ian Rintoul, who had been in contact with people on the boat says the engine has failed and the boat is taking on water near Bali. Indonesia [launched search helicopters](#), according to *Agence France-Presse*. The CFC reported in the “[Afghanistan Review](#)” on [10 April 2012](#) that a Singapore-registered tanker rescued around 120 Australia-bound asylum seekers from their sinking wooden boat on 08 April. They refused to get off the docked tanker for two days, insisting they be allowed to continue their journey to Australia, but finally disembarked in Indonesia.

Rahman said the secretariat will be one of the MoI's several initiatives aimed as professionalising and improving the image of the police.

After two children were [killed by a roadside bomb](#) planted by insurgents in [Helmand](#) province, the local residents took matters into their own hands, *Tolo News* reports. Local residents captured the man they believed responsible for planting the bomb and cut off his ears, because the residents wanted "to punish the criminal themselves", according to a statement from the Helmand governor's office.

Social & Strategic Infrastructure

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The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Pakistani government has approved a [draft of a gas sale purchase agreement](#) (GSPA) for the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline, reports the *The Express Tribune*. The approval of the draft will pave the way to sign the definitive GSPA with Turkmenistan. The GSPA was scheduled to be signed on 19 April 2012, but it was eventually re-scheduled for May 2012 due to the upcoming talks between Afghanistan, Pakistan and India on transit fees. Under this agreement, Pakistan will pay Turkmenistan a price which is 8% cheaper than the cost of Iranian gas.

According to *Pajhwok Afghan News*, during the current solar year, telecommunications companies will earn [USD 190 million in total](#), an amount which is USD 30 million more than the preceding year. Amirzai Sangin, Afghanistan's Minister of Communications and Information Technology, attributed the soaring revenues to economic growth in Afghanistan, the robust communications services provided by the industry as well as the installation of the fibre-optic network. The minister remarked that there are 18 million mobile phones subscribers in Afghanistan but that only 8% of Afghans have access to Internet; this figure is expected to increase once 3G and WIMAX systems are fully operative.³ The fibre-optic network installation in Afghanistan has progressed since 2007, when a project was launched to lay out 3,300 kilometres of lines to connect Kabul with seventeen provinces as well as with neighbouring Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Iran and Tajikistan. The project was supposed to be completed in 2010 but [security conditions have delayed its progress](#), details another *Pajhwok* article. As a result, MCIT had to procure broadband internet services from foreign telecommunications providers in Iran, Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

Musa Khan Akbarzada, [Ghazni](#) provincial governor, inaugurated the [construction of the Ghazni International Airport](#), which is planned for completion in 2013, the year in which Ghazni City will be the Capital of Islamic Culture, reports *Pajhwok*. The new airport, which will be financed by the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, will occupy an area one kilometre wide by four kilometres long in Deh Yak district. Akbarzada says that the airport will benefit not only Ghazni province but also neighbouring [Logar](#), [Paktika](#) and [Zabul](#) provinces. Abdul Jami Jami, the Ghazni deputy provincial council chief, said the project could have a positive impact on the security situation but emphasised the need to ensure that construction was completed to a high standard. Jami said that quality of past construction projects in the province was poorer than expected due to an insufficient monitoring.

In other news, the provincial department of water management in [Khost](#) province has not been [allocated funds](#) by the Afghan government over the past 10 years, reports *Pajhwok*. According to the Director of Water Management, Mohammad Naseem, his department has spent USD 2 million provided by the provincial reconstruction team and other organisations. Despite several trips to the Ministry of Energy and Water, Naseem has been unable to access central government funding. In Afghanistan, provincial departments are financed by central government ministries rather than by the provincial administration.

The government of Spain will fund a [USD 14 million water supply scheme](#) in [Badghis](#) province, states *Pajhwok*. The project will provide water to the 60,000 residents of the urban and peri-urban areas of Qades and Qala-e Naw and will take 18 months to complete.

Lastly, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) claims that 400,000 to 800,000 Afghan refugees are expected to return to Afghanistan between 2012 and 2013 because of the [lack of permission to remain in host countries](#). The DRC claims that returning to Afghanistan will prove challenging for the refugees, many of whom lack resources and will face difficulties establishing livelihoods in Afghanistan.

³ 3G is a generation of mobile phones and telecommunications services that meet certain technical specifications. Likewise, WIMAX (Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access) is a wireless communication standard that provides a web connection which can handle between 30 and 40 MB per second.

Humanitarian Update

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has released three incident reports that describe recent humanitarian situations. The first one is in relation to the [Khanabad district flash flood and landslide](#) in [Kunduz](#) province, a flood that obliged 46 families to leave their homes and live under improvised tents. The second one is the [Amu Darya riverbank erosion incident](#) in [Balkh](#), in which 145 families lost their houses. Finally, [17 families were displaced](#) in Pashtun Kot district in [Faryab](#) due to a series of military operations.

Recent Readings & Resources

- “[The Fate of India’s Strategic Restraint](#)”, Brookings Institution, April 2012, by Sunil Dasgupta.
- “[‘No Boutique State’: Understanding the Debate on Turkey’s Involvement in Afghanistan](#)”, German Marshall Fund, 13 April 2012, by Şaban Kardaş.

The readings and resources above were brought to the attention of the CFC’s Afghanistan Team during the course of the past several weeks. The CFC does not endorse any of these documents or their content. If you would like to recommend a report or website for this section of the “Afghanistan Review”, please send the file or reference to Afghanistan@cimicweb.org. The CFC welcomes all recommendations but is not obliged to print them.

Afghanistan Events Calendar

- **Pakistan, Afghanistan and the US withdrawal.** This event is hosted by Chatham House in London on 20 April 2012 from 13:00 until 14:00 (local time). Ahmed Rashid, author of *Pakistan on the Brink*, will provide a guide to the key stakeholders in the region and offer his thoughts on the future of international terrorism. Forth further information [visit the event website](#).
- **Field Security Management Course.** The Centre for Safety and Development (CSD) will be holding its “Field Security Management” course in Afghanistan from 13-15 May 2012. The course reportedly addresses topics such as the following: security management, context analysis, risk assessment, security strategies and procedures, contingency planning, incident reporting and the development of action plans. Further information is [available here](#).
- **Agricultural Development for Afghanistan Pre-Deployment Training.** The United States Department of Agriculture (www.usda.gov) and a consortium of American universities deliver this training. The curriculum will meet the needs of all deploying United States Government personnel in support of the USG Agriculture Strategy in Afghanistan. The training is for United States Government personnel and will take place in Fresno, California on 18-23 June. Participants will be enrolled on a first come first serve basis. Contact Ryan Brewster, US Department of Agriculture, at ryan.brewster@fas.usda.gov for further information.

If you are a CFC account-holder and would like your notice to appear here, please send all relevant details to Afghanistan@cimicweb.org. The CFC is not obliged to print any notice that it receives, and the CFC retains the right to revise notices for clarity and appropriateness. Any notices submitted for publication in the “Afghanistan Review” newsletter should be relevant to Afghanistan and to the CFC’s mission as a knowledge management and information sharing institution.

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