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People protest against U.S. sanctions on Afghanistan

KABUL: Hundreds of people took to the streets of Kabul, the country's capital on Sunday to protest against what they said an unfair sanction by the U.S. on their country.

The U.S. has imposed sanctions including freezing the country's central bank assets, after the takeover of Afghanistan by the Islamic Emirate forces in last year's August 15.

Now the people of Afghanistan are facing harsh challenges in terms of their salaries and employment, following the unfair imposed sanctions by the U.S.

The Islamic Emirate has now ensured security of the whole parts of the country and human rights including work and education of women and girls are in place or would be restored as soon as possible.

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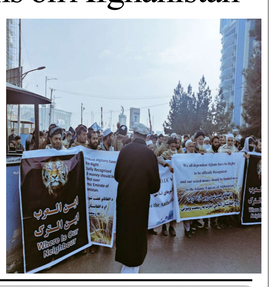

Aids to Afghans should not fall victim to politics

A number of political analysts say that the problems between Moscow and Washington and the political interaction of these two blocs should not be against the interests of Afghans.

They say the US has threatened Russia over Ukraine and that Moscow is now blaming Washington for the Afghan crisis. Ajmal Sohail, an Afghan political analyst said that the U.S. has threatened Russia for sending forces to fight on the Ukraine borders while Russia is trying to accuse the United States for Afghanistan's economic crisis. Some other analysts say regional aids are more important for Afghanistan, because they reach sooner than Western aids.

Noorullah Aziz, a political analyst said, "Assistance from regional and neighbor countries having strong economies are very beneficial for Afghanistan because it takes less time and less costs to be delivered."

This comes after Russian President Vladimir Putin answered a number of questions at an annual news conference about the current situation in Afghanistan. Beside other political issues, Putin pointed US regarding the aids with Afghanistan and said that countries that have destroyed Afghanistan's economic and social system must help Afghans first.

"The Afghan people need help now; this assistance should be provided first by the countries that have inflicted such severe social and economic loss in Afghanistan. Those who have been there for 20 years and have destroyed their financial system should help".

Over the past four months since the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan came to power, China has been one of the countries in the region that has provided significant assistance to Afghanistan and has demonstrated its commitment in this regard.

The Kabul Times

IEA deny release of suicide attacker on Kabul Airport

KABUL: Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan reacted to US claims over releasing the "ISIS-K affiliate" who carried out a suicide attack on Kabul International Airport, killing nearly 200 people including US marines.

A spokesperson of the IEA Bilal Karimi in a series of Twitter posts, said that the release of the perpetrator of the August 26 attack is "baseless" and there is no proof for the claim.

Bilal Karimi said that the timeframe between the release of prisoners from Bagram prison and the suicide attack was too narrow and that it was not possible to plan an attack during that short time.

"The affiliates of ISIS-K were released before Taliban took control of prisons. We have eliminated or arrested back those who affiliated the terror group".

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Some 28,500 children killed in past 16 years in Afghanistan: UNICEF

KABUL: Over 28,000 children have been killed in conflicts since 2005 in Afghanistan, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Friday.

"Afghanistan, for example, has the highest number of verified child casualties since 2005, at more than 28,500—accounting for 27 percent of all verified child casualties globally," the organization said in a statement.

Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria and northern Ethiopia are the places where children have paid a devastating price as armed conflict, inter-communal violence and insecurity continued, UNICEF said.

"Year after year, parties to conflict continue to demonstrate a dreadful disregard for the rights and wellbeing of children," said UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore. "Children are suffering, and children are dying because of this callousness. Every effort should be made to keep these children safe from harm."

According to the statement, the UN has verified 266,000 cases of grave violations against children in more than 30 conflict situations across Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America over the past 16 years. The statement says these are only the cases verified by UN-led monitoring and reporting mechanisms, meaning that the true figures may be far higher.

UNICEF says that so far there is no data available about grave violations against children in 2021, but in 2020, 26,425 grave violations against children were verified by the UN.

UNICEF has called on "all parties to conflict" to take concrete measures to protect children.

"Ultimately, children living through war will only be safe when parties to conflict take concrete action to protect them and stop committing grave violations," said Fore. "As we approach the end of 2021, I call on all parties to conflict to end attacks against children, uphold their rights and strive for peaceful political resolutions to war." **The Kabul Times**

Some 340,000 E-IDs distributed in 4 months, official

KABUL: The country's National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) said Sunday that it has distributed some 340,000 computerized national identity cards (CNICs) over the past four months.

The nationwide distribution process of the newly printed E-ID cards is now going on normally covering 13 to 15,000 applicants on a daily basis in 20 provinces of the country including, Kabul Nangarhar, Kunar, Paktia, Khost, Logar, Kandahar and Badakshan, according to the statement.

The E-IDs' distribution process will be resumed after assessment and evaluation of the administration's technical teams in other provinces of the country, the statement said.

The process halted soon after last year's August IEA takeover of Afghanistan with an estimated population of 32 million.

The Kabul Times

MoPH delivering health services to all Afghans without discrimination

KABUL: Deputy Minister of Public Health for health services delivery Dr. Abdul Bari Omar in news conference held Saturday in Kabul said that the Ministry of Public Health was equally delivering health services to all Afghans without any discrimination. He asserted that the ministry has been able to keep doors of health centers open across the country.

According to Dr. Omar, in previous government 90 percent of health section depended on foreign aids which were for the people of Afghanistan not the government, adding that after the political change in the country, the aids were cut, which caused critical situation in the country. He asked all donor organizations for continued cooperation and assistance to the people of Afghanistan.

In the news conference, Dr. Omar by pointing to improvement of the country's health sector informed of future programs of the ministry, saying that leadership of the ministry was making effort to standardize the health sector in the country.

Briefing related to current COVID-19 situation in the country, Dr. Omar said that ten thousand people contracted Coronavirus and of them 650 people died of the infection nationwide during the past five months. He added that they had taken measures to check the spread of Covid-19 and 8000 to 12000 people were administered vaccine on a daily basis.

He acknowledged lack of resources to establish Covid-19 treatment hospitals across the country but said efforts were underway to control the situation with foreign assistance. Dr. Omar said they had discussed with UNICEF about the establishment of 10 oxygen producing plants in order to avoid its shortage.

He urged the international community to keep politics away from health and help the Afghans in this regard.

The acting public health minister called malnutrition of children another challenge, which he linked with poverty, not breastfeeding children by their mothers and unhygienic food items sales in the market. He said currently 3.2 million children in Afghanistan faced malnutrition. However, he said they were working jointly with UNICEF and the World Health Organization to cope with children's malnutrition.

Dr. Omar also talked about the situation and population of drug addicts in the country, saying 3.5 million people were addicted to drugs.

He said every addict spent three dollars to buy drugs and this way they totally spent 10.5 million dollars a day. However, he said they had taken measures to treat the addicts and during the past three months, 7800 addicts were collected, treated and reunited with their families while 7000 more addicts were under treatment. He said 88 rehabilitation centers for drug addicts existed across the country, but only three of these centers had own buildings and the rest were operated in rented houses.

According to the ministry, the health sector was 90 percent dependent on foreign aid, which has been suspended, but efforts are being made to convince the world and solve the existing problems.

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Contracts for 98 projects worth 357 million AFG signed

KABUL: Acting Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development in a session yesterday signed contacts for 98 projects worth more than 357 million AFG funded by UNICEF with rural development councils of 27 provinces.

In the session attended by deputy Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) for finance and administrative Mawlavi Abdul Rahman Halim, deputy minister of MRRD for reconstruction affairs Mufti Sayed Ahmad Mustaqim, head of water supply program Mawlavi Bakht Munir and provincial directors of rural rehabilitation and development and representatives of partner organizations, Mufti Sayed Ahmad Mustaqim spoke and asserted that these water supply projects would be implemented through water supply and sanitation department in rural areas.

With the implementation of the projects, nearly 183,000 people will be benefited from drinking water and sanitation. In addition, agreements on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene projects were signed with 9 organizations.

The respective organizations will also implement water supply, sanitation and hygiene various projects worth $16 million to benefit nearly 1.2 million people in the country.

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