**Embassy of India**

**Kabul**

**Press Release: “"Kabul to Kolkata" Of Belonging, Memories and Identity-Photography Exhibition**

1. In 1892, Rabindranath Tagore, a Nobel prize winner in Literature wrote a short story in Bengali about a man from a distant land - Afghanistan-living in Kolkata. Since then, the Kabuliwala has taken on a life of its own, with translation is many Indian foreign languages as well as cinematic adaptations and theatrical performances. While until s few decades ago, real kabuliwalas were a common sight on the street of Kolkata, as in most cities of north and central India, today stereotypes and standard attributes have formed an ambiguous image of these people. Inspired by this story, Moska Najib an Afghan women journalist -cum-photographer along with Nazes Afroz an Indian Journalist-cum-photographers, embarked on a project about the Kabuliwalas of Kolkata that touches upon social transformation within this community over past 100 years.

2. Taking cues from the literary and aesthetic themes encapsulated in Tagore's short story, the two artists have captured the stories of this secluded and little -know settlement in the present time through documentary and staged photography. The series will connect viewers to the themes of human bonding as narrated by Tagore and will also touch on the issues of loss of identity and a new sense of belonging. Viewers will experience the tension between preserving an identity and rebuilding a home in a new space.

3. The first series of photography exhibition "Kabul to Kolkata" Of Belonging, Memories and Identity funded by India-Afghanistan Foundation and Goethe Institut is to be staged in Kabul, Delhi, Dhaka and Kolkata. The Kabul Photography Exhibition is to be held at Afghanistan Centre for Kabul University from March 18th -April 1st 2015.

**14th March 2015**

**Kabul**