

KHABARNOMA

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**SPECIAL EDITION: PRINCE HUSSAIN AGA KHAN & PRINCE
AMYN AGA KHAN VISITED TAJIKISTAN**

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Cover-page photo

Jamaati Volunteers at the entrance of the Ismaili Centre Dushanbe before Prince Hussain entering ICD.

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Foreword

This special edition of Khabarnoma is brought to you by the Communications and Publications Portfolio of the Ismaili Council for Tajikistan on this very auspicious day for all of us — the Birthday of Mawlana Hazir Imam. We take this opportunity to congratulate you and your families with this happy occasion and convey our best wishes to you.

This edition of Khabarnoma highlights the two very important visits that took place in the month of November of this year — the visit of Prince Hussain and Prince Aryn to Dushanbe, the capital city of the Republic of Tajikistan. This issue presents important highlights of these two visits, including a gallery of photos that features some of the important moments during the visits.

It also includes featured stories across the Jamaati and AKDN Institutions.

We believe you will enjoy this special edition of Khabarnoma. We welcome your feedback and your ideas for improving Khabarnoma.

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Mawlana Hazir Imam talks about pluralism and cosmopolitanism

Lecture at Harvard University

Mawlana Hazir Imam delivered the Samuel L. and Elizabeth Jodidi Lecture at Harvard University's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs. Entitled “The Cosmopolitan Ethic in a Fragmented World”, his lecture covered the challenges to pluralism and cosmopolitanism.

During the lecture, Mawlana Hazir Imam noted that *“A pluralist, cosmopolitan society is a society which not only accepts difference, but actively seeks to understand it and to learn from it. In this perspective, diversity is not a burden to be endured, but an opportunity to be welcomed.”* Mawlana Hazir Imam emphasised the importance of dialog to overcome the challenges to pluralism and cosmopolitanism, saying that *“perhaps above all else, is a readiness to participate in a true dialog with diversity, not only in our personal relationships, but in institutional and international relationships also. But that takes work, and it takes patience. Above all, it implies a readiness to listen”*.

After the lecture, Mawlana Hazir Imam and Professor Diana L. Eck of Harvard University discussed the topics in Mawlana Hazir Imam’s lecture, including “the Cosmopolitan Ethic” and the challenges to creating pluralistic societies in the world today.

Mawlana Hazir Imam delivering the Samuel L. and Elizabeth Jodidi Lecture at Harvard University



Mawlana Hazir Imam answering the questions of Professor Diana L. Eck of Harvard University



Mawlana Hazir Imam and Professor Diana L. Eck of Harvard University during the discussion



Prince Hussain visited Dushanbe to discuss the vision of a new Agency



Prince Hussain received at the Dushanbe Airport by the Diplomatic Representative of AKDN in Tajikistan, Mr Akbar Pesnani and the President of the Ismaili Council for Tajikistan, Dr. Sharofat Mamadambarova

safe from the effects of natural disasters. The new Agency will strive to ensure that the environment and settings in which the community is living are enabling for developing livelihood opportunities, for providing access to social and financial services. The new Agency's purpose is to ensure that communities are able to cope with disasters in terms of preparedness and response.

The initial geographical focus of the new Agency is to be on Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

On 15 November 2015, Prince Hussain, son of Mawlana Hazir Imam, arrived in Dushanbe, capital of the Republic of Tajikistan, for a three day working visit. During his visit, Prince Hussain attended the Workshop on the establishment of the new AKDN agency for Habitat - Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH).

During his visit, Prince Hussain visited the Ismaili Centre Dushanbe which served as a working venue for holding the Workshop.

The new Agency's main purpose is to ensure that the community lives in a physical environment which is



Prince Hussain arriving at the Ismaili Centre Dushanbe and welcomed by the President of the National Council, Dr. Sharofat Mamadambarova and Vice-President of the National Council, Mr Muzaffar Jorubov

Prince Hussain (*in the middle*) with a group of volunteers of the Ismaili Centre Dushanbe





Prince Hussain arriving at the Ismaili Centre Dushanbe and welcomed by the Mukhi Saheb of the Dushanbe Ismaili Centre Jamaatkhana, Sheron Amidkhonov



Prince Hussain, Representatives of the Diplomatic community in Tajikistan and AKDN international leadership during a workshop at ICD



Jamaati Members outside the Ismaili Centre Dushanbe greeting Prince Hussain



Prince Hussain saluting the Jamaati Members outside the Ismaili Centre Dushanbe upon his leaving ICD



Prince Aryn visited Dushanbe, Tajikistan



Prince Aryn arriving at the Dushanbe Airport

Photo from left to right: Mr Akbar Pesnani, Diplomatic Representative of AKDN in Tajikistan, Prince Aryn Aga Khan, Mr Aziz Boolani, Chief Executive of Serena Hotels - South/Central Asia, Dr. Sharofat Mamadamborova, President of the Ismaili Council for Tajikistan

On 29 November 2015, Prince Aryn, brother of Mawlana Hazir Imam, arrived in Dushanbe for a one day working visit. Prince Aryn was received by the Diplomatic Representative of AKDN in Tajikistan, Mr Akbar Pesnani, the President of the Ismaili Council in Tajikistan, Dr. Sharofat Mamadamborova and the Chief Executive of Serena Hotels - South/Central Asia, Mr Aziz Boolani. During his visit, besides other engagements, Prince Aryn visited the Ismaili Centre Dushanbe and met with the Jamaati and AKDN key Leadership in Tajikistan.

Prince Aryn welcomed by the Chairman of The Ismaili Tariqah and Religious Education Board (ITREB) for Tajikistan, Mr Mansour Shakarmamadov

Ismaili Centre Dushanbe





Prince Abyn touring the Ismaili Centre Dushanbe

Photo from left to right: Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan Mr Bahrom Rahimov, Prince Abyn, Mr Akbar Pesnani, Diplomatic Representative of AKDN in Tajikistan, Mr Muzaffar Jorubov, Vice-President of the National Council and Executive Officer of ICD

About AKDN in Tajikistan

The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) works towards the vision of an economically dynamic, politically stable, intellectually vibrant and culturally tolerant Tajikistan. This is achieved by supporting the establishment of programmes and institutions that allow the Government, private sector and civil society to play complementary roles in increasing prosperity and creativity within a pluralistic society.

The Network brings together individual agencies that operate in a range of areas – from economic development, education and rural development to cultural revitalisation, health care and financial services. Together these agencies collaborate towards a common goal – to build institutions and programmes that can respond to the contemporary challenges and opportunities of social, economic and cultural growth in Tajikistan. Operating in Tajikistan since 1992, AKDN draws on a strong base of experience in working with mountain societies. It works in all regions of the country and employs over 3,500 people through its operations and investments.



The celebration of Mawlana Hazir Imam's 79th Birthday

On 13 December 2015, Ismailis around the world are celebrating Mawlana Hazir Imam's 79th birthday. Hazir Imam has devoted himself to the spiritual and worldly progress of Ismailis everywhere during his Imamate. The joyous occasion of Mawlana Hazir Imam's Birthday is an opportunity for the *Jamaat* to express its love, loyalty and devotion to the Imam-of-the-Time. With the initiative and support of the Ismaili Tariqa and Religious Education Board (ITREB) of Tajikistan, a series of events were organised in different parts of the country.

A big event on this occasion was hosted at the Ismaili Centre Dushanbe, where *Jamaati* members recited devotional poetry, *farmans* of Mawlana Hazir Imam and *suras* from Qur'an. A musical performance, including the famous Tajik singer Shuhrat Saynakov and traditional dancing, was presented to the audience.

A quiz-game was organised in Khorog where four teams, each comprising of 8 person competed with each other. The quiz questions were divided into three parts, first of which was devoted to Mawlana Hazir Imam's life, the second part was about the institutional activities and third one was on the *farmans* and *irshadat* of Mawlana Hazir Imam.



Ismaili Centre Dushanbe



Ismaili Centre Dushanbe

Ya Ali Madad!

On behalf of the National Council for Tajikistan, we would like to congratulate you on the joyous occasion of Mawlana Hazir Imam's Birthday

On this auspicious day may Mawlana Hazir Imam grant you and your families with unity, good health, happiness, prosperity, peace and lots of Barakat.

May we continue to share the spirit of dedicated service for our beloved Imam, the Jamaat and communities around us in our countries of opportunities.

Dr. Sharofat Mamadambarova
President of the Shia Imami Ismaili Council for Tajikistan

University of Central Asia's Khorog Campus construction progressing rapidly and making a difference

Construction of the University of Central Asia's (UCA) campus in Khorog, Tajikistan is on schedule for an accelerated September 2017 opening, says Director of Construction and Facilities Grant Robertson.

"We were originally scheduled to complete Phase I construction in 2018 but are now aiming to open the campus one year earlier, in 2017," said Robertson after a recent visit to the site, where he congratulated the construction team for their timely and high quality work.

"We are delighted with the progress in construction in Khorog. However, more significant than this is the fact that, even before the doors of our Khorog campus open, UCA is hav-

ing a profound impact on socioeconomic development and well-being of communities in the region. This policy of ensuring maximum benefit to local communities was also successfully implemented during the construction of our Naryn campus," remarked Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, Executive Chairman of UCA's Board Executive Committee.

At a total capital cost of \$94.4 million, Phase I construction of the Khorog campus is being funded by a \$64.4 million commitment from the Aga Khan Development Network, including \$7.5 million from the Aga Khan Foundation, and a long-term soft loan of \$30 million from the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the United States Government's development finance institution.



The Khorog Academic Block, which will house a library, classrooms, a computer lab, student common spaces, dining hall, administrative offices and faculty reception, offices and residences.

Overall masterplan for the University of Central Asia's Campus in Khorog, Tajikistan.



It is no accident therefore that the University's permanent construction management onsite team of engineers and managers is fully recruited from Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBO), of which Khorog is the capital. As many as 95 percent of the construction workers currently onsite and over 20 contractors are also from the region. Contractors from outside the region also have a local economic obligation. For example, the sub and superstructure contractor, Turas, which is a Turkish-Tajik joint venture, is tax registered in Khorog and so are other overseas contractors engaged in the construction process.

"I used to work in Russia to try to feed my family here in Khorog, but I was not successful. This summer, I found the same work I had done in Moscow at the UCA construction site with Turas. I realised that it is possible to make a living here, near my home. For the first time, I am making a living and seeing my family every day. Working at UCA has changed my life," said shutterer and rebar fitter Faridun Khudobakhshov.

In addition to offering steady employment, UCA provides workers at the construction site with access to international standard welfare facilities and subsidised meals. A Khorog-based company was awarded the contract to serve nearly 600 meals daily. The UCA welfare facility, with its modern facilities and good quality, affordable meals, is unmatched in quality or design. *"Previously, I worked as a cook in a canteen for an overseas construction company. I must say the meals served in the UCA canteen are top-notch,"* observed UCA canteen operator and chef Umed Gulomaseynov.

UCA Director of Construction and Facilities Grant Robertson congratulates the Khorog Campus construction team on their timely and high quality work.



In the language of Music: Aga Khan Music Initiative

Swiss-based Ateliers d'Ethnomusicologie (ADEM) co-presented AKMI artists such as Badakhshan Ensemble (Tajikistan), Alim Qasimov and Fargana Qasimova ensemble (Azerbaijan), as well as Wu Man and Sanubar Tursun (China) in Alhambra concert hall in Geneva in the framework of the “Inner Asia Festival”.

For Badakhshan Ensemble, the concert in Geneva was one of the most important events in their four-day European tour in November of this year which also included Venice, Ascona and Paris.

In Venice, Tajik music was co-presented to the Italian world music fans by Cini Foundation based on San Giorgio Maggiore Island. Having two singers in its team such as Aqnazar Alovatov and Sohiba Davlatshoeva, the music ensemble from Tajikistan was greeted by OSA festival of vocal music.

In Paris, Badakhshan ensemble played at the International Diplomatic Academy building in front of an audience comprised of enthusiasts of Central-Asian music, researchers and representatives of the Ismaili Jamaat living in France.



Badakhshani Ensemble's performance during their European tour

Badakhshani Ensemble during their performance in Paris



UCA launches new Cultural Heritage Publications on the Pamirs

The University of Central Asia (UCA) launched three new books at the Ismaili Centre, Dushanbe on 12 November 2015. The books, which focus on the history and cultures of the Pamir region of Tajikistan, include Archaeological Map of the Eastern Pamirs by Mira Bubnova and two volumes in The Musical Arts of the Pamirs series by Nizom Nurdjanov, Fayzulla Karomatov and Bahriniso Kabilova.

“This series is widely viewed as the most comprehensive work on Pamir music to-date and UCA is pleased to have played a role in preserving this heritage,” said Dr Bohdan Krawchenko, UCA Director General and Dean of Graduate Studies.

The Musical Arts of the Pamirs is a five-volume study on folk music, oral history, dance and theatre traditions of the Pamir region. The series is the culmination of 40 years of field work conducted by Nurdjanov and Karomatov, with support

from the Art History Department of the Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography named after Ahmad Donish at the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan. The fourth and fifth volumes in the Musical



Bahriniso Kabilova co-author of The Musical Arts of the Pamirs addressing guests who were present at the launch.

Arts of the Pamir series were launched at the event.

The project is implemented by UCA’s Central Asian Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit to promote understanding across cultures and generations by supporting Central Asian scholars in original and high-quality research, publishing and disseminating their work to regional and international audiences. Under the project, UCA supported the publication of six original titles by scholars from Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic.



First experience of participating in an international mathematics and science competition

It has been generally acknowledged that education determines the quality of human resources. School education, provides students with skills of reading, writing, arithmetic, and basic science among others. A program which could stimulate creativity, develop critical and analytical thinking is important to be provided to students at the school level as well. Bearing this in mind, the Aga Khan Lycee (AKL) puts every effort in developing its students not only theoretically, but also inspire them to have a bigger picture. The students are motivated to get the “meaning” of what they actually learn by providing them space and materials as well as meaningful learning environment.

As a result, the AKL students regularly participate in various kind of national and international competitions, and have been shown impressive results. This year three of the AKL grade 7 students participated in the International Mathematics and Science Competition that took place in Pathumthani, Thailand from November 1st to 7th, 2015. Out of the three students two of them became bronze medal winners. In the Olympiad there were more than 45 students from 20 countries. The students-participants are very happy with the experience they had.

“We were very warmly welcomed and felt home. The competition provided us with the opportunity to visit that magnificent place and measure our knowledge and skills in the core school subjects. We were very happy to see our advantage compare to other participants in English language competition. I find the maths problem at the contest very thought provoking. I will engage with such problem from now onwards. I am very happy for getting this chance Hope we will have the chance again” – said one of the bronze winners Muhammadsharif Ismoilov, AKL grade 7 student.



Students of the Aga Khan Lycee in Pathumthani, Thailand to take part in the competition

Time and Knowledge *Nazrana* for Improving Dental Care in GBAO

Khorog Dental Unit has been providing high quality and affordable dental care to the *Jamaat* of Khorog and the surrounding districts since 2012. The centre has been building the capacity of local dentists through the support of international volunteers from North America, UK, Pakistan and East Africa.

This fall the dental unit has happily hosted three Canadian Dental Volunteers. One in early September and two others in early November, each contributed significantly to the learning and quality of the care provided by Khorog Dental Unit.

“The dentist take the time to improve the skills of our dental staff and improve their capacity to provide quality care to the community” mentioned one of the dental specialists of the Unit.

In November one dentist, specialised specifically on children’s dental care introduced new methods of providing quality dental care to our younger patients. In the last year the Dental Unit has served over 6,427 patients in GBAO, provided its patients with 12,000 dental procedures.



One of the dental surgeons (volunteer) checking a child patient



The team of volunteers and local dental doctors

The Khorog Dental Unit has been able to make and provide 266 crowns and bridges for its patients in the last year. The Unit hopes to continue improving oral health care in the coming months through the introduction of preventative fluoride treatment for school aged children and by improving the oral health practices of children.

The Dental Unit has also been distributing instructional pamphlets on how to correctly brush children’s teeth. *“It is our mandate to improve the existing dental health and move towards improved oral health disease prevention in the coming months. We hope to welcome more volunteers and patients to our Centre”* said Safiqa Kara, Clinical Services Manager of the Khorog Dental Unit.

Dialogue with the *Jamaat*: Understanding the concerns of *Jamaati* Women

Women's Portfolio of the National Council held a series of meetings with the *Jamaati* women in Gorno-Badakhshan (Rushan and Khorog, Barsem, Roshtkala), in Dushanbe and Khujand from August to November 2015. These workshops covered 230 people who are the most active women of the *Jamaat*.

Jamaati women became acquainted with the programmes developed and adopted by the Women's Portfolio such as "Risky behaviours of girls", "Prevention of divorces among young couples" and "Domestic violence". In 2016, a new programme for women, namely "Literacy in the area of entrepreneurship" is to be launched. There is lack of knowledge and experience to start their own businesses, thus women request the National Council to support them by providing seminars and trainings in the field.

In addition, as a result of an open dialogue, there were identified various needs and requirements of the *Jamaat*.

Residents of Roshtkala, for instance, drew attention to the issue of labour migration. The fact is that entire families are now working in Russian Federation. Due to migration of the population, health index over the last decade has decreased dramatically.



Shahodat Saibnazarova, Head of the Women's Portfolio under the Ismaili National Council for Tajikistan, during the discussions with the *Jamaati* women in Barsem, a village that was affected by the summer mudflows

Residents of Barsem village that were most affected after the floods in July 2015 were grateful for the psychological support from the National Council. Women there are eager to create a wool processing plant using modern technologies. There is a great deal of wool available there and women are ready to knit Pamiri traditional socks (*jirib*) and other items with a traditional ornament.

Women of Khorog paid a big attention to the revival of handicrafts and thereby creating job opportunities for women. They are also willing to open a pastry shop and a shop for canning fruits and vegetables.

Women of Rushan *Jamaat* were particularly active. At the meetings have emphasised the role of relations between parents and children. It was pointed out that the family values that were prevalent in previous generations, many of them are now lost completely. There is a need for a help of psychologists. Parents need special seminars and training sessions to know how to build relationships with their children.

Women of Khujand *Jamaat* have proposed to organise a sewing plant and a shop for carpet weaving. Azalmo Mubashirova, first place competition winner of the best carpet in the Sogd region, offered to conduct classes for young girls of carpet weaving free of charge.

Throughout the meetings it was noted that such seminars of various committees of the National Council should be held across the country on a permanent basis.



Jamaati women in Barsem (a village that was affected by the summer mudflows) during the meeting with the head of Women's Portfolio of the National Council



Shahodat Saibnazarova, head of Women's Portfolio of the National Council with the Jamaati women of Sughd region



Shahodat Saibnazarova, head of Women's Portfolio of the National Council with the Jamaati women of Sughd region

AKHS launched a new Medical and Diagnostic Centre in Dushanbe

Aga Khan Health Services, Tajikistan, an Agency of the Aga Khan Development Network announced the opening of the Dushanbe Medical and Diagnostic Centre on September 8, 2015.

Dushanbe Medical Centre will offer a full range of consultation clinics, including Gynaecology, Obstetrics, Dermatology, Cardiology, Internal Medicine and Paediatrics. To ensure high quality medical services and access to quality medical care for your whole family the centre is staffed with a full time Family Medicine Doctor, Nurse and Midwife.

In addition the centre is home to a world class dental clinic, ophthalmology clinic offering eye care for all. The Centre's laboratory is state of the art and will offer biochemistry, immunology and hematology services. The radiology department currently offers Doppler Ultrasound and ECG services, and will offer General Radiology (X-Ray) services as of January 2016. Fully stocked high quality pharmacy is available to accommodate all our patient's needs in the Centre.



Dental surgeon of the Centre checking a patient



One of the specialists of the Centre's laboratory

Bibi Fatima hot-spring rehabilitated

Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) undertook the rehabilitation of Bibi Fatima hot spring in Ishkashim district of GBAO.

Major works have been completed including the construction of new public toilet block, demolition of the main bath building, construction of a two floor building and expansion of the pool, structural reinforcement and rehabilitation of the second bath building, constructed connection between both of the bath buildings and refurbishment of the structure with furniture and major appliances.



The newly constructed and rehabilitated buildings of Bibi Fatima spring

Tcell launches an innovative service of messages on health

Tcell together with USAID and Mercy Corps and launched Tajikistan's first ever health messaging service called "mHealth." The innovative service uses mobile technology to share important health information with women and their families through text messages, voice recordings, and an information hotline that women can call to ask additional questions related to health and nutrition.



Representatives from TCell, U.S. Embassy, USAID, Mercy Corps

