

Kunduz local officials urged to address people's challenges

KABUL: Mawlavi Abdul Salam Hanafi, the Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, urged local officials of Kunduz province to address challenges

facing the people, Arg said in a statement on Saturday.

Speaking at a meeting with a delegation of scholars and local officials from Qala-e-Zal district of Kunduz province,

the deputy PM said, "Local officials must not neglect their responsibilities and should take the necessary steps to address the challenges faced by the people."

Meanwhile, Mawlavi Abdul Qadeer Hamza, the district governor of Qala-e-Zal, spoke on behalf of others and presented a report detailing the district's achievements and ongoing efforts.

He underscored the commitment of local officials and Mujahidin to maintaining security, ensuring public order, and implementing the directives of the Islamic Emirate's leadership.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Hanafi expressed appreciation for the efforts of the local officials and assured the delegation that, within the limits of available resources, the Islamic Emirate would consider their requests and work toward addressing them.

The Kabul Times



NEPA Chief, his Russian counterpart meet on climate change cooperation

KABUL: Mawlavi Matiul Haq Khalis, Director General of the National Environmental Protection Agency, met with Alexander Kozlov, the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, discussing climate change cooperation, the agency said in a statement on Saturday.

Islamic Emirate's delegation participation in COP-30, and implementation of clean energy programs and projects in the country.

Alexander Kozlov assured his country's cooperation in addressing environmental and climate change challenges and support for facilitating the participation of the Islamic Emirate's delegation in COP-30.

Khalis-led delegation left for Russia on Tuesday to attend the Nevsky 11th International Environmental Con-



gress, following an official invitation from the Russian Fed-

eration.

The Kabul Times

More than 280 Afghan inmates released from Pakistani jails, ministry



KABUL: The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation said in a statement Saturday that 287 Afghans have been re-

leased from different prisons in Pakistan over the past one day and repatriated to the country.

The freed Afghanistan had

been arrested in various parts of Pakistan and held in detention from one to ten days, the statement said, adding that af-

ter release, they returned to the country.

As a result of the efforts of the Islamic Emirate, a significant number of Afghans who had been detained under the pretext of having no legal migration documents have previously been freed from Pakistani prisons and returned to their country, according to the statement.

The Islamic Emirate's related organs are making efforts to supply essentials, including shelter, healthcare, and other critical services for returnees nationwide.

The Kabul Times

400-bed pediatric hospital to be built in Herat

KABUL: Mawlavi Nour Jalal Jalali, acting Minister of Public Health, officially laid the foundation stone for a 400-bed pediatric hospital in Herat province during his recent official visit, the ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

The modern hospital, specifically dedicated to pediatric care, is being built through the contribution of a national Afghan businessman, the statement said.

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by Herat Governor Shaikh Noor Ahmad



Islamjar, tribal elders, government officials, and local residents, the statement added.

Minister Jalali emphasized that following decades of conflict, Afghanistan is now wit-

nessing a more favorable environment for investment, encouraging Afghan traders to seize this opportunity and contribute to the welfare of their country through sustainable and impactful projects.

He reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to delivering equitable and high-quality healthcare services nationwide, stating that the ministry fully supports such initiatives and will provide all necessary cooperation to ensure their successful implementation.

The Kabul Times

Afghans capable of managing their internal affairs independently, Mujahid

KABUL: Zabihullah Mujahid, spokesperson for the Is-



lamic Emirate, in an audiotape on Saturday, reiterated that Afghans are capable of managing their internal affairs independently.

The spokesman made the remarks in response to the recent statement of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) regarding the formation of an inclusive government in Afghanistan.

Mujahid emphasized the Islamic Emirate's commitment

to maintaining peaceful relations with neighboring and Turkic states.

He assured that Afghanistan's territory would not serve as a base for threats against any other nation.

The OTS also called for enhanced international cooperation with Afghanistan and urged the unfreezing of Afghanistan's financial assets to aid in its economic recovery.

The Kabul Times

Delaying recognition of Islamic Emirate illogical, Shaheen

Regarding relations with Pakistan, he stated that Kabul seeks good ties with Islamabad, but those ties must be mutual, balanced, and free from blame games.

KABUL: Mohammad Suhail Shaheen, the ambassador of the Islamic Emirate in Qatar, told TOLONews the other day that regional countries, recognizing the realities in Afghanistan, have begun engaging with the Islamic Emirate at various levels.

Shaheen warned that fur-

ther delaying recognition of the Islamic Emirate is no longer logical.

"The Islamic Emirate is a current reality of Afghanistan. The region and the world have come to acknowledge this, which is why they are now engaging with us. We believe that issues can be resolved through

understanding and engagement. Over the past 40 years, many global powers tried confrontation and aggression, and it didn't work," he said as quoted by the TV.

Regarding relations with Pakistan, he stated that Kabul seeks good ties with Islamabad, but those ties must be mutual, balanced, and free from blame games.

According to Shaheen, countries like India and Iran have also come to realize that the current government operates independently of any foreign power, a fact that has shifted their approach.

He added, "We support positive relations with Pakistan and our other neighbors, but they must be reciprocal to be effective."

The Kabul Times



Reconstruction project resumed on Salang highway, ministry



KABUL: The country's Ministry of Public Works said in a statement Saturday that the reconstruction work has been initiated on the remaining parts of the Salang highway.

"To facilitate the completion of reconstruction work on the highway, the primary part of the Salang pass will be

closed to traffic, with passenger vehicles being rerouted onto alternative ways," the statement said.

The cargo vehicles will be permitted to traverse the route on a rotational basis, the statement said, asking the citizens to extend their support to the work teams until the current year's project plan for this cru-

cial infrastructure project is completed.

The Ministry of Public Works reconstructed various portions of the Salang highway last year, and efforts are now underway to reconstruct the remaining parts of the highway.

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Food for thought

Today's generation guarantees our bright future

Herat Intl Bus Terminal building another economic achievement

In a series of economic developments, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan made another achievement as the Herat Intl Bus Terminal has seen major progress recently.

As local officials reported, costing \$20m, a work project on the province's international passenger terminal is progressing rapidly and with full commitment.

The project will be built over a period of three years in the southern part of Herat City, according to international standards.

It is a pleasure for the people of Afghanistan to see the first phase of the project, including the terminal building and payment of ten kilometers of road is due to complete.

Completion of the first and third phases consisting of garages and a fire station, while the third phase features restaurants, a football field, and recreational parks, highlights that Afghanistan, under the Islamic Emirate is stepping up towards economic progress.

The efforts of the related organs of the Islamic Emirate are appreciated as the three phases of the terminal are expected to be completed one after another within a few years.

Also, the completion of the terminal being built on a 1,000-erib plot of land is expected to reduce the movement of large passenger buses and prevent traffic congestion across the city.

This is another good achievement in the field of economic development and providing transportation facilities as well as provide significant facilities for both residents and travelers through the international terminal, and the citizens can make broad use of it.

Another significance of the project is that hundreds of workers, many of whom are deported from Iran or Pakistan, have now access to work on this major project.

Undoubtedly, living and working in our own homeland and working for the country's development is more enjoyable than living abroad as refugees even if one makes more and more money.

If similar major projects were launched countrywide, then thousands of Afghans, each day, will return to the country.

The people of Afghanistan welcomes the the launch and progress of the project and praise the efforts of the Islamic Emirate's relevant organs to conduct similar schemes as they can help thousands of people access to work and encourage millions other return home voluntary and take part in their country's reconstruction process.

Nationwide security and new opportunities: a social shift toward trust

After more than four decades of war, political turbulence, and social fragmentation, Afghanistan is entering a new phase marked by relative calm and nationwide security. Although the country continues to face numerous economic,

Afghan had little reason to believe in the state or in a hopeful future. Mistrust became ingrained in daily life, manifesting in fear, pessimism, isolation, and the normalization of survival-based behavior.

In such an environment,

Afghanistan has taken on a calmer rhythm. Markets are active again, small businesses are resurfacing, and public transportation flows more freely. For parents, sending children to school no longer feels like a gamble. For shopkeep-

resumed activity, agricultural markets are being revitalized, and some domestic supply chains are being re-established. Provinces like Kandahar, Herat, Balkh, and Nangarhar are beginning to show signs of economic dynamism through both formal and informal initiatives.

Youth, once disillusioned and disengaged, are gradually regaining a sense of purpose. Micro-projects, vocational training, and community-based enterprises have created avenues for employment and skill-building. This not only stimulates local economies but also strengthens social cohesion, as young people find reasons to remain rooted in their communities rather than fleeing abroad.

Moreover, Afghanistan's increasing engagement with regional neighbors, particularly in trade with countries like Uzbekistan, Iran, and Pakistan, offers the potential to further stabilize the economy. These developments, if managed well, can lay the foundation for broader regional integration and long-term development.

A perhaps underappreciated aspect of Afghanistan's evolving social landscape is the revival of community traditions. In many villages and neighborhoods, people are once again organizing local jirgas, rebuilding mosques and schools through voluntary labor, and holding cultural and religious gatherings. These acts of collective agency, however modest, are signs of a society trying to reclaim a sense of order and responsibility.

The re-emergence of such practices contributes to the restoration of social glue—those informal, interpersonal connections that build resilience in times of crisis. It signals that Afghan society is not only surviving, but adapting and striving to heal its wounds.

However, physical security is not enough to solidify this fragile social transformation. Trust cannot thrive in a vacuum—it needs justice, accountability, transparency, and effective public services. If the government is to convert this moment of relative calm into a lasting foundation for peace, it must respond to the legitimate expectations of its people. Key reforms must include overhauling the judiciary to ensure fair access to justice, fighting corruption and rent-seeking behavior at all levels, investing in public education and healthcare, supporting responsible and independent media, and creating inclusive economic policies that benefit all ethnic and social groups.

Without these structural changes, any sense of trust may remain shallow and temporary, vulnerable to reversal by future shocks or political missteps.

Afghanistan stands at a crossroads. The relative peace and order now being experienced, no matter how limited, presents an extraordinary opportunity to redefine the country's social contract. But this moment must be seized with wisdom and urgency. If managed carefully, it can begin a new chapter—one characterized not by repression or stagnation, but by inclusion, hope, and collective growth.



political, and institutional challenges, this newfound stability has provided a unique window for social transformation. For a nation long gripped by violence and despair, the emergence of security, even if partial, is a turning point that could restore what has been gravely eroded: social trust.

Over the past decades, trust in public institutions and social structures was deeply damaged in Afghanistan. Citizens across cities and rural areas were repeatedly confronted with government failures, systemic corruption, rampant insecurity, and a lack of justice. The absence of reliable institutions meant that the average

community bonds frayed. People hesitated to collaborate, families discouraged participation in public affairs, and youth increasingly saw migration as their only chance for a decent future. The erosion of social capital—defined as the trust and networks that allow communities to function effectively—was perhaps one of the most dangerous yet overlooked consequences of the conflict. Today, however, things are beginning to shift. With the end of large-scale military confrontations, the reopening of roads, and a marked reduction in incidents such as bombings and kidnappings, everyday life in many parts of

ers and transporters, moving goods across provinces is no longer riddled with paralyzing fear. This day-to-day sense of safety, however incomplete, has significant social implications. Security fosters presence; presence fosters participation; and participation is the beginning of trust. As people venture back into public life, they slowly begin to rebuild relationships not only with each other but also with the broader institutions of society.

Parallel to this, Afghanistan is witnessing the slow emergence of new economic opportunities, especially in agriculture, small industries, and trade. Local workshops have



Addressing water scarcity in Afghanistan through sustainable water management



Afghanistan, though landlocked and sparsely populated relative to its size, is blessed with natural resources that remain largely untapped. The country's climate is generally favorable, its water is potable, and rainfall is sufficient in many areas. Its fertile soil, mountainous terrain, and hillsides are ideal for agriculture, forests, and orchards. However, the country faces a serious and growing water scarcity crisis, primarily due to mismanagement and lack of infrastructure.

Afghanistan's major rivers often flow out of the country without being harnessed, providing water to neighboring nations free of charge while our own lands remain dry and uncultivated. Internally, significant volumes of water go to waste, flowing unused through barren lands. This mismanagement has left vast areas of arable land dry and

uncultivated, reducing agricultural productivity and keeping thousands unemployed.

To overcome this challenge, Afghanistan must prioritize the construction of small and large dams across the country more than ever. These structures would allow the nation to retain its water resources and direct them to dry areas via canals, streams, and irrigation networks. With proper planning and investment, up to 80% of currently arid land could be made cultivable, greatly boosting agricultural output and food security.

One of the most critical outcomes of improved water management is the replenishment of underground water reserves. With the current over-reliance on wells and underground water, water tables in many parts of the country are rapidly declining. Constructing dams and reservoirs would help restore these levels by al-

lowing rainwater and river water to seep into the ground, recharging aquifers and ensuring more reliable access to water, especially in urban centers.

Efficient water management goes beyond irrigation. Dams can also serve as sources of hydropower, reducing Afghanistan's dependency on imported electricity and saving millions in foreign expenditures. In rural and semi-urban areas, small-scale hydropower projects could power homes, schools, and even small factories, stimulating local economies. Moreover, water management contributes to environmental sustainability. The development of orchards and forests through a reliable water supply can reduce air pollution and combat deforestation. It also helps in flood control, particularly in mountainous areas, by managing rainfall and snowmelt through strategically placed reservoirs and ditches.

For these goals to be realized, coordinated action is required from both central and provincial authorities. Municipalities must be empowered and equipped to dig water catchment systems, build protective ditches along hillsides, and support dam construction.

These efforts will not only conserve rain and snow water but will also serve the dual purpose of enhancing groundwater recharge and agricultural irrigation.

Afghanistan stands at a crossroads. With visionary planning and bold investment in water infrastructure, the country can turn its water scarcity challenge into an opportunity for economic growth, environmental recovery, and national resilience. Water is not just a basic need—it is a strategic asset. Managing it wisely is the key to a more stable and prosperous future for Afghanistan. **Abdul Rashid**

Extensive potato cultivation in Uruzgan this year



Local officials in Uruzgan province say that this year, potatoes have been cultivated on 1,773 hectares of land in the province, and they hope to harvest 15,957 tons of potatoes from it.

Engineer Quadratullah Hamidi, deputy spokesperson of the province's agriculture department, stated that the potatoes grown in Uruzgan this year will meet the province's entire demand.

He said, "Our efforts are aimed at increasing public awareness about potato cultivation. Across the province, potatoes have been planted on 1,773 hectares of land. We expect to harvest 15,957 tons, and the crops are still in the growth phase."

At the same time, landown-

ers in the province who have cultivated potatoes this year say they are happy with their yields, but they lack cold storage facilities for preservation.

A farmer in Uruzgan named Saifullah said that due to the lack of cold storage, he is forced to take his potato harvest immediately to the market for sale, which causes a drop in prices.

He added, "I've been cultivating potatoes for the past two years, and they've yielded well. A single acre provides work for around 100 households. People haven't yet started large-scale cultivation because it hasn't received special attention. This year I cultivated more potatoes to meet my needs. The surplus is sold in the city at very low prices.

If the government builds storage facilities for us, we could sell our harvests at higher prices."

Meanwhile, several other potato farmers expressed similar concerns and urged the government to help them find markets for their potato harvests.

A farmer named Aminullah, who cultivated potatoes on three acres of land this year, said he fears he won't recover his expenses due to the low prices of potatoes.

He said that if the government establishes cold storage facilities, it would not only meet the provincial needs in this area but also allow farmers to sell their crops at better prices at a different time of year.

Aminullah stated, "Those who planted potatoes got good results. If people increase cultivation, the province's needs will be met. We request cold storage facilities to prevent the potatoes from spoiling. No matter how hard we work, when the time for harvesting comes, the prices drop drastically in the market. The government must give special attention to preserving potatoes."

Quadratullah Hamidi, the deputy spokesperson of the Uruzgan Agriculture and Livestock Department, also acknowledged the farmers' concerns and said the issues have been shared with the Ministry of Agriculture for resolution.

He believes that if cold storage facilities are built for potatoes, people will have access to them at affordable prices throughout the year.

He promised that the government will solve this issue.

He said, "We have built a number of zero-degree storage units in Tarinkot city. More units have been requested, and we have submitted the list to the ministry. We need these facilities urgently. If they are built, prices will remain stable, and potatoes will be available in the market in all seasons."

Bamyang, Helmand, Samangan, and Logar are among the provinces in Afghanistan where potato cultivation is also widely practiced.

Ehsanullah Wolasmal

Providing all necessary facilities for women in all aspects of life

Islam recognizes women as equals to men with a diverse set of rights and responsibilities. The Holy Quran and Islamic legal tradition provide frameworks for protecting women's rights, including financial freedom, decision-making power in marriage and divorce, and property ownership. However, interpretations and practices can vary across different Islamic communities and cultures, leading to diverse understandings and applications of these rights.

As Islam grants significant rights to women, the Islamic Emirate has made all efforts to provide facilities for Afghan women in all aspects of life, including education, healthcare, and addressing poverty. Afghan women have not the inheritance rights as well as the right to consent to marriage, and can reject marriage proposals, and they are now protected from any abuses and exploitation as Islam prohibits the exploitation or abuse of women and emphasizes the importance of treating them with respect and dignity.

As part of its efforts to protect women's rights and address social injustices in the country, the Ministry of Vice and Virtue has released a report detailing its activities over the past month. The ministry's vice and virtue inspectors have resolved dozens of cases involving women across the country in the past one month.

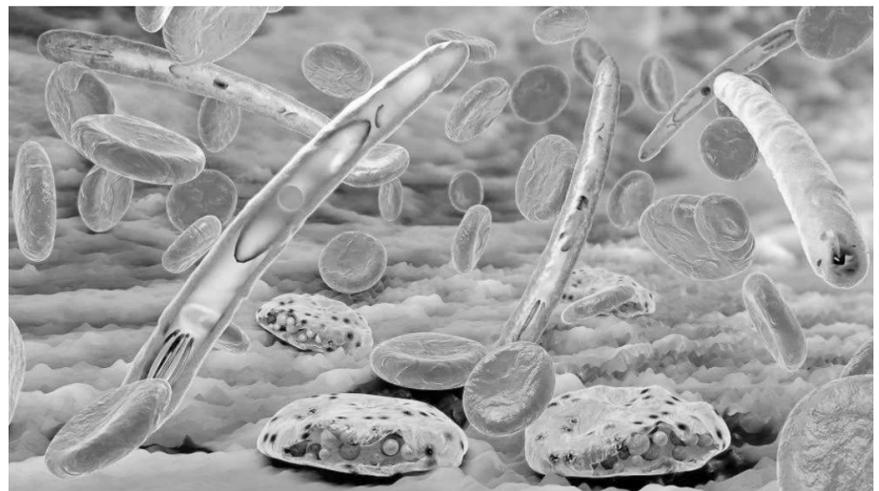
Among dozens of the cases, 38 cases of forced marriage have been prevented, 24 women have been granted their rightful shares of inheritance, 40 women have been rescued from domestic violence, 22 women have been granted their rightful dowry, and eight girls have been rescued from forced marriage in exchange of resolving the enmity between the families.

In addition to that dozens of cases of issues involved women have been address in the past one month, around 120 tribal and ethnic conflicts have been prevented, 41 sorcerer and magicians have been arrested, 89 sessions have been held with entrepreneurs

and businessmen as well as 797 sessions have been held by the Ministry of Vice and Virtue with various segments of the people in the country.

These all activities show that the Islamic Emirate is working to ensure the rights of all citizens, including the women in the country. Efforts are underway to fully provide all rights to the women that include marriage, education, inheritance, and the rights of freedoms that Islam grants them and are their fundamental rights. With the Islamic Emirate takeover, continued and significant steps have been taken in ensuring citizens' rights, including those of women in the country. Efforts are being made to address all those rights that Islam has granted to them. If we go back, Muslim women were given their rights 1400 years ago. The rights of women in Islam are an important aspect of its core teachings. Therefore, the Islamic Emirate is making all its efforts to provide all necessary facilities for women in all aspects of life. **Mukhtar**

Malaria: A persistent threat to global health



Malaria is one of the world's oldest and most persistent diseases, continuing to affect millions of people globally, particularly in tropical and subtropical regions. The disease is caused by protozoan parasites from the Plasmodium genus, which are transmitted to humans through the bite of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.

The life cycle of the parasite is complex, involving both mosquito and human hosts. When an infected mosquito bites a human, it injects sporozoites into the bloodstream. These sporozoites travel to the liver, where they mature and reproduce. Eventually, they re-enter the bloodstream, infect red blood cells, and multiply until the cells burst. This cycle of infection causes the characteristic symptoms of malaria, including fever, chills, and flu-like illness.

Malaria transmission depends on environmental factors, including climate, altitude, and the presence of suitable mosquito breeding sites. Nighttime biting mosquitoes are the primary vector, and the disease spreads more easily in areas with high humidity and warm temperatures. Individuals most at risk include young children, pregnant women, non-immune travelers, and people with com-

promised immune systems. Socioeconomic conditions also play a crucial role, as poverty and lack of access to healthcare increase vulnerability.

Symptoms of malaria typically appear within 10 to 15 days after infection. The most common symptoms include high fever, chills, sweating, headache, muscle aches, nausea, and vomiting. In more severe cases, especially those caused by *P. falciparum*, complications can include cerebral malaria, severe anemia, respiratory difficulties, and organ failure. Timely and accurate diagnosis is essential for effective treatment. Diagnosis is usually made through microscopic examination of blood smears or rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs), which are especially valuable in remote areas.

Prevention is a key strategy in combating malaria. The use of insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) is one of the most effective methods to reduce mosquito bites. Indoor residual spraying (IRS) of insecticides on walls can further reduce mosquito populations. Environmental management, such as removing stagnant water where mosquitoes breed, also helps control transmission. In some regions, preventive medications are given to

vulnerable populations, including pregnant women and infants.

Treatment of malaria varies depending on the parasite species and severity of the disease. The standard treatment for *P. falciparum* is artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT), which combines artemisinin with another antimalarial drug to increase effectiveness and reduce the risk of resistance. Other medications, such as chloroquine and primaquine, are used for different species or special cases. However, the growing resistance to drugs like chloroquine and even artemisinin in some regions is a serious concern. Ongoing research and the development of new drugs are vital to maintaining effective treatment options.

According to the World Health Organization, there were approximately 249 million malaria cases and over 600,000 deaths in 2022. Children under the age of five are the most affected, making up the majority of malaria-related deaths. Beyond its health impact, malaria also imposes a significant economic burden on affected countries, reducing productivity, increasing healthcare costs, and hindering educational and social development.

USD	01	GBP	01	INR	1000	PKR	1000	EUR	01	IRR	1000	AED	01
AFN	68.45	AFN	92.52	AFN	802	AFN	235	AFN	77.99	AFN	0.82	AFN	18.77

SPORTS

AFC Level 1 Futsal Coaching Course kicks off in Kabul



KABUL: The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Level 1 Futsal Coaching Course officially began in Kabul, organized by the Afghanistan Football Federation in collaboration with the General Directorate of Physical Education, Sports, and the National Olympic Committee.

A total of 24 coaches from various provinces including Kabul, Maidan Wardak, Kandahar, Bamyan, and Parwan are participating in the course. The training is being conducted by international futsal instructor Reza Kordi from Iran. Over a six-day period, the participants will receive both

theoretical and practical instruction on the core principles and techniques of futsal.

The opening ceremony was held with the presence of key figures including Hafez Ahmad Jan Zadrán, the Technical and Professional Deputy of the General Directorate of Physical Education and Sports, Mohammad Yousuf Kargar, President of the Afghanistan Football Federation, organizing committee members, and the participating coaches.

In his opening remarks, Hafez Ahmad Jan Zadrán welcomed Reza Kordi to Afghanistan and appreciated his role in training

Afghan coaches. He expressed optimism that the course would help boost the capacity of local coaches and emphasized the commitment of the National Olympic Committee and Football Federation to supporting such initiatives.

Mohammad Yousuf Kargar also welcomed the coaches and praised their enthusiasm for learning and improving their skills. He regarded the presence of coaches from different provinces and the opportunity to learn from an experienced international instructor as a valuable step toward raising the standard of futsal coaching in the country.

The main objective of the course is to enhance the technical knowledge and coaching capacity of Afghan futsal coaches. Upon successful completion, participants will be awarded the AFC Level 1 Futsal Coaching License, officially certifying their training at the continental level.

The Kabul Times

Afghan cyclists to participate in 900-kilometer tour of Azerbaijan in Iran



KABUL: Officials from the Afghanistan Cycling Federation have announced that six Afghan cyclists will take part in an upcoming international competition titled the "Tour of Azerbaijan," set to begin on the 27th of May in Iran.

The event, a prestigious multi-stage international cycling race, will cover a total distance of 900 kilometers. Cyclists from various countries are expected to compete, with participants completing the

distance across five different stages. The competition tests the athletes' endurance, speed, and strategy across varying terrains and weather conditions.

The Afghan team, consisting of six top cyclists, will represent the nation in this high-level tournament. Federation officials expressed their pride in the athletes' readiness and determination, stating that despite challenges in training resources and international exposure, the cyclists have shown great commitment and potential.

The participation of Afghan athletes in this tour is seen as a significant step toward promoting the country's presence in international cycling events. It also reflects the growing interest and investment in cycling as a competitive sport in Afghanistan.

Officials from the Cycling Federation told TOLONews that preparations for the event have been ongoing for weeks, and they are hopeful that Afghan riders will perform well and gain valuable experience. The tour provides an important opportunity for Afghan athletes not only to compete with world-class cyclists but also to showcase the talent emerging from the country's sports sector. The federation also noted the symbolic value of Afghan participation in international events, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a sporting presence globally despite domestic challenges. The "Tour of Azerbaijan" is expected to attract significant attention from cycling enthusiasts and media across the region.

The Kabul Times

Carlo Ancelotti to leave Real Madrid after final match at Santiago Bernabéu

Real Madrid and head coach Carlo Ancelotti have reached an agreement that will see the Italian manager step down from his role after the club's final match of the season.

According to an official statement from the club, Ancelotti will lead Real Madrid for the last time on Saturday at Santiago Bernabéu. The match will mark the end of his successful era with the Spanish giants, bringing closure to a tenure that has seen immense success.

During his time in charge, Ancelotti managed Real Madrid across six campaigns and secured 15 trophies. These titles include multiple UEFA Champions League wins, La Liga triumphs, and domestic cups, making him one of the most successful managers in the club's prestigious history. His calm leadership, tactical flexibility, and strong rapport with players earned him widespread respect and admiration both within the club and across the footballing world.



Ancelotti is now set to embark on a new chapter in his career as the head coach of the Brazil national football team. His move to manage one of the most iconic teams in world football adds another prestigious role to his already decorated coaching career.

The Saturday match at the Bernabéu is expected to be an emotional farewell for the Italian manager, players, and fans alike. Supporters will have one last opportunity to thank the coach for his contributions and achievements. As Ancelotti prepares to leave Madrid and take on the responsibility of guiding Brazil, football fans around the world will be watching closely to see how he transitions into international football. His legacy at Real Madrid is firmly cemented, and now, all eyes will turn to his next journey on the global stage.

The Kabul Times

Road project launched in Laghman



KABUL: Construction work worth 33 million Afghanis has been initiated on a road in the Alingar district of eastern Laghman province, the state-run Bakhtar News Agency reported Saturday.

The road, with eight kilometers length and six meters width, is expected to be completed within two months, the agency said.

The project aims to improve transportation infrastructure, facilitate movement for residents, and boost local economic activity by enhancing connectivity between remote areas and central parts of the district, the agency added.

According to the agency, the first two kilometers of the road will be constructed with financial support from the World Bank and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), under the supervision of the provincial office of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development. The remaining six kilometers will be constructed through the contributions of local tribal elders, highlighting community involvement and local ownership of development projects.

Local authorities have expressed optimism that the road will significantly ease the daily lives of residents and create short-term job opportunities during the construction phase.

The Kabul Times

Russia launches major aerial attack on Ukraine capital

At least 14 people have been injured in a major Russian missile and drone attack on Kyiv, city authorities say.

Russia launched 250 drones and 14 ballistic missiles against Kyiv, Ukraine's air force said, causing fires in residential buildings. It was one of the biggest combined aerial

assaults on the city since the war began. The air force said it had downed six missiles and 245 drones.

"With each such attack, the world becomes more certain that the cause of prolonging the war lies in Moscow," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on X.

The barrage came hours after Russia and Ukraine took part in a prisoner swap agreed after talks between the two countries' officials in Turkey.

Describing a "difficult night", Zelensky said there had been fires and explosions across Kyiv with homes, businesses and cars damaged by

strikes or falling debris.

Olha Chyrukha, a 64-year-old local resident who lives just outside central Kyiv, told Reuters news agency: "I wish they'd agree to a ceasefire. To bomb people like this - poor children. My three-year-old granddaughter was screaming scared." **BBC**

India's monsoon rains arrive 8 days early, earliest in 16 years

Monsoon rains hit the coast of India's southernmost state of Kerala on Saturday, eight days earlier than usual, marking the earliest arrival in 16 years and providing the promise of a bumper harvest and relief from a gruelling heatwave.



The monsoon, the lifeblood of the country's \$4 trillion economy, delivers nearly 70 percent of the rain that India needs to water farms and replenish aquifers and reservoirs. Nearly half of India's farmland, without any irrigation cover, depends on the annual June-September rains to grow a number of crops.

Summer rains usually begin to lash Kerala around June 1 before spreading nationwide by mid-July, allowing farmers to plant crops such as rice, corn, cotton, soybeans and sugarcane.

The onset of the southwest monsoon over Kerala on May 24 is its earliest onset since May 23, 2009, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Saturday.

The monsoon has covered Kerala and parts of neighboring Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, as well as parts of the northeastern state

of Mizoram, the IMD said.

Conditions are favorable for the monsoon's further spread into Goa, parts of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, the northeastern states, West Bengal, and the remaining parts of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu over the next 2 to 3 days.

Surplus pre-monsoon rainfall and an early monsoon onset will help farmers, especially in the

southern and central states, to sow summer crops earlier than usual, said Ashwini Bansod, vice president for commodities research at Phillip Capital India, a Mumbai-based brokerage.

"Abundant soil moisture and early sowing could potentially boost crop yields," Bansod said.

Last year, the monsoon reached the coast of Kerala on May 30, and overall summer rains

were the highest since 2020, supporting recovery from a drought in 2023.

The IMD last month forecast above-average monsoon rains for the second straight year in 2025.

The department defines average or normal rainfall as ranging between 96 percent and 104 percent of a 50-year average of 87 cm (35 inches) for the four-month season. **Alarabiya**

Nationwide security and new...

From P2

Suppose Afghanistan succeeds in using this period to restore trust. In that case, the ripple effects will be profound: national cohesion, greater political participation, sustained

economic growth, reduced emigration, and a rebirth of hope among the younger generation. If it fails, however, the country risks sliding back into another cycle of instability,

despair, and disintegration.

Now is not the time for complacency. It is a decisive moment—an opportunity for thoughtful, courageous, and accountable action.

A new era for Afghanistan is possible, but only if the foundation of that era is built on trust.

Aburagheb Amani

Malaria: A persistent...

From P3

Over the past two decades, international efforts to combat malaria have yielded significant progress.

However, recent years have seen a plateau in progress. Challenges such as insufficient funding, insecticide and drug resistance, political instability, health system weaknesses, and climate change continue to threaten malaria control efforts. More-

over, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted health services and diverted resources, further complicating the fight against malaria.

Looking ahead, eradicating malaria requires sustained commitment, innovation, and global cooperation. Scientific advancements hold promise, including the development of gene-editing tools to control mosquito populations, im-

proved diagnostic technologies, and second-generation malaria vaccines with higher efficacy.

Nonetheless, addressing the root causes of malaria transmission poverty, lack of healthcare access, and environmental factors remains crucial.

Malaria remains a complex and deadly disease that continues to challenge global

health systems. While progress has been made in reducing its burden, the fight is far from over.

A multifaceted approach that combines prevention, treatment, education, research, and strong international collaboration is essential. With persistent effort and innovation, it is possible to envision a world free from malaria.

Dr. Bushra Akhgar