INTERNATIONAL

'What have we done wrong?'

Afghan girls ordered home just hours after schools reopen

AFP, Kabul

The Taliban ordered girls' secondary schools in Afghanistan to shut yesterday just hours after they reopened, sparking heartbreak and confusion over the policy reversal by the hardline Islamist group.

The U-turn was announced after thousands of girls resumed lessons for the first time since August, when the Taliban seized control of the country and imposed harsh restrictions on women.

The education ministry offered no coherent explanation even as officials held a ceremony in the capital to mark the start of the academic year, saying it was a matter for the country's leadership.

A Taliban source told AFP the decision came after a meeting late Tuesday by senior officials in the southern city of Kandahar, the movement's de facto power centre and conservative spiritual heartland.

Crestfallen girls at Zarghona High School in the capital, Kabul, tearfully packed up their belongings after teachers halted the lesson.

For Atiya Azimi the joy of school opening was shockingly brief.

"Suddenly we were told to leave until another order is issued," said Azimi, who was returning to grade 12 at Zarghona Girls School.

"What have we done wrong? Why should women and girls face this situation? I ask the Islamic Emirate to start our classes

US special envoy to Afghanistan Rina Amiri said the move "weakens confidence in the Taliban commitments". Children rest at a collecting point after fleeing from Mariupol

in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine. More than 3.6 million people have fled Ukraine since Russia's invasion, the

UN said yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Principal Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Technical School and College



'A real opportunity'

Palestinians, analysts say Israel is using the Ukrainian crisis to bring in Jews to maintain demographic 'supremacy'

INTERNATIONAL DESK

Israel is keen on bringing in Ukrainian Jewish refugees for the purpose of maintaining Jewish demographic "supremacy" over the Palestinian population, academics and analysts say.

Since the outbreak of the war with Russia on February 24, the Israeli government has called on Ukrainian Jewish refugees to immigrate to Israel and removed bureaucratic hurdles to secure their arrival as quickly as possible. Israeli officials said some 10,000 are expected to arrive in the coming weeks.

Last month, the World Zionist Organization's Settlement Division announced the building of 1,000 housing structures for Ukrainian Jews in both Israel and settlements in the illegally occupied Palestinian territories.

"Israel is seeing in the Ukraine crisis a real opportunity to bring Jewish people to increase the number of Jews in Israel," Lana Tatour, professor of settler-colonialism and human rights at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia, told Al Jazeera.

On Tuesday, Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh warned against promoting Israeli settlements in the West Bank with Ukrainian Jews, reported Asharq Al-awsat website.

"Demography is the central aspect of Zionism. The whole idea of Zionism is to bring together all the Jews of the world and transfer them to Palestine," political analyst Awad Abdelfattah told Al Jazeera.

Awad noted there has been no significant Jewish immigration to Israel since the resettlement of some one million Russian Jews following the breakup of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, making the Ukraine crisis beneficial to Israel.

Zelensky slams

FROM PAGE 1 German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said yesterday Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine has stalled despite the daily assaults inflicted by his troops, urging Moscow to "immediately" stop the

Hungary, Romania and Slovakia.

"humanitarian corridors".

Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Irvna Vereshchuk said an agreement has been reached to try to evacuate civilians trapped in towns and cities through nine

CHINA EASTERN JET TRAGEDY **Rescuers find a** black box

AFP, Wuzhou

A black box from the crashed China Eastern airliner was recovered yesterday as investigators try to piece together what made a jet carrying 132 passengers nosedive into a mountainside in southern China. The Boeing 737-800 plane went down near Wuzhou in southern China on Monday afternoon after losing contact with air traffic control. No one is expected to survive and the reason behind the accident is yet to be known.

Would only use nuke weapons if existence threatened: Russia

AFP. Washington

Russia would only use nuclear weapons in the context of the Ukraine conflict if it were facing an existential threat," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told CNN Tuesday. "We have a concept of domestic security, and it's public. You can read all the reasons for nuclear arms to be used," Peskov said. "So if it is an existential threat for our country, then it can be used in accordance with our concept." Peskov's comment came as interviewer Christiane Amanpour pushed him on whether he was "convinced or confident" that Putin would not use the nuclear option in the war.

Assange to marry in prison

AFP, London



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange and his fiancee Stella Moris were married yesterday, at the highsecurity London prison where he is being held during his extradition case. Assange, 50, is fighting attempts to remove him from Britain

to face trial in the United States over the publication of secret files relating to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Last week, the UK Supreme Court turned down a request to hear his appeal against the move, bringing the longrunning legal saga nearer to a conclusion. Moris, who is in her late 30s, has two sons with Assange.

CORPORATE BOOKING

Fantasy Kingdom and Water Kingdom will be reserved on 24th March (Thursday), 2022 for Corporate Booking.

From 25th March (Friday), 2022 Fantasy Kingdom and Water Kingdom will remain open for all.

Contact: 01969910100

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