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## Health Minister discusses pediatric healthcare cooperation with Iranian officials



KABUL: Mawlawi Noorjalel Jalali, the country's Minister of Public Health, met with officials from the Pediatric Disease Treatment Center and Hakim Pediatric Hospital in Iran, discussing pediatric

healthcare cooperation, the ministry said in a statement Saturday.

Both sides discussed the provision of workshops for Afghan health workers in various fields, including bone

marrow transplantation, nephrology, cardiology, and other specialized areas, the statement said.

Expressing their commitment to train Afghan medical personnel in the bone marrow

transplantation, nephrology and cardiology fields, the Iranian officials said that they are ready to sign cooperation agreements with Afghan public hospitals, paving the way for mutual experience exchange and broader medical collaboration.

A few days ago, Mawlawi Noorjalel Jalali, during his stay in Iran, also met with a number of Afghan medical specialists pursuing post-PhD programs and promised that they would be provided with job opportunities in the country.

It should be said that the acting Public Health Minister and his accompanying delegation visited the Islamic Republic of Iran to discuss strengthening bilateral health cooperation.

The Kabul Times

## 40 tons of saffron harvested in one year, spokesman



KABUL: Ghulam Mohammad Kazim Shahamat, spokesman of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock, said in a statement the other day that 40 metric tons

of saffron have been harvested during the last year, showing a significant increase compared to the previous year.

The expansion of saffron cultivation not only creates job opportunities for the people but also strengthens the national economy, Shahamat said.

"Saffron cultivation is being prioritized in several provinces due to its high market value, low water requirement, and potential to replace poppy cultivation in rural areas. Provinces such as Herat, Balkh, and Badghis have already shown strong yields and growing interest from farmers," he said.

Afghan saffron is exported to countries such as India, Spain, Saudi Arabia, the United States, the United Arab Emirates, France, Australia and Türkiye.

The Kabul Times

## Three bridges constructed in Badakhshan

KABUL: Three bridges have been constructed in the Kuran wa Munjan district of the country's northeastern province of Badakhshan, the state-run Bakhter News Agency reported Saturday.

The bridges connect Badakhshan with Panjshir province, facilitating transportation between the two provinces, the agency said.

"The bridges, including the Lajward Sho bridge with 18 meters in length, 6 meters in width, and 15 meters in height, the Taghabak bridge is 6 meters long and 5 meters wide, while the Rah Zar bridge spans 20 meters in length and 6 meters in width," the agency said.



Meanwhile, Local authorities emphasized that eight more bridges are required along the same route and that construction on these is expected to commence soon to further address transportation bottlenecks in the mountainous region.

The Kabul Times

The Kabul Times

## Afghan embassy resumes passport issuance for Afghans in Türkiye



ANKARA: The Afghan Embassy in Türkiye said in a statement the other day that it has initiated passport issuance to Afghan nationals in Türkiye following a four-year suspension.

Afghan citizens in Türkiye can now visit the embassy in person to initiate the passport application process, the statement said.

The statement added that

the move is expected to help Afghans in Türkiye access vital services, seek education opportunities, and resolve immigration-related issues.

The Kabul Times

## 632,000 Afghan migrants returned home from Iran in 5 months, UNHCR



KABUL: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in a statement the other day that 632,000 Afghan migrants returned from Iran during the past five months.

"Many of these returns have taken place without proper legal procedures, and returning migrants have complained

of mistreatment and harsh conditions in Iran," the statement said.

Meanwhile, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has reported an increase in the return of Afghan migrants from Iran, stating that in May alone, over 15,000 families returned to Afghanistan.

Earlier, Iranian authorities

announced that all Afghan migrants holding a return permit must leave the country by July 6, 2025.

The Iranian and Pakistani governments have recently stepped up the forced deportation of Afghan refugees, deporting thousands of Afghan nationals daily.

The Kabul Times

## 200 fruit orchards established in Balkh in one year

MAZAR-E-SHARIF: The Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock Department of Balkh said in a statement Saturday that 200 fruit orchards have been established in the province.

The orchards have been established in collaboration with partner organizations and institutions in the districts of Chimalt, Charbolak, and New Balkh, the statement said, adding that that out of the total orchards established, approximately 25 percent are apricot orchards, while the remaining consist of apple, cherry, peach, and sour cherry trees.

"High-quality, improved saplings were used to ensure



better yields, disease resistance, and adaptability to local climatic conditions," the statement said. These orchards are not only expected to generate income for farming

families but will also contribute to greening the province, supporting biodiversity, and mitigating the effects of climate change, the statement added.

The Kabul Times



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### Food for thought

*Today's generation guarantees our  
bright future*

## Honorable death better than a life in humiliation

Foreigners' invasion of Afghanistan more than two decades ago and the resistance of the proud Afghan people against them proved that the Mujahid nation will never give up nor abandon arms until they oust the invaders from the country; something happened victoriously four years ago.

They even announced that they preferred death to living in the aliens' captivity.

Foreign forces brutally attacked our beloved country and oppressed innocents, destroyed our holy Islamic system, and arrogantly gave the Afghan Mujahideen only two choices of either being killed or imprisoned, if deny their obedience.

This is why the brave Mujahideen began to fight the invaders and their puppet regime and prefer death and martyrdom in this sacred way to living under the aliens occupation or surrender however with very limited arms and a small number of fighters.

So finally, after much hardship, sacrifice, dedication, and martyrdom, with the help of Allah Almighty, they defeated the occupants and forced them to leave the country. Some left Afghanistan through the airports at midnight, while their Afghan allies had already escaped after their puppet regime had been overthrown.

Also, even now, the international terrorists, led by the Israeli regime and its backing powers, are busy implementing their plans to establish a great Israeli state that will only be a dream.

The occupying regime forces started another wave of their illegal airstrikes on the Islamic Republic of Iran martyring a number of high-ranking military officials and dozens of civilians overnight. However, the invaders faced a deadly and destroying response from the military forces of the Islamic Republic.

A few days ago, the regime once again invaded the Gaza Strip starting the massacre of the oppressed Palestinians, but the so-called Islamic rulers did not react at all quietly watching the human tragedy in the surrendered inclave. The result is that today, the regime with the help of its allies and supporters after destroying and occupying Gaza, want to invade other Islamic territories like Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and even Iran and establish their own puppet regimes.

So, if the Islamic countries remain incompetent and still be involved in internal differences and do not defend each other, then undoubtedly, they will be occupied or destroyed one after another.

## Kabul's water crisis deepens, threatening Afghanistan's urban future



In recent years, concerns over water scarcity in major Afghan cities have intensified, with Kabul topping the list. The water crisis in Kabul has reached a critical stage, prompting many to argue that the government should pay serious attention to resolving the issue.

Kabul's water problem is driven by several factors. Most notably, climate change has led to a decline in snowfall, which plays a crucial role in recharging underground water sources.

Additionally, the recent political transition in the country halted many water management and artificial recharge projects, further aggravating the situation. This has left the city's rapidly growing population—now comprising roughly one-fifth of the country's total—in a vulnerable position.

Beyond Kabul, several other major cities are also facing water challenges, though with varying degrees of severity.

Kandahar is one such city where the water crisis is becoming increasingly serious. While Kandahar's water basin is relatively large and origi-

nates from Behsud in Wardak province, the city's groundwater is being heavily extracted through solar-powered wells. This practice prevents water from properly recharging underground aquifers, leaving limited water available for Kandahar's urban population.

Mazar-e-Sharif, a city historically affected by water shortages, has seen some improvement thanks to the construction of the Qosh Tepa Canal.

This canal has provided a new source of water, partially alleviating the city's long-standing issues with scarcity.

Herat, another major city, benefits from the Salma and Pashdan dams, which have mitigated water scarcity to some extent. The region still faces challenges, but the existing infrastructure offers a level of stability that cities like Kabul and Kandahar currently lack.

In contrast, Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province, does not currently suffer from a severe water crisis.

The city is traversed by large rivers, and its groundwater levels remain stable. Similarly, Kunduz, which is sup-

ported by the Khan Abad and Kunduz rivers, is not facing a critical water shortage at this time.

However, other cities such as Farah and Zaranj in Nimroz are experiencing serious water scarcity. Farah will likely continue to suffer until the long-anticipated Bakhsh Abad Dam is completed.

Zaranj, on the other hand, faces one of the most critical water shortages in the country. Its survival hinges on the improved management of water from the Kajaki and Kamal Khan dams, which could provide a partial solution if handled correctly.

In Jowzjan province, the city of Sheberghan is also encountering water-related issues. Although groundwater levels there are currently high, the continued use of solar-powered wells is expected to lower the water table in the coming years, creating another potential hotspot for water crisis.

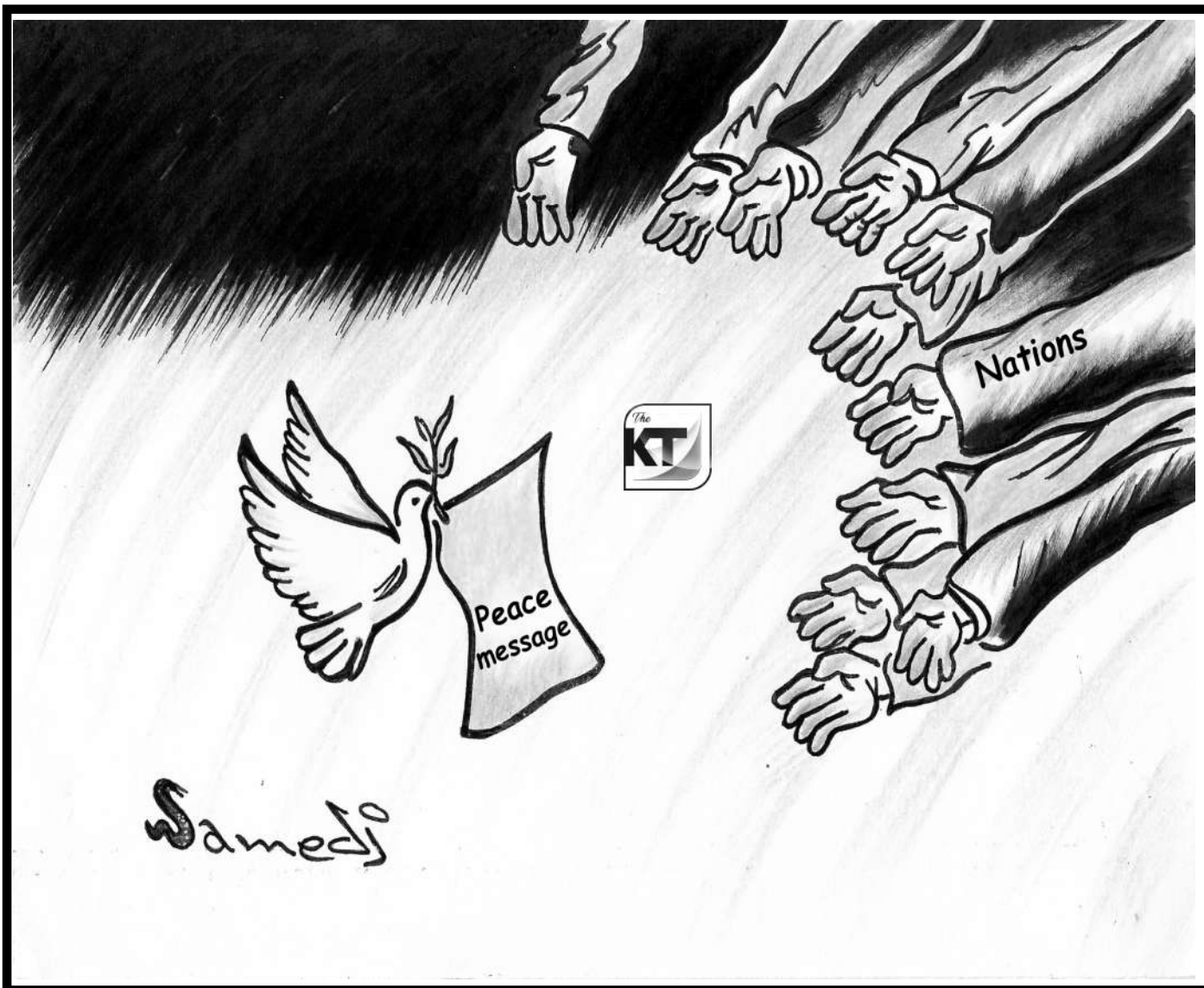
To summarize, the water situation in Kabul is beyond the capacity of the current government and requires substantial foreign investment and tech-

nical expertise. Several projects, if revived or initiated, could help alleviate Kabul's water issues. These include artificial groundwater recharge systems, the transfer of water from the Shah wa Arus Dam to urban areas, and the completion of the Shah Tut Dam.

Other cities with critical water problems—especially Kandahar, Farah, and Zaranj—also need immediate and well-planned interventions. Strategic planning, infrastructure development, and proper water management are essential to prevent these cities from descending into deeper water crises.

The Afghan government must act swiftly to address this pressing issue. Sustainable urban planning, modern irrigation systems, and environmentally conscious water use policies must be prioritized. Without such efforts, the growing urban populations in Afghanistan's major cities will continue to face mounting hardships due to water scarcity—threatening not just health and hygiene, but long-term social stability as well.

Sayed Sharif





# A look at modern genocide in Gaza

## Part IV

In the previous parts of this article series, we spoke extensively about the imposed sufferings on Palestine.

And without a doubt, no matter how much is said, it can never truly heal the wounds of this land. Yes, this sacred land is engulfed in smoke and fire, while the so-called champions of human rights watch its massacre in silence.

When a Palestinian child is pulled from under the rubble, the media shows the image, but it neglects to ask the essential question: What future awaits this child who now stands over the ruins of their home? Will they grow up with memories of defeat and hatred? Or will they become a flame for another generation—one that is more conscious, more resilient, and more deeply rooted in the ideals of freedom?

Let us not forget: the war in Gaza, though seemingly a display of military power, is fundamentally a battle over narratives and the future.

This crisis, though a deep and irreparable wound for the Islamic Ummah, has not come without a price for the Zionist regime either.

One of the significant consequences of the ongoing war in Gaza is the dramatic shift in global public opinion toward Israel. Even in societies that were once staunch defenders of the regime, voices have now risen questioning the justification of the atrocities in Gaza. The extensive censorship by Western-backed media, pressure on journalists, and suppression of free speech regard-



ing Palestine not only fails to legitimize Israel, but further cements its image in the global mind as a tyrannical, repressive, and terrorizing regime. With each passing day of this war, the so-called civilized face of Israel's backers falls further from its mask. People around the world—especially the younger generation—are turning to alternative and independent media.

This gradual awakening is laying the foundation for a global transformation.

Another important outcome of this conflict has been the strengthened unity of the resistance front in Palestine. What was once a discourse has now evolved into a powerful axis.

What distinguishes Gaza from other crisis-stricken regions is its connection to the broader "Resistance Front" across the region.

Contrary to the calcula-

tions of Israel and its allies, Gaza is not isolated—it serves as the frontline of an ideological, spiritual, and political axis. Despite differences in beliefs and geography, this axis stands united against a common project.

The alliance between Palestinian resistance, Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Popular Mobilization Forces in Iraq, Syrian fighters, and justice-seeking groups in Yemen—along with widespread support from across the Islamic world—is now not just a slogan, but a measurable force on the battlefield and in deterrence.

Although this cohesion has yet to result in political unification, it is a clear sign of the resistance bloc's growth in countering the axis of arrogance and normalization. This bloc is poised to play a decisive role in shaping the region's future.

On a societal level as well,

Gaza is transforming into the symbol of a living, identity-creating generation.

A generation that, though raised under fire, forges will and awareness from ashes and death.

The future of Gaza may outgrow the classic state-nation model and bring forth new concepts such as "the resisting Ummah," "an unconquered society," and "a united nation." Without doubt, in this process, it is the duty of all intellectuals, scholars, writers, and the new generation of Muslim thinkers to give direction to this awakening and turn it into a cultural and political discourse that can be embedded in the long-term structure of the Islamic Ummah.

Because if this blood does not evolve into a thought system, a discourse, and a civilizational framework, it risks being forgotten in the future.

See P4

# Zionist regime's attack on Iran sparks global reactions

As of Friday morning, June 13, Israel launched attacks on 12 major cities in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the capital Tehran, Natanz, Tabriz, and Shiraz.

The attacks targeted nuclear, missile, and military facilities, residences of responsible officials, and even residential areas.

Iranian media reported that dozens of civilians, including children, were killed in the Israeli attacks on residential areas.

Israeli army spokesman Efi Efraim stated: "The IDF (Israel Defense Forces) launched a precise offensive operation this morning, aimed at targeting Iran's nuclear program and preventing it from obtaining nuclear weapons."

Israeli Air Force aircraft completed the initial strike of the operation.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, President Masoud Pezeshkian, and several other Iranian officials have warned that a severe response awaits Israel.

President Pezeshkian said: "The Iranian nation and the country's officials will not remain silent in the face of this crime. The legitimate and powerful response of the Islamic Republic of Iran will make the enemy regret its foolish action. As our great Imam said, if a banner falls from the hands of a commander, another strong hand will raise it and enter the battlefield."

Meanwhile, thousands across Iran protested and chanted anti-Israel slogans.

An Iranian citizen reacting to the Israeli attacks said: "Why shouldn't we strike Israel? It should be hit so hard it can never rise again."

Another said: "Our only request is that revenge be taken quickly and even more strongly."

Internationally, a wave of condemnation has emerged against Israel's action.

Iran's delegation to the UN urgently requested a Security Council meeting to address the attack.

The Israeli regime's military strike on the Islamic Republic of Iran, which killed several senior commanders and scientists, has sparked widespread reactions across the region, particularly in Afghanistan and in the world.

The Islamic Emirate condemned the Israeli attack, calling it "a clear violation of fundamental principles of international law, national sovereignty, and Iran's territorial integrity." It urged the international community to act to prevent further insecurity and instability in the region.

Zabihullah Mujahid, spokesperson for the Islamic Emirate, said: "The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan strongly condemns the recent attacks by the Israeli regime on the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the assassination of commanders and nuclear scientists, which constitute a clear violation of fundamental principles of international law, especially national sovereignty and the territorial integrity of states." Wahed Faqiri, an

international relations analyst, commented: "Israel's blatant aggression against Iran has placed the peace and stability of the entire region under serious threat. It forces Iran to defend itself and retaliate, which could naturally pave the way for a long-term war."

Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai also condemned the attack in a post on X, expressing sympathy with the families of the victims. He called the strike a violation of international norms and emphasized that the world is in greater need of peace than ever before.

"Israel's armed assault on the Islamic Republic of Iran, which resulted in civilian deaths, injuries, and damage to residential areas — is in conflict with international norms. I strongly condemn it. Iran is a good neighbor with deep historical and cultural ties to Afghanistan and has always supported our people through various challenges. Today, more than ever, the world needs peace, and people everywhere are desperately hoping for an end to war," Karzai said.

Abdullah Abdullah, former head of Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation, issued an even stronger statement, calling the attacks "a clear symbol of Israel's terrorist and expansionist policies."

He said: "We strongly condemn the illegal and blatant aggression of the Zionist regime against the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

See P4

# Reclaiming Afghanistan's strategic role in Asian integration

Located strategically in the heart of Asia, Afghanistan sits at the crossroads of the continent's historical, cultural, and economic routes between East and West.

This unique geopolitical position has long established Afghanistan as a corridor connecting major civilizations.

The ancient Silk Road—once the backbone of trade between East Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, and Europe—passed through Afghan territory, turning it into a hub of commerce, intellectual exchange, and cultural interaction.

Despite sweeping changes in global political and economic structures, Afghanistan still retains the potential to serve as a natural and vital bridge between East and West Asia. However, realizing this role requires smart policymaking, political stability, and restoring regional and international trust.

One of the main challenges impeding Afghanistan's role in regional integration is its ongoing political and economic instability. Prolonged conflict, overlapping interests of global and regional powers, weak governmental institutions, and a lack of technical and transport infrastructure have collectively hindered the full realization of the country's geostrategic potential.

Several regional initiatives—such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Lapis Lazuli Corridor, the TAPI pipeline, and Central Asia's railway projects—have either been designed without Afghanistan's active participation or stalled in early phases.

These setbacks stem not from a lack of geographic advantage but from a failure to achieve national cohesion and mutual trust with neighboring states and regional actors.

Nevertheless, ongoing economic and geo-strategic shifts in the region present a unique opportunity for Afghanistan to once

again position itself as a vital connector among South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, and the Far East. China's growing need for alternative energy routes, Central Asia's pursuit of access to open waters, India's desire to connect with Central Asia without relying on Pakistan, and efforts by Turkey and Iran to enhance trade links with East Asia—all underscore the strategic role Afghanistan could play in shaping a new regional map of transportation and trade.

Furthermore, Afghanistan can leverage its natural and human resources to strengthen regional ties.

Abundant mineral deposits, fertile agricultural land, proximity to high-consumption markets, and a youthful workforce can position the country as a center for joint investments and regional development projects, provided that a secure environment, supportive legal frameworks, administrative transparency, and a balanced foreign policy are ensured.

To realize this vision, the Afghan government—or any governing structure in place—must first ensure domestic stability. Without political security, no regional partner will be willing to engage in strategic investments or cross-border initiatives.

The next step is to repair and enhance diplomatic relations with neighboring countries through dialogue, mutual respect, non-interference in internal affairs, and the pursuit of shared interests within regional platforms such as the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and multilateral initiatives like the Five-Nation Railway and the Lapis Lazuli Corridor.

Additionally, Afghanistan must position itself as a platform for cooperation rather than confrontation amid regional geopolitical rivalries. Instead of relying exclusively on any single actor, Afghanistan's foreign policy should be diversified, pragmatic,

and multidimensional, striking a careful balance to engage constructively with China, India, Russia, Iran, Turkey, and Central Asian countries alike.

On the economic front, Afghanistan must develop the necessary transport infrastructure—including roads, railways, dry ports, and communication networks—to provide the physical foundation for regional connectivity.

Attracting foreign investment to construct rail links with neighboring countries, expanding joint port facilities with Iran and Pakistan, and establishing modern border trade terminals are among the strategic measures that can reinforce Afghanistan's status as a regional bridge.

Finally, the role of the Afghan people and civil society is vital in advancing this agenda.

Promoting a culture of coexistence, respect for ethnic and religious diversity, and regional cooperation must be fostered through education, media, and civic institutions. For Afghanistan to become a true bridge between East and West Asia, it must transform not only geographically but also in its political mindset and social behavior, into a center of connection rather than division.

History shows that whenever Afghanistan has enjoyed relative stability and openness to cooperation, it has experienced cultural, social, and economic prosperity.

Today, by reclaiming its historical role and adopting an active diplomacy, strategic national management, and leveraging its unparalleled geopolitical location, Afghanistan has the potential to once again serve as a link between nations and economies in the region. While such a future is undoubtedly fraught with challenges, it represents a path from crisis to development that is well worth pursuing through national determination and sound planning.

Aburagheb Amani

# Transforming tourism into a viable economic industry in Afghanistan



After almost four years of the Islamic Emirate takeover since 2021, the surge in both domestic and foreign tourists is significantly increasing as the overall security situation across Afghanistan has improved and peace has been maintained all over the country.

Decades of conflict made tourism in Afghanistan extremely rare, but with improvement of overall security situation in the country, the tourism industry is improving.

Based on information of provincial departments of Information and Culture in various provinces, dozens of thousands of domestic tourists have visited historic and cultural sites as well as popular leisure destinations during the Eid ul Adha holidays, which is good news for tourism indus-

try in the country. Each province of Afghanistan has its own natural beauty, cultural and historical sites and leisure destinations.

People travel from province to province without any security issues, visit their friends and spend their holidays visiting ancient places, cultural and historical sites and leisure places.

With the re-establishment of the Islamic Emirate and improvement of overall security situation across the country, Afghanistan has become a good place for foreign tourists to travel and visit its natural beauty, cultural and historic sites.

The current surge in foreign tourists to Afghanistan primarily is the better security situation and the country's rich history and ancient cultural

sites in its various provinces. The country's better overall security situation has assured both the people of Afghanistan and other foreigners to invest and travel to various places.

As the number of both domestic and foreign tourists is increasing by passing each single day, it is time to transform tourism into viable economic industry in Afghanistan. It is possible that the number of foreign tourists may even further increase especially if more work is done to support and promote the tourism industry and cultural constituency of Afghanistan.

For example, both domestic and foreign tourists need more facilities, national and local maps, travel guides, transportation services, suitable options for lodging and up-scale restaurants to be built at

zonal levels.




Moreover, each province should be introduced through informative brochures, useful guidebook together with beautiful photos in national Dari and Pashto languages for domestic and English language for foreign tourists as each province of Afghanistan practices its own variety of traditional cultures, clothes, types of food and fruits, manufacturing quality handicrafts, and other cultural and social traditions, including historical sites and places.

On the other hand, Afghanistan Ministry of Information and Culture should pay further attention to renovation of the country's historical and cultural sites as sustainable development and renovation projects can help promote and rebuild historical and cultural sites throughout the country as decades of conflict has partially damaged the country's historical sites.

It is also important to repair and renovate ancient monuments, old citadels, mosques, gardens and other landmarks and archaeological remnants of ancient kingdoms, empires, and governments.

With all these, and providing further facilities around the respective sites, such as roads, parks, restaurants, and recreational services, the number of both domestic and foreign tourists will even further increase, which can boost income and create jobs for the people in the country. **Mashal Noori**



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## Afser Zazai hits double century in Abdali First-Class Tournament



In an impressive display of batting, Mahipar Stars captain Afser Zazai scored a remarkable double century in the 12th match of the Ahmad Shah Abdali First-Class Cricket Tournament. The match is being played against Pamir Legends, and Zazai's commanding innings has set the tone for Mahipar Stars in their first innings. Zazai reached 202 runs before losing his wicket, deliver-

ing a powerful performance that included 18 boundaries and 4 towering sixes. His innings not only highlighted his personal form but also helped stabilize and elevate his team's total to a strong position.

At the close of play, Mahipar Stars had scored 409 runs for the loss of 9 wickets. Zazai's contribution formed nearly half of the team's total, underlining his critical role in the batting

lineup. His double century is one of the standout performances of the tournament so far and is expected to have a significant impact on the outcome of the match.

This inning adds to Zazai's growing reputation as a reliable and aggressive batsman in Afghanistan's domestic cricket scene. His ability to score big runs under pressure will surely catch the eyes of national selectors and cricket analysts alike.

The Ahmad Shah Abdali First-Class Tournament continues to serve as an important platform for identifying and nurturing local cricket talent. With performances like Zazai's, the future of Afghan cricket looks promising, as players continue to showcase their skills and resilience on the field.

**The Kabul Times**

## Mountaineering competition held in Balkh

A local mountaineering competition was recently held in the mountainous region of Charkent district, located in Balkh province, northern Afghanistan. The event was organized by the Balkh branch of the Mountaineering Federation and brought together six passionate climbers.

The highlight of the competition was the successful ascent of Mount Khwaja Sori, which stands at an elevation of 2,235 meters. The participating climbers showcased their strength, endurance, and technical skills as they navigated the challenging terrain to reach the summit.

According to organizers, the primary objective of the event was to improve the physical and mental readiness of local mountaineers while also promoting the culture of mountaineering among Afghan youth. With the growing inter-

est in outdoor sports in the country, such competitions play a vital role in encouraging healthy lifestyles and environmental awareness.

Officials from the federation emphasized the importance of such activities not only for physical fitness but also for fostering teamwork, resilience, and a deeper connection with nature. They also praised the courage and dedication of the participants, noting that events like these con-

tribute to building a positive and peaceful image of Afghanistan. The competition was well received by the local community and is expected to be part of a series of future events aimed at strengthening the presence of organized mountaineering sports across the province. Organizers hope that such initiatives will inspire more young people to engage in adventurous and health-promoting activities.

**The Kabul Times**



## Young Iranian taekwondo athlete killed in Israeli strikes on Tehran

A promising young Iranian taekwondo athlete, Amir Ali Amini, has tragically lost his life during recent Israeli airstrikes on Tehran, Iran's capital. According to an official statement from the Iran Taekwondo Federation, Amini was killed during the first wave of the attacks.

The incident has sent shockwaves through the Iranian sports community, particularly within the martial arts and taekwondo sectors. Amir Ali Amini, a dedicated and talented youth competitor, was seen as one of the bright future prospects for Iranian taekwondo on both national and international stages.

The Iranian Taekwondo

Federation confirmed his death through a brief announcement, mourning the loss of a young athlete who was not only passionate about the sport but also had the potential to bring future glory to the country. They described Amini as a disciplined and respectful competitor who had participated in numerous youth-level competitions.

While details about the exact location and circumstances of his death remain limited, Iranian media reports indicate that he was among several civilians who were killed during the overnight air raids that targeted multiple sites in Tehran.

These developments come amid heightened regional ten-

sions and a significant escalation in hostilities. Iran has accused Israel of launching the strikes, though official statements from Israeli sources regarding the specific operations in Tehran have not been made public.

The death of Amir Ali Amini has sparked widespread grief on social media, where athletes, coaches, and citizens have shared condolences and called for peace.

His passing highlights the human cost of regional conflicts and the devastating impact on innocent lives, including young talents who represent hope and potential for their nations.

**The Kabul Times**

## Iran launches retaliatory strikes on Israel

Iran has struck Israel with barrages of missiles, a day after an Israeli onslaught against its nuclear and military facilities killed top generals and scientists.

Iranian missiles have targeted sites across Israel, killing at least three people and injuring dozens, in retaliation for continuing Israeli attacks on Iran.

Iran called on its citizens to unite in defence of the country as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urged them to rise up against their government.

Air raid sirens and explosions rang out across Israel through the night, with many residents holed

up in bomb shelters until home defence commanders stood down alerts. Israel said dozens of missiles – some intercepted – had been fired in the latest salvos from Iran, with images of the city of Ramat Gan near Tel Aviv showing blown-out buildings, destroyed vehicles and streets strewn with debris.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said they attacked dozens of targets in Israel.

Iran's missile barrages came in response to intense Israeli strikes on Friday that killed several top Iranian generals and most of the senior leadership of the Revolu-



tionary Guards' air arm.

Aljazeera

## Zionist regime's attack on...

**From P3**

This hostile act not only clearly violates all international norms and human rights principles, but also reflects the regime's terroristic and expansionist agenda."

Najibullah Shamal, a political analyst, said: "In addition to the deaths of four military and civilian officials, Israeli strikes have caused harm to civilians as well. The attacks quickly drew strong regional and international reactions. Leaders from multiple countries, including the UN secretary-general, condemned the attack."

Sayed Ebadullah Sadeq, another political expert, said: "In the long run, this situation will have negative consequences for both Afghanistan and the region, especially for Afghanistan. Our trade volume with Iran has reached nearly \$3 billion."

Afghanistan, a country with close trade and economic ties to both Iran and Pakistan, often feels the ripple effects of regional tensions, particularly those involving Iran.

The UN, European Union, NATO, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, the UK, China, Russia, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and several other countries commented on the attack.

NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte said: "It is obviously a rapidly evolving situation. And, this was a unilateral action by Israel. So I think it is crucial for many allies, including the United States, to work as we speak, to de-escalate. I know they're doing that. And I think that is now the first order of the day."

New Zealand's Prime Minister Christopher Luxon added: "We want to see the parties coming together and having a conversation. We're aware, obviously, of the US-Iran conversations that are hoping to take place in Oman this weekend. We see this as a better pathway forward. But obviously it's a huge concern to

us."

US President Donald Trump also warned Iran, stating that Tehran should urgently re-enter the nuclear deal.

He emphasized that there is still an opportunity to prevent further conflict with Israel.

Israel's military attack on Iran comes ahead of the sixth round of nuclear negotiations between Iran and the US, scheduled for next Sunday in Oman.

Hossein Salami, the commander-in-chief of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), who led Iran's recent strike against Israel, was among those lost his life in the regime fires attack on Iran.

He was born in 1960 in Golpayegan, Isfahan. In 1978, he entered Iran's University of Science and Technology to study mechanical engineering. After the Iran-Iraq war, he continued his education at the same university and earned a master's degree in defense management from Iran's National Defense University.

On April 21, 2019, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei promoted Salami and appointed him commander-in-chief of the IRGC.

On the first anniversary of former Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's death, Salami said, "Iran will never surrender to your political will. Even the fact that Iran is not pursuing nuclear weapons is due to the political will of its people and great leader, not because of your pressure. You are in no position to force us into anything."

Another senior figure, Ali Shamkhani, an advisor to Iran's supreme leader, also died in today's Israeli attacks on Tehran.

Born in 1955 in Ahvaz, Shamkhani was of Arab descent. He earned degrees in agricultural engineering and a master's in management from Jundi-Shapur University. Before serving as a top advisor to Khamenei, Shamkhani held

several high-level positions, including commander of the Khuzestan IRGC unit, deputy IRGC commander, and Iran's defense minister. He was one of the few Iranian commanders with the rank of major general.

As spokesperson for Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Shamkhani had said, "We will cooperate with any force that fights against ISIS and will stand against groups that use illegal weapons against legitimate governments. This cooperation will continue both globally and within the Islamic world."

Also among the dead was Mohammad Hossein Bagheri, chief of the Iranian Armed Forces General Staff.

Born in 1960 in Tehran, Bagheri studied mechanical engineering and strategic defense management at Iran's National Defense University. He was appointed to his position in 2016 by Iran's Supreme Leader.

Bagheri once stated, "To solve any part of our problems, we must rely on the people. Abroad, everyone is either our enemy or competitor.

Though they smile in public, the reality is different. The path of righteousness has few supporters and is a hard one. So, it is the people who must step in and solve the problems."

Reuters reported that at least 20 senior IRGC commanders, including the IRGC Air Force commander and six nuclear scientists, were killed in the Israeli strikes.

Former diplomat Aziz Maarij commented, "Although Friday morning's sudden Israeli attack on Iran was unexpected, it cannot be considered a total surprise. Israel had long been prepared for such action, and Iran had taken precautionary measures. Nevertheless, the strike had significant consequences, including the deaths of several key military and nuclear figures and the

## A look at modern...

**From P3**

Yes! Another strategic consequence of this war has been the clear failure of Western-oriented projects in the region. Islamic countries that for years leaned on "peace," "tolerance," "normalization," and "coexistence" with Israel now face a situation where not only has peace borne no fruit, but their own legitimacy is questioned by their people.

This war has revealed that peace without taking Islamic values and justice into account is not peace at all—it is submission to slavery.

The West, which claims to support human rights, has exposed its true face in Gaza: one that values human life based on nationality, religion, and political alignment. Indeed! Today, through bravery, resistance, and martyrdom, Palestine is shaping history.

If past wars merely destroyed infrastructure, today's war is also demolishing illusions: the illusion of the West's absolute power, the illusion of the invincibility of weapons, and the illusion of Western cunning.

Now, the Islamic Ummah stands at a historical crossroads: either it continues along the path of awakening until it reaches dignity, or, once again, it lets this historic opportunity slip away through slogans, division, and indifference.

**Firooz Ahmad Ebrahemi**

targeting of sensitive sites."

Despite the heavy Israeli airstrikes on several parts of Iran that resulted in the deaths of senior officials, Tehran has yet to issue an official response.

However, Iran's supreme leader, the IRGC, and other officials emphasized that Iran reserves the right to respond to Israel at a time and place of its choosing.

**Monitoring Desk: Inam Hashemi**

## 11 dead, several still missing in San Antonio floods

At least 11 people have died and several are still missing after flash flooding hit San Antonio, Texas.

The severe storms on Wednesday and Thursday forced cars off roads, pushing some drivers into a creek, according to a local CBS, the BBC's US news partner.

The San Antonio Fire Department said rescuers were searching for at least four people missing in the floods.

Officials said the death toll may change and their search and recovery efforts will take days.

The fire department has deployed K9 units and asked

for additional assistance from a statewide urban search and rescue force. Officials performed more than 70 water rescues as of Friday afternoon, according to the city's website. At least four of those who were rescued were taken to hospitals with minor injuries, CBS reported. Three of the people who died in the floods have been identified - Martha De La Torre Rangel, Matthew Angel Tufono, and Victor Manuel Macias Castro.

They were stuck in their cars near the Perrin Beitel neighbourhood at around 05:00 local time (11:00 GMT) amid the heavy rain on Thursday morning when the water came rushing in, CBS reported, citing fire officials.

One woman, Angel Richards, told CBS affiliate KENS 5 that her husband, Stevie, was on his way to work when he called to say he was caught in the floodwaters.

"It's hard because I was on the phone when this happened, and then not to have a lot of communication, to see my car, it's devastating to me," Richards said. "No one can say to me, 'Hey, this is what's going on.'"

San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg expressed his condolences to the families of the

flood victims.

"Our hearts are with the families of those we've lost to this week's flash floods and the families who continue searching for their loved ones," Nirenberg said on X.

Joaquin Castro, a Democratic House Representative from San Antonio, called the flash floods a "tragedy."

"My prayers are with the families and loved ones of the victims of this week's flash floods," he said on X.

"San Antonio always stands together when tragedy strikes and we will continue to do so as our community grieves this loss." **BBC**