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Beradar urges traders to avoid importing low-quality fuel



KABUL: A meeting, with the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Beradar Akhund, on

ing of quality oil and gas and address the related issues in this sector, his office said in a

Speaking at the meeting, Mullah Beradar Akhund acknowledged the significant

contribution of Afghan national businessmen to the country's economic progress, highlighting their positive role in the nation's development and urged them to maintain honesty in their endeavors, according to the statement.

Beradar asked traders to prioritize the import of highquality oil and gas and other goods to safeguard the environment and public health.

Subsequently, national oil and gas traders expressed their gratitude to the officials of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan for creating a secure business environment and offering comprehensive support.

These traders requested fair treatment in the oil and gas import, particularly when it marginally falls short of established standards.

They believed that this approach would not only lead to increased oil and gas imports but also prevent harm to trad-

The Kabul Times

MoFA strongly condemns bombardment of Al-Mamadani Hospital in Gaza



KABUL: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in a statement condemned in the strongest

possible terms the bombardment of the Al-Mamadani Hospital in Gaza by the Zionist forces and deems this act as barbaric and a

crime against humanity.

"The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan calls on the people and governments of the world, so-

called human rights bodies, the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to prevent the continuation of Israeli atrocities immediately and not suffice with mere condemnations" the statement read. The statement further added, that if this brutality and horror is not stopped urgently, the situation in the region may become even more volatile. paving the way to reactions spiraling out of control and ending up adversely affecting the region and beyond. "The open support of some countries for the Israeli atrocities and the silence of others have spurred the Zionist regime to continue its brutality," the statement quoted. We stand in solidarity with the Palestinians tions calling for the immediate end of the ongoing genocide and bringing its perpetrators to justice.

The Kabul Times

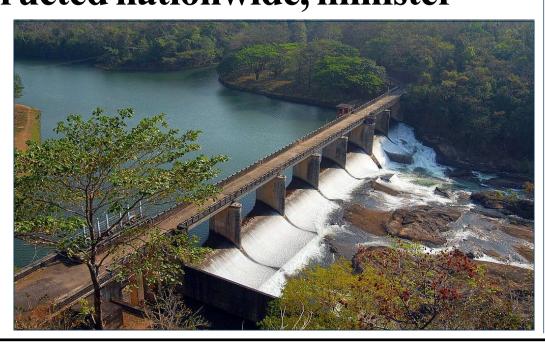
Hundreds of check dams to be constructed nationwide, minister

KABUL: The Acting Minister of Water and Energy Mullah Abdul Latif Mansour during his visit to the country's northern province of Balkh said 126 check dams will be constructed nationwide, the ministry said in a statement the other day.

Addressing a gathering in the province, Mullah Mansour said the construction of 126 check dams is part of the ministry's plan and the necessary budget has been allocated for them, according to the state-

"Survey and design of the dams had been completed and the practical work of them will be started soon," the statement quoted Mansour as saying.





Mullah Beradar opens Agriculture Products Autumn Expo

KABUL: Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, Mullah Abdul Ghani Beradar on Wednesday opened the Agriculture Products Autumn Expo, in Kabul's Badam Bagh Research Farm, his office said in a statement.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs Mawlavi Abdul Salam Hanafi, the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock Mawlavi Attaullah Omari, foreign diplomats, Businessmen, farmers and some other local offi-

In the ceremony, Deputy Prime Minister Mullah Beradar said Afghanistan was an agricultural country and according to the official figures over 68 percent of its population are busy in the agriculture sector, but unfortunately still using the previous system and has not made significant progress.

"Our farmers use outdated irrigation systems and that is why they couldn't receive significant agricultural crops," the statement quoted him.

Deputy Prime Minister Mullah Beradar Akhund went on to highlight that antiquat-



ed irrigation systems hinder agricultural productivity.

He called upon the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock to facilitate the modernization of agriculture, promote the adoption of contemporary irrigation methods, and take other tangible steps in this regard.

Moreover, he stressed the importance of enhancing the domestic infrastructure for the collection, storage, packaging, delivery and marketing of agricultural products. Mullah Beradar urged the concerned ministries and departments to shoulder the responsibility for

improving these aspects.

Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs urged all citizens, including government agencies, to support the consumption of domestic agricultural products.

The 29th Autumn Exhibition of Agricultural Products, hosted at Badam Bagh Research Farm in Kabul, was organized to promote and market agricultural products domestically and internationally.

The event featured hundreds of stalls showcasing a diverse array of agricultural products.

The Kabul Times

IOM to reconstruct over 2,500 houses in Farah

FARAH: The reconstruction work on 2,547 residential units that had been destroyed during the past conflicts has been started at a cost of 1.3 million U.S. dollars in the country's western province of Farah, the provincial Natural Disaster Management Department said in a statement the other day. Director of the provincial natural disaster management department Mawlavi Mohammad Israel Sayaar said the process of surveying destroyed houses during the past conflicts had been conducted three months ago and after many as 2,547 houses have been to the statement. See P4



completion of the process, as registered as damaged, according

National Volleyball team returns home from Sari Lanka



leyball team returned to the country after taking the third position in the second CAVA Men Volleyball Challenge Cup in Sari Lanka, the Nation Volleyball Federation said in a statement the other day.

"The team returned home after defeating Uzbekistan, Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia and taking the third position in the championship," the statement said.

The event was held between six countries in Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka, from 9th to 15th of October.

Other teams taking part in the event included Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The Kabul Times

KT KABULTIMES Editorial & opinion

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to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Food for thought

Today's generations guarantee our bright future

BRI's Afghanistan coverage guarantees border security

"The Belt and Road Initiative originates from China, but the opportunities and outcomes belong to the world. There is a saying in China, "Those closer to the water get the moon first." As an important neighbor of China, Afghanistan can fully integrate into the Belt and Road construction and share development opportunities and outcomes."

The aforementioned is what Dr. Zhao Haihan, Chargé d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Afghanistan has pointed to in one of his articles written on China's BRI.

The author pointed to the most important Wakhan corridor along the Pamir mountain, which can connect the two nations, using each other's trade and culture as they did for centuries through the Silk Road and as the country has been an important trading and transportation center since ancient times.

Indeed, covering Afghanistan by the One Belt and One Road (BRI for short) will not only be a neighborhood obligation of the friendly country of China about Afghanistan but also, would secure the region between the countries by cracking down on militancy from the separatist groups in China and help the two nations live in peace.

As another government-organized forum for the Belt and Road megaproject held in Beijing leaders from developing countries as well as the Acting Industry and Commerce Minister of the Islamic Emirate arrived in China this week to attend the grand ceremony, which is known as BRI for short

The initiative has built power plants, roads, railroads and ports around the world and deepened China's relations with Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Mideast.

With the world's second economic power (China today) expanding the skirt of its trade and transit globally, Afghanistan, as one the key trade neighbors, can play an effective role in both countries' economic development as after foreign forces withdrawal, the wise leadership helped China remain as the frontrunner in Afghanistan's economic issue.

The Wakhan Corridor can reconnect the two friendly countries as they were in the ancient times.

This is a clear fact that China has always been a reliable partner of Afghanistan both in politics and commerce and the people of Afghanistan look at China as a true friend.

Besides supporting the Belt and Road Initiative, both the Islamic Emirate and the people of Afghanistan are prepared to join the megaeconomic project and the Chinese author mentioned 'in the process of seeking common development and promoting regional prosperity, China needs Afghanistan, and Afghanistan needs China' as according to him, there are enormous prospects for mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries.

Both countries can enjoy the promotion of China's wise leadership toward the development of the Belt and Road project and create a bright future for the well-being of the two nations through the peaceful development of the initiative.

Israeli regime's attack on Gaza hospital 'unprecedented' in scale



The Gaza Health Ministry said an Israeli airstrike Tuesday hit a Gaza City hospital packed with wounded and other Palestinians seeking shelter, killing hundreds. The attack was considered as the deadliest Israeli airstrike in five wars since 2008

The Israeli regime's attack on the hospital was widely condemned by world countries. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan by condemning the attack on the hospital calls on the people and governments of the world, so-called human rights bodies, the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to prevent the continuation of Israeli atrocities immediately and not suffice with mere condemnations.

The Islamic Emirate in a statement said, that if this brutality and horror is not stopped urgently, the situation in the region may become even more volatile, paving the way to reactions spiraling out of control and ending up adversely affecting the region and beyond.

"The open support of some countries for the Israeli atrocities and the silence of others have spurred the Zionist regime to continue its brutality,' the statement quoted.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization has also condemned the attack, saying that the strike on the Al-Ahli al-Arabi Hospital in the north of the Gaza Strip that killed hundreds was "unprecedented in scale.

The strike was the bloodiest incident on the innocent civilians of the Gaza Strip, by Israeli Zionist forces.

"This attack is unprecedented in scale," said Richard Peeperkorn, WHO Representative for the West Bank and Gaza. "We have seen consistent attacks on healthcare in the occupied Palestinian terri-

Peeperkorn said there so far have been 51 attacks against healthcare facilities in Gaza, with 15 health workers killed and 27 injured.

Al-Mandhari, Ahmed WHO Regional Director for the

Eastern Mediterranean, said there were patients, healthcare workers and internally displaced people in the hospital when it was struck.

"The hospital was one of 20 in the north of the Gaza Strip facing evacuation orders from the Israeli military," he said.

"The order for evacuation has been impossible to carry out given the current insecurity, critical condition of many patients, and lack of ambulances, staff, health system bed capacity, and alternative shelter for those displaced," he

Mike Ryan, executive director of WHO's Health Emergencies Programme, said it was "inhumane" to leave Gaza's health workers with the dilemma of caring for their patients or fleeing to save their own

He said doctors and nurses were choosing their patients over themselves.

"It is absolutely clear to all sides of this conflict where the health facilities are," Ryan said. "It is absolutely clear

and disproportionate attacks. Mukhtar Safi

healthcare is not a target... That is enshrined in interna-

tional humanitarian law. And

we're seeing this breached

again and again over

the last week. And it has to

stop. It must stop."
U.S. President Joe Biden

said on Tuesday he was "out-

raged" by the explosion at a

Gaza hospital that killed about

500 people and said he had di-

rected his national security team to gather information

about exactly what had hap-

national and international re-

action, as Amnesty International on its X account asked

the Zionist Israel regime to

stop killing innocent civilians.

rael must lift the siege of Gaza,

restore the electricity and wa-

ter supply and allow humani-

tarian access. Its forces must

abide by international humani-

tarian law and take all feasible

precautions to protect civilians

and refrain from indiscriminate

The agency added that Is-

The barbaric attack faced



Nation

Qush Tepa canal unique in country's economic development

Introduction to Qush Tepa canal & its structure:

The Amu River starts from the wide range of Hindu Kush mountains, from Afghanistan and Tajikistan. Its Afghanistan part starts from the Pamir mountains, which is the property of Afghanistan as 40% of its water comes from Afghanistan. It passes through the provinces of Badakhshan, Kunduz, Balkh, Jawzjan, Faryab, Badghis and Herat. It forms a border between Afghanistan and its three neighbors: Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turk-

In the north of Afghanistan, many other rivers, such as Panj river, Balkhab, Kokcha, Kunduz and other rivers join the Amu River. When the Panj River's pathway ends, it takes the name of Amu River from that place. This level of the river is very low in the territory of Afghanistan; therefore, Afghans have not used it and without canals, the Afghan side cannot make use of the water.

Qush Tepa canal is the first canal which is being constructed in Afghanistan, while other neighbors have used of water of the Amu River by constructing various small and big canals out many canals. For example, the cotton of Uzbekistan and most of other crops of the country are from blessing the Amu River's water.

The Qush Tepa canal starts from Kaldar district of Balkh province. This area is located in the province's eastern part and the canal starts from the east and goes to western and ends in Faryab

The canal covers four districts of Balkh as Kaldar, Shor Tepa, Dawlatabad and Charbolak districts. The canal then goes to

Jawzjan province from the direction of Faizabad district, passes Aqch district of the province and then passes through Shebarghan, the provincial capital of Jawzjan province. The canal then passes Khwaja Dukoh district, joins Andkhoy district of Faryab province and ends in the respective district of the province.

The Qush Tepa canal with its 285 km length is 100m wide and 8m deep. The canal's water level is 6.5m high, and it will have the capacity to irrigate 1,100 hectares of agricultural fields. With the completion of this canal, over 668 cubic meters of water will be transferred per second.

The canal has three parts, such as: The first part is 108 kilometers long, starting from the Amu River and ending in Dawlatabad district of Balkh province.

The second part of the canal is 177 kilometers long, starting from Dawlatabad district of Balkh province, passing the Aqcha district of Jawzjan and ending in Andkhoy district of Faryab province, while the third part of the canal to construct sub-canal and distribution of the main canal's water to other small canals to irrigate agricultural fields in the country's north.

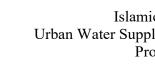
It is worth mentioning that the first part of the Qush Tepa canal has been completed with a total cost of 8.2 billion AFG funded by the government of Afghanistan. Construction work on the second phase (part) of the canal has been opened by high-ranking officials. It is determined that the second and third parts will be completed in three to five years.

Munir Ahmad Tanwir



Afghan Advertisement

AA 1862



Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan Urban Water Supply & Sewage Stat-Owned Corporation **Procurement Directorate**



RE-Announcement for Request for Expression of Interest	
(for Consulting Services - Consulting Firm)	
Procuring Entity	Urban Water Supply & Sewage Stat-Owned Corporation (UWASS.soc)
Funded By	UWASS.soc
Project Description	First (Lot)Hiring of Firm for the Audit of UWASS.soc Financial Statements
	for the Financial Years 2014 to 2016
	Second (Lot)Hiring of Firm for the Audit of UWASS.soc Financial Statements
	for the Financial Years 2017 to 2019
	Third (Lot)Hiring of Firm for the Audit of UWASS.soc Financial Statements
	for the Financial Years 2020 to 20/03/ 2023
Procurement Ref No.	RE-REoI Ref. No. UWASS.soc/1402/QCBS/CS/001
Clause (8) of Article 36 of the	Clause (8) of Article 36 of the Law of state-owned corporations as follows:
Law of state-owned corporations Is applicable beside of	"The term of duty of a financial inspector in a state-owned corporation cannot be more than three consecutive years. If the aforementioned inspector
Procurement of law.	has served for three consecutive years, in this case, he can be appointed as an
i rocurement of law.	inspector again after a two-year break. (inspector) of the state-owned
	corporation should be appointed."
Deadline for Submission EOI	November, 13, 2023 10:00 (Kabul Local Time)
Address for Submission EOI	Request for Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below:
	Saree Tapai Karte Now District 8, Kabul, Afghanistan Procurement
	Directorate, Urban Water Supply & Sewage Stat-Owned Corporation
	(UWASS.soc
Availability of Complete REoI	Soft Copy of Complete REoI (Request for Expression of Interest) can be
	obtained by the interested Consultants from the below address
	Saree Tapai Kartai Now District 8, Kabul, Afghanistan Procurement
	Directorate, Urban Water Supply & Sewage Stat-Owned Corporation
	(UWASS.soc
	Phone: (93) 0777533476
	Email: s.osman@uwass.gov

Siginature

Name: Sardar Wali "Osman"

Desgination: Procurement Director of UWASS.soc)

Name: Eng. Nematullah "Ahmadi" **Desgination:** Director General of UWASS.soc)



Poverty, unemployment still Afghans' concerns



After the collapse of the republic system and resumption of power by the Islamic, the only thing left for the people is unemployment, poverty and lack of work fields.

Although with the establishment of the Islamic Emirate, people's concerns regarding life and financial security have been resolved, but the pain of unemployment is still there and this pain is increasing among

the people every day.

Providing work fields is one of the priorities of governments in the world and solving economic challenges is one of its important and permanent plans.

When we hang out with a

crowd of young people, they all shout about poverty, unemployment and timelessness.

Unfortunately, one of the reasons why young people prefer to run away and go through thousands of hardships and problems is unemployment. Although the Islamic Emirate has undertaken good economic programs and is trying to eradicate poverty, the youth want to create more work fields. Expressing pain and regret, the past governments, although they had huge funds and countless assistance, could not take plans to eradicate poverty, rather they were all thinking of filling their pockets and bank accounts.

Our country has the most expensive and valuable mines in the world, but its people are still concerned about assistance and how to spend the night and fill their bellies.

The Islamic Emirate should make tireless efforts to eradicate poverty and remove the scourge from our country as soon as possible.

Even though the people have spent hard and heavy days and do not have fond memories of the previous regimes, they hope that the Islamic Emirate will put an end to all the miseries and save the country from this misery.

Sabawoon Zazai

Herat earthquake affectees to soon have new houses built

Local officials in Herat say more than 2,000 houses will be built for earthquake affectees in 20 villages of Herat province. According to Ahmadullah Muttaqi, Director of Information and Culture of Herat province, 2,146 houses are planned to be built in 20 villages, and that initial work has begun.

He said that assistance to the people is currently underway, and they have been given tents resistant to wind and rain, but efforts are being made to build houses and shift the people into them before the onset of winter.

Meanwhile, Naimatullah Rahimi, mayor of Enjil district, said that engineers from various organizations have been working in Zinda Jan district for four days to survey and prepare maps for the construction of standard houses for the earthquake-affected people.

These houses will be built in the Siahab area of Zinda Jan district, Herat, for the earthquake-affected in a standard and urban manner. Officials

say that during the survey conducted in various villages, houses have been marked in each village, and the number and location of the new houses have been identified.

Nearly 20,000 people have now been affected across six districts, with at least 1,300 people killed and 1,800 injured, most of whom are women and children who were in their homes when the quakes hit. The United Nations said

more than 12,000 people, from some 1,700 families, are estimated to have been affected, adding that "100 percent" of nomes were destroyed in 11 villages of Zenda Jan district. Many people are sleeping in the open after their homes were destroyed, with many others terrified to go home due to fears of further shocks. Most of the deaths and in-

juries have been women and children, who were at home when the earthquakes hit. Many survivors are terrified to go home. Four earthquakes have hit in a week. Hundreds

of tents have been set up on open plains to shelter families who have lost everything. Afghanistan is frequently hit by deadly earthquakes, but the weekend disaster is the worst to strike the impoverished country in more than 25 years.

Most rural homes in Afghanistan are made of mud and built around wooden support poles, with little in the way of modern steel reinforcement. Multi-generational extended families generally live under the same roof, meaning disasters such as Saturday's quake can devastate local communi-

The Herat province home to around 1.9 million people on the border with Iran has also been hit by a yearslong drought that has crippled many hardscrabble farm communities. The country is prone to quakes, especially in the Hindu Kush mountain range, which lies near the junction of the Eurasian and Indian tectonic plates.

Mashal Noori

















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Work started to build thousands of residential units for quakeaffected families in Herat



KABUL: The construction work on 2,146 residential units, in an official ceremony, has been started for the recent devastating quakes-affected families in the country's western province of Herat, the provincial Information and Culture Department said in a statement on Wednesday.

The ceremony was attended by a number of provincial officials including Director of Information and Culture Department Mawlavi Ahmadullah Muttagi and Mayor of Enjil district Mawlavi Nematullah Rahimi, the statement said.

Director of the provincial information and culture department Mawlavi Ahmadullah Muttaqi said 2,146 houses will be constructed for the recent quakes-affected families of 20 villages in in Siahab area of Zinda Jan district and other parts of the province, according to the statement.

"In order to protect the earthquakes-affected victims from cold weather, thousands of tents have so far been distributed to the affected families and the government is making serious efforts to construct the houses before the arrival of winter season," the statement quoted Mawlavi

Muttaqi as saying.
Refereeing the starting construction work on the houses, Mawlavi Nematullah said a number of engineers from the provincial Municipality, Urban Development and Housing and Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock Departments have been working on houses' plans for four days and the houses will be built with the most modern standards and resistant to the earthquake, the statement

Based on reports, more than 43,395 people (7,165 families) have been directly affected by the recent earthquakes across Enjil (23,053 people), Kushk / Rabat-e-Sangai (8,541 people), Zinda Jan (7,523 people), Gulran (3,428 people), Herat (717 people) and Kohsan (133 people) districts.

Enjil is the worst affected district, accounting for 53 percent of people affected. More than 3,330 homes are also reported to have been completely destroyed – the majority in Žinda Jan district - 2,137 homes severely damaged, and 1,697 homes moderately dam-

Mohammad Nabi Naibi

Cotton yield eye-catchingly increased in Nangarhar

has eye-catchingly increased in the country's eastern province of Nangarhar, the provincial Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock Department said in a statement the

Spokesman of the provincial Agriculture and Livestock Department Ajmal Subhani, said the cotton yield has unprecedentedly increased compared to previous year, expressing displeasure there is no suitable market for cotton in the province, according to the

"Cotton was planted on 2,898 hectares of land in Nangarhar province and its harvest is expected to reach 4,762 metric tons, which shows an increase of 500 metric tons compared to last year," the statement quoted Subhani as saying.

However, farmers say when they start cultivation of cotton, its prices go down and even do not cover the input costs.

Saidagar, a farmer in Mirak Bili area of Behsud district, said cotton yield has increased, but its prices decreased

He said: "When we collect the harvest, the prices of cotton decrease, and we often incur losses instead of profit".



Another farmer in Rodat district, Syed Maroof, said, that irrigating fields through a water pump cost more than 20,000 Afghani until the end of the season.

He urged the Agriculture Department to establish a regular water system and provide farmers with improved seeds and fer-

"Irrigation is expensive, government should build a water system for us", Mohammad Afzal, a farmer in Baha Wali area of Sara

Rud district, said.

He also asked the Agriculture Department to distribute chemical fertilizers and seeds to farmers. Officials acknowledge problems mentioned by farmers and say they have talked to aid-giving agencies to solve their problems.

Ajmal Subhani said they used to distribute improved seeds and chemical fertilizers to farmers every year, but the aid was insufficient to reach all.

Afghanistan, reportedly, pro-

duces over 59,000 tons of cotton annually, but the lack of cotton processing factories is still a challenge, as in the past there were at least seven textile manufacturing factories, mainly in Kabul, Parwan, Balkh, Kandahar and Baghlan provinces, which the country lost during the long years of war.

Cotton is also planted to produce cooking oil and laundry soap, which are locally used in the country's many provinces.

Javed Husain

Gulf states pledge \$100m in 'urgent' aid for Gaza

The Gulf Cooperation Council on Tuesday announced \$100 million in emergency aid for the ■Gaza Strip, as Israel bombards targets in the enclave during its war against Hamas militants.

After an extraordinary meet-■ing in Muscat, the bloc's foreign ministers pledged "an urgent humanitarian relief operation" with "relief aid worth \$100 million."

The top diplomats of the six GCC countries -- Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates -met as at least 200 people were killed in strikes on a Gaza hos-pital compound sheltering displaced people, said Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip.

Israel's retaliatory bombing raids have killed around 3,000

Gazans after the Palestinian militants of Hamas burst through Israel's heavily fortified Gaza border 11 days ago in a surprise attack, killing 1,400 people in southern Israel.

The GCC meeting's final statement stressed "the necessity of ensuring the urgent delivery

In recent days, Gulf countries have sent plane-loads of assistance to Egypt's El Arish, hoping to send it through the Rafah border point -- Gaza's only crossing that is not under Israeli control.

On Tuesday, hundreds of laden trucks headed along the 40-kilometre (25-mile) road from El Arish to Rafah, aid officials said.

So far Egypt has kept the Rafah crossing closed, both to aid

going in and foreign nationals trying to flee, as Israel has repeatedly struck the Palestinian side of the crossing.

GCC Secretary-General Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi "called on the international community to... demand an immediate halt to all forms of military escalation against defenseless civilians in Gaza", an English statement on the GCC website

The international community must also "categorically reject any calls to forcibly displace the Palestinian people from Gaza, as this represents a violation of basic human rights and international principles," it add-

Alarabiya

amid claims of military cooperation Russian Foreign Minister is supplying Moscow with weapupon one another during their

Russia's Lavrov visits North Korea

Sergey Lavrov has landed in North Korea, amplifying United States concerns about deepening North Korea-Russia military cooperation amid the war in Ukraine.

Lavrov's trip to the Asian country on Wednesday, his first since 2018, is expected to pave the way for a visit to Pyongyang by Russian President Vladimir Putin, who hosted North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Moscow just a month ago.

Lavrov is expected to brief the North Koreans on Putin's visit to China, which is hosting some 130 global leaders for its third Belt and Road Initiative forum, and also discuss Putin's potential upcoming visit, according to Russia's state news agency.

Lavrov's visit to North Korea comes days after the US expressed concern that Pyongyang

ons, in return for a range of military assistance, including advanced technologies.

Washington claimed on Friday that North Korea has delivered more than 1,000 containers of military equipment and munitions to Russia in recent weeks.

The US allegations have been denied by both North Korea and the Kremlin.

"Russia, as a responsible member of the world community, strictly adheres to its international obligations towards Pyongyang through the UN Security Council," Russian Ambassador at Large Oleg Burmistrov said.

"At the same time, we are categorically against the introduction of new restrictive measures," he

Deepening ties Putin and Kim heaped praise

September meeting, with the North Korean leader fully backing Russia in its war with Ukraine and wishing the Russian president victory against the "imperialists' anti-Russia scheme"

Putin claimed that there were areas of potential military collaboration between the two states in spite of numerous UN sanctions against North Korea over its weapons and ballistic missile pro-

"There are certain restrictions. Russia complies with all these restrictions. But there are things that we can talk about ... Under the current rules, we also have opportunities, which we see and discuss," the Russian president said.

Putin and Lavrov's engagement in Asia is part of a push by Moscow to deepen ties throughout the continent as geopolitical

tensions persist over its war in Ukraine. On Tuesday, Putin accepted an invitation from Vietnamese President Vo Van Thuong to visit Hanoi, a key Russian ally and arms purchaser.

However, Moscow's diplomatic drive in East Asia could be eclipsed by the escalating war in Gaza, which saw an air strike kill at least 500 civilians at a crowded hospital on Tuesday night. Russia's foreign ministry spokeswoman said Russia considered the attack "as a crime - as an act of dehumanisation".

It also comes as Russia faces criticism for an air strike in the southeastern city of Zaporizhzhia that killed at least two civilians and wiped out two floors of a residential building. A Russian official in the city cast blame for the attack on Ukrainian forces.

Hundreds of check dams to...

Baitullah Safi, a resident of Sholgar district, asked the energy minister to construct irrigation canals and dams in the

province, adding a river in Shogar district which is 25 kilometers long every year snatched the dry land and

asked the ministry to construct retaining walls on the river banks, the statement added.

The Kabul Times

IOM to reconstruct over 2,500...

"The houses will be built with the financial support of the International Organization of Migration (IOM) within the next two months in Farahroad and Balabulok districts of the province," the statement quoted Mawlavi Sayaar

Sayaar said 598 homes are completely destroyed, 1,664 are

half destroyed, the house owner of half-destroyed house received 50,000 Afghani, and the partially destroyed house owner received 35,000 Afghani for reconstruction purposes, according to the state-

Mohammad Sadiq, the resident of Shiwan village in Balabolk district, said he was financially

unable to build his house saying that now he was happy that the government decided to support him in his house reconstruction.

It is to be noted the past 20 years of conflict inflicted severe losses on people and in most areas, people have no ability to rebuild their homes.

The Kabul Times

PIA cancels 48 flights amid fuel shortage



RAWALPINDI: The es-t-ri-ctions on fuel supply owing to non-payment of dues as well as certain ope-r-ational issues continued to affect the flight operati-ons of the Pakistan Inter-na-tional Airlines (PIA) on

Tuesday, forcing the loss-making state-owned entity to cancel at least 24 domestic and international flig-hts and delay 12 others.

Among the 24 cancelled flights, 11 were international and 13 were domestic. The PIA also cancelled over two dozen flights 16 international and eight domestic flights — for Wednesday (today) as well while some flights are expected to be delayed.

A PIA spokesman said that due to a limited fuel supply for PIA aircrafts on a daily basis and for operational reasons, the flights were cancelled while the departure of some flights had been rescheduled.

He said that 13 domestic flights and 11 international flights were cancelled on Tuesday due to the non-availability of fuel, while 12 flights were delayed.

In addition to the domestic flights, some of the cancelled flights were scheduled to fly to Dubai, Mus-cat, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi, and Kuwait.

PIA claimed that the pas--s-engers of the cance-lled flights were accommodated on alternative flights.

It also requested the passengers to contact the PIA call centre, PIA offices or their travel agent before arriving at the airport due to disruptions in flight operations of the airline amid a shortage of fuel.

Dawn