



The Head of National Security and Country Program Coordinator BRAC, attending in the Press conference related on releasing of Mr. Noor Islam



The Canadian high profile team visited BRAC School

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BRAC staff release from abduction:

First and foremost we offer our core gratefulness to Almighty Allah



that Mr. Noor Islam, Area Manager of Microfinance programme of Logar province, abducted by few unknown criminals on 15th September 2007, has been finally released on 7th December 2007 at 9:15 pm. Collective efforts from all concerned have prevented us from being intimidated and reach the goal. We convey our cordial obligation to all the respectable Ministries, all the related Government Organization, national and international NGO and MFIs, Department of National Security, the Provincial Government and Department of Security and Police of Logar, heartiest homage for the people of Afghanistan in all corners to all out efforts towards a peaceful end of the tragic event.

Press release for handover ceremony of kidnapped person:

The press conference was held on 8th December 2007 in respect on handover the kidnapped person by the Head of National Security and BRAC extending its gratitude for their sincere endeavor and their enormous

effort to solve this awful incident. Country Programme Coordinator of BRAC Afghanistan Mr. Gunendu Kumar Roy and other officials were present there and the press release was published in different newspapers on the following day. The press release was broadcast through the local TV channels as well.

Mr. Noor Islam on the way towards Bangladesh:

Abducted BRAC official Mr. Noor Islam returned in his home country dated on 13th December 2007 after six days authorities in Kabul secured his release following 82 days of captivity in the hands of an unidentified group. He landed at Dhaka Zia International Airport in a flight from Dubai a day after he left Kabul.

Canadian high profile team visited BRAC school:

On November 24, 2007 a Canadian high profile team comprising of Mr. Jake Epp, Chairman, Health Partners International Canada, Mr. Burney, Senior Strategic Advisor of Ogilvy Renault LLP; Mr. John Manley, Director of Nortel Networks, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and Canadian Pacific Railway; Paul Tellier, Ms. Pamela Wallin, Senior Advisor on Canada-US, relations and

Ms. Helene Gichenje, First Secretary Development, CIDA visits the BRAC Community Base School of the Girls' Education Project at Siabini area, Bagram district of Kabul Province. They express their satisfaction and pleasure observing the bright performance of students particularly the students' performance in co-curricular activities. After the school visiting a brief discussion on the program is held at the visiting spot.

NOVIB Oxfam evaluation team met with BRAC officials:

On 5th of November 2007 Community Based Health Care Program (CBHP) evaluation started in Parwan and Nangarhar provinces and on 17th of November 2007 completed by international external evaluator with his local external evaluator on behalf of NOVIB Oxfam. They appreciated BRAC health activities in the respected provinces.

Microfinance visitor from Denmark Embassy:

On November 28, 2007, the Denmark embassy delegates Mr. Essa Shamal, Programme Officer, along with Mr. Christian Brondum, Journalist, Berlingske, Ms. Charlotte Aaggard, Journalist, Information, Mr. Jacob Svendsen, Journalist, Politiken, visited Microfi-

BRAC firmly believes and is actively involved in promoting human rights, dignity and gender equity through poor people's social, economic, political and human capacity building.

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nance beneficiaries workplace at Mirbacha Kot district of Kabul province. They asked several question about the loan and income generating activities. They will highlight all information into their Embassy website which is read by fairly wide range of audience worldwide.

Acceptance letter for proposal writing on AHAPP:

During the month of November 2007 BRAC Health Program received acceptance letter from Ministry of Public Health for proposal writing on HIV/AIDS Prevention Project (AHAPP).

Canadian Evaluator Team met BRAC officials:

Canadian Evaluation Team visits BRAC Office, Kabul on 27 November 2007, comprising with Mr. Christopher Johnston, Senior Analyst-Result and Accountability and Mr. Naser Ebrahimkhail, Senior Program Officer, CIDA visit the BRAC main office and in this occasion a meeting was held on the Girls' Education Project focusing its implementation modalities and achievements, Program Manager BEP, Chief Accountant and other officials took part in the meeting from BRAC Afghanistan.

Training for community nursery beneficiaries:

BRAC Afghanistan operated Mazar nursery project has brought a new and innovative approach of forestry sector development in Afghanistan with an aim to train 800 Community Nursery beneficiaries in four districts of Balkh province during 3 years of its duration. In this consequence, six (06) days comprehensive nursery raising training

course has been initiated on 17 November 2007 in all four project districts to train 400 community nursery beneficiaries that would be ended within December 2007. These beneficiaries are being trained on nursery establishment and management, land preparation, collection of seeds and sowing, cultural operation like weeding, watering, pruning etc, grafting, transplantation of seedling, pest and disease control etc.

Portfolio Audit assessment Report:

MISFA had facilitated the portfolio audit of BRAC through an external source to know the quality of BRAC's portfolio and accuracy of reports presented to MISFA. This assessment was carried out by M-CRIL consulting firm and the report of this assessment has already been generated. On 12 November 07, Mr. Bhagirath Iyar, Senior Analyst, M-CRIL accompanied by a team from MISFA Ltd. met the BRAC management to share the findings of the assessment.

Training program organized by BTRC:

In November 2007 BTRC, facilitated 15 different courses for the staff members of the government, national and international organizations. A total of 269 participants attended in the courses, out of them 138 were women participants. The following courses were offered: Office Management, Advocacy, Community Development, Project Proposal Writing, Report Writing, Financial Management, Monitoring & Evaluation, and Gender Awareness & Analysis. The participating organizations were the Ministry of Public Health

(MoPH), Handicap International, COAR, Agha Khan Development Network (AKDN) and BRAC Afghanistan. The Office Management Course was offered for the officials of MoPH and it was financed by European Commission.

National Public Consultation (NPC) conference by MRRD:

The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) arranged a National Public Consultation (NPC) conference on 10.11.07 to 15.11.07 in Kabul. The aim of the conference was to ensure the Community Development Councils (CDCs) as an institution for development of Afghanistan. CDC's personnel also consulted in the conference and their delegates prepared community feedback through participating in the national conference. The honorable president delivered his speech on the conference. The Country Program Coordinator of BRAC Afghanistan also attended in the conference.

Kapisa high authority visited Education Program:

The Governor of Provincial Education Director and other provincial personnel of Kapisa visited the EQUIP and took part in a discussion session on BRAC Education Program in Kapisa province on 20 November 2007. They appreciated BRAC Education Program and assured for continuous cooperation and support for running the activities smoothly.