

## Hashar

*Hashar* refers to a collective gathering to do a large-scale job such as digging a water channel or planting a big garden etc. Usually *hashar* is organized for the event that benefits the entire community as such nobody is paid for their volunteer participation and labor. The *hashar* tradition witness the ancient culture of mutual assistance that Tajik people have had in the past and it continues to this day.

There is also *hashar* organized for a benefit one individual for example building a house or collecting harvest. For such work those who

come to help are given small token from the harvest or a fed a meal. Whereas for the social *hashar* people will come eating their own food at homes and now rewards are given. It is possible that during the *hashar* few of the community members would contribute towards cooking a big meal like oshi palav or other food.

The *hashar* was also common during the collective farm days when those assigned a big plot of land to sow or irrigate or harvest would call for *hashar* and the community would come to help him. People for *hashar* also bring their





own tools needed for the job, which means that when invitation for *hashar* is sent it is declared what type of job is supposed to be achieved.

*Hashar* is collectively planned-in-advance event that is people would first discuss it and chose a date when majority can participate. These days *hashar* are organized for the big and small jobs directed towards to the wellbeing society and improving the environment of the community such as fixing the roads, planting trees or empowering the river banks.



