



**His Excellency Zahir Tanin,
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative to the
United Nations**

Dr. Zahir Tanin presented his Credentials to H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United

Nations on 19 December 2006. During his tenure at the United Nations, Ambassador Tanin has held a number of other positions in the Organization. He currently serves as a Vice-President of the 65th Session of the General Assembly. He was the first appointed Vice-President of the General Assembly during its 63rd Session in 2008. In his position as Permanent Representative Ambassador Tanin has participated in high level meetings of the General Assembly as a member of the Afghanistan delegation since 2007, and travels to high level meetings around the world to represent his country.

Before his appointment as Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Tanin worked for eleven years with the BBC: as Producer from 1995 to 2000; as a Senior Producer 2000 to 2001; as an editor from BBC World Service, Afghanistan and Central Asia from 2001 to 2003.

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 Akhbare-Haftah and Sabawoon Magazine until 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 authored *Afghanistan in the Twentieth Century*. He produced a landmark 29-part program, *The Oral History of Afghanistan in the 20th Century*, which was broadcast on the BBC.

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

Click [here](#) for more information on Ambassador Tanin's visit to UVU

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Ambassador of Afghanistan to
the United Nations

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



Afghan Flag History:

The current edition of the flag was officially adopted in 2004. It is similar to the one flown in Afghanistan during the monarchy between 1930 and 1973. The difference is the addition of the shahadah (Muslim creed) at the top of the coat of arms. Afghanistan has had more changes of its national flag during the 20th century than any other country in the world. It has had 20 different flags since its first flag in 1747.

Afghan Flag Meaning:

The center emblem on the flag is the classical emblem of Afghanistan: a mosque with its mihrab facing Mecca. The black stripe signifies the past, red is for the blood shed for Independence, and green signifies either hope for the future, agricultural prosperity, or Islam.

Information taken from wikipedia.org and CIA factbook.

- 99% of the Afghan population are Muslims. It is reported that only one Jewish man lives in Afghanistan.
- Due to non-stop wars in the country for about 30 years, there are over 1 million handicapped or disabled people in the country.
- The capital city of Kabul is about 3,500 years old, with various empires having occupied the region over the years.
- The modern state of Afghanistan was founded by Ahmad Shah Durrani in 1747.
- No meal in Afghanistan is complete without “naan,” a flat, unleavened bread.



- The Minaret of Jam, in the Hari River valley (pictured left) is a 65 meter tower built in 1190s. It is made up entirely of baked bricks intricately inscribed with geometric patterns and verses from the Qur'an. In 2002 it became recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Buzkashi, meaning “goat grabbing,” is the national sport of Afghanistan.
- Opium is the fastest and largest growing crop in Afghanistan.
- There are many natural resources in Afghanistan yet to be mined. These include gold, silver, copper, zinc, iron, ore, emeralds, uranium, salt, sulfur and coal. The US Pentagon estimates that these minerals could be worth as much as US \$1 trillion.

- The Endorheic Sistan Basin in Afghanistan is regarded as one of the driest regions in the world.
- Only 1.5% of the population in Afghanistan have Internet access.
- Although there are currently about 100,00 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, that number is expected to drop to below 70,000 by the end of 2012, with subsequent withdrawals to come in efforts to bring the war in Afghanistan to a close.



Information gathered from cnn.com, wanttoknowit.com, & lifestyle.iloveindia.com.