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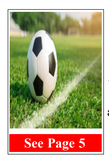

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FM Muttaqi's remarks on army building misinterpreted, Mujahid

KABUL: Spokesman of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) and the Deputy Minister of Information and Culture, Zabihullah Mujahid said that remarks by the country's Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs on the formation of national army was misinterpreted.

The IEA only need the former government's professional cadres in the high ranks, but in the ranks of soldiers, their own Mujahidin (Religious troops) were enough, Mujahid said adding former army had two types of soldiers, the professional ones who now work within the army. The country's Air Force, he said have now activated 33 aircraft engineers allowing the pilots to fly them.

The second, are soldiers who fought every day, according to him.

"They were not even professionals, most of them were addicted to drugs, we do not need them, our own Mujahidin are better than them, they fought a great war, they defeated half the world and such a good army cannot be found anywhere else," said the country's deputy minister of information and culture adding the number of new ANA will be determined based on the needs.

The Kabul Times

Minister Khairkhah receives some provincial information and culture directors

KABUL: The country's Minister of Information and Culture Mawlavi Khairullah Khairkhaw recently received a number of provincial information and culture directors here in Kabul, Baktar News Agency reported the other day.

During the meeting, the provincial directors of information and culture from Nangarhar, Nimroz and Laghman provinces shared their problems with the minister, the agency said.

The Minister, assured them of doing best to address their problems, according to the agency.

Both state-owned and non-governmental media should also be allowed to resume their activities in the provinces, the agency quoted Kharikhaw as saying.

"We are going to visit each province and closely asses their cultural activities in the near future," said the minister.

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Uzbekistan sends team to repair Balkh airport

Esmatullah Ergashev, special representative of Uzbekistan's president, in a meeting with local officials in the northern Afghan province of Balkh on Sunday said his country will reconstruct Maulana Jalaluddin Mohammad Balkhi international airport in Mazar-e-Sharif.

Ergashev met with Balkh local officials as well as officials from Afghanistan's ministry of transport and aviation who were in the province to meet with the Uzbekistan officials.

Ergashev said his country had sent a 30-member technical team to help the Afghans reconstruct the airport and repairing the technical damages and equipment.

"We were urged to help in resumption of the airport and repair the damaged equipment. Hence, we have brought 30 technical staff from Uzbekistan, and they are repairing the equipment and reconstructing the airport and soon the airport will become operational," he said.

He said Uzbekistan will try to help Afghanistan in different areas, especially in infrastructure.

Meanwhile, Balkh local officials urged Uzbekistan to cooperate with Afghanistan in economic areas and in the expansion of trade relations between the two countries. "The delegation from the transport ministry which has come to Balkh held talks with Uzbekistan officials on airport reconstruction and the railway. Talks were also held on Afghanistan's electricity bill debt to Uzbekistan, and we said when the banking system problems are resolved we will pay the bill and Uzbekistan should not cut the imported electricity," said Qudratullah Hamza, Balkh's governor.

Officials from the Ministry of Transport and Aviation said Uzbekistan will help Afghanistan repair equipment and train technical staff at Maulana Jalaluddin Mohammad Balkhi airport.

"Uzbekistan's team will repair and reactivate all the equipment and every section of the airport. It will also train in Uzbekistan around 83 technical employees of the ministry who are deployed at Maulana airport," Hasibullah Soroush, deputy minister said.

Tolonews

Slaughterhouse established in Kabul

Mawlavi Sadar Azam Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Agriculture paid a visit to a recently built slaughterhouse in Rishkhor area of Kabul City. During the visit, the deputy minister said that the slaughterhouse would be submitted to private sector as soon as possible so that people have access to good quality and healthy meat," said Sadar Azam.

According to Shariat daily, the aforementioned slaughterhouse was built in 25 acres of land with the capacity of slaughtering and processing about 100 cattle and 500 sheep in a single working shift.

Cattle and sheep meat is the most common foodstuff consumed in Afghanistan. Currently, butcher shops are the only go-to place to buy meat of different animals. The complaints and concerns that often rose about these shops include sale of those animals' meat of which consuming is prohibited in Islam, and the meat sold is also not fresh. Besides building the slaughterhouse, people require that IEA inspect the butcher shops for quality and healthiness of their products as well.

The Kabul Times

Thousands of displaced families return to provinces

KABUL: Thousands of families moved to the capital Kabul after the IEA forces takeover, with the hope of accessing better living condition, have been returned home recentl, Bakhtar Information Agency said.

Government related organs are now struggling to help the displaced families back to their own provinces, the agency said.

According to the source, that they have succeeded in sending thousands displaced families back to their provinces.

As conflicts gained severity in the last days of fallen government and draught and large unemployment hit the country, Kabul got flooded with thousands of families from various areas of Afghanistan and most of them settled in parks and under open areas. To help the issue, Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan with the aid of international organizations including UNCHR gave them a cash enough to move back homes as well as promised a handful of money for next three months for their expenses. M. Abdul Mateen, head of immigrant and tourist affairs told Bakhtar news agency that nearly five hundred families were moved back to their homes on a daily basis. We have been able to move approximately five thousands families in recent days, he added. As the winter is just to be here, it is feared that the miserable families in open areas of Kabul will run into much more economic and health crisis.

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Passport issuance started in seven more provinces

KABUL: Officials of the Passport Directorate said the other day that they have started the issuance of passports in Balkh, Paktia, Kandahar, Kunduz, Herat, Nangarhar, and Khost provinces, on Sunday.

Alam Gul Haqqani, the passport director said that the decision was made by the Ministry of Interior Affairs in order to further facilitate the process for those who apply for passports.

He added that priority will be given to those who have already filled online form for the booklets.

The passports will be issued based on the e-ID or the previous IDs (tazkira) that are verified officially, he said adding the rumors about lack of passport were not true.

Over 900,000 passports in the directorate, 600,000 passports with the company responsible for their printing, one million passports are in the process of printing, and one and a half million more are going to be printed, he went on as saying. **The Kabul Times**