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Kabul, Moscow discuss diplomatic relations

KABUL: Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi, the country's

acting Foreign Affairs Minister, met with Dmitry Aleksan-

drovich Zhirnov, the Russian Ambassador to Kabul, discussing bilateral diplomatic relations, the ministry said in a statement Sunday.

The two sides discussed the new phase of Afghanistan-Russia relations, the agreements reached during the Kazan conference, and bilateral working committees.

Zhirnov handed over the official note of acceptance for Afghanistan's nominated ambassador to Russia and ex-

pressed hope that with the elevation of diplomatic relations, ties between the two countries would advance in various areas, according to the statement.

Meanwhile, Muttaqi described the new chapter of relations with the Russian Federation as important and hoped that both countries would be able to expand bilateral cooperation in multiple sectors during the phase.

The Kabul Times

DAB Governor, Chinese ambassador meet on banking cooperation

KABUL: The acting Governor of Da Afghanistan Bank, Noor Ahmad Agha, met with the Chinese ambassador to Kabul, Zhao Xing on Sunday to discuss enhancing financial and banking cooperation, the bank said in a statement.

Noor Ahmad Agha de-

the Bank could manage to establish effective ties with the accredited international financial and banking institutions over the past four years, reaffirming the Bank's commitment to further strengthening these relations. Praising China's collaboration, particularly in the

expand technical assistance in the financial and banking sectors, intending to create a more secure and enabling environment for investment to facilitate trade, and undertaking practical measures in capacity building and other related areas. He emphasized that the ultimate goal of these efforts is to create a conducive environment for domestic investment, facilitate trade for businessmen, provide better financial and banking services, and deliver these services to all parts of the country.

Assuring his country's readiness to expand ties with Afghanistan, the Chinese ambassador to Kabul, Zhao Xing, stated that China seeks to play a positive role in Afghanistan's economic reconstruction.

He also underscored the importance of further strengthening bilateral relations through deepened and sustained cooperation.

The Kabul Times



scribed China as one of Afghanistan's good and significant neighbors, and said that

economic sector, the DAB Governor stated that Da Afghanistan Bank is working to

Since IEA reestablishment, over 5 million refugees returned home, ministry

KABUL: The Ministry of Refugees Repatriation said in a statement the other day that after the reestablishment of the Islamic Emirate, 5,097,000 Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan.

According to the statement, 268,000 Afghan refugees have repatriated from Iran and Pakistan within the last two months.

Over the past four years, neighboring countries, partic-

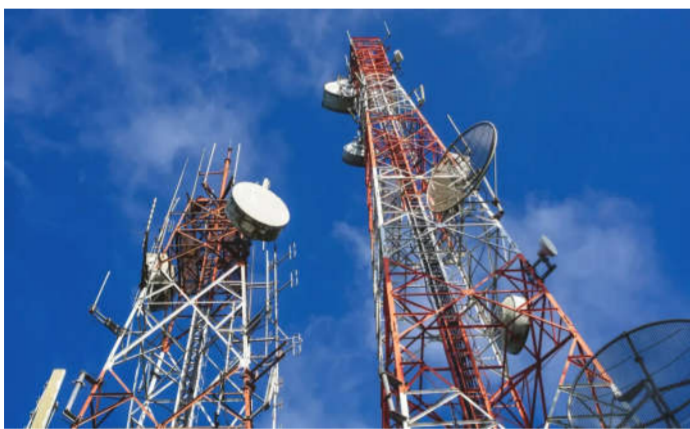
ularly Iran and Pakistan, have started compulsory repatriation of Afghan refugees, a move that has drawn strong censure from the Islamic Emirate and global organizations.

The Kabul Times



42 new telecommunications towers to be built in Logar, minister

Speaking at a meeting with Logar officials, Haqqani said that this program is part of the broader 10th National Telecommunication Development Project, which aims to expand telecom services across the country.



KABUL: Mawlawi Najibullah Hayat Haqqani, the acting Minister of Telecommunication and Information Technology (MCIT) said in a statement Sunday that 42 new telecommunications towers will be established in Logar province to enhance connectivity in underserved areas.

Speaking at a meeting with Logar officials, Haqqani said that this program is part of the broader 10th National Telecommunication Development Project, which aims to expand telecom services across the country.

Mawlawi Haqqani said: "The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology is actively working to ensure that remote and previously unconnected areas gain access to reliable telecommunications services nationwide."

A few days ago, Najibullah Hayat Haqqani, the acting minister of telecommunications and information technology, announced during a visit to Paktia that 550 new telecommunication towers have been approved across the country.

The Kabul Times

Over 330,000 tons of goods transported by railways in one month, ministry

KABUL: The Ministry of Public Works of the Islamic Emirate said in a statement Sunday that 332,837 tons of commodities have been traded via railways in the past one month.

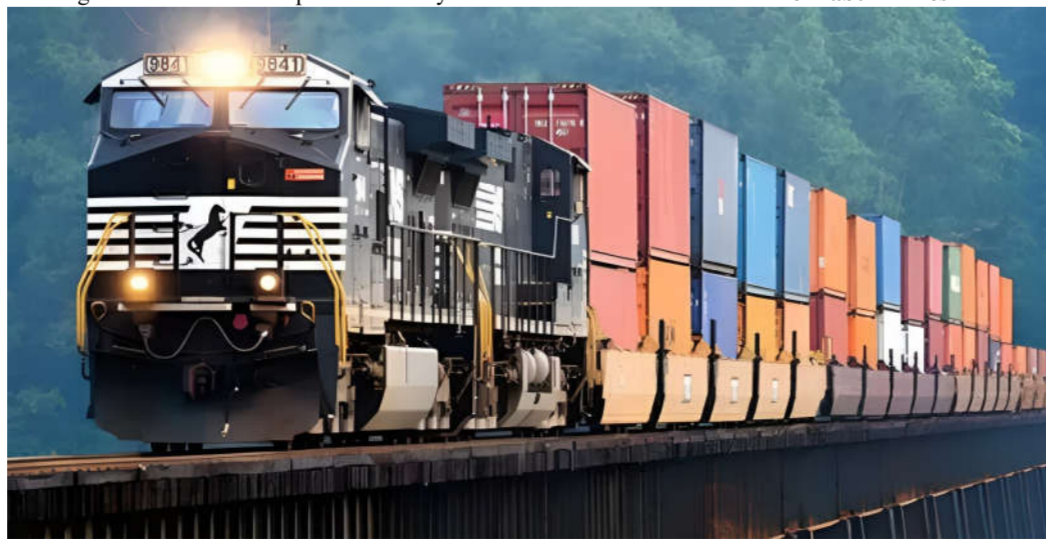
According to the statement, 247,042 tons through Hairatan Port, 32,117 tons via the Aqina Port, 23,168 tons through the Torghundi Port, and 30,509 tons via the Khaf-Herat railways have been transported in the past one month. The transported merchandise included both petroleum and other products, the statement said, adding that 16,772 tons of goods have been exported, primarily consisting of dried fruits, minerals, potatoes, rice, and pomegranate juice. The Ministry of Public Works is committed to enhancing transportation conditions

and facilitating trade for merchants, the statement said. By ensuring a sustainable and rapid

transportation process for commercial goods via railways, the ministry aims to boost national

revenues and support economic growth, the statement concluded.

The Kabul Times



DABS delegation in Turkmenistan for talks on power projects

KABUL: A technical delegation from Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat visited Turkmenistan to discuss a number of power projects, the company said in a statement on Monday.

According to the statement, the technical teams of the two countries are set to discuss the progress of infrastructure projects, including the 500kv Turkmenistan-Dasht-e Alwan transmission line and substation and the Arghandi substation.

This technical visit is considered a significant step toward the finalization and successful operation of vital electricity transmission projects and will play an important role in improving the country's en-

ergy infrastructure, the statement added.

The 500-kilovolt transmission line connecting Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, specifically the segment from Sheberghan to Dasht-e Alwan and onward to the Arghandi area

in Kabul.

The project is crucial for importing up to 1,000 megawatts of electricity from Turkmenistan, aiming to alleviate power shortages in Kabul and 13 neighboring provinces.

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Food for thought*Today's generation guarantees our bright future***Islamic Emirate's officials real servants of nation**

From the world we live in, the only thing that will accompany us to the Hereafter is our good and bad deeds. Deeds are what we will be questioned about in this world and the hereafter. Although very few people in this world are brought to justice to answer for their good and bad deeds, history and future generations will definitely judge the positive and negative deeds of their leaders and officials, and similarly; in the Hereafter, we will definitely be held accountable for every action in the court of Allah Almighty.

As the Leader of the Islamic Emirate, Sheikh Hibatullah Akhundzada spoke about arrogance and self-importance in a meeting with a number of officials on good governance, among other important topics, and drew the attention of the officials to their actions and the mission of their duties.

This is a policy that is absolutely necessary in an Islamic system, and officials should be reminded of their responsibilities from time to time and be warned against arrogance, injustice and negligence, because there are many verses of the Holy Quran about the disease of self-esteem among humans, as the Allah Almighty says, "We created you from a single male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most honorable of you is the one who is most righteous..."

The main concept of this verse is that all humans are equal in terms of humanity because they are born from one parent. Therefore, there is no legal justification for one human being to consider himself superior to another because all humans are equal and brothers. This verse of the holy Quran emphasizes that the most honorable person among human being is the one who is most pious, not because of his/her tribe, language, race, or region, but rather it is only piety that gives a person dignity and all other criteria are worthless.

Allah Almighty also said, "We have divided you into tribes and nations so that you may know one another, not so that you may consider yourself, your nation, or your language superior to another.

The best of people in the sight of Allah Almighty is the one who fears Allah the Almighty.

That is, elevation in the sight of Allah Almighty is only based on piety, so every Muslim who wears the garment of piety should be considered the most honorable and highest of all.

So officials, associates, and employees of the Islamic Emirate should treat with the people as the real responsables and honest officials of the Islamic system as and no one's actions are not hidden from Allah Almighty, so everyone who has a duty in the ranks of the Islamic Emirate must serve their Muslim brothers without any linguistic, ethnic, racial or regional differences and work for the stability and survival of the system.

We must accept that worldly power and authority, position, and duties are not privileges; rather, they are a great responsibility and a great test. Before we call ourselves rulers or officials, we must first consider ourselves servants of the nation in whatever position and responsibilities we are.

The Israeli cruel siege of Gaza: The continued humanitarian crisis

The Gaza Strip has been under Israeli's cruel, unprecedented, immoral and inhumane siege since 2007.

The Israeli cruel siege of Gaza is not only a flagrant and persistent violation of international humanitarian law, the Geneva Conventions and fundamental human rights, but also a shameful, horrific and historic stain on humanity.

This siege has been systematically imposed by the Zionist regime on approximately 2 million people, including children, women, the elderly and the sick, and has kept them in the harsh conditions of an open prison.

All food, medicine and other life-saving aid have been blocked by Israel from entering to Gaza, and there has restriction on using the electricity, clean water and other needs of life, causing not only the paralysis of all aspects of daily life, but also a complete humanitarian catastrophe.

Hospitals are out of service, patients are dying from a lack of basic medicines, children are suffering from malnutrition, and basic rights to education, business, movement and social life are being totally restricted.

This siege is not just a tactic, but a conscious and systematic oppression, aimed at breaking the will of the people of Gaza, coercing them and weakening their legitimate struggle for freedom.

All this is happening before the eyes of the world, but in terms of international justice, human conscience, and legal action, there is either silence or hypocritical double standards, which is a shameful defeat of the world's moral system, international organizations, and human values.

Due to Zionist brutality, power plants have been bombed, and fuel supplies have been cut off, due to which hospitals cannot function, and even doctors use lamps or mobile phone lights during surgical operations.

Access to clean water has been totally restricted, and water plants, producing clean

water, have either been destroyed or are paralyzed due to a lack of fuel.

People are forced to drink salty or contaminated water, which has led to the rapid spread of epidemics such as diarrhea, skin infections, and child malnutrition.

Healthcare is another disaster. Due to the oppression of the Zionist regime, Gaza's health system has been totally destroyed.

Medicines are not available, hospitals are bombed, and health workers are either martyred or lack medical equipment.

Patients, especially those suffering from cancer, diabetes, or respiratory problems, are deprived of treatment.

All food supplies have

electricity, medicine, and food is an unspeakable crime called "collective punishment."

This crime is in complete contradiction with the principles of war and has risen to the level of war crimes.

Despite these atrocities, the people of Gaza are oppressed but heroic.

Those who have been martyred are considered the pride of the nation, and those who survived are great symbols of stability, dignity, and faith.

Children playing with blood stains and elders who are convinced of Allah's will with the martyrs, all of them represent a great spirit of resistance against the brutality of the Zionist regime.

The enemy is a barbaric, cruel, and ruthless regime that

sacre of innocent people, children, women, and even patients who are under treatment and lying on their beds is not only a crime against humanity, but also a huge atrocity that history will never forget.

Furthermore, this regime has violated every law, treaty, and principle that has been established for the protection of human life, human dignity, and international rights.

Even if the international community remains silent or has only expressed "deep concern" over all these crimes, history will record this silence as a complicity in the crime.

These atrocities will remain a dark chapter in the memory of history, and history will never forgive the hands that committed these crimes, nor the



been restricted, and their prices are so high that many families share with each other just to find a single meal. Children cry from hunger, and mothers are unable to provide milk for their infants.

Behind all this siege is the policy of the Zionist regime that seeks to gradually kill the entire Palestinian people.

This siege is not just physical, it is a deliberate killing against every aspect of life.

The people of Gaza have the right to the protection of civilians under international law, such as the Geneva Conventions. Their cutting off of

neither recognize humanity nor has a clear hostility to the principles of Sharia, natural morality, and international law.

This regime does not respect women, children, and civilians, nor does it observe the rules of war, nor does it observe basic human rights.

Their actions are clear examples of oppression, cruelty, brutality, and genocide, which take the form of systematic killing, forced migration, economic blockade, health destruction, and cultural destruction, and all of these actions fulfill the definition of genocide.

The Zionist regime's mas-

mouths that remained silent.

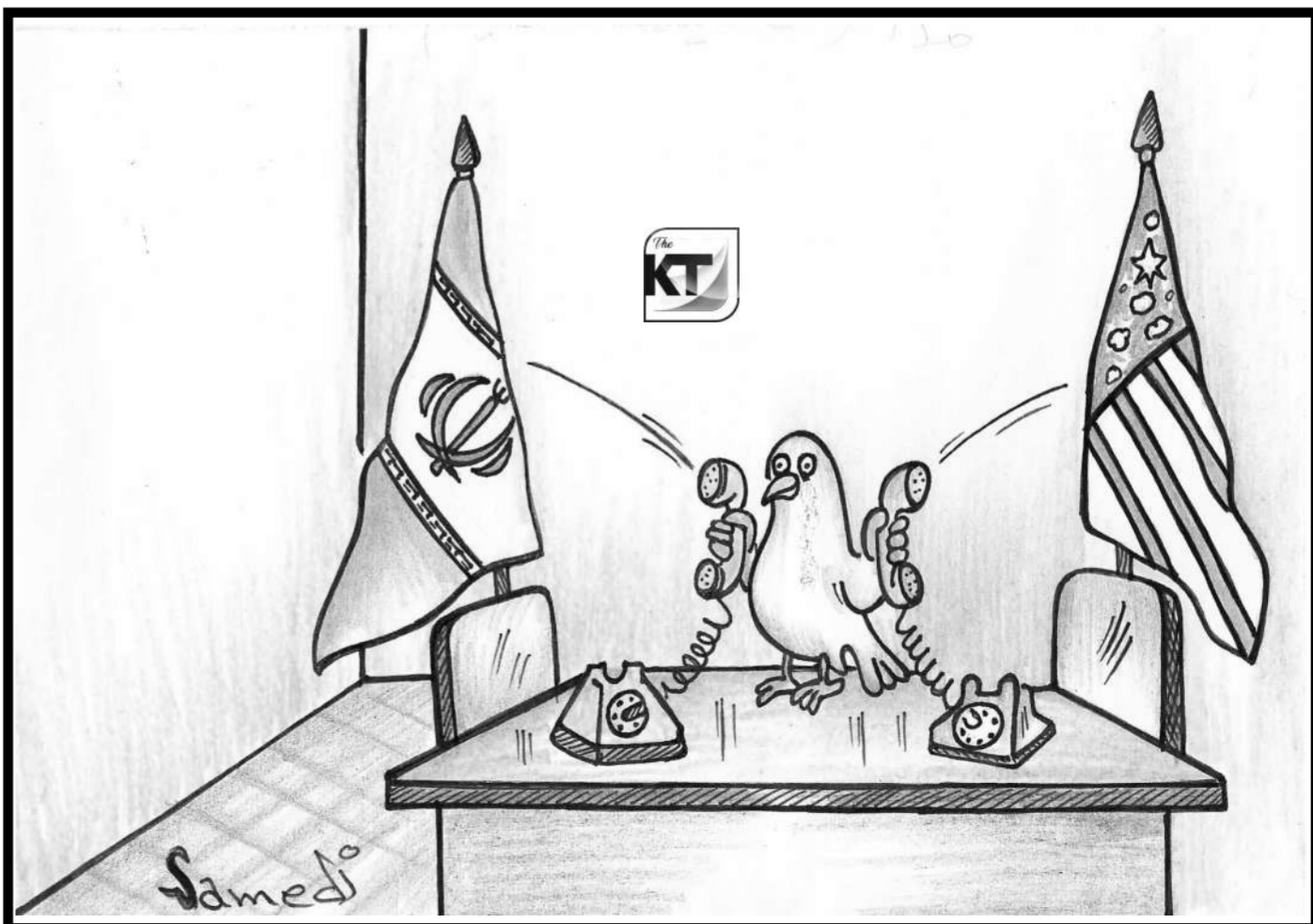
The Gaza Strip siege is testing the consciences of all humanity as a whole.

This Israeli devastating siege of Gaza must be ended immediately.

The memory of the martyrs must be eternal, and the people of Gaza must be given back their right to freedom, dignity, and human life.

Gaza is not just a name, it is an oppressed epic, it is the red line of martyrdom, it is the voice of a people who say, even under bombs, hunger, and siege: We will not surrender!

Mohammad Qasim Azzam



The power of Dhul-Hijjah’s first ten days

In today’s turbulent world, the role of religious scholars is more crucial than ever.

They are called upon to speak the truth without fear, hold leaders accountable, and present clear and principled Islamic solutions to global crises such as the ongoing tragedy in Gaza.

At the same time, Allah the Almighty, in His boundless

year for righteous deeds.

His Companions and the generation of Tabi’een (followers) would devote themselves with greater intensity during this period, engaging in worship, remembrance, and acts of charity.

These days provide a renewed opportunity to revive our connection with Allah.

For those who may have

brance.

The misconception that Dhul-Hijjah’s blessings are limited to those performing Hajj must be dispelled.

Although pilgrims are honored to stand at Arafah and perform the rites of Hajj, Muslims everywhere can share in the spiritual rewards through fasting, praying, and making du’a.

especially after the Asr prayer until sunset.

It is a time of profound spiritual power and a prime opportunity for sincere repentance and personal transformation.

The culmination of the first ten days is marked by Eid al-Adha, the Festival of Sacrifice.

The Sunnah encourages Muslims to wear clean or new clothes, apply perfume, perform the Eid prayer, and exchange greetings such as “Eid Mubarak” or “Taqabbal Allah minna wa minkum” (May Allah accept from us and you).

Nowhere is this vision more clearly expressed than in Shandong Province, a region swiftly evolving into a hub for high-tech industries, people-to-people diplomacy, and international

It is a time to spread joy, visit relatives, reconcile with estranged kin, and care for orphans and the needy—acts that reflect the piety of the occasion.

Sacrificing an animal, following the example of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham), is a powerful expression of submission to Allah.

According to the Hanafi school of thought, specific rulings govern this ritual, including eligibility, timing, and distribution of the meat, all aimed at ensuring that the sacrifice benefits others and draws the believer closer to Allah.

The first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah are a gift from Allah—a divine invitation to rebuild our relationship with the Creator.

If Ramadan passed us by with shortcomings, if the material world has clouded our hearts, these ten days are a second chance at redemption. Let us respond with more prayer, remembrance (dhikr), and du’a.

Let us offer our sacrifices, both literal and spiritual, as signs of our obedience.

In this sacred window, believers are reminded that true victory lies in spiritual resilience, moral clarity, and collective action based on divine guidance.

Mashal Noori

The Chinese modernization in my eyes

Part V

BEIJING:Building bridges through innovation & global partnership

As the world navigates an era marked by economic uncertainties, environmental crises, and rapid technological change, China stands at the forefront of offering a new model of modernization—one that fuses innovation with inclusive diplomacy

Nowhere is this vision more clearly expressed than in Shandong Province, a region swiftly evolving into a hub for high-tech industries, people-to-people diplomacy, and international

duce practical cooperation on development.

One of the event’s most symbolic moments was the presentation of the Outstanding Partnership Award to regions such as Bauchi State in Nigeria, Brittany in France, and South Gyeongsang Province in Korea.

Bauchi’s experience is especially relevant for countries like Afghanistan.

Since its partnership with Shandong began in 2023, Bauchi has attracted Chinese investment in agriculture, mining, and construction.

multiple international research collaborations, Freda reflects how science and ethics can work hand in hand.

In Afghanistan, where healthcare systems are strained and domestic pharmaceutical capacity is limited, such a model offers a vision of how local innovation—supported by international knowledge transfer—can address urgent public health needs.

Similarly, Senfeng Laser Technology is a national leader in industrial laser solutions, supplying machinery for sectors including aerospace, au-



mercy, has granted His servants blessed times throughout the year—moments when righteous deeds are rewarded manifold, allowing believers to draw closer to their Lord.

Among these special times, the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah hold a uniquely honored position in the Islamic tradition.

The ten days of Dhul-Hijjah are not only significant for pilgrims performing Hajj, but also for every Muslim across the globe.

Allah has sworn by these days in the Qur’an—“By the ten nights” (Surah Al-Fajr)—a sign of their elevated status.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) described these days as the best of the

fallen short during Ramadan, or those unable to perform Hajj, Dhul-Hijjah offers another golden chance for spiritual growth and redemption.

While Ramadan is widely known for its blessings, forgiveness, and the Night of Power (Laylatul Qadr), some scholars, including Ibn Taymiyyah, highlight a unique aspect of Dhul-Hijjah.

He stated that “the days of Dhul-Hijjah are superior to the days of Ramadan, while the nights of Ramadan are superior to the nights of Dhul-Hijjah.”

This view underscores the unparalleled opportunity presented by these ten days—especially in terms of daytime worship, charity, and remem-

These are days for all to seek forgiveness, hope, and nearness to Allah.

Among the ten days, the ninth day—known as Arafah—holds extraordinary significance.

According to Hanafi jurisprudence, fasting on this day is a Sunnah Mu’akkadah (highly emphasized practice) for non-pilgrims.

For those performing Hajj, however, it is considered makruh (discouraged), as it may weaken them during the standing (wuquf) at Arafah, a core component of the pilgrimage.

Moreover, the day of Arafah is strongly associated with supplication.

Non-pilgrims are encouraged to make du’a extensively,

Hundreds of new telecommunication sites approved

Telecommunication is developing by each passing month as new sites are considered to be approved nationwide.

Reports quoted Najibullah Hayat Haqqani, the acting minister of telecommunications and information technology, as saying during a visit to Paktia province that 550 new telecommunication sites have been approved across the country.

Haqqani said that with the activation of these telecommunication sites, residents of remote areas will have access to telecommunication services.

These sites will be established by various telecommunication networks operating in the country.

The acting minister also said: “In our new project, we have planned for 550 sites across the country. You mentioned Paktika province. Out of these sites, 74 have been approved for the center and remote districts of Paktika.”

Meanwhile, some residents of Paktia are demanding improvements in the quality of telecommunication services and the expansion of coverage in the province.

Mohammad Rahman Samkani, a resident of Paktia, told the private TOLONews: “The sites that are going to be established are a positive step, and hopefully with their setup, previous problems will be resolved to some extent.”

Eisa Khan, another resident of Paktia, said: “These new sites will be very useful for remote areas where the internet

and even mobile phone SIM cards do not work properly.”

According to information from the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology, 48 sites have been allocated for Paktia province and 74 for Paktika province,



which will be installed in the centers and districts of these provinces.

A few months ago, in January, \$1.5 million contract was signed to build 14 Telecommunication sites in the country’s provinces.

The Afghanistan Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (ATRA) said that it has signed a \$1.5 million contract for the establishment of 14 telecommunication sites in several provinces.

The projects had been completed and according to

the spokesperson for the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology, this contract has been signed between ATRA and several companies, under which 14 telecommunication sites which are now built in Kabul, Kanda-

remote parts of the country to be a significant step.

The creation of around 14 telecommunication sites in various provinces, especially in remote areas, is a positive initiative as it reduces people’s difficulties and provides em-

ployment opportunities.

Telecommunication sites are indeed a sign of progress and can have a positive impact on the country’s development.

According to statistics from the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology, work is currently underway to cover more areas by approving further telecommunication sites across the country, with hundreds of them recently becoming operational.

Monitoring Desk: Inam Hashemi



al cooperation.

My recent exploration of events in Jinan and Binzhou during the 2025 Shandong International Friendship Cities Cooperation and Exchange Week (IFCCE) offered profound insights into this transformation—and also prompted reflection on how countries like Afghanistan might draw meaningful lessons from China’s path.

Shandong Province, historically recognized for its Confucian legacy and cultural depth, is now gaining international attention for its bold steps in economic diplomacy.

The 2025 IFCCE, held in Jinan, brought together more than 900 delegates from 47 countries—including Kenya, Brazil, Malaysia, Tonga, and notably, regions with active cooperation initiatives with Shandong.

The week-long forum demonstrated how subnational partnerships can transcend politics and geography to pro-

The result has been the creation of jobs, infrastructure development, and local capacity-building.

Afghanistan, with its vast untapped mineral resources and youthful workforce, could potentially benefit from similar models of localized, high-trust cooperation—particularly if it manages to provide a stable and secure environment for international partnerships to flourish.

While diplomacy sets the tone, technological innovation is the engine driving Shandong’s modernization.

In Jinan, this commitment is embodied by companies like Freda Biotech and Senfeng Laser Technology, whose achievements go far beyond commercial success.

Freda Biotech specializes in hyaluronic acid-based medical and wellness products, operating with a mission centered on human well-being rather than just profit.

With over 160 patents and

tomotive, and renewable energy.

Its focus on green production, R&D, and global reach—backed by more than 700 patents—shows how high-tech industries can drive sustainable development.

Afghanistan, whose manufacturing base remains underdeveloped, has much to learn from Shandong’s ecosystem of technical education, enterprise incubation, and research-driven investment.

Modernization in Shandong is not just about industry—it’s also about human connection.

In Binzhou, the IFCCE’s International Day of Friendship Cities was a powerful example of grassroots diplomacy. Representatives from global municipalities signed 19 new sister-city agreements, paving the way for cooperation in education, public services, and green technologies.





See P4

Afghan Advertisement

AA 1603

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Procuring Entity	National Procurement Directorate (NPD) on behalf of Ministry of Water and Energy
Funded By	Government of Afghanistan
Item Description	Consultancy Service for Detailed Design and Upgrading the Feasibility Study of Sultan-Ibrahim Irrigation Project
Reference No	NPD/MoWE/1404/ICB/C-1551
Deadline for Submission of EOI	23 June, 2025 by 02:00 PM Hrs. (Kabul Local Time)
Address for Submission of EOI	Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, by mail, or by e-mail): Attention: Bid Opening Facilitation Secretariat Department of National Procurement Directorate Address: Room No 111, 1 st Floor of National Procurement Directorate of General Directorate of Administrative Affairs IEA, Next to Marble Palace, Pashtonistan Watt, Kabul – Afghanistan Telephone: +93 (0) 202143219 Email: npd.bofs@aop.gov.af,bofsecretariat.npd@gmail.com, npd.bidding4@gmail.com, npd.ppia@aop.gov.af

	USD 01		GBP 01		INR 1000		PKR 1000		EUR 01		IRR 1000		AED 01
	AFN 69.15		AFN 93.18		AFN 809		AFN 236		AFN 78.47		AFN 0.83		AFN 18.83



Introductory football coaching course wraps up in Balkh

An introductory football coaching course successfully concluded in Mazar-e-Sharif, the capital of Balkh province, with the participation of 28 aspiring coaches. The week-long course was organized by the Balkh Directorate of Physical Education and Sports in collaboration with the Afghanistan Football Federation. It was led by certified instructor Mohammad Hussain Mohammadi.

The course, classified as a “D License” seminar, aimed to enhance the coaching capacity of participants and prepare them for more advanced levels of football coaching.

The program covered fundamental aspects of football training, coaching methodology, player development, and match management, providing a strong foundation for the participants to continue their journey in the world of football coaching.

Speaking at the conclusion of the seminar, officials from the Balkh sports department emphasized the importance of building a qualified and skilled base of local coaches to nurture football talent across the province and beyond.

They highlighted that such educational initiatives are critical for the long-term development of the sport in Afghanistan.

At the end of the course, all 28 participants were awarded official certificates of completion by the Balkh Directorate of Physical Education and Sports. These certificates recognize the participants’ successful engagement in the course and qualify them to begin coaching at the grassroots level.

The initiative reflects growing

efforts to professionalize football in Afghanistan by empowering local talent and investing in the education of future coaches. Organizers expressed hope that similar programs will continue to be held in other provinces, enabling the sport to grow across the country. With strong interest and participation from local sports enthusiasts, the successful completion of this coaching course marks another positive step toward the advancement of Afghan football.

The **Kabul Times**



The initiative reflects growing

the successful completion of this coaching course marks another positive step toward the advancement of Afghan football.

The **Kabul Times**

England’s Jamie Overton ruled out of second ODI against West Indies due to injury

England’s all-rounder Jamie Overton has been ruled out of the second One Day International (ODI) against the West Indies due to

announced a replacement for Overton, and it remains to be seen whether he will recover in time for the third and final match of the series.

other pacers to fill the gap left by Overton.

The second ODI is being held at Sophia Gardens, a historic ground in Cardiff known for hosting memorable encounters.

Fans are hopeful for another thrilling match, despite the unfortunate absence of one of England’s key players.

Overton’s injury serves as a reminder of the physical demands of international cricket, and the importance of squad depth in maintaining competitive performance throughout a series.

The **Kabul Times**



a fractured left index finger.

The injury was sustained ahead of the match, which is set to take place today, Sunday, at the Sophia Gardens Cricket Ground.

Overton played a key role in the first ODI of the series, where he showcased his bowling prowess by claiming three crucial wickets.

He also contributed with the bat, although he was run out after scoring just one run. His performance had been seen as promising, particularly with the ball, making his absence in the second match a significant setback for England.

The three-match ODI series between England and the West Indies is an important part of both teams’ preparations as they look to build momentum ahead of future international fixtures.

England had hoped to carry their winning momentum forward, but Overton’s injury forces them to adjust their plans for the crucial second match.

Team officials have not yet

England’s bowling attack will now rely more heavily on

Afghan wrestlers win five medals at U18 international and Asian Championships in Uzbekistan

Afghan wrestlers delivered an impressive performance at the Under-18 International and Asian Wrestling Championships held in Uzbekistan, claiming a total of five medals: one gold, two silver, and two bronze.

At the international tournament, Mohammad Omar emerged as the star of the Afghan squad, winning the gold medal in the 65kg weight category. Omar secured four consecutive victories to top the podium, demonstrating outstanding strength and technique. His teammate, Javid Karimi, also competed in the same weight division and earned a silver medal after winning three matches and losing one in a hard-fought final.

In the Asian Championships, Afghan athletes continued their medal streak. Mohammad Sakhizada won a silver medal in the 77kg category, defeating three of his opponents with dominant performances. Meanwhile, Bilal Rahmani in the 71kg weight class and Mohammad Munir Nabizada

in the 60kg division each clinched bronze medals after solid efforts against strong competition from across the continent.

This achievement highlights the growing talent and dedication of Afghanistan’s young wrestlers on the international stage. Despite facing limited resources and training challenges, these athletes have shown they can compete at a high level and bring pride to their nation. The Afghanistan Wrestling Federation praised the athletes for their performance and expressed hope that such successes will encourage greater investment in youth sports programs across the country. The tournament in Uzbekistan brought together top young wrestlers from various nations, making Afghanistan’s medal tally even more meaningful. As the country continues to develop its sports infrastructure, achievements like these serve as a testament to the potential and determination of Afghan athletes.

The **Kabul Times**

Muttaqi, his Pakistani counterpart discuss bilateral relations via telephone

KABUL: Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi, the acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, via a telephone conversation with Mohammad Ishaq Dar, the Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister discussed bilateral relations, the ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

Focusing on the enhancement of diplomatic ties between the two countries, both sides considered the elevation of Kabul and Islamabad’s diplomatic missions to ambassadorial status as a positive development and expressed optimism for the swift completion of the remaining phases, the statement said.

They also stated that elevating the level of diplomatic relations would pave the way for expanded cooperation in various fields, according to the statement.

The telephone conversa-



tion is made when the Pakistani Foreign Ministry announced

the day before yesterday regarding the elevation of its mis-

sion in Kabul to ambassadorial level. **The Kabul Times**

26 killed in Israeli tank fire near Gaza aid centre, medics and residents say

Twenty-six people have been killed and 150 injured in Israeli tank shelling and gunfire near an aid distribution

approached and opened fire on the crowd.

Local journalists and activists shared footage of bodies

fire within the Humanitarian Aid distribution site. The matter is still under review.”

Mr Ghareeb said the crowd of Palestinians had gathered around 04:30 local time (02:30 BST), close to the aid centre run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, shortly before Israeli tanks appeared and opened fire.

“The dead and wounded lay on the ground for a long time,” Mr Ghareeb said. “Rescue crews could not access the area, which is under Israeli control.

This forced residents to use donkey carts to transport victims to the field hospital.”

The Red Cross field hospital said 26 people had been killed and 150 injured.

Efforts were under way to transfer the casualties to Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis for

further treatment, a doctor at the field hospital said.

The BBC is examining footage of bodies being carried on carts and in the back of lorries to Nasser hospital.

Civil Defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal told the AFP news agency that more than 100 people were wounded “due to gunfire from Israeli vehicles towards thousands of citizens”. The BBC has contacted the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation about the reports.

The incident underscores the dire humanitarian conditions in Rafah, where recent Israeli military operations have severely limited access to aid and emergency services.

On Saturday, crowds of civilians rushed aid trucks in Gaza, the World Food Programme has said, as hunger and desperation create chaotic scenes. **BBC**



centre in Rafah, southern Gaza, medics and residents say.

Mohammed Ghareeb, a local journalist in Rafah, told the BBC that thousands of Palestinians had gathered near the aid centre when Israeli tanks

and wounded people being transported on donkey carts to the Red Cross field hospital in the al-Mawasi area.

The Israel Defences Forces said it was “currently unaware of injuries caused by IDF

The Chinese modernization...

From P3

One poignant voice was that of Jean-Claude Bouffa, Deputy Mayor of Saverne, France, who spoke of how these people-to-people initiatives bring President Xi Jinping’s idea of a “community with a shared future for mankind” into everyday life.

His message was simple: diplomacy doesn’t have to be top-down. It can begin in classrooms, clinics, and city halls.

Afghanistan, too, has a history of hospitality and cultural richness that lends itself to civic diplomacy. Initiatives like sister-city partnerships with regional hubs in Central and South Asia, the Middle East, or even Chinese provinces like Shandong, could allow Afghan cities to share best practices in municipal governance, vocational training, and sustainability.

As someone who comes from a country still grappling with the basic foundations of development, my journey through Shandong made me reflect deeply. Modernization does not require rejecting tradition or mimicking Western

models.

It means finding a contextual balance between heritage and progress, between national sovereignty and global cooperation.

Afghanistan’s challenges—ranging from economic stagnation and educational gaps to weak infrastructure and fragile institutions—require a bold, long-term vision. What I observed in Shandong is not a miracle, but a model.

A model where investment in human capital, science, and diplomacy forms the backbone of development.

A model where the government empowers industries to become globally competitive and socially responsible. And most importantly, a model where cities serve not just as economic zones, but as ambassadors of peace and progress.

Vice Minister Chen Zhou of the CPC’s International Department rightly emphasized the role of media and cultural exchanges in building global understanding. He called for shared platforms, inclusive participation, and sustainability.



These are precisely the principles Afghanistan must embrace if it seeks to rise from decades of conflict and isolation.

Shandong’s experience challenges the outdated notion that modernization must be Western-led or capitalist in nature. Instead, it presents a pluralistic and cooperative path—one where biotechnology and grassroots diplomacy, industrial lasers and intercultural exchange, coexist within the same narrative.

For Afghanistan, this is a moment of choice.

The country can either remain on the periphery of global development, or it can seek smart partnerships—with China, regional neighbors, and beyond—to build a future rooted in knowledge, ethics, and cooperation. The blueprint exists. Shandong is living proof.

As I return home with a notebook full of ideas and a heart full of hope, I believe that if Afghanistan can draw inspiration from this journey—not by imitation, but by adaptation—then our own story of modernization may yet begin.

Nik Mohammad Nikmal