



TV

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FOOTBALL AND FOOTBALL PRODUCTION ARE BOOMING IN AFGHANISTAN

VIDEO

PLAYERS ARE LINING UP,
MATCH IN ACTION

SOCCER BALL
PRODUCTION

SOUNDBITE MOHAMMAD
HASHIM, DISABLED
VETERAN

AUDIO

NARRATION

Football enthusiasm is growing in Afghanistan. During the Taliban regime, the only activities allowed on the football fields were public executions. Five years later, Afghanistan is kicking up some success – and has already climbed to 173rd place out of the 204 member countries of the international football association FIFA.

While players are trying to improve their skills, ball production is also in high gear. An Afghan investor started the Itifaq Sports Company, employing 900 disabled veterans and 450 war widows. Most of them had difficulties before in finding jobs and making ends meet.

MOHAMMAD HASHIM: (PASHTO)

“Working here has a positive effect on our lives. Unemployment is a disease. Unemployment creates many problems for

people. I avoided that by working here.”

NARRATION:

MISS NASRIN, WAR WIDOW

Miss Nasrin is a war widow and has five children to support. Now she earns money and can buy food.

FILE FOOTAGE ZABULI
PRIZE

Itifaq Sports Company won a prestigious prize awarded to businesses that help improve the country’s precarious employment situation. General Manager Mohammad Arif:

MOHAMMAD ARIF: (PASHTO)

SOUNDBITE MOHAMMAD
ARIF, GENERAL MANAGER
AFGHAN ITIFAQ SPORTS

“As you can see these people working here, we still face many problems. We have not enough facilities here and local transportation is difficult, that’s why most of our employees work from their homes and we pay them for the number of balls they bring us.”

NARRATION:

UN blue ball parts

Now Itifaq has designed a new ball – in UN blue with the Afghan flag. Seven hundred of these balls were distributed to orphans, inmates and high school students in Kabul, who didn’t have footballs to play with before.

Handing out balls to high
school

Christopher Alexander
handing out balls and talking
to students

Christopher Alexander, Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Afghanistan, made sure all students got a ball for intensive training.

CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER: (ENGLISH)

SOUNDBITE CHRISTOPHER
ALEXANDER, DEPUTY
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE SECRETARY-
GENERAL IN AFGHANISTAN

“Football is a good symbol for everything that we are all trying to do to rebuild Afghanistan, to build up the skills and potential of Afghanistan.”

NARRATION:

Hamid and his friends at the Amaniyah High School in Kabul are testing the quality of the locally produced balls.

HAMID: (PASHTO)

“This is a very good idea. The international community wants to build up Afghanistan. The teams playing here will improve in the future.”

NARRATION:

Participating in a World Cup is still pretty far away on the horizon for a team from Afghanistan. But maybe three years from now a ball from Afghanistan will make it to the Finals.

MORE PLAYING, BALL
SHOWROOM

This report has been prepared by the United Nations.