

**(1) GOVT CRITICIZED...**

government's ability to keep the people safe and asked how insurgents breach secure areas such as mosques?

"Who should we complain to? No one was here to help us. There were no ambulances. This is not a government, this is a corrupt government," one resident said.

"Government is involved in this attack. Hours have passed since the incident but no government official has announced their support. Government has not paid any attention to our safety and security," a resident said.

The attackers first opened fire on two security guards outside the mosque and then entered the building; they then used hand grenades and later detonated their explosive vests, officials explained on Friday.

Although officials have put the death toll at 34, eyewitnesses and sources say the death toll was much higher.

"The nation and media should judge right now. We fought with attackers for 30 to 40 minutes inside the mosque but no one came to help us," said Sherin, a tribal elder in Paktia.

"We ask government to secure all mosques across Afghanistan and prevent such deadly attacks," said Haidar a resident of the area.

Paktia Police Chief Brigadier General Raz Mohammad Mandozai said they have started an investigation into the deadly incident.

"Past experiences have shown that such attacks on mosques are carried out by Daesh. Investigations will show whether Daesh is involved in the attack or not," said Mandozai.

The attack was widely condemned by government and international organizations.

President Ashraf Ghani said "the incident was inhuman and such criminal acts by terrorists among the people cannot create religious divisions, because Afghanistan is exemplary in Islamic unity and religious affiliation in the Islamic countries, and this will remain unchanged forever". The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) also issued a statement and condemned the attack - as did former president Hamid Karzai. (Tolo news)

**(2) Taliban Mulling...**

With the arrival of new political team was ascertain that current members, Jan Agha and Abbas Stanikzai, held a secret meeting with Masoum Stanikzai, head of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) and National Security Advisor (NSA) Mohammad Hanif Atmar.

According to Quetta based Taliban, Abbas also strived to send some key Taliban members to Saudi Arabia by the request of the Kingdom in an attempt to weaken the Doha based office and pave the way for another office in Saudi Arabia.

In addition, the Taliban leadership lost trust on Abbas and there had been some complaints in the past about him as well.

According to the source the Taliban had decided to appoint new representatives to the Doha office just ahead of the launch of peace negotiation with the US.

Pajhwok strived to get the views of Taliban Spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid but he could not reach for comments. (Pajhwok)

**(3) Ulema Call for...**

Ulema Council Head Maulvi Qeyyamuddin Kashaf expressed

joy over the approval of his suggestion by the president for ceasefire during the end of Ramazan and Eid-ul-Fitr.

"The Ulema want to suggest a permanent ceasefire which may lead to direct talks between the government and the Taliban which may lead to a permanent peace and stability," he said.

Two months back, thousands of clerics during a gathering asked the president to enter ceasefire with the Taliban which the president accepted and the country witnessed three -day truce without any violence.

Kashaf asked the government and the Taliban to declare another ceasefire just ahead of the Eid-ul-Adha.

Mohammad Akram Khapalwak, presidential advisor in political affairs, said the Ulema council has constituted three committees which will gather views and suggestion and develop a mechanism for its implementation.

The suggestions of Ulema and the mechanism would be presented to the president for approval and implementation, he added.

Khapalwak said people complained both from the Taliban and the government. On the Taliban part the mass complained against extremism while on the government part people complained against non-religious programs and both created tensions in the society. (Pajhwok)

**(4) Peace Movement...**

the album included photographs of war and violence that some of European countries were also involved in.

The peace movement would organize a huge gathering in Ghazi Stadium in Kabul next Thursday (August 9) and start journey by feet to north of the country a day later, Khyber said.

The peace movement was begun from southern Helmand province about two months ago and dozens of its members started their pedestrian journey from the province to Kabul which joined by many other people on their way.

The movement installed protest tents in front of the embassies of US, Russia, Iran, Pakistan and Britain. The tent of the movement is currently erected in Chaman-I-Huzuri in Kabul.

Mohammad Nikzad, a member of the peace movement, said that UNAMA and Russian and US embassies have promised to cooperate for ensuring peace in Afghanistan, while Iran and Pakistan delegations did not respond.

He said Pakistan and Iran were interfering in Afghanistan for their own interests and the conflict would also spread to them if the two neighbors continue meddling in Afghans' affairs.

Peace and ending the conflict are the main goals of this movement and it would continue until the two goals not achieved, Nikzad concluded. (Pajhwok)

**(5) Afghan Woman...**

her before a magistrate, who punished her to one month imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs20,000 on her.

Amjad Ali requested the top judge to order her release as her seven-month-old son is struggling for life in Canada. If Fatima does not make. (Pajhwok)

**(6) 34 Victims of...**

the mosque and detonated their explosives after killing the guards," he added.

SherinGardezi, another local, also assailed the government for its failure to act swiftly. But

police chief Brig. Gen. Raz Mohammad Mandozai rejected the claims and said residents took up weapons and allowed no one to enter the mosque. (Pajhwok)

**(7) UAE-Owned...**

coming months.

Shetty, founder and chairman of BRS Ventures, said: "I am thrilled that we have an opportunity to invest in Afghanistan. My motto in life has always been to serve mankind... I will ensure that we wholeheartedly enhance the public healthcare infrastructure in Kabul." (Agencies)

**(8) Ghazni Gets...**

facilitates.

Tahmena, a volleyball athlete, told Pajhwok Afghan News due to lack of gymnasium they were unable to show her volleyball skills.

She said they have been once or twice using the men gymnasium in a month in case of emergency but by constructing this gymnasium the issue would be solve. (Pajhwok)

**(9) Germany...**

court in the German town of Greifswald.

According to Spiegel, Nasibullah S. has been kept in a safe place near Kabul for the past few days by the German Foreign Office.

First to Pakistan

He is expected to first fly to the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, where the German Embassy will issue him a valid visa for the onward journey to Germany, Spiegel said.

The cost of Nasibullah S.' return journey will be borne by Germany's Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF), which has admitted to his wrongful deportation.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is looking after the logistics for the journey. (AFP)

### Russia Confirms Proposed Syria Cooperation with United States

MOSCOW - Russia's Defence Ministry confirmed on Saturday that it had proposed cooperating with the United States on Syrian refugees and de-mining in a letter sent to the top U.S. general in July.

The proposals on refugees concerned a refugee camp in Rukban, the ministry said in a statement.

In the letter, Valery Gerasimov, chief of the Russian military's General Staff, said Moscow was ready to discuss with Damascus safety guarantees for refugees stranded at Rukban, as well as creating conditions for their return home.

Rukban lies within a 55 km so-called de-confliction zone set up by the United States to ensure the safety of its garrison close to the Iraqi-Syrian border.

"A proposal was also made to coordinate humanitarian demining, including in Raqqa, and other priority humanitarian issues," the Russian ministry said. Reuters reported the letter on Friday, citing a U.S. government memo. (Reuters)

### Police, Protesters Clash in Bangladesh Capital; Many Injured

DHAKA, Bangladesh - Police in Bangladesh's capital fired tear gas and used batons on Saturday to disperse hundreds of protesting students angry over the traffic deaths of two fellow students, leaving many people injured. Dhaka remained largely cut off

from the rest of Bangladesh as buses continued to stop plying from other parts of the country. The owners and workers of the bus companies have said they will not run their vehicles unless they feel safe after dozens of vehicles were either vandalized or torched in Dhaka and elsewhere. Witnesses and media reports said Saturday's chaos broke out in Dhaka's Dhanmondi area as police and ruling party men swooped in on the students. A top leader of the ruling Awami League said some "criminals" wearing school uniforms joined the violence. Many protesters blamed the student wing of the ruling party for the attacks.

TV stations aired footage of the clashes, with protesters seen throwing stones at police as the chaos continued for hours.

An Associated Press journalist at the scene said many people, including some journalists, were injured in the clashes. The English-language Daily Star reported that up to 25 people were injured.

Thousands of other students took to the streets elsewhere in Dhaka on Saturday, but no major violence was reported.

The protests, which began last Sunday after two college students were struck and killed by a pair of buses, have paralyzed Dhaka, a city of 10 million. The two buses were racing to collect passengers, a common occurrence in the city, which is regularly gridlocked by traffic chaos. The protests are an embarrassment for the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ahead of a general election due in December. Hasina's party is blaming the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, headed by former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and its main ally Jamaat-e-Islami, for using the sentiment of young students to create chaos for political gains. Zia's party formally extended its support to the protesters. Hasina also said their demands are justified and pledged to fulfill them in phases.

The protesters are demanding safer roads in Bangladesh, where corruption is rife, making it easy for unlicensed drivers and unregistered vehicles to ply the roads. At least 12,000 people die each year in road accidents often blamed on faulty vehicles, reckless driving and lax traffic enforcement.

The students have stopped thousands of vehicles - including those of top officials and judges - demanding to see if the cars were registered and the drivers licensed.

Buses are key to transportation in Bangladesh, where trains are overcrowded and most people cannot afford cars. (AP)

### Red Alerts for Portugal, Spain amid Smothering Heat Wave

BARCELONA, Spain - Residents and tourists in Portugal and Spain stayed in the shade or flocked to the beach Saturday as southern Europe sweltered in a heat wave that has produced near-record temperatures and threatens to stick around for days to come.

The extremely high temperatures, caused by an influx of hot air from Africa, were also carrying loads of dust from the Sahara Desert.

Portugal issued red health alerts for extreme heat for more than half the country on Saturday, with thermometers approaching 46 degrees Celsius (114.8 degrees Fahrenheit). The country's highest ever recorded temperature was 47.4 C (117.3 F) in

2003.

Spain also issued warnings of extreme heat for its southern areas, with temperatures expected to reach 45 C (113 F) in the cities of Seville, Huelva, Badajoz and Cordoba. Spain's all-time record of 46.9 C (116.42 F) was set in Cordoba in July 2017.

In southern Portugal, the town of Evora was almost at a standstill Saturday as only a few foreign tourists dared to venture out to take photographs of the Roman ruins called Diana's Temple.

"Oh it's terrible," said tourist Paul Snell. "We're from Canada and never felt heat like this before. We're just drenched with water. Yeah, I need to hydrate constantly."

Francisca Serrano, a souvenir seller, added "we are used to high temperatures, but it seems the air doesn't flow and that makes it difficult to breathe."

Across the Iberian Peninsula in Barcelona, where the stifling air barely stirred during the night, Spaniards scurried to the beach with families and friends, along with swarms of sweating tourists.

Those who couldn't make it to the sea drank cold beverages under large umbrellas in city squares. Others doused their faces and necks in public water fountains, or simply pulled down the shutters and stayed at home.

Health officials issued reminders about the dangers that extreme heat can pose, especially for the elderly and the young.

The rest of Spain, including the normally wet and temperate northwestern region of Galicia, was also punished by the sun and heat.

The heat wave hit Friday, breaking local temperature records at eight places in Portugal. It also played a part in the deaths of two men, one in Barcelona and the other in the southern Spanish region of Murcia, according to Spanish authorities.

The hot, dry conditions have led to several wildfires in Portugal.

Nearly 700 firefighters and 10 water-dumping aircraft are fighting the biggest outbreak, which has burned 1,000 hectares (2,470 acres) near the town of Monchique in the southern Algarve region.

"It's a very serious situation of extreme heat," Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa said.

The World Meteorological Organization says continental Europe's heat record is 48 C (118.4 F), set in Greece in 1977.

Forecasts indicate that the hot air from Africa, which turned parts of the sky a dark yellow hue because of the dust it carried, will not abate until early next week.

The torrid weather has been felt across Europe, as far north as Sweden and Britain, whose weather service said July was the country's third-warmest month in more than a century. (AP)

### Shavkat Mirziyoyev Orders Creating Modern Business Centers in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - The "Business City" business centers will appear in the capital of Uzbekistan and regions of the country, Uzbek media reported referring to President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's decree "On measures to create modern 'Business City' business centers in the territory of the republic".

The centers are created in order to further improve the architectural appearance of cities, increase attractiveness for investors, raise modern buildings on the main tourism routes and create convenience for residents.

The head of state ordered to create a directorate for construction and operation of facilities in the territory of the "Business City". (Trend)