

(1) US Accuses...

its influence in the Middle East and other parts of the world.

Referring to Tillerson's remarks, meanwhile, a number of lawmakers in parliament have said that destabilizing efforts against Afghanistan were because of rivalries between certain countries.

"Undoubtedly it is not our war, it is a war between Iran and the US, the war between Iran and the Arabs, the war between Indians and the Pakistanis, our officials should focus on this," said MP Farhad Majidi.

"There are two important factors, first the countries have been pursuing their own long term strategies, they want to reach their strategic objectives through pressure and influence; secondly, Iran tries to put pressure on its strategic rival the United States and its partner the Afghan government," said legal expert Nasrullah Stanekzai.

Despite concerted efforts, TOLONews was not able to get comment from the Iranian embassy in Kabul. However Tehran has always rejected such allegations in the past. (Tolonews)

(2) UN Condemns ...

whatsoever," said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan. "Fanning terror and sectarian violence against a specific community is abhorrent and those responsible must be brought to account."

The Secretary-General and UNAMA expressed condolences to the victims' families and wished a speedy recovery to the injured.

According to UNAMA, the attack is the fifth this year targeting Shia mosques, killing a total of at least 44 civilians and injuring at least 88. Four of the attacks occurred in Herat and the other in Kabul. Islamic State-Khorasan province claimed responsibility for two of these attacks.

In 2016, UNAMA recorded four separate attacks against Shia mosques and religious gatherings. Islamic State-Khorasan province claimed responsibility for two of those attacks.

Yesterday's attack took place one day after the assault against the Embassy of Iraq in Kabul, where two Afghan civilians lost their lives and one was injured.

The United Nations recalls international humanitarian law that prohibits deliberate attacks against civilians and civilian objects, including places of worship, as well as the cardinal principle of the inviolability of diplomatic premises. (PR)

(3) Ulema Scholars...

unprecedentedly in Afghanistan over recent months. Many Afghans believe the aim of this is to fuel sectarianism in the country.

"Islam rules out the creation of division. Enemies of Islam are trying to create division and disunity among the Shia and Sunni, but Islam does not accept division and hypocrisy," said another scholar Abdul Hadi Hedayat.

"We expect the government to ensure the security of those mosques which are under threat of terrorist attacks," said scholar Baz Mohammad Rahimi.

Four suicide attackers stormed a mosque in the western province of Herat on Tuesday killing at least 29 worshippers and injuring 64 others. The first attacker blew himself up in front of the mosque and then three others made their way inside the mosque and opened fire on worshippers.

The mosque attack sparked outrage in the country and abroad.

Several countries including the UN and the European union condemned the attack in the strongest possible terms. (Tolonews)

(4) Bereaved Families ...

Ali suffered wounds to his back. He asked government leaders: "If you can't ensure people's security, then stand down."

Farhad Haidari, another worshipper who was wounded in the blast, said: "There were a lot of casualties as more than 200 people were offering prayers and many of them were killed and injured."

Meanwhile, Sayed Ali, a resident, said his 10-year-old cousin was killed and his father was wounded in the attack. "Mosque is the home of God; why the 10-year-old guilty? Why the government is unable to ensure security of Afghanistan people."

Faramarz Haidari, whose seven family members were killed in the attack, said: "Many children were killed in the bombing. I also lost seven relatives, including a 10-year-old child."

Murtaza, 32, brother of a mosque's guard---who suffered injuries--- said the attackers first opened fire at his brother, injuring him and then forced

their way into the Masjid. "As the attackers stormed the mosque, they fired at worshippers until they ran out of bullets. And then they blew themselves up."

He dubbed the government as a 'factor' behind the massacre, saying: "No one came to rescue us. Police pick-ups are stationary and of no help to the bereaved families."

Earlier, a spokesman for the civil hospital in Herat City, Mohammad Rafique Sherzai, told Pajhwok that 29 dead bodies and more than 64 wounded people had been evacuated to different private clinics and public hospitals from the scene. He said many injured were in critical condition.

However, Abdul Ahad Walizada, Herat police spokesman, rejected the security forces had committed any negligence in preventing the attack.

He said police could not protect every street because of insufficient strength. Though no group has far come forward to claim credit for the attack on the Jawadia mosque; but Daesh group is believed to be behind it. (Pajhwok)

(5) Jaghatu Police ...

Friday when the rebels killed Gilan police chief.

Elsewhere in southern Helmand province, six police were killed after the Taliban stormed their posts in the Nawa district last night, a government official in the district told Pajhwok Afghan News.

He said the attack took place about two kilometers away from the district centre. Three police were also wounded and as many were missing after the attack. The official said the clash in the area was still ongoing and urged a major operation against insurgents in Nawa district.

Helmand police chief Briig. Gen. Abdul Ghafar Sapi said besides the security forces the Taliban also suffered casualties in last night clash in Nawa district. He said the situation in Nawa was under control and local and foreign forces were currently carrying out airstrikes in areas around the Nawa centre.

A resident of Kharaba area, Jalal, told Pajhwok Afghan News that a large number of Taliban militants who were not familiar with local residents had arrived in Nawa. He said several families had fled homes in their area fearing clashes between security forces and militants.

The Taliban also confirmed the clash in Nawa district and said the fighters had captured the Mohammad Amin post after killing 13 police. (Pajhwok)

(6) E-NIC Rollout ...

controversy over a certain Article in the Constitution. But the issue was later resolved following a presidential legislative decree.

The government later announced the establishment of an e-NIC monitoring committee comprising delegations from the Ministry of Interior (MoI), Ministry of Communications and IT (MoCIT), Ministry of Finance (MoF), the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) and the administrative office of the presidential palace. (Tolonews)

(7) Holland Lends...

Holland remained firmly committed to long-term cooperation with Afghanistan within the framework of NATO. He noted Afghanistan, despite facing multiple challenges had made remarkable progress over the last 15 years in the fields of education, health and the freedom of expression.

His country would advise and assist Afghan security forces and remain in Afghanistan as long as needed. Currently, about one hundred Dutch soldiers in Balkh province and elsewhere in the north are advising and training Afghan security and defense forces.

Last year, the diplomat recalled, his country had pledged \$300 million to Afghanistan. Over the past 15 years, based on his information, Holland has provided more than \$2 billion to Afghanistan in aid.

He said Holland's current financial assistance is provided through the International Monetary Fund and the Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA) to finance army and police salaries.

He regretted the attack on the Iraq embassy, saying he special forces moved swiftly to thwart the assailants. The Daesh-claimed assault left two Afghan employees of the embassy dead and a third injured. All four attackers were killed.

Under pressure from the international coalition in Iraq and Syria, Daesh had resorted to heavy attacks in Afghanistan. The embassy attack could be in reaction, the ambassador believed. If such an incident had happened four

years ago, the foreign forces would have supported their Afghan partners in eliminating the attackers. But Monday's attack was handled independently by the Afghan forces who skillfully rescued Iraqi diplomats, he acknowledged.

The envoy said there were rumours before 2013 that Afghanistan would fall to the militants if its security was handed over to local forces. But that speculation proved wrong and the Afghan forces were capable of dealing with tough situations, he added.

About the political landscape, he said it was an internal issue of Afghanistan but his country was watching the situation. He added Holland supported peace efforts of the Afghan government as well as the upcoming parliamentary elections. (Pajhwok)

(8) Work ...

MAIL spokesman Lotfullah Rashid said.

According to farmers, the new storage units will extend the shelf life of their produce.

"We store our fruit in our house and the fruit soon starts to rot. Then we sell it at a very low price. If we keep the fruit in cold storage facilities, then we can sell at a higher price," said Nasir Ahmad, a farmer in Kabul.

"More cold storage facilities should be established for us. There is a need for such facilities in every village. The products should be sent to the market from the cold storage facilities, not from farmers' houses," said Safiullah, another farmer.

MAIL statistics show that more than 2,800 cold storage units have been built across the country over the past three years.

The ministry has said it will build an additional 500 small and large cold storage units this year.

The lack of standard cold storage facilities has been a big challenge for farmers across Afghanistan.

On Monday, a number of traders said tons of fresh fruit has gone to waste at the Hamid Karzai International Airport because of the delay in cargo flights to India.

The traders said 42 tons of fresh fruit was transported to the airport on Friday and was scheduled to have been flown out on Saturday. (Tolonews)

(9) Abdullah Urges ...

as acting minister to the border ministry's employees.

Another statement from the CEO office quoted Abdullah as telling a ceremony at the Ministry of Border and Tribal Affairs (MoBTA) that the ministry had a great role in strengthening national unity, ensuring peace and resolving disputes.

He dubbed Sherzai's introduction as acting border and tribal affairs minister a prudent decision, saying effective personalities in government system could play vital role in the current conditions compared to other times.

He said Sherzai, as a veteran former jihadi figure and politician enjoyed huge support among the nation. Sherzai also spoke on the occasion, saying he had practical plans for national unity, preserving national interest, bringing about peace, protecting the country's borders and resolving tribal disputes. (Pajhwok)

(10) Casualties ...

Kandahar. Casualties were confirmed but they also did not give details.

"We are working to gather additional information as quickly as possible and will release more details as appropriate," RS said.

However, a source said that "at least seven foreign troops were killed in the attack and a civilian was wounded."

A TOLONews reporter who visited the scene of the bombing said that a foreign troop's vehicle was damaged in the attack and the area was blocked off to traffic. A foreign troops helicopter was also seen in the area.

The attack happened on a highway, close to the airport.

The Taliban has claimed responsibility for the attack. (Tolonews)

(11) Iran, Afghanistan, ...

"The meetings can bring the researchers of the three countries closer to each other and leave positive impact on the expansion of trilateral relations," Sajjadpour said.

Just some 72 km West of China-developed Gwadar port in Pakistan's restive province of Baluchistan, Chabahar, on the mouth of the Straits of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf, provides India a land-sea access route into Afghanistan and Central Asia through the Bandar Abbas-Caspian Sea axis.

Several foreign countries are willing to make huge investments in economic and infrastructure projects of Chabahar Port following the July 14 agree-

ment between Tehran and six world powers but Iran is scrutinizing the offers to select the most qualified ones as its future partners. (FNA)

(12) 153,000 People...

be used to facilitate voluntary transfer of the IDPs to their own areas and meeting their preliminary needs.

Mohammad Asif Rahimi, the Herat governor, also spoke on the occasion and urged attention to the phenomenon of displacement. He said the government should consider addressing IDPs' needs as a priority.

He said the government should facilitate permanent stay of IDPs who had long been living in Herat and were unable to return to their own areas. (Pajhwok)

(13) Work Launched...

for it. Work on the project has begun and will be completed in six or seven months," he said.

Eng. Hafizullah Hamdard, project manager at TIKA, told Pajhwok Afghan News it would be one of the biggest orphanages at the Afghanistan level. The two-storey building is being constructed on 1.5 acre of land.

He said the 26-room compound, with a dining hall, would have the capacity for 1,000 children.

Meanwhile, work on a perimeter wall around the Makhfi Badkhsi Recreational Park also began in Faizabad. Eng. Abdul Salam Naderi, a senior municipality official, said the park built on three acres of land lacked the wall.

The construction of the wall, 344 meters long, is funded by the GIZ of Germany and would take six months to complete, he added. (Pajhwok)

(14) Herat Mosque ..

officials have confirmed the attack was carried out by two suicide bombers.

The attack started when the suicide bombers entered the main gate of the mosque. One suicide bomber opened fire on a security guard who was sitting on a chair in front of an entrance gate.

The two attackers then entered the mosque through separate entrances and opened fire on worshippers who were sitting in orderly rows inside the mosque.

According to TOLONews reporter Jawed Ziaratjaee, the attackers used hand grenades to target the worshippers.

When they ran out of bullets, the two attackers then detonated explosives on their bodies.

Residents and eyewitnesses claim that at least 54 people were killed in the bombings.

"We moved 54 bodies and we are not aware about other martyrs who were taken to other health facilities and houses," said one eyewitness.

Eyewitnesses told TOLONews that two other attackers were waiting outside the mosque and opened fire on worshippers when they were running to save their lives.

The eyewitnesses said the two other attackers had left the area when their job was done.

Survivors of the attack claimed that police had not helped the worshippers despite their check post being only 50 meters down the road.

"When people went to the police check post they said it did not belong to them (to react to the attack)," said one resident.

Addressing a press conference on Wednesday, former minister of energy and water and former governor of Herat, Mohammad Ismail Khan, said government has failed to maintain law-and-order in the country.

"If we see further activity by the enemy in the country, I am sure that we will ask the Herat people to stand together against them in order to prevent us from mourning victims every day," he said.

The Presidential Palace has sent a fact-finding team to Herat to probe the incident.

The Herat governor's office has confirmed 29 people were killed and 64 others were wounded in the attack. (Tolonews)

(15) Up to 20 Years

million two hundred thousand and seven hundred 45 US dollars.

The army generals, officers, and the employee were arrested by the security forces during an operation nearly two months ago.

The trial of the army officials was organized amid ongoing efforts by the government of Afghanistan to root out corruption and embezzlement from the key government institutions as part of its commitment to the international community. (KP)

(16) MoD Plans to ...

and the government is not good and government does not consult with the elders to solve the problems," said Omara Khan Zamankhail, one tribal elder.

"Violence in the province will decrease if the government gives the elders responsibilities and provides financial resources," said Rajab Mohammad another tribal elder.

Security forces in the province also carry a huge responsibility to maintain security in Pul-e-Khumri city of Baghlan province.

Khalid, one soldier said: "We are trying to prevent Taliban from destabilizing the highway." (Tolonews)

(17) 5 Police, 2 ...

officers and 15 Taliban were killed and seven Taliban and two police officers were wounded in the clash.

The health condition of the injured policemen was said to be stable.

An official of Uruzgan Civil Hospital, who wished to go unnamed, confirmed receiving dead and injured security personnel from Tuesday night's attack.

A Taliban spokesman, Qari Yusuf Ahmadi said that five policemen were killed and one military tank and four weapons were seized by militants in Tarinkot attack.

According to another report, two civilians were stabbed to death by unidentified men in Rodat district of Nangarhar province.

Governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, identified the victims as Halim and Samim aged between 18 and 20, saying the two brothers came under attack while busy on irrigation.

He said an investigation was underway to find the murderers. The motive behind the incident is unknown. (Pajhwok)

(18) Taliban Militants ..

personnel and in some cases the Taliban militants themselves are killed or wounded.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in its latest reported highlighted that 40 per cent of all civilian casualties during the six-month period were killed or injured by anti-government forces using improvised explosive devices (IEDs), such as suicide bombs and pressure-plate devices, which were responsible for the deaths of 596 civilians and injured 1,483. (KP)

(19) 70 Taliban,...

Mujahid claimed many soldiers were killed in the attack and the fighters captured three posts. He said the fighting was ongoing as of Wednesday afternoon.

About five months back, Omnai district of Paktika province fell to Taliban after a coordinated attack. The district remains with insurgents. (Pajhwok)

(20) Life Returns to ...

Sharif Amiri has filmed the life of an eight year old girl named Kubra who was left paralyzed during the recent battles between the Taliban and the security forces.

The war has had a devastating effect on the economy and on the lives of the people.

Three days ago, the Afghan security forces started the checking and clearance operation in at least five villages of Baghlan-e-Markazi district which had been under the control of Taliban for two years. (Tolonews)

Two Brothers Stabbed to Death by Unknown Men in Nangarhar Province

JALALABAD - Two of a family were stabbed to death by unknown men in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan, the local officials said Wednesday.

The incident has taken place in the vicinity of Rodat district of Nangarhar late on Tuesday night.

The provincial government media office in a statement said the two brothers were in their field when unknown men attacked them and killed with knives.

The statement further added that the victims have been identified as Halim and Samim who were 18 and 20 year old.

The main motive behind the murder of the two men has not been ascertained so far.

The Nangarhar government said an investigation is under along with a search operation to detain the perpetrators of the incident.

This comes as there has been a sharp rise in criminal related incidents across the country as the observers believe that the growing poverty among the people is to be blamed for the majority of the criminal incidents. (KP)