a, hosting Taliban, or Afghan aid



Russian presidential envoy to Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov shakes hands with a representative of the Taliban delegation Mawlawi Shahabuddin Dilawar before the beginning of international talks on Afghanistan in Moscow, Russia



Officials, including representatives of the Taliban delegation

about the risk of instability in ty directed from Afghanistan.

Central Asia, and possible migrant ment - and we discussed this with which makes up less than half the flows and Islamist militant activitheir distinguished delegation - to population, from which they draw

territory against third countries, most importantly neighbours," Lavrov said.

Russia fought its own disastrous war in Afghanistan in the 1980s and has close military and political ties with former Soviet Central Asian states that border Afghanistan.

FRIENDLY TONE

In his speech, Lavrov struck a noticeably conciliatory tone towards the Taliban government, which is still seeking international diplomatic legitimacy that would bolster its calls to unfreeze assets held in the West and let aid flow.

"We note the efforts undertaken by them to stabilise the military and political situation, to set up state institutions," Lavrov said. Moscow was satisfied with cooperation from the Afghan authorities to ensure the safety of Russians in Afghanistan and the smooth working of its embassy, he said.

Lavrov did not put figures on how much aid Afghanistan might need or how much Russia was willing to provide.

Lavrov said on the eve of the talks that Moscow was withholding recognition from the Taliban while waiting for them

to fulfil promises they made when they took power, including

the political and ethnic inclusivity of the new government.

The Taliban have promised to safeguard the rights of women and minorities, but their interim cabinet includes only men, nearly "We call on the Taliban move- all from the Pashtun ethnic group prevent the use of Afghanistan's most of their support.

s; 46 dead Taliban praise suicide bombers, offer families cash and land

Reuters | Kabul

The Taliban praised suicide bombers who died during the war against the former government and its Western allies and offered their families sums of cash and promises of land, the movement's interior ministry said in a statement.

Sirajuddin Haqqani, the acting interior ministry who has a \$10 million US bounty on his Smoke rises from the head as a "specially designated global terrorist", met the families at a ceremony at the Intercontinental Hotel in Ka- promised plots of land, spokesbul, which was itself targeted by suicide bombers in 2018.

meeting on Tuesday obscured

praised the Jihad and sacri- Western intelligence services fices of the martyrs and Muja- for some of the bloodiest suihidin and called them heroes cide attacks of the war. of Islam and the country," the ministry said in a statement by the FBI in connection with

bombers were given cloth- people including an American ing, 10,000 afghani (\$111) and citizen were killed.



Intercontinental Hotel during an attack in Kabul, Afghanistan

man Qari Sayeed Khosti said.

Haggani took over from his Official photographs of the father Jalaluddin Haqqani as head of the Haggani network, a militant group affiliated with "In his speech, the minister the Taliban that was blamed by

He is wanted for questioning an attack on another hotel in Families of the suicide Kabul in 2008 in which six

Arriving in fighter jet, Moon urges defence industry growth



South Korean President Moon Jae-in sits inside a FA-50 Fighting Eagle upon his arrival at the Seoul Military Airport during Seoul International Aerospace and Defence Exhibition 2021 (ADEX) in Seongnam

Reuters | Seongnam, South Korea

South Korea should redouble its efforts to become a global defence industry leader, President Moon Jae-in told a military expo in the outskirts of Seoul yesterday, after landing at the site in an air force fighter jet.

Clad in a flight suit, Moon arrived at the biennial Seoul International Aerospace & Defense Exhibition (ADEX) in the back seat of an FA-50 jet fighter, South Korea's first indigenous supersonic aircraft and a major defence export.

The military display came a day after North Korea test fired a ballistic missile from a submarine. Last week North Korea opened a defence exhibition of its own, where leader Kim Jong Un said his country's military developments were for self-defence and accused South Korea of destabilising the peninsula with an arms build up.

In his speech yesterday, Moon defended the South's increasingly sophisticated military as necessary for peace.

"The goal of building strong defence power is always to foster peace," he said.

Amid glittering displays of drones, sniper rifles, helicopters, missiles, and other weapons, crowds of company representatives, diplomats, and South Korean troops mixed with military delegations in an array of foreign uniforms.

At least 440 companies from 28 countries are participating in what organisers said was the largest ADEX ever. About 300 government, military and defence acquisition officials from 45 countries were expected to attend the event, which lasts through Saturday.

Moon said it was time for South Korea's arms industry to become a global leader.

A royal rest: Queen Elizabeth told by doctors to take a break

Queen cancels trip to Northern Ireland

Doctors tell queen to rest

Queen, 95, to rest for next few days

Queen in 'good spirits' - Palace

Reuters | London

 ${
m B}$ ritain's Queen Elizabeth, the world's longest-reigning monarch, decided yesterham Palace said.

The palace did not say why and tomorrow." the queen had been told to rest, though it said the 95-year-old almost seven decades. She was monarch was in "good spirits" 25 when she became Queen and looking forward to visiting Elizabeth II on Feb. 6, 1952 on

night hosting a drinks recep- to the throne as Britain was tion at Windsor Castle for bil- shedding its imperial power, lionaire business leaders such has symbolised stability for as Bill Gates after Prime Mingenerations of British people, ister Boris Johnson convened building the popularity of the a green investment conference monarchy despite seismic ahead of the COP26 climate political, social and cultural

"The queen has reluctant- make it an anachronism.



Britain's Queen Elizabeth

ly accepted medical advice to rest for the next few days," the palace said.

"Her Majesty is in good spirday to rest for the next few its and is disappointed that she days on advice from doctors will no longer be able to visit and cancelled a planned visit Northern Ireland, where she to Northern Ireland, Bucking- had been due to undertake a series of engagements today

The queen has reigned for Northern Ireland in the future. the death of her father.

The queen spent Tuesday Elizabeth, who acceded change which threatened to



TWEETS

01



f we're going to end L the acute phase of the pandemic, life-saving drugs like molnupiravir must be available to everyone who needs them.

@BillGates

02



For the better part of the 20th century, America led the world in investments in ourselves, in our people, in our country. But now, we risk losing our edge as a nation. Passing the Build Back Better Agenda will help us regain the momentum that we've lost.

@JoeBiden



hree-quarters of the **I** infrastructure we need by 2050 has yet to be built. Our choices today will play a defining role in the battle against the climate crisis and the achievement of the #GlobalGoals. http://bit. ly/2zzjvib

@antonioguterres

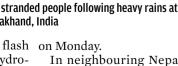
04



Ater, make sure you get a booster jab when offered to maintain your protection against COV-ID and keep your loved ones safe

@BorisJohnson

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)



In neighbouring Nepal, at least 43 people died and tered 30 were missing after three rains days of heavy rain, police state said on Wednesday.

India's annual monsoon wing rains usually run from June s said to September.