

## **Kandahar Arghandab Bridge a Pioneer Initiative**

The bridge construction project on the Arghandab River is a pioneer initiative among foundational projects in Kandahar. The people of the area believe that the completion of this bridge will give a beautiful look to the green lands of Arghandab and solve some problems which had troubled people's lives in the previous years.

Lal Mohammad and Attaullah, residents of the crowded Tabin village located close to the river said, "We would have countless problems where there was an excess of water in the river. Many times we have seen sick women and men, handicaps, children and other villagers needing to cross the river to get care, have a hard time crossing the river in small boats or tractors and trucks. This would extremely irritate sick and old people. Several times it happened that people would wait for hours and hours until the water level would go down or they could find big trucks or tractors to cross the river."

According to Lal Mohammad and Attaullah, not only people from near by villages in Arghandab district, but also thousands of people from other districts, are happily counting the days and nights until the completion of this bridge project. People from Shah-walikot, Khakrez, and from other parts of Kandahar traveling on this route, and crossing the current bridge constructed of wood and sacks, often take a small break on the side of the river to watch the construction of the new bridge.

Currently, every day 150 workers work on this 180 meters long Arghandab Bridge. The construction of the bridge began in January 2007 and will be completed in December 2008 by MRRD, with the Government of Canada's financial support of \$ 876,910.

The bridge would not only be for the easiness of the community but will also put a great impact on the economy of the people in the vicinity. The project will provide two kinds of benefits to people of Arghandab district and other districts of Kandahar. On one side 3000 working days opportunity has been created this will prevent the jobless individuals from bad activities and on the other side they will be owners of a bridge which has no match in the history of Kandahar bridges.