

Afghanistan, Pakistan inseparable nations, Prime Minister



KABUL: The Prime Minister of the Islamic Emirate, Mullah Mohammad Hasan Akhund, said that Afghanistan and Pakistan share numerous commonalities across different domains and cannot be separated from each other.

Mullah Hasan made the remarks in a meeting with Maulana Fazlur Rehman and his accompanying delegation from Pakistan's Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Party at the

Charchinar Palace, Arg said in a statement Monday. The meeting was attended by dozens of the cabinet members of the Islamic Emirate, discussing strengthening of relations between the two countries, the statement said.

Welcoming the Pakistani scholars' delegation, PM Mullah Hasan expressed optimism that the visit would strengthen brotherhood and positive relations between the two neighboring countries and their peoples, the statement added.

Emphasizing that the Islamic system, led by scholars, governs Afghanistan, with all matters being subject to Sharia law, Mullah Hasan said that the Islamic Emirate has no intention to harm or create problems for any neighboring country, including Pakistan, and will not tolerate any threat to its territory. Prime Minister urged the Pakistani authorities to cease their harsh treatment of Afghan refugees, as such actions only breed opposition and pessimism without solving the problems at hand. Also, Acting Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi addressed the problems faced by Afghan refugees and traders, particularly the challenges posed by Pakistani officials in transit and exports, which result in significant financial losses for Afghan traders annually.

See P4

Islamic Emirate wants positive relations based on mutual respect with all countries, Mawlawi Kabir

KABUL: The Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs Mawlawi Abdul Kabir, said the Islamic Emirate wants positive

The meeting was attended by several high-ranking government officials including the Acting Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan

ed. The deputy PM for political affairs thanked Pakistan for hosting Afghan refugees and providing



and productive relations based on mutual respect with the world countries.

Mawlawi Kabir made the remarks during a meeting with Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Chairman of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Party of Pakistan, and his delegation at Sapidar Palace, Arg said in a statement Monday.

Muttaqi and the Acting Energy and Water Minister Mullah Abdul Latif Mansoor, the statement said.

Welcoming the Pakistani delegation, Mawlawi Kabir expressed hope that the visit would strengthen relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan and decrease misunderstandings, the statement added.

ing assistance during the Jihad against the Soviet Union and emphasized the Islamic Emirate's positive relationship with neighboring countries, particularly the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as well as stressed the importance of maintaining stable relationships based on mutual respect.

See P4

Daesh suppressed in Afghanistan, cannot threaten other countries, Mujahid



KABUL: The Islamic Emirate's spokesperson, Zabiullah Mujahid, in an interview with

TOLO news said that Daesh has been suppressed in Afghanistan and cannot threaten other countries from this country.

tries from this country.

Rejecting the recent report by Reuters claiming that communications intercepts collected by the United States confirmed that the Daesh (ISIS) Afghanistan-based branch carried out twin bombings in Iran that killed nearly 100 people, Mujahid said that the U.S. is trying to create suspicion between Afghanistan and regional countries.

Mujahid said that in this case, the region and the countries of the region should be very aware so that we don't fall victim to external and distant conspiracies.

"Unfortunately, the American

occupation caused ISIS to have a nest here and they were even supported at that time, and after the occupation ended, ISIS was severely beaten and has no nest in Afghanistan and is not a threat, and also it does not have the capacity to harm any other country from the soil of Afghanistan. The Americans and the American circles who are talking about this intend to create misunderstanding between the countries of the region and raise suspicions, which I am sure the countries are aware of," Mujahid said, as quoted by the TOLO news.

The Kabul Times

Islamic Emirate supports industrialists, Azizi

KABUL: The Acting Industry and Commerce Minister Nooruddin Azizi, said the Islamic Emirate supports the country's industrialists and provides them with necessary facilities.

During a meeting with a number of the factory owners of Pul-e-Charkhi industrial parks Minister Azizi added that the Islamic Emirate has always been committed to supporting the country's industrialists and providing them with necessary cooperation and facilities, the ministry said in a statement Monday.

Speaking on behalf of others, Abdul Jabbar Safi one of the industrialists shared their proposals and problems, as well as information about the activities of the parks and asked the ministry to pay necessary attention on the ground, according to the statement.

Emphasizing over full support of the Islamic Emirate from



the country's industrialists, Azizi assured the challenges facing the

factory owners of Pul-e-Charkhi industrial parks will be addressed

in the future, the statement added. The Kabul Times

Society needs work, service, serve country to best of your ability, Khairkhwa

KABUL: The Acting Information and Culture Minister Mullah Khairullah Khairkhwa, during his visit to the Informa-

tion and Culture Department of the country's western province of Herat, said that the society needs work and service; therefore, ev-

eryone should serve the country to the best of their ability.

Mullah Khairullah Khairkhwa added that Afghans have been neglected for years, and no services provided for them, according to a statement from the ministry Monday. "We are making the aspirations of the people come true with all our might. Everyone should use the facilities which have in their hand in the best way for our country's development. We should not wait for anyone; we will build our country with the help of Almighty Allah," the statement quoted Khairkhwa as saying.

Praising the activities and initiatives of Herat's Department of Information and Culture, Minister Khairkhwa instructed the relevant officials to honestly and on time deliver necessary services for the people.

The Kabul Times



Thousands receive cash, edible aids in Jawzjan, Samangan

SHEBERGHAN/AIBAK: A total of 1,723 families have been provided with cash assistance and 9097 others received edible items in two of the country's northern provinces of Jawzjan and Samangan, according to Bakhtar News Agency and the local source on Monday.

The cash assistance was distributed by the Women for Women Organization, the state-run Bakhtar News Agency reported, while the food items were distributed by the World Food Program, according to the sources.

See P4



International-Daily

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Address: Ministry of Information and Culture, opposite
to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**Food for thought***"Hijab has direct link to morality of
individuals in society."***Seasonal rains should be reserved
to enrich underground waters**

Allah Almighty has gifted water to the creatures and endowed it for the beauty of the earth and has provided it as the source of life for all creatures. It comes to us from the sky without any effort from human beings. But, unfortunately, we do not care and do not think about it. We, sometimes waste surface water, even, release it as much as it destroys our fields, gardens and forests.

While, we need water ourselves and our lives are dependent on it, we, sometimes are also generous to other people, like our neighbors.

On the other hand, if we continue drilling holes into the earth's belly and unfairly dig deep wells, we have undeniably made hostility toward our own people and country and other creatures as a whole.

If the world people do the same, there will no creature be left on our earth forever and based on experience, a day will probably come in a long-term that the earth face lack of water as much as it becomes empty of residents.

This is the proven facts based on knowledge, wisdom and experience and the divinely established traditions that no one can change saying that if anyone wants to improve their states and bring change in his/her status, they should bring change in their actions first. Because everyone will definitely see the results of his efforts.

So, if you want the prosperity and well-being of the country, please save water, food, rivers and floods that are falling from the sky from time to time.

Containing the water of these overflowing and roaring rivers is possible not only in the form of large dams and walls, but also in many other ways. Because rivers like Kunar, Helmand, Amu and others do not flow together at the same level, they are joined by a spring, and many such bigger and smaller rivers and now, if we go a little higher towards the sources and close the small dams, the water below will decrease so much that it will flow out the country as well in addition to being inside the country.

Likewise, dams are also used in those dry and deep areas that have no springs other than rainfall, so, in this way, the earth will become full of water, the wells will not dry up and we will be safe from the damage and danger of floods.

**Nearly 50,000 beggars rounded
up only in Kabul city so far**

Before and after mid-August 2021, thousands of beggars were roaming on streets in Kabul and other big cities across Afghanistan. With the Islamic Emirate takeover in 2021, the leadership of the Islamic Emirate has come up with a mechanism to round up street-beggars from Kabul city and other big cities of the country.

The IEA Supreme Leader Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada has then tasked a committee led by Mullah Abdul Ghani Beradar, the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs to work on a mechanism to round up street beggars in the country.

The committee then started rounding up beggars in Kabul and other big cities of the country. The office of the deputy prime minister says those beggars that have been rounded up have been biometrically registered. Besides, the child beggars have been provided with education and those

unable to work have been provided with an allowance.

The office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate (IEA) has informed that more than 48,119 beggars have been rounded up from various parts of Kabul city so far.

In a video message, the office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs says that until now 48,119 beggars including 14,813 women, 7,850 men and 25,726 children have been rounded up from different areas of Kabul.

The move has been welcomed by the people and considered it as a good step and asked the Islamic Emirate to continue the process of rounding up street beggars in the future. Although it is difficult to find who's a real needy and who's a professional beggar, but the office of the deputy prime minister for economic affairs says

they have found that thousands of these beggars have been professional beggars.

After rounding up thousands of beggars from Kabul city, no street-beggars are now seen on the streets and roads of Kabul city. The move has been also expanded to other cities of the country as thousands of street-beggars have been also rounded up in Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif cities.

According to the committee tasked to round up beggars, those beggars who are highly disadvantaged and unable to work were to receive a monthly stipend, and minor beggars were to receive an education.

One of the main factors in increasing number of beggars in the country is increasing poverty and unemployment.

It has been said that the deserved beggars are taken care of so that they can lead dignified lives and manage their lives in the right

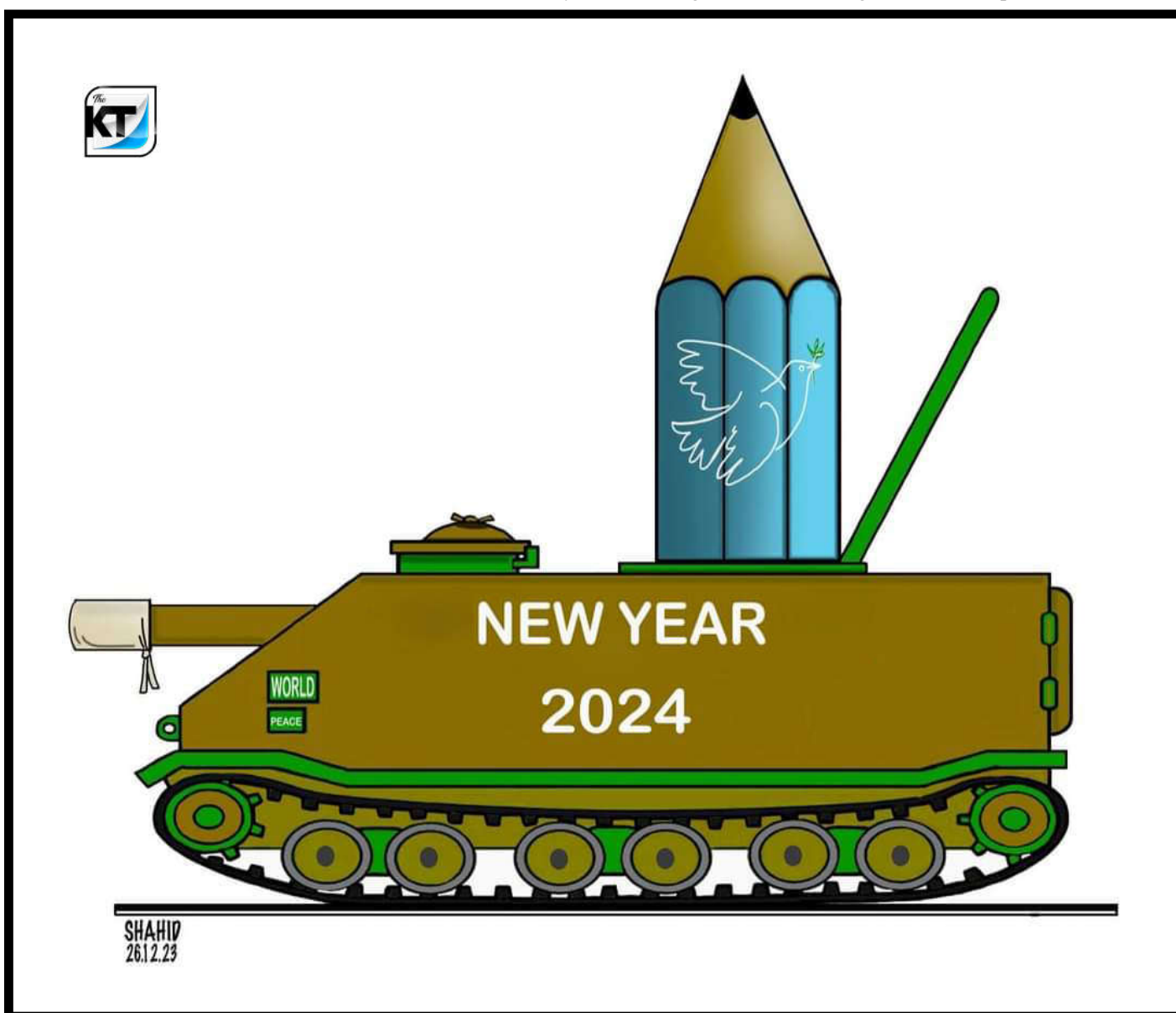
way, and for the rest, necessary measures are adopted so that they can get dignified jobs.

The factors that can reduce this phenomenon are the policies that could eliminate hunger, reduce poverty, and create job opportunities.

Besides, the economic development of Afghanistan can help improve the lives of the population in the country.

It is worth mentioning that rounding up beggars from Kabul City was started following the order of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada. In a decree, the IEA Supreme Leader instructed the deputy prime minister to round up beggars in Kabul and other parts of the country and with the help of various organizations, provide them with shelter and employment opportunities.

S. Raqib



Ulama holding key responsibilities in addressing Islamic countries’ challenges



One of the crucial responsibilities of Ulama (religious scholars) within Islamic societies and the Muslim community is to tackle misconceptions and disputes, foster harmony among the public, and enhance connections between Islamic nations. This obligation naturally rests on the Ulama, given their esteemed position in the Islamic community, enabling them to carry out this important role effectively.

Undoubtedly, in every coun-

try, there are Ulama and intellectuals who not only hold a special place among the people but also have considerable influence and prominence within the governments.

During the period of the Russian and American invasions of Afghanistan, this religious scholar faced staunch opposition from the occupiers, and his supporters and sympathizers consistently served the mujahidin and Afghan refugees.

This religious scholar continued to play a positive role in the awakening of the nation and Afghan Ulama, contributing to the better education of Muslim children.

Ulama are key to unlocking the problems of the Muslim Ummah and Islamic countries since they are aware of the current situation and understand the Sharia law. The Afghan people support and stand by the religious scholars so that they can properly ad-

dress the existing challenges and implement the Sharia law.

It is hoped that the session, which is expected to be held with the Ulama of Pakistan and Afghanistan in the capital, Kabul, will revolve around addressing the situation in the Islamic countries, particularly in Palestine, to call on the Jewish state and the United States to refrain from committing genocide and being involved in terrorist and ruthless actions in Gaza.

Mukhtar Safi

War in Gaza reveals fake faces of so-called human rights defenders

Unfortunately, hundreds of women and children in Palestine are being martyred by the bloodthirsty Zionists on a daily basis, and many of them are left trapped under the rubble and subjected to brutal torture.

In Ukraine, women and children lost their lives under Russian bombings and rocket attacks. As a result, Biden called Putin a war criminal and demanded his trial, while the number of casualties in Gaza was twenty times that of Ukraine.

Yet, Biden and other Zionists have not had their fill of blood and strongly support the corrupt President of the Jewish State, who should now be in prison according to the laws of that coun-

try. Unfortunately, hundreds of women and children in Palestine are being martyred by the bloodthirsty Zionists on a daily basis, and many of them are left trapped under the rubble and subjected to brutal torture.

Amidst all this, only a human rights organization expresses despair and, as the spokesperson for the Zionists, presents statistics of the number of casualties to the world.

When it comes to the discussion of the war in Russia and Ukraine, all international organizations and human rights groups speak out loudly.

However, when the talk is about the war in Palestine and the Zionist regime, all these organizations choose silence and only suffice with dry and empty statements.

Are the Muslims of Palestine not human?
Are the children and women

of Palestinian Muslims not human?

Where is human rights when a child, teenager, or young person in the West is harassed or mistreated and the whole Western world hears their voice and stands with the slogan of human rights? But! Today, when our innocent Palestinian brothers and sisters are martyred under Israeli bombings and cruel explosions, where are human rights?

Mashal Noori



Animosity toward scholars

Mockery of Islamic knowledge or Islamic scholars causes disbelief. Anyone who swears at or speaks ill of an Islamic scholar will become a disbeliever and an apostate. Fisq or bid'at (on the part of a scholar) makes it necessary to take a dislike to him.

Yet it is sinful to dislike him for worldly considerations. So is the case with disliking salih (pious) Muslims. Rasûlullah 'sallAllâhu 'alaihi wa sal-lam' states in the following hadith-i-sherifs: "Three things increase the taste of belief: loving Allâhu ta'âlâ and His Prophet more than everything else; loving a Muslim for the sake of Allâhu ta'âlâ though he may not love you; and disliking enemies of Allâhu ta'âlâ." And "The most valuable worship is loving for the sake of Allâhu ta'âlâ 'Hubb-i fillâh' and disliking for the sake of Allâhu ta'âlâ 'Bughd-i fillâh'."

It is necessary to love more a Believer who performs more worships than a Believer who performs less worship ('ibâdat). It is necessary not to dislike more the disbelievers who rebel more and who spread sinning (fuhsh) and disbelief. Among the ones which are necessary to dislike for the sake of Allâhu ta'âlâ, the man's own nafs comes first.

To love them means to be in their path and to be imitating their ways. The sign of belief is loving for the sake of Allâhu ta'âlâ (Hubb-i fillâh) and disliking for the sake of Allâhu ta'âlâ (Bughd-i fillâh). Rasûlullah 'sallAllâhu 'alaihi wa sal-lam' states in the following hadith-i-sherifs: "Allâhu ta'âlâ has some slaves."

They are not prophets. Prophets and martyrs will envy them on the day of Rising 'Qiyâmat'.

They are Believers who live far away from each other but they love each other for the sake of Allâhu ta'âlâ even though they do not know each other," and "In the Hereafter, everybody will be with the people they loved in the world." If they do not follow the - 139 - path guided by those whom they claim to love, their love will not be true. One should be friends with pious people in whom one has confidence in terms of faith and probity. Jews and Christians say that they love their prophets. But, since they are not following their path and, instead, following the wrong paths concocted by the Jewish religious authorities (hahams) and priests, they will not be together with their prophets in the next world.

Even worse, they will go to Hell. The book Could not Answer published by Hakikat Kitabevi explains subjects regarding Jews and Christians in depth. Lofty souls attract people they love up toward spiritual heights. Conversely, lower spirits attract them down to lower levels. A person can understand where his spirit will go after his death by looking to his friends in the world today.

A person loves another person either because of his nature or because his reasoning ('aql) requires him to love that person or on account of the kindnesses he received from him or for the sake of Allâhu ta'âlâ. Souls of people who love each other in the world attract each other. Similarly, they will also attract each other in the next world.

Enes bin Malik 'radiy-Allâhu 'anh' states that no news made Muslims happier than did the news reported in the hadith-i-sherif quoted above. Those who love disbelievers will go to Hell with them. One cannot help following the path guided by a person one loves. The strongest sign of one's loving someone is to love what he loves and dislike those things he does not like.

Muqset



Customs tariffs on some imported goods increase



The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) in a statement announced the increase in tariffs on some imported goods.

Ministry spokesperson Akhundzada Abdul Salam Jawad said that in order to support domestic production and prevent similar imports, they have increased tariffs on imported goods.

The spokesman said: "Based on this decision, the tariff for tomato sauce goes from 10% to 30%, washing powder from 12% to 16%, live chickens from 20% to 40%, matches from 5% to 10%, barbed wire from 10% to 30%, layer board from 5% to 8%, iron nail from 8% to 12%, digital scales from 2.5% to 5% and thresher

machines from 16% to 20%."

The Afghanistan Chamber of Industry and Mines (ACIM) emphasized that in order to increase domestic production and achieve self-sufficiency in Afghanistan, it is necessary for the Islamic Emirate to provide facilities for industrialists.

Sakhi Ahmad Paiman, the first deputy of ACIM, said: "We expect the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan to take more serious measures to increase the tariffs of imported goods and pay attention to sustainable electricity supply, so industry will grow and work will be provided for our compatriots."

Meanwhile, a number of busi-

nessmen emphasized that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry should provide facilities for businessmen in the country.

"Creating export and transit agreements between the countries of the region, especially for Afghanistan, is a necessary thing to be able to increase our economy and economic activities outside the borders of the country," said Mahboobullah Muhammadi, a businessman.

Earlier, the MOCI said that Afghanistan has achieved complete self-sufficiency in 126 items of domestic production and partial self-sufficiency in 104 other items of domestic production.

tolonews

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Thousands receive cash...

From P1

Provincial Director of Refugees and Repatriation Department Mullah Amannullah Talha said that 1,723 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who were from the districts of Darzab, Qush Tepa and Mardian, have been provided with cash assistance by the

organization, according to the agency.

"As many as 1,132 families have been provided with 18,000 Afghani and 591 families provided with 13,000 Afghani," the agency quoted Talha as saying.

Meanwhile, a number of fam-

ilies who have received the cash aid, said: "With this assistance we can buy firewood and essential food in this cold season." Mohammad Shabir one of the IDPs said there are some families who cannot provide food for their families and asked the international and domestic aid agencies to cooperate with them in this cold season. Also, in the country's northern province of Samangan, 9097 needy people received edible items including flour, cooking oil and peas.

The aid was provided by the World Food Program (WFP) and distributed by the provincial Rural Rehabilitation and Development. **The Kabul Times**

Afghanistan, Pakistan inseparable nations...

From P1

Muttaqi emphasized that trade and economic transactions between the two countries should not be overshadowed by political issues.

Meanwhile, Maulana Fazlur Rehman hailed the Islamic Emirate's victory against the occupation as a significant achievement and congratulated the people of Afghanistan.

He expressed hope for the stability of the Islamic system in Afghanistan, which would positively impact the entire Islamic world.

"Our visit to Afghanistan aims to address misunderstandings in the bilateral relations between the two countries and explore avenues for cooperation in political affairs, economy, trade, and mutual development," the statement quoted Maulana Fazlur Rehman as saying.

He also said that the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Party has raised its voice in protest against the treatment of Afghan refugees by the Pakistani authorities, considering this attitude to be incorrect and a source of problems between the two nations.

He added our visit carries a message of goodwill, and we hope it will yield positive outcomes.

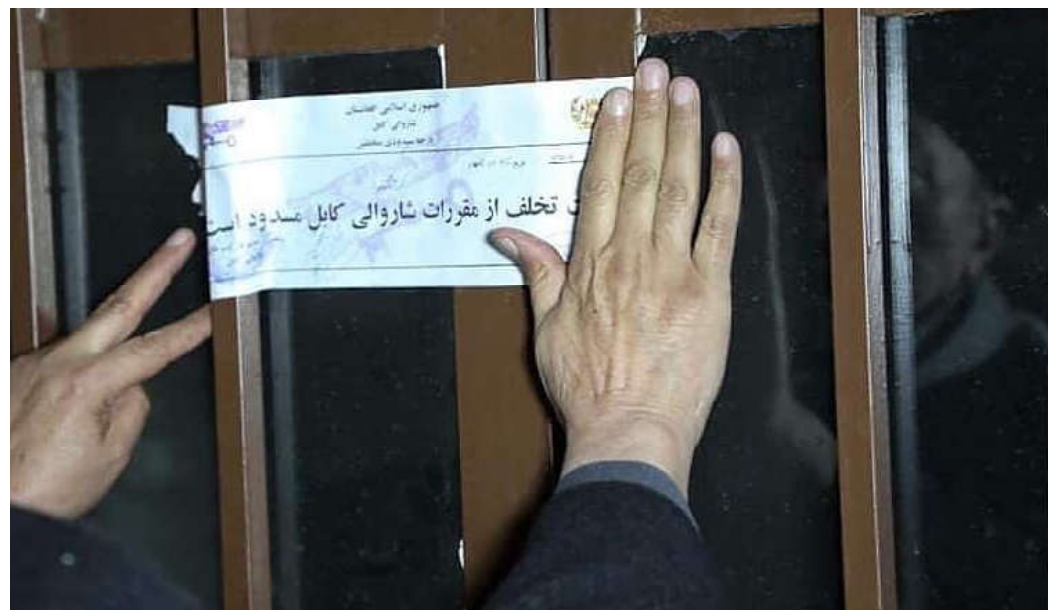
Azizullah Faizi

Five high-story buildings' fuel systems blocked in Kabul

KABUL: Due to the emission of heavy and unauthorized smoke that causes air pollution, the fuel system of at least five high-story buildings in the Kabul city, have been blocked, the Central Administration Office for Environmental Inspection said in a statement Monday.

"To reduce and prevent air pollution in Kabul city during the winter season, the environmental inspector of the central administration monitored the fuel system and smoke filters of 43 high-rise buildings in the 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 10th, 13th and 7th districts of the capital, blocking five of them, according to the statement.

The statement added that Khairkhana Tower in the 15th district, Haji Jalil building in Spin Kalay in the 5th district, Faizi Tower, Tak Tower 2 and Ahmadi Towers in the 3rd and 7th districts



due to producing thick smoke and availability of technical problems in their smoke filters, have been blocked by the relevant authorities. **The Kabul Times**

Islamic Emirate wants positive...

From P1

Mawlavi Abdul Kabir assured that there would be no danger or threat to anyone from Afghan territory, urging for discussions based on facts rather than media claims and propaganda. Calling for an end to the mistreatment and forced deportation of Afghan refugees in Pakistan, Mawlavi Kabir emphasized the need to provide necessary facilities for their well-being. He expressed hope that Maulana Fazlur Rehman and his delegation would convey a clear message from the Islamic Emirate to Islamabad.

"The Islamic Emirate seeks peace and stability in the region and will not allow Afghanistan to be used as a base against any nation," the statement quoted Mawlavi Kabir as saying. Also, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the head of the visiting delegation, expressed his contentment with the visit to Kabul and emphasized the common interests of both Islamic countries, advocating for problem-solving through effective communication. Giving a comprehensive information about the economic, political, and security situation in Afghanistan, Mawlavi Amir Khan Muttaqi emphasized strengthening relations between the two neighboring countries. Furthermore, the Pakistani delegation expressed satisfaction and emphasized the need to restore relations between the two countries and work towards resolving outstanding issues.

M. Nabi Naibi

Blast in Pakistan kills five police officers during polio vaccination drive



Islamabad, Pakistan – At least five police officers have been killed and nearly two dozen others wounded after an explosive device targeted their vehicle during a polio vaccination drive in northwestern Pakistan.

Officials told Al Jazeera the blast took place early morning on Monday in Bajaur, a tribal district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province neighbouring Afghanistan, when Pakistan began its latest round of the vaccination campaign. Five of those wounded were in critical condition and have been shifted to the provincial capital, Peshawar, about 133km (82 miles) south of Bajaur.

"The blast took place early in the morning when the police team went out for the polio vaccina-

tion drive. We have shifted most of the injured to local hospital in Bajaur while critical patients were sent to Peshawar," Bilal Faizi, spokesperson for the provincial rescue services, told Al Jazeera.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

In recent years, the Pakistan Taliban, also known by the acronym TTP, has killed dozens of polio vaccination workers and security officials in Pakistan.

Resistance to the polio immunisation drive grew in Pakistan after the CIA, the intelligence agency of the United States, organised a fake vaccination drive to track Osama bin Laden, who was killed in the Pakistani garrison town of Abbottabad in 2011.

aljazeera

China accuses UK of sending spy to access state secrets

China has announced that it has uncovered a British spy whom it accused of passing on state secrets.

The Ministry of State Security stated on Monday that it had discovered that the head of a foreign consultancy was spying for the United Kingdom's MI6 intelligence service. It is the latest in a series of recent accusations traded between Beijing and London.

The Chinese spy agency announced the detection of the espionage on its WeChat social media account. It stated that MI6 had used foreigner Huang Moumou to collect secrets and information.

The British foreign intelligence service had established an "intelligence cooperative relationship" with Huang, who heads an overseas consulting agency, in 2015, it said.

According to the statement, Huang does not have Chinese citizenship. The state security body did not disclose the nationality or gender of the suspect.

"After careful investigation, the state security organs promptly discovered evidence of Huang's involvement in espionage activities, and took criminal coercive measures against him," the ministry noted.

According to Beijing, MI6 instructed Huang to enter China on several occasions and to use his public identity to collect China-related intelligence for British spy-



ing.

The British intelligence service also trained Huang and provided equipment for intelligence cross-linking, the statement continued.

Huang allegedly passed 17 pieces of intelligence, including confidential state secrets, to MI6 before he was identified.

The statement did not provide details of Huang's identity or employer, or describe their current condition or whereabouts.

China and the UK and its Western allies have traded barbs recently as they have accused one another of espionage.

London says that Chinese spies are targeting its officials in sensitive positions in politics, defence and business.

A researcher in the UK Parliament recently denied he was a Chinese spy, an accusation Beijing branded "entirely groundless" and "malicious slander".

China has publicised several

other alleged spying cases in recent months.

American citizen John Shingwan Leung, 78, was sentenced to life in prison for espionage in May. China has also conducted raids and arrests at a number of large consulting, research and due diligence firms.

The Chinese government has also warned citizens of the dangers of espionage activities, encouraging them to instead join counterspying work. **bbc**

Explainer: South Africa's genocide case against Israel at top UN court

The International Court of Justice will hold hearings this

week on a case brought by South Africa accusing Israel of genocide

in the Gaza war and seeking an emergency suspension of its mil-

itary campaign.

What is the ICJ?

The ICJ, also called the World Court, is the highest United Nations legal body, established in 1945 to deal with disputes between states. It should not be confused with the treaty-based International Criminal Court, also in The Hague, which handles war crimes cases against individuals.

The ICJ's 15-judge panel - which will be expanded by an additional judge from each side in the Israel case - deals with border disputes and increasingly cases brought by states accusing others of breaking UN treaty obligations. Both South Africa and Israel are signatories to the 1948 Genocide Convention which gives the ICJ the jurisdiction to rule on disputes over the treaty.

All states that signed the Genocide Convention are obliged

not only not to commit genocide, but also to prevent and punish it. The treaty defines genocide as "acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group".

What is South Africa's case?

In its 84-page filing South Africa says that by killing Palestinians in Gaza, causing them serious mental and bodily harm and by creating conditions on life "calculated to bring about their physical destruction", Israel is committing genocide against them.

"The acts are all attributable to Israel, which has failed to prevent genocide and is committing genocide in manifest violation of the Genocide Convention," the filing says, adding that Israel also failed to curb incitement to genocide by its own officials in violation of the convention.

What is Israel's response?

Israel has called the claim baseless and a government spokesman accused South Africa of "absurd blood libel" or baseless allegations of Jewish perfidy intended to stir up lethal hatred of Jews.

Israel said it will be in court to present its case next week.

The request for emergency measures is a first step in a case that will take several years to complete. Provisional measures are meant as a kind of restraining order to prevent a dispute from getting worse while the court looks at the full case.

Judges at the ICJ often grant such measures, which generally consist of asking a state to refrain from any action that could aggravate the legal dispute.

For provisional measures the court only has to decide if at first glance, or prima facie, it would

have jurisdiction and the acts complained of could fall within the scope of the genocide treaty. Any measures it decides would not necessarily be those requested by the complainant.

South Africa has asked the court to order Israel to suspend its military actions in Gaza, to stop any genocidal acts or take reasonable measures to prevent genocide and issue regular reports to the ICJ about such measures.

The ICJ's rulings are final and without appeal, but it has no way of enforcing them. A ruling against Israel could hurt its international reputation and set legal precedent.

If the court finds it has prima facie jurisdiction, the case will move forward at the ornate Peace Palace in The Hague - even if the judges decide against emergency measures.

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