

(1) Attacks Against...

the capital, killing at least 12 people and injuring over 60 – including women and children. Following the attack, Resolute Support strongly condemned the incident which left three of its foreign civilian contractors dead. Shoffner said on Saturday: "Instead of seizing an opportunity to embrace peace, insurgents have again chosen violence in an attempt to remain relevant." "Regardless of the target of their attacks, insurgents continue to inflict a heavy toll on innocent Afghan civilians," he said. Shoffner said despite the attack, Resolute Support remains committed to assisting its Afghan partners in achieving sustainable security and stability. (ToloneWS)

(2) AISA Notes ...

saying: "If the current rate of economic downward trend continues then the country will march on path to economic crisis." The government, he said, should support investments and provide a favorable environment.

Earlier also, AISA had complained that the government did not present any holistic programme for economic development. AISA has devised -100day plans that include working out policies, identifying challenges and solutions.

Research and surveys, he said, comprised other parts of their -100days plan. "We will conduct surveys and research to have a clear picture of the country's economy and to understand which services AISA needs the most."

The critical situation in the country has been a major reason for the decline in investments that has also caused the afghani losing its value against major foreign currencies. (Pajhwok)

(3) Gen. Murad ...

and be prepared to repulse enemy attacks and counter their nefarious designs," he said, promising Afghanistan would never bow to foreign atrocities.

Gen. Murad insisted Afghanistan never harboured nefarious designs but "it is our neighbours who are fuelling the conflict in our country." He said the neighbouring countries had been informed to stop infiltration of terrorists into Afghanistan.

He vowed a tit-for-tat response to cross-border rocket strikes, saying Afghanistan was not an atomic power, but the determination of its people and armed forces was even stronger. (Pajhwok)

(4) EU Suspends ...

can work in real life and of course the pilot will show us whether in fact it can be rolled out successfully to the broader public but having the test move forward would be very informative for all of us and I hope it will happen soon than later because the card will be a big step for Afghanistan," he added. The electronic ID card distribution authority, meanwhile, warned that it would stop the program if it failed to get funds for it.

"If the government does not decide to launch the distribution of ID cards, we will be compelled to stop our work due to lack of funding to pay the employees," said Fayazuddin Gheyasi, the e-NIC program director. This comes after Ezmarai Baher, the head of the electronic National Identity Card department on Thursday called on the government to make a firm decision regarding the pilot roll out phase so as to avoid further delays.

In his remarks, Baher highlighted the issues facing his administration and said that the government must consider the budget as well as the employees working for the concerned department who have reportedly not been paid for months.

Initially, the timeframe for the pilot phase of the e-NIC roll out campaign was to have been Wednesday - August 19 - but President Ashraf Ghani said at a meeting recently with the ministers of interior affairs and communication that the cabinet

in its Thursday meeting will take the final decision regarding the matter.

"We hope that the cabinet will consider a number of important issues facing the institution such as the exact date for distribution of the IDs and finding a settlement to the budget issues. There are about 800 employees who have not received their salaries for several months," Baher said.

"Further delays will create more issues such as losing financial aid," he added.

Even the public is now calling for a decision to be taken. "So far the government has made several commitments and pledged that the process will start, then why is it not starting," a member of the public said.

This comes after USAID terminated its financial cooperation a few weeks ago in reaction to the continued delays. (ToloneWS)

(5) Afghan Leaders...

Danish said on Saturday. The Pakistani, and first and foremost the military establishment, has been accused of conducting a dual policy toward Afghanistan over the past fourteen years - giving overtures to peace and cooperation in rhetoric while covertly nurturing the Taliban insurgency.

President Ghani originally began his administration looking to turn over a new leaf with Pakistan, with a more conciliatory tone in his negotiations through mid summer. However, when peace talks with the Taliban fell apart and deadly attacks surged across Afghanistan, Ghani's approach shifted. Now, all Afghan leaders appear united against their common enemy - destabilizing actors within the Pakistani government.

"You [Pakistan] are playing with us for several years, and we can say that our embassy and diplomatic relations are cut," First Vice-President General Abdul Rashid Dostum said on Saturday. Afghan officials seem to believe the only way to ensure Pakistan's cooperation on counterterrorism is through exerting leverage via the international community.

"If they are serious about combating terrorism, then terrorism will be eliminated from the region," Ministry of Defense (MoD) deputy spokesman Dawlat Waziri told TOLONews. "But they must put pressure on the place where terror hideouts exist."

Despite maintaining its lack of involvement with the Taliban, the Pakistani government was able to get Taliban leaders to the negotiating table with Afghan officials last month. However, analysts have recently said that relations between Islamabad and the Taliban have frayed over the succession to the late Taliban supreme leader Mullah Omar.

"The Pakistani government has three faces, as Pakistan not only deceives us, but also deceives the world and its own people, former Taliban commander Qalamuddin told TOLONews. "Whatever it says, we should never consider it a honest move toward our government." (ToloneWS)

(6) Documents of ...

Brishna Sherkat (DABS), and ministries of defence, higher education, finance, public works, counternarcotics, and Kabul Municipality.

In the meeting, Yari added it was agreed that relevant department should pay utmost heed in implementation and monitoring of the projects. He said till now the NCP has conducted over 19 sessions, approving 230 projects worth 46 billion afghanis.

The NCP head said the contracts had positive impact on the economy and employment in the country.

In different session, according to Yari, the NCP has also evaluated documents of 48 firms that had technical issues in their documents. He noted 26 firms have been introduced to AGO and documents of 21 more firms were under investigation.

Presenting fake documents,

wrong information and providing other firms' contracts were of the violation that the firms were accused of.

He did not name the 26 companies and did not clarify for how long they would be suspended of receiving procurement contracts. (Pajhwok)

(7) Preparations ...

The CEO office spokesman lamented that the absence of computerized ID cards in past last elections, but said coming elections would be conducted under the computerized cards which would help prevent rigging. (Pajhwok)

(8) 41 Militants ...

Wardak and Ghazni provinces in past 24 hours.

The statement adds that 41 militants were killed, eight wounded and 19 others detained during these operations.

Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) have been engaged in large-scale operations against Taliban and other militant groups who are endangering the lives of bereaved people and the development of Afghanistan. (KP)

(9) Dozens of ...

attacking the house of Samad in order to capture him, but the commander and his men had been putting stiff resistance.

At least 10 ALP men were killed and another 25 were wounded during the attacks, he said, adding the Taliban also lost 25 fighters and another 61 were wounded in the ensuing clashes.

"Last night, Afghan Air Force personnel with support from foreign counterparts airlifted Commander Samad, his family members and 70 ALP personnel to Tirinkot," the police chief said.

He said police had conducted several operations to rescue the ALP personnel, but they had not been successful.

But Khas Uruzgan administrative chief Abdul Karim told Pajhwok Afghan News the -77member ALP force had been reduced to 32, including some injured ALP men. He said some of the ALP men had already been killed in clashes with militants and others had either detected to the Taliban or had fled the area.

The district chief said commander Samad lost four family members to the siege, but the attackers also suffered heavy casualties for which he provided no figures.

A Taliban's spokesman Qari Yousaf Ahmadi in a message to Pajhwok Afghan News confirmed that Mullah Samad had been airlifted by helicopters from the area, but his base had been captured by the fighters. (Pajhwok)

(10) Ghani Condemn...

government's commitment to stamping out insurgent activities in the country. He also shared his condolences with the families of those who lost their lives in the attack.

Meanwhile, NATO-led Resolute Support also strongly condemned the attack which left three of its foreign civilian contractors dead.

Brig. Gen. Wilson Shoffner, Resolute Support Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications said: "Instead of seizing an opportunity to embrace peace, insurgents have again chosen violence in an attempt to remain relevant."

"Regardless of the target of their attacks, insurgents continue to inflict a heavy toll on innocent Afghan civilians," he said.

Shoffner said despite the attack, Resolute Support remains committed to assisting its Afghan partners in achieving sustainable security and stability.

The United Nations Assisted Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) also strongly condemned the attack. Once again they called for insurgents to immediately stop all such attacks on civilian-populated areas in the country.

Meanwhile, through it's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan said it "condemns, in the strongest terms, the suicide attack that took place near a hospital in Kabul [Saturday] which resulted in the loss of precious lives and left many people injured".

"We standby with our brotherly people of Afghanistan in this moment of grief and convey our deepest condolences to the bereaved families. We pray to Almighty Allah to grant them patience and forbearance in this hour of difficulty and hope for the speedy recovery of the injured," read the statement.

"The abominable act of targeting innocent civilians reflects the cowardice of the terrorists. It strengthens our resolve to continue our struggle of countering terrorism in all of its forms. We reiterate our resolve to closely coordinate with the Government of Afghanistan in this fight against our common enemy."

Saturday's attack took place during afternoon rush hour traffic in Macroyan 4 in Kabul city - which is primarily a residential area

The target of the attack was a convoy carrying foreigners. Three U.S nationals, employed as civilian contractors with Resolute Support, were killed along with at least nine Afghans. Over 60 people, including women and children, were injured.

The deadly blast also caused extensive damage to nearby buildings, including a private hospital, homes and to scores of vehicles.

The Taliban however has denied involvement in the bombing. According to a statement they said they were not involved in any way in the attack.

This latest attack comes amid a recent spate of deadly blasts that have rocked the country's capital - killing scores of people and injuring hundreds - mostly civilians.

High-ranking officials, including Ghani, CEO Abdullah Abdullah and others have all pointed fingers at Pakistan in the past two weeks for the attacks. After coming in to power, Ghani sought to turn over a new leaf with Pakistan, and took a more conciliatory tone in his negotiations. However, following the suspension of peace talks with the Taliban and the recent attacks on Kabul, his approach has changed.

Two weeks ago, Ghani addressed the nation and made it clear that the recent Kabul bombings, particularly that in Shah Shaheed - which killed 15 and injured over 400 people, mostly civilians - was unacceptable and that it was a game changer for the country.

He said the only message he was getting from Pakistan was one of war and that so long as there was bloodshed in the country, the relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan meant nothing. According to him Afghanistan can no longer stand back and witness the killing of its citizens.

Pakistan has however continued to deny links to the Taliban and condemned the recent attacks. They also repeatedly state that there is a need for joint efforts to root out terrorism.

But Ghani has continued to push for international support to put pressure on Pakistan over its ties to terrorism in the region - a move that has had some effect as last week Washington cut off billions of USD in financial aid to Pakistan, stating Islamabad had not adequately worked to counter terrorist groups within its borders, like the Haqqani Network. (ToloneWS)

(11) Special Forces ...

from Khas Uruzgan to a safe location. According to a senior coalition advisor: "This complex operation involving multiple aircraft flying during hours of limited visibility and in difficult terrain was a complete success and saved dozens of lives. It is a remarkable example of the capabilities of the Afghan Special Security Forces and the Afghan Air Force."

The Afghan Security Forces are committed to continuing operations in order to provide stable security in Uruzgan province. (Pajhwok)

(12) Helmand's Musa...

Taliban. Taliban on their website claim that

they have occupied a security post in Qasaban area.

Taliban waged a serious of major attacks on government facilities and some districts after announcing their spring offensive in April. But they have not been able to hold an area longer. (KP)

(13) \$267m Worth ...

open borders of Afghanistan. "The findings of our research shows that precious and semi-precious stones worth 267 million USD are annually smuggled to Pakistan through open borders of the country," Kabul University lecturer, Hasibullah Moahid told TOLONews on Saturday.

He urged government to draw a workable plan for preventing this illegal trend.

Meanwhile, officials in the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum said they have drafted a plan for preventing smuggling of precious and semi-precious stones, and that illegal mining will also be prevented after implementing of the plan.

"We have prepared a plan which includes the code of the services for processing precious stones, serious cooperation with security forces in preventing illegal mining and smuggling of stones," the spokesman for Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, Muhayuddin Noori told TOLONews. "We will stop illegal extraction of mines by implementing the plan."

This comes amid rising concern by analysts who say the increase in illegal trade between Afghanistan and Pakistan is detrimental to the country's development and that government should stop this practice as soon as possible. (ToloneWS)

(14) 260 Rebels ...

and 28 of them handed over to intelligence officials for investigation and the rest freed, he added.

A large quantity of weapons, explosives, ammunition and three motorcycles have been confiscated. Gen. Waziri said the dead militants included three prominent commanders, the shadow deputy chief for Khogyani district, three landmine-making experts and a Pakistani doctor.

Police chief Sherzad said the operation was a success and there had been complete coordination among the security forces.

He said seven security posts had been established in the Hesarak district to further improve the security situation there.

Sherzad said they had consulted tribal elders, religious scholars and local civil and military officials in the three districts before launching the operation and during the operation. The consultations had produced good results, he said.

However, the two officials said nothing about casualties among civilians and security forces.

But Nangarhar provincial council secretary Ajmal Omar said it was not a large scale operation which had no significant achievement. He accused security officials of exaggerating the gains.

He acknowledged local elders and people had been consulted ahead of the launch of the operation, but disputed the gains.

The public representative said civilians had also suffered casualties during the operation. Five members of a family were killed and eight others wounded when mortar shells hit their house in Tutu area of Sherzad district. However, he said it remained unknown who fired the mortar shells.

A tribal elder in Khogyani district, Malak Nawab, said security forces had just gone through the Khogyani district and were actually conducting the operation in Sherzad and Hesarak districts.

He said some brief clashes had taken place in the district but there was no major clash.

The Taliban have so far said nothing about casualties the fighters suffered during the operation, but they had claimed inflicting casualties on security forces in the same districts during the past three weeks. (Pajhwok)

(15) Taliban Says ...

attacks across the country including capital Kabul.

Scores of people were killed or wounded in a series of deadly attacks by the Taliban group in capital Kabul earlier this month.

A truck packed with explosives in Shah Shaheed area of Kabul city early on Friday morning on 7th August which left at least 15 dead and dozens of others wounded.

Two back to back explosions rocked capital Kabul late on the same day which left at least 27 police recruits dead along with a NATO service member and 8 contracted civilians of the Resolute Support mission. (KP)

(16) Fraud in ...

Sayed Omar Saboor, is fully visible on the passport, but the signatures of Muqaddami herself is fake, exposing that the passport was sent to her in the UAE.

According to Saboor, the fake passport was issued from a branch office in western Herat province, which borders Iran. He also claimed that Muqaddami was holding a Afghan national identity card when she applied for the passport, and that the identity card's veracity had been confirmed by several officials.

"She is holding NIC, a Herat district lawyer has endorsed her as a resident and the Herat Police Chief has also signed the document," Saboor said on Saturday.

"Then she was issued the passport from the Herat passport department," he added. While corruption within the Afghan government and administrative branches throughout the provinces is a well-known reality, the case of Muqaddami is likely to spark a particular amount of backlash because of the consequences it has on Afghans' ability to travel to the UAE.

"There is corruption, and people get multiple passports with different names," an Afghan businessman named Abdul Jabbar told TOLONews. "The UAE has imposed more restrictions on us because of this issue." (ToloneWS)

(17) Scores of ...

Taliban. Another security official in the district said that more than 50 Taliban had been killed in the overnight attack in Musa Kala. (Pajhwok)

(18) Enraged ...

condition of the wounded was stable.

The incident, he said took place around 100 meters away from a police post but police could not chase the attackers. Jahish who served 20 years in education had no personal enmity with anyone, Shaheed said, urging relevant organs to take the perpetrators to justice.

He added that protesters torched a security post and the rally was still underway. (Pajhwok)

(19) Koreas Resume...

the Korean War, is something of a victory.

The length of the first round of talks - nearly 10 hours - and the lack of immediate progress are not unusual. While the Koreas often have difficulty agreeing to talks, once they do, overlong sessions are often the rule. After decades of animosity and bloodshed, however, finding common ground is much harder. (AP)

(20) China has...

people rise to positions of power not because of their birth or wealth but for their own merits.

In his recently published book "The China Model: Political Meritocracy and the Limits of Democracy", he analyzed how China's political system has transformed the country into the world's second largest economic power. (Xinhua)

(21) President ...

Agreement on Peace and National Accord of Jun. 27 1997.

Dorfmann proposed to use the Tajik experience in establishing peace and achieving national reconciliation as a model for the settlement of other national conflicts. (Agencies)