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Human Rights Networks Urge ICC To Prioritize Investigation into Kabul School Attack

The Afghan Civil Society and Human Rights Network and a number of Afghan activists in Germany and the Netherlands gathered in front of the International Criminal Court in The Hague on Friday to seek prioritization of investigation by the ICC into the attack on the Sayyid al-Shuhada school in western Kabul. Their resolution stated that ICC should investigate attacks on ethnic-religious minorities on priority and that targeted attacks on human rights defenders, which play an important role in promoting and defending human rights values, also be reviewed. According to the resolution, war crimes against humanity, ... **P3**



Pakistan Shuns Contact with Afghan National Security Chief

Pakistan has officially stopped all its contact with the Afghan National Security Chief after his what they call "abusive outburst" against Islamabad and the country conveyed to the leadership in Afghanistan that it will no longer conduct official business with him, highly placed officials and diplomatic sources told VOA on Friday. The move reflects the political tension and mistrust plaguing the relations between the two neighbors, which share a nearly 2,600-kilometer border. National security adviser, Hamdullah Mohib routinely accuses Pakistan and its spy agency of supporting and directing the Taliban's insurgency in Afghanistan. In a public speech earlier this month in eastern Nangarhar province, next to the Pakistani border, Mohib repeated his allegations. His remarks outraged leaders in Islamabad, who denounced them, saying that they "debased all ... **P3**

Key US Military Base in Kabul Handed Over to Afghan Forces



A key military base of US forces in downtown, the New Kabul Compound, also known as NKC, was handed over to the Ministry of Defense at a ceremony on Friday. Fawad Aman, a spokesman for

the Defense Ministry, said that at a ceremony on the occasion, US and NATO forces commander Gen. Scott Miller emphasized the international community's continued support to Afghan forces.

The withdrawal of the US and NATO forces from the country started on May 1. So far, according to figures provided by US Central Command, the Pentagon has retrograded the equivalent of approximately

160 C-17 loads of material out of Afghanistan and has turned over more than 10,000 pieces of equipment to the Defense Logistics Agency for disposition. The figures also show that the US had by last week officially handed over five facilities to the Ministry of Defense of Afghanistan. Pentagon officials have said that the US has completed up to 25% of the entire withdrawal process. President Ashraf Ghani at a ceremony at the Kabul University on Thursday said that with the withdrawal of the US and coalition forces from the country, a new chapter has been opened in Afghanistan's relations with its allies as well as with the region. He reiterated that the new chapter requires proper planning. Violence remains high in the country, especially after the three-day ceasefire from May 13 to May 15. The Ministry of Defense on Saturday said that at least 210 Taliban were killed in clashes and defensive operations by Afghan forces in 18 provinces, including Kabul, in the last 24 hours.

Afghanistan Ready to Purchase Weapons from Russia

Kabul is ready to purchase weapons from Moscow, Afghanistan's Ambassador to Russia Said Tayeb Jawad said in an interview with TASS. "We are hoping that Russia will consider repairing the existing Russian equipment, especially helicopters," the ambassador said. "Our cadets are getting training here, especially from the Ministry of Interior, which is good," he noted. The diplomat also expressed hope that Russia would provide an opportunity for Afghanistan to train its pilots and mechanical engineers.



US Defense Budget for 2022 Includes \$3.3 Billion for Afghanistan

The Biden-Harris Administration on Friday submitted to Congress the U.S. President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Budget request of \$752.9 billion for national defense, \$715 billion of which is for the Department of Defense (DoD) - of which \$3.3 billion is earmarked for Afghanistan. According to the budget report, the FY 2022 Defense Budget submission reflects Biden's priorities to end the "forever wars," invest in cutting-edge capabilities for the U.S. military and national security advantage in the future, and revitalize America's network of alliances and partnerships. The report stated given Biden's decision to withdraw all U.S. troops from Afghanistan, the FY 2022 budget request of \$42.1 billion supports this drawdown,



the resulting force posture, and other contingency operations. According to the report, the request does however support the continued development of the Afghan National Army and National Police to serve as an effective security force that is able to counter terrorism and insurgent threats as well as become a reliable

partner to the United States. The U.S. Department of Defense "continues building partnerships using the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund (ASFF) (\$3.3 billion) for the sustainment, infrastructure, equipment, and training requirements for an authorized force of up to 352,000 Ministry of Defense (MoD) ... **P3**

Delhi: Non-Muslim...

may be required for completing such an inquiry and the instructions issued by the Centre from time-to-time in this regard shall be strictly complied with by state or union territory and district concerned, it said.

The comments of the agencies referred to in clause (C) are uploaded online by such agencies and accessible to the collector or the secretary, as the case may be, and the central government.

The collector or the secretary on being satisfied with the suitability of the applicant, will grant him the citizenship of India by registration or naturalisation and issue a certificate of registration or naturalisation, as the case may be, duly printed from online portal and signed by the collector or the secretary in the form as prescribed in the said rules, the notification said. The collector or the secretary shall maintain an online as well as physical register, in accordance with the said rules, containing the details of the person registered or naturalised as a citizen of India and furnish a copy thereof to the central government within seven days of such registration or naturalisation, it said.

"This order shall come into force on the date of its publication in the official gazette and shall remain valid until further orders," the notification said.

When the CAA was enacted in 2019, there were widespread protests in different parts of the country and even riots took place in Delhi in early 2020 in the wake of these protests. According to the CAA, Indian citizenship will be given to non-Muslim persecuted minorities from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan — Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian — who had come to India till December 31, 2014.

CGTN Insight

A Human Community with A Shared Future: China's Answer to Gauguin Question

Editor's note: «Roots of China's Growth» is a 10-episode series marking the centenary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC), which has presided over the country's meteoric rise as a global power. The series focuses on 10 fundamental elements of the strategy that has led to China's transformation from an impoverished nation over the past 100 years. The «human community with a shared future» is the third in the series. The article is part of a special series from CGTN and its international media partners.

In a painting he considered a masterpiece, French Post-Impressionist artist Paul Gauguin (1848-1903) presented the life cycle of human beings with a dreamlike and poetic approach. The 4-meter canvas painting begins with a baby on the right and ends with a shriveled old woman on the left. The plants, including trees, flowers, grasses, and fruits, represent the fleeting of time and the fading of life. The title of the painting asks three soul-searching questions: Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?

How China sees it

President Xi Jinping provided China's answer to Gauguin's questions in a UN speech on January 18, 2017.

"Pass on the torch of peace from generation to generation, sustain development and make civilization flourish: this is what people of all countries long for; it is also the responsibility statesmen of our generation ought to shoulder. And China's proposition is: build a community of shared future for mankind and achieve shared and win-win development," Xi said.

A human community with a shared future is not like the European Community. It belongs to the entire human race, respects sovereignty, and rejects an unequal system in which the weak depend on the powerful. China's notion of such a community combines the Western concept of destiny that stresses inevitability and the Indian (Buddhist) concept of destiny (pratīyasamutpāda) that tilts towards fortuity.

Autonomy is a prerequisite to such a community. Based on this, it transcends differences in national interests. Common interests follow common responsibilities that lead to a shared future.

How reshaping can take place

Peter Thomson, the 71st president of the United



A human community with a shared future: China's answer to Gauguin question

Nations General Assembly, told Xinhua in 2012: "Building a community of common destiny for mankind to me is the only future for humanity on this planet."

Why?

Human beings are living in an interconnected world. As we head towards an age defined by the Internet of Everything (IoE), new spheres of exploration such as artificial intelligence (AI), the deep sea, internet and outer space should no longer be governed by old geopolitical and zero-sum rules, nor should they contradict core human values. Technological reevaluation is profoundly transforming the pattern of global interactions, reshaping political and economic systems, and even redefining humanity. In a decentralized world, human beings need a guiding principle to help them build peaceful and prosperous lives. This is where the concept of a human community with a shared future comes into play.

In a nutshell, the concept includes three missions: First, to advance the common development of our world, promote the common revival of human civilizations and unite peoples across the world as one.

While the concept of the "Chinese nation" integrates philosophies running through Chinese civilization, the concept of a human community with a shared future illustrates China's ties with the world, integrating the Chinese dream into the world dream.

President Xi asserted that "China's proposition of building a human community with a shared future is not diplomatic rhetoric. It is essential to the fulfillment of the Chinese dream and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation."

Second, to offer Chinese wisdom and a Chinese solution to problems facing humankind. Under this concept, autonomy over destiny transcends core-periphery dependency, common destiny trumps interdependency, and the notion of a human community with a shared future prevails over paradoxes, such as the one between economic globalization and the politics of localization.

Today's world is undergoing profound changes not seen in the previous century. While the COVID-19 pandemic has posed a formidable challenge to the world, the collaboration between countries to fight is a vivid example of how we pursue our shared future.

Third, to answer the question "Are we heading towards a better future?"

The dawn of a new era defined by AI and IoE makes the leap from cultural exchanges to innovation possible. This paves the way for a future where the theory of linear evolution is out of place, Western-centrism is rejected, and anthropocentrism no longer holds sway. These are the core ideas at the heart of a global community with a shared future.

Public good and community building

In stark contrast to dated mentalities governing international relations, China is destined to ... **P3**

By Nasim Haider

Is Afghanistan Preparing for War Instead of Peace?

After a brief respite, violence in Afghanistan has exacerbated again and the bloodshed is a direct challenge to international efforts being made to initiate an intra-Afghan peace dialogue.

Thus, the question to be asked is why are warring factions in Afghanistan preparing for a devastating war, instead of lasting peace?

The answer lies in the distrust between the Afghans and the regional and international powers involved in the peace process.

The cancer of distrust has spread to such an extent that even a three-day ceasefire witnessed severe violations and resulted in the deaths of two dozen people during Eid holidays. This is a clear sign that the Afghan government and the Taliban are not that serious about dialogue.

But what about those, who are encouraging both factions to talk? Are they committed to peace in Afghanistan?

For the United States of America, the clock is ticking as the extended withdrawal date - September 11 - is fast approaching.

At present, Washington appears more focused on finding new bases to fly drones and station its ground forces than pursuing reconciliation in the war-torn country.

In the last few months, the United States has approached central Asian countries for repositioning of its troops. These countries include Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and possibly Kyrgyzstan as well, as per media reports. Some of them had already housed the U.S. troops during the start of the Afghan war in 2001, but abruptly ended the deal almost a decade later.

Interestingly, other than Uzbekistan, these countries either border Russia, China or Iran. At the top of it, Russia has its bases in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Tajikistan is unique in a sense that it also reportedly has some Chinese security forces on its soil.

For the US to be looking to set up bases in the neighbourhood is a strange development for Moscow and Beijing. After all, it has taken two decades for the US to commit to withdrawing forces from Afghanistan. Even then, drones it seems may continue to hover above the country for surveillance. And it is for this very reason that Russia is accelerating a parallel peace process. It is supporting inter-Afghan talks as well as encouraging members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (Russia, China, Pakistan, Kazakhstan,

Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and India) to support their peace move.

China also wants Washington to withdraw "responsibly", as it fears that the spillover effect of utter chaos in Afghanistan may lead to instability in the region, which is why Beijing is equally pursuing peace in coordination with Moscow and Islamabad.

As for Pakistan, this volatile situation is a double edged sword. On one hand, India is being given more role in the region and on the other hand Dae'sh is gaining a foothold in the bordering provinces. Furthermore, Islamabad's efforts for reconciliation are being reciprocated by unprecedented accusations from Kabul.

Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani has gone to extreme ends by appealing to even Germany to

impose sanctions on Pakistan for not fully supporting his agenda. His provocative demands have come as a shock to all who had recently seen him praising the Pakistani leadership for facilitating the peace move.

Ghani clearly wants to incite Pakistan and later blame it for the instability in Afghanistan. As a matter of fact, he is presiding over a country where the Taliban are taking over one district after another by laying siege for months. Can this complete inaction from the Afghan forces in defending their own areas of control be blamed on Islamabad? Certainly, not.

In the end it seems that war may be inevitable in Afghanistan. Unfortunately, no matter who the Afghan government blames, the victims of the war will be the Afghans.

UNHCR Calls for More international Assistance to Afghanistan

The United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has called for increased international assistance to Afghanistan and to increase support for refugees and asylum seekers.

According to Rauf Mazo, Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, who was on a four-day visit to Afghanistan, UNHCR is concerned about the reduction in aid to Afghanistan and the humanitarian aid budget for the country. Mazo met Amrullah Saleh, First Vice-President; Nour Rahman Akhlaqi, Minister of Refugees, and Mirwais Nab, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs.

During the meeting, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) assured the officials that the organization would continue its



assistance to Afghanistan. UNHCR has helped more than 100,000 displaced families in the past six months with financial, health and food assistance as well as shelter, Rauf Mazo said.

He noted that the country was at a critical juncture. At the same time, he called for increased relief and development activities in line with ongoing efforts to bring peace to Afghanistan.

On the other hand, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has said that Afghanistan, with a population of 35 million, most of them young, is in poor security and economic condition.

Pakistan Shuns...

norms of interstate communication." A senior Pakistani official privy to the matter told VOA on condition of anonymity that his government lodged a strong protest with the Afghan side and conveyed "deep resentment" in Pakistan over Mohib's "undignified" remarks. The official said Kabul has been told Islamabad, henceforth, would not hold bilateral engagements with the Afghan national security adviser. It has also been conveyed "by our side that Afghan side is not serious in engaging with Pakistan, but only in the blame game and degrading Pakistan's sincere efforts," the official added.

Diplomatic sources also said that Pakistan's military chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, during his visit to Kabul earlier this month, had raised the issue in his meeting with Ghani in the presence of Nick Carter, Britain's chief of the defense staff.

In fact, the Afghan ambassador had also been summoned regarding the same issue last week.

Human Rights...

repeatedly committed against Afghan citizens of various ethnicities (Hindus, Sikhs and Hazaras), are systematic and targeted attacks and constitute genocide.

The resolution emphasizes that the approach of the ICC, including the review of the situation in the country, should be based on the fact that Afghanistan's current problem is deep and multidimensional. Part of the resolution states that investigations by the International Criminal Court into what constitutes war crimes and crimes against humanity in Afghanistan are not political and that the criteria for detecting crimes in the International Criminal Court should not be double. On May 8, the Sayyid al-Shuhada school in western Kabul was targeted by terrorists. About 90 people were killed and more than 240 others were injured in the attack.

A Human...

develop its vaccines as a global public good and make them more accessible and affordable to developing countries.

As noted in the white paper "China and the World in the New Era," building a community with a shared future does not mean all nations conforming to the same values or the universal implementation of unilateral proposals pushed by one country or a small minority of countries. Nor does it mean the establishment of a single unitary actor around the globe, or the replacement of one system or culture by

another.

Rather, it calls for countries with different social systems, ideologies, histories, cultures, and levels of development to align their goals and interests, enjoy equal rights, and share all responsibilities in international activities for the progress of humanity.

Building such a community is not a hollow slogan, but achievable through the progression of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the formulation of a new form of international relations, and the creation of a global connectivity partner network. The interconnection of human beings accentuates active

control, rather than passive acceptance over human destiny.

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US Defense...

and Ministry of Interior (MoI) personnel," read the report adding that this despite "the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) have not historically met the full authorized force structure."

The report stated: "Although the United States plans withdrawal from Afghanistan by September 11, 2021, there are residual costs in the FY 2022 budget, which include equipment reset and readiness, in-theater support, and operations/force protection."

Later in a press briefing, DoD officials stated that "the Afghan Pay and Personnel Systems validate that approximately

300,000 Ministry of Defense (MoD) and Ministry of Interior (MoI) personnel are currently enrolled and eligible for pay during the current fiscal year.

"The request supports further development and sustainment of the ANDSF as an effective and sustainable force to combat a resilient insurgency and as a reliable counterterrorism partner with the United States," officials said.

DoD official Anne McAndrew said during a press briefing on the budget that "with the withdrawal of U.S. soldiers from Afghanistan, support to the Afghan Security Forces remains key in maintaining our ongoing national security

objectives in the region."

She said: "We nevertheless retained funds for an over-the-horizon capability outside Afghanistan and to deter Iran. As we prioritize the Indopacific, we must also ensure that the components have sufficient resources to transition out of Afghanistan responsibly."

The \$3.3 billion request is a slight increase on FY 2021's \$3 billion budget.

The reason for this McAndrew said was because the DoD believes "that given that we are pulling out of Afghanistan we need to provide some additional security support for the ASFF - for the forces there."

Over 120,000...

to be confirmed." Some of the individuals went missing after raids on residences and hideouts, while others "are now missing after having been initially confirmed detained" by junta forces, read the statement.

The group said the military junta has "has done nothing

to account for these missing persons" and has been "threatening civil society and oppressing civilians who raise the issue."

As of Friday, Myanmar's military junta has killed 833 people since grabbing power in February, with some 4,350 currently under detention, the AAPP said.

Pro-democracy protests erupted in Myanmar when the military overthrew civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government.

Protesters continue to defy the junta despite its lethal crackdown and use of brutal methods against civilians throughout the Southeast Asian country.

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Over 120,000 People Displaced in Myanmar Since February: UN

More than 120,000 people are currently displaced in Myanmar amid growing conflict between the Myanmar military and ethnic armed groups, according to a UN report released on Friday.

Fighting has particularly intensified in Kachin, Kayin, northern Shan, Chin, and Kayah states, resulting in the internal displacement of a total of 120,900 people since February, when the military ousted the elected civilian government and seized power, read the UNHCR report.

At least 85,900 people have been displaced in Myanmar's southeast, 15,000 in the northern Shan state, and 20,000 more in Kachin and Chin states, the report said.

Thousands of people need humanitarian aid and "supplies urgently required by affected

populations include essential medicines, first-aid kits, shelters, non-food items, foods, and hygiene and sanitation items," it added.

'75 people missing in Myanmar'

At least 75 people have gone missing in Myanmar since the Feb. 1 coup, according to a local monitoring group.

"These disappearances have occurred since the beginning of the coup ... [as] the military ... has consistently been perpetrating brutal crimes against civilians, including killings and torture, and disappearing dead bodies," the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) said in a statement issued late on Friday.

"Of the 75 missing, AAPP can verify 23 are disappeared, a further 52 are believed disappeared with precise status ... **P3**



A look at the world

Putin, Lukashenko Discuss Ryanair Incident in Sochi

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday met with his Belarusian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko in Sochi where the leaders discussed the aftermath of the Ryanair incident, the Kremlin said in a statement.

Putin agreed with Lukashenko's opinion that the reaction to the Ryanair landing demonstrated an "emotional outburst," and added there were many other common fields of interest both leaders could discuss, according to the statement.



Putin recalled an incident that took place in 2013, when the airplane of the Bolivian president was forced to land at a different location, pointing out the reaction back then was rather quiet.

Lukashenko in turn told the Russian leader he would show him documents related to the recent emergency landing of the Ryanair flight.

"There has been an attempt to stir up the situation so it would end up being similar to that of August last year... It is simply clear what these Western friends want from us," he said, speaking of mass election protests in Belarus in 2020.

Irish airline Ryanair said that flight FR4978 from Athens to Vilnius was directed to an airport in Minsk on Sunday as crew on the plane had been alerted to a possible security threat by Belarusian authorities, adding that nothing untoward was found.

Delhi: Non-Muslim Refugees Can Apply for Indian Citizenship



The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued a notice inviting non-Muslims —Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jain, Parsis & Christians belonging to Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and residing in 13 districts of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, and Punjab to apply for Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Act 1955 and Rules framed under the law in 2009. The fresh order is in no way connected to the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) enacted in 2019 as the Rules under the contentious act are yet to be framed by the Centre.

"In exercise of powers conferred under Section 16 of the Citizenship Act, 1955 (57 of 1955), the central government hereby directs that powers exercisable by it for registration as citizen of India under Section 5, or for grant of certificate of naturalization under section 6 of the Citizenship Act 1955 in respect of any person belonging to minority community in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan namely, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians, residing in the districts mentioned and the states mentioned below..." the notification said.

People who are eligible to apply for Indian citizenship are those currently living in the districts of Morbi, Rajkot, Patan and Vadodara of Gujarat, Durg and Balodabazar in Chhattisgarh, Jalore, Udaipur, Pali, Barmer and Sirohi in Rajasthan, Faridabad in Haryana and Jalandhar in Punjab.

"The application for registration as citizen of India or grant of certificate of naturalisation as citizen of India under the said rules (Citizenship Rules, 2009) shall be made by the applicant online," the notification said.

The home ministry said the verification of the application is done simultaneously by collector or secretary (Home) of Haryana and Punjab as the case may be, at the district-level and the state-level and the application and the reports thereon shall be made accessible simultaneously to the Centre on online portal. The collector or the secretary, as the case may be, makes such inquiry as he considers necessary for ascertaining the suitability of the applicant and for that purpose forwards the application online to such agencies for verification and comments as ... **P2**

Year of China-ASEAN Sustainable Development Cooperation Starts

China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) inaugurated their Year of Sustainable Development Cooperation in Beijing on Friday.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang sent a congratulatory letter to the event, saying that he hoped both sides could strengthen ties in environmental protection and disaster relief, and address such pressing issues as climate change and poverty alleviation. Zhao Yingmin, the Chinese vice minister of ecology and environment, took up the same theme.



"We will implement the new cooperative strategy and action plan, jointly achieve regional environmental cooperation and realize the mutual benefits," Zhao said.

Following Friday's opening ceremony, a series of activities will be held focusing on things like policy dialogue and building capacity.

The activities are the latest rounds of cooperative events marking the 30th anniversary of establishing dialogue between both China and ASEAN. The two sides are seeking to draw attention to the importance of constructing sustainable cities and reducing marine plastic with an overarching theme of fighting climate change and conserving biodiversity.

"I hope that the series of activities this year will stimulate discussions to ensure that our community remains robust and ready for the post-COVID-19 world. We look forward to a stronger ASEAN-China partnership on this process," said Lim Jock Hoi, secretary-general of ASEAN.

Over the next five years, both sides planned to invest \$10 million towards sustainable development cooperation. Some \$3.5 million has been invested so far.



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