

(1) 80 Dead, ...

directed government institutions concerned to use all necessary arrangements to make sure the speedy recovery of wounded persons. He advised to shift the critical injured to the top health facilities such as Daud Khan Hospital, NDS health facility and others.

Mohammad Ismael Kawasi confirmed the casualties in the explosions that took place in the middle of the crowd at around 2:30 pm.

Khand Ali Radmand, one of the rally participants, said that the first explosion happened near the Barikot Cinema and the second followed in Demazang Square. He said a large number of people were wounded and evacuated to hospitals.

Dr. Mohammad Saber Naseb, Istiqlal Hospital director, said scores of wounded had been brought to the hospital and there was a possibility of more injured would be shifted to the facility.

A security official, who wished to go unnamed, revealed the explosions were probably suicide attacks. Some enraged protesters gathered after the explosions at around 3:30 and threw stones at security officials.

The Islamic State (IS) group claimed responsibility for the deadly bombing of a protest march in the Afghan capital, Kabul. (DoA/Pajhwok)

(2) Kabul Rally ...

their humanitarian rights.

"I reiterate that international humanitarian law prohibits the deliberate targeting of civilians and international human rights law requires the government and non-state actors to respect and protect the rights to freedom of assembly and freedom of expression. The perpetrators of today's attack must be held accountable."

The powerful UN Security Council also issued a statement, condemning "in the strongest terms" the "heinous and cowardly" terror attack on Saturday.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday "strongly" condemned the "dastardly terror attack" in Afghanistan.

"I strongly condemn the dastardly terror attack on innocent civilians in Kabul. Sincerely condole loss of lives and injuries in senseless violence," Modi tweeted.

Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has urged the world community to join forces to fight terrorism, which is a common enemy of humanity. In his message to the people of Afghanistan, he condemned loss of human lives in bomb blasts in Kabul. Nawaz Sharif said terrorists have no religion and they do not have any respect for humanity. He said terrorism should be dealt with iron hands. He expressed Pakistan's unflinching stand to fight terrorism. The Prime Minister said Pakistan is a front line state in war against terrorism. He said Islamabad rendered unmatched sacrifices in war against terrorism and suffered multiple losses. The Prime Minister said Pakistan is ready to extend every kind of support to Afghanistan in war against terrorism. He expressed solidarity with the people and the government of Afghanistan over the loss of precious human lives. He commiserated with the bereaved families and prayed for early recovery of injured and eternal peace for the deceased.

UN Special Representative to Secretary General in Afghanistan, Tadamichi Yamamoto, in a statement said that on behalf of the United Nations in Afghanistan, I condemn in the strongest possible terms today's attack that killed and maimed hundreds of civilians gathered to peacefully demonstrate in Kabul city. This attack is particularly heinous because it targeted civilians as they exercised their rights to freedom of assembly and freedom of expression.

He further added that an attack deliberately targeting a large, concentrated group of civilians amounts to a war crime. This incident is an outrage that cannot be justified. It is an attempt to spread terror amongst civilians and stifle the freedoms that Afghans have sacrificed so much to obtain. The United Nations stands firmly with the people of Afghanistan as they seek to exercise their fundamental human rights. I reiterate that international humanitarian law prohibits the deliberate targeting of civilians and international human rights law requires the Government and non-state actors to respect and protect the rights to freedom of assembly and freedom of expression. The perpetrators of today's attack must be held accountable, he added.

Amnesty International (AI) has also condemned the attack as an act of terrorism. The organization in a statement said that the attack in fact demonstrates terrorists' disrespect to the lives of the people.

Amnesty International further said that the attack clarifies that the level of threats in Afghanistan remained high and it dismissed the ideas of those who say that everything was alright in the country.

The organization said: "The horrific attack on a group of peaceful protesters in Kabul today demonstrates the utter disregard that armed groups have for human life."

The organization's director for South Asia, Champa Patel said: "Such attacks are a reminder that the conflict in Afghanistan is not winding down, as some believe, but escalating, with consequences for the human rights situation in the country that should alarm us all."

"I reiterate that international humanitarian law prohibits the deliberate targeting of civilians and international human rights law requires the government and non-state actors to respect and protect the rights to freedom of assembly and freedom of expression. The perpetrators of today's attack must be held accountable."

Iranian foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has also condemned the attack and called on the Islamic world to jointly fight terrorism particularly Daesh.

European Union in Kabul strongly condemned attack in Kabul. In a statement released in Kabul stated that We extend our condolences to the families and friends of the victims and express our solidarity with the Afghan people. We stand by the Afghan authorities in the fight against terrorism and call on all Afghans to stay united in support of the efforts to fight this global threat.

The United States (US) embassy in Kabul and Resolute Support (RS) condemned in the strongest terms the cowardly bombing attack that claimed scores of innocent lives in Kabul during a peaceful demonstration in which citizens were exercising their constitutional rights.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and loved ones of the deceased, and we wish all of those who were wounded a full recovery. We will continue to stand with our Afghan partners and friends as they strive every day to bring peace and security to Afghanistan," read a statement from the US diplomatic mission. Separately RS strongly condemns Saturday's enemy attack that targeted a peaceful protest and killed dozens of civilians and injured many more, according to a statement issued by the NATO led military mission.

"Our condolences go out to those who are affected by today's attack," said Resolute Support Commander, Gen. John W. Nicholson. "We strongly condemn the actions of Afghanistan's enemies of peace and remain firmly committed to supporting our Afghan partners and the National Unity Government."

The Resolute Support Commander also praised the Afghan law enforcement officials and medical personnel whose efforts prevented additional casualties. (PR)

(3) President, CEO

security measures the terrorist managed to enter to the rally and carry out the explosions which resulted in the killing and injuring of innocent people including security officials.

Afghan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah also condemned the attack and said on twitter the attack had been cowardly.

He said: "Terrorists must know that such attacks won't stop Afghans from standing together and making Afghanistan a better place."

"We need to step up and stand united against this and other such horrible atrocities. We must combat our enemies," he said.

"Our nation stands in solidarity and prays for all of those affected by this heinous and unjustifiable act of terror," he added.

"I condemn the attack and pray for those who lost their lives or got injured in the terrorist attack today." He said that this attack showed that "Taliban terrorists have no respect for human lives." (Pajhwok)

(4) Poppy Source ...

that paved the ground for the cultivation of the plant, he explained.

Abdul Razzaq, a grower from Argu district, said that since agricultural land in Badakhshan was inadequate, most of the poor people chose to cultivate the illicit crop.

He suggested the government should take tangible steps for the development of agriculture and ensure availability of refined seeds and fertilisers to the growers at subsidised rates.

According to Affendi, last year 169 kilograms of heroin, 984 kilograms of opium, 73 kilograms of hashish, 135 litres of alcoholic drinks, more than 450 kilograms of chemicals and weapons were recovered from smugglers.

Nazar Najji, the provincial council

member, lashed out at international community and said they world had failed to eliminated growing of poppy in Afghanistan despite investment of billions of dollars.

He said the assistance provided last year did not go to the deserving people. As a result, farmers felt discouraged and did not cooperate with eradication efforts. He stressed a halt to the smuggling of drugs to the world market.

Saadullah Abu Aman, head of the Ulema Council, said drug trafficking and its cultivation was forbidden in Islami. Growing the illegal crop was dangerous for the rising generation and society at large, he added.

According to the United Nation Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), more than 30,000 people, including women and children, are addicted to drugs in Badakhshan. (Pajhwok)

(5) Ghani Participates...

of parliament, ministers, presidential palace advisors and a number of other political and national figures. (Pajhwok)

(6) Bamyan PC ...

PC office indefinitely to register their protest against yesterday's attack.

Mohammad Hassan Asadi, a member of the PC, said the council office was closed to show solidarity and express sympathy with the families of those who lost their lives in the devastating bombings.

"In close coordination with civil society, we want justice and our local representatives and activists stand with the victims."

Recitation of the holy Quran was underway on Sunday in many mosques of the country to pray for the departed souls of the slain individuals. (Pajhwok)

(7) Trapped Residents ...

society activist, alleged the government did not listen to the public demand for sending more troops to the areas under threat. "We are worried about the situation in Qala-i-Zal," he said, adding people were facing food scarcity of food and other necessary items.

But Syed Mahmood Danish, the governor's spokesman, said no district had been overrun by the Taliban. He denied the fall of Qala-i-Zal, saying a massive clearing operation was underway over the past four days in the district and heavy losses had been inflicted on the enemy.

Earlier, public representatives and a lawmaker expressed their concern at the deteriorating security situation in Kunduz, saying the provincial capital could once again fall to the Taliban if the tide of insecurity was not reserved.

The concern was raised after Taliban captured Qala-i-Zal and got locked in an intense gunbattle with security forces in Dashti-i-Archi district. Senate Secretary Abdullah Qarraq, who represents Kunduz in the upper house, told provincial council members the district had fallen due to the government's negligence.

He said fierce clashes were currently underway between the security forces and the insurgents in Dashti-i-Archi district, where the rebels had captured several areas. (Pajhwok)

(8) Interior Ministry...

banned for the next 10 days, Molsaid. The government was trying to protect people's rights and freedoms in line with the constitution and international conventions. All efforts had been made to protect the rally, but the enemies remained adamant on massacring civilians, the ministry concluded. (Pajhwok)

(9) 74 Afghans...

expressed his concern over the harassment of Afghan refugees residing in Pakistan. The harassment would lead to further deterioration of relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, he warned.

In a statement, the Pakhtun nationalist leader said his party would not allow the harassment of refugees. The prevailing tension was neither in the favour of Pakistan nor Afghanistan, he said, adding the enemies of peace would take advantage of the current conditions.

He appealed to pro-peace quarters in both countries to come forward and play their role in saving the region from a disaster. (Pajhwok)

(10) In Memorial...

freedom and justice as a large number of men and women sacrificed their lives for the enforcement of democracy.

Ghani changed the name of Deh Mazang Square to Shahidan (Martyrs) Square in respect and remembrance of the people who lost their lives in the terrorist attack claimed by Daesh.

The Martyrs Square would remind future generations of Afghanistan how many people had laid down their lives for promoting democratic

values, the statement said.

The president also ordered the Kabul Municipality to rename Deh Mazang as Martyrs Square. (Pajhwok)

(11) No Bills...

recently increased from 5 afghanis to 6.25 afghanis.

The residents say the enhanced price was not acceptable to them as it has a huge difference with rate applicable in Kabul. Mohammad Salim, hailing from 3rd municipality district, said the government had no right to raise the tariff at time when it could not create jobs.

He asked if the government was answerable to the people, why the price of electricity was uneven in different provinces of the country. He warned if the government did not bring down the price of electricity, they would not pay electricity bills.

PC Head Mohammad Afzal Hadid justified the public complaint and announced his support to the people. He said they had discussed the issue with authorities in Kabul but did not receive a satisfactory answer from them.

"Residents of Balkh have rendered huge sacrifices; now is the time for Kabul inhabitants to scarify through paying high electricity dues," remarked Hadid, who warned if the government did not listen to their voices, they would take to the streets. Munir Farhad, spokesman for the acting governor, defended the demands of PC members and residents. He said Governor Atta Mohammad Noor, during a recent meeting with the Breshna Shirkat officials, had demanded a review of the power tariff in Balkh.

Zabihullah Akhtari, technical officer at the governor's house, believed the price of electricity might come down if the Balkh Kod plant was privatised. He said 40 MW of electricity from Uzbekistan had been diverted to Mazar-i-Sharif, while the Kod plant, if rehabilitated, would generate 5MW.

Instead of the 40MW electricity, if 35MW are imported from Uzbekistan and 5MW generated by Kod Plant - cost 2.5 afghanis per Kilowatt - the price would automatically decline, he argued.

Syed Roolullah, deputy director of Da Afghanistan Breshna Shirkat (DABS), said electricity price in Kabul ranged between 2.5 afghanis per kilowatt up and 10 afghanis but there was a uniform rate of 6 afghanis in Mazari-i-Sharif.

He agreed with the plan of provincial authorities to activate the Kod power plant but said the project could not be relied on. He said they had to use gas to generate electricity. If there is a shortage of gas, they will face power outages. (Pajhwok)

(12) Sayyaf Asks ...

"They [Daesh] have been professionalized in crime and oppression. They [Daesh rebels] enjoy seeing pieces of bodies on streets," he added.

Sayyaf said: "Preventing a crime should not be ignored, the order of God and His Messenger needs to be applied in this matter."

In response to a question about what he thought the motive behind such attacks was, Sayyaf said: "Those who have created these groups want to paint a black picture of Islam to the world while these acts are forbidden in Islam."

Meanwhile, the public has demanded that serious measures must be taken to end the fragile situation in the country and that Afghanistan's security and stability need to be strengthened.

"We do not want bread or water, we only want security from government," said Sher Zaman, a school teacher.

Political analysts said they believe that an organized attack by Daesh in the capital shows that the group can pose a serious threat to Afghanistan and that government should roll up its sleeves to overcome the issue. (Tolnews)

(13) Delhi Praises...

the abducted woman. "Thank you, Afghanistan - for all your help and support in rescuing #Judith. Ambassador @VohraManpreet - you have done an outstanding job."

Vohra last tweeted: "Judith D'Souza is with us - safe and in good spirits. She will reach her motherland at the earliest. Vande Mataram [India's national anthem]."

D'Souza's brother Jerome D'Souza too thanked the Indian government for finding her. "Our family's joy knows no bounds," he said. D'Souza works as senior technical advisor on gender-related issues at the Aga Khan Foundation in Afghanistan. After passing from Loreto Day School in Kolkata, she completed her graduation from St Xavier's College in the city. (Pajhwok)

(14) 15 Detained After...

Pajhwok Afghan News five other Taliban militants, who were injured in the blast, had been arrested by security forces.

Mamozai added some speakers at the funeral ceremony delivered inflammatory speech against the government, drawing an angry reaction from other participants.

In the ensuing clash, two of Shakoors supporters were killed and two others injured. He said security forces had arrested 15 people in connection with the incident.

However, resident Abdul Basir said six pro-government men were also killed in the incident. The Taliban have not yet commented on the clash. (Pajhwok)

(15) Baghlan, Balkh, ...

the enemies of Afghanistan showed that they pay no respect to humanity; therefore, we should be alert and we should not take any steps that puts people's lives in danger," said Herat governor Mohammad Asif Rahimi. The Afghan flag was also lowered to half-mast in Herat city and other districts of the province and residents held prayer ceremonies for the victims.

Balkh civil society activists, provincial council members and residents also held a ceremony in Mazar-e-Sharif city where they urged government to recognize and punish the perpetrators of the attack.

They warned that if government remains reluctant to find the perpetrators, people will lose trust in it and the gap between the public and the state will widen.

They also said that protesting is the civil right of every Afghan and they slammed the bombing. Meanwhile, Baghlan activists, clerics and residents said the attack was against the teachings of Islam and that government should take revenge.

They said such attempts will not divide Afghans as they have remained united so far.

Baghlan residents also donated blood to pay tribute to the Kabul attack victims. (Tolnews)

(16) More Than...

had increased in recent days. Sharifullah, a resident of Kot district, said the ANA commandoes launched the clearing offensive in area. He suggested the operation should continue and security forces should establish check-posts in cleared areas.

Lt. Col. Sherin Aqa Faqiri, the 201st Selab Military Corps spokesman, said weapons and ammunition of the group were also destroyed. But Daesh has not yet spoken about the offensive and its casualties. (Pajhwok)

(17) 100 Afghan...

the provincial governments should respect the agreement.

"Afghan nationals saved the borders of Pakistan and defeated Russia," he told journalists. "The governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan should resolve their differences and avoid creating difficulties for refugees," he remarked. (Pajhwok)

(18) 4 Kidnapped...

Qari Sadr had been killed along with four accomplices in a retaliatory attack by security forces in Pir Gharib area on Saturday night.

"Qari Sadr was a close associate of Qari Hekmat and a key member of the Taliban movement," he said, adding security forces suffered no casualties in the clash.

But Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said he was unaware of the clash in Pir Gharib area. (Pajhwok)

(19) 3 Civilians ...

on Saturday. Agha Jan, the district chief, said the incident took place when Taliban militants launched attacks on Afghan National Army (ANA) troops.

He said three attackers were also injured in a retaliatory attack from the soldiers. The Taliban have not yet commented on the incidents so far. (Pajhwok)

(20) Zabol Governor...

incident. He said security forces were currently exchanging gunfire with the assailants. He had no information about casualties. However, a resident of the area said a policeman was injured in the attack. (Pajhwok)

(21) Beating Severe...

the incorrect use of drugs, are also drivers for MDR TB.

The Afghan Ministry of Public Health with support from the international community including UNDP has responded by equipping more than 3,000 health facilities with basic TB testing capabilities and first- and second-line TB drugs.

In addition, GeneXpert testing facilities have been rolled out in Kabul, Jalalabad, Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif, cutting diagnosis times from eight weeks to a mere two hours.

At first, Benafsha was heartbroken that she had to be referred to a specialized TB hospital in Kabul, several hundred miles from her hometown. But it is the only facility in Afghanistan that treats multi-drug-resistant TB.

Here, Benafsha, was hospitalized for eight months to prevent the spread of her resistant strain of TB and allow doctors to supervise her drug regimen.

Right now, the MDR TB hospital in Kabul is treating 345 patients, of whom 47 are in-patients undergoing the initial eight-month treatment. After release, patients are required to come to the hospital once a month for at least 16 months to collect medicine and get lab tests. Altogether, it takes two years for an MDR TB patient to recover fully.

But there will soon be a rise in diagnosis and treatment of the multi-drug-resistance TB with the new hospitals being built with UNDP support in Jalalabad, Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif. Each of these 24-bed hospitals will have the capacity of treating more than 200 multi-drug-resistant TB patients.

Benafsha soon realized that coming to the Kabul hospital so soon after her diagnosis was in fact been a real blessing. While there, she heard stories of patients who faced huge difficulties before they could get treatment. Patients like Madina.

Madina, 30, was brought to the hospital on a stretcher. "I was so weak and emaciated I couldn't come by foot," she says as she sighs. "I coughed, had trouble breathing and could barely eat anything."

Madina had been already treated irregularly for TB for more than two years back in her farming community in central Logar province. Madina could hardly read or write and was married with two children when she was first diagnosed. (Pajhwok)

(22) Deep Republican...

party leader giving a speech that withholds any endorsement, let alone one that is not enthusiastic, is unheard of," he said.

It was a reference to the Texas senator Ted Cruz. Trump's closest primary rival shocked the Republican convention by refusing to endorse the nominee.

Prominent Republicans, including 18 out of the 54 Republican senators, did not show up at the convention held in Cleveland, the state of Ohio. (Xinhua)

(23) Britain's Labour...

along with most of the leader's front bench team. He has the backing of most MPs, but Corbyn has won massive grass roots support around the country. (Xinhua)

(24) Clinton, Kaine...

while attacking the Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump.

"Hillary Clinton is the direct opposite of Donald Trump," he said, claiming he and Clinton are "soulmates in this great fight" for progressive agenda.

"From Atlantic City to his so-called university, he leaves a trail of broken promises and wrecked lives wherever he goes," Kaine said. "We can't afford to let him do the same thing to our country," Kaine said of the New York billionaire, adding that Trump's foreign policy positions are even considered dangerous among Republicans. (Xinhua)

(25) China Opposes...

growth in the region is facing challenges against the backdrop of globalization. With an anemic global economy, Asian countries, which have to do business with countries outside the region, will inevitably be affected, Liu said. Asian nations must be mindful that regional cooperation should not be obstructed by differences between countries in the region. (Xinhua)

(26) G20 Nations...

outages, disruptions to communication and other infrastructure, and road closures across Jingxi. North and northeast China have been swept by heavy rain this week, causing many casualties and a lot of property damage. (Xinhua)

(27) UNSC Calls...

signed by Libya's rival political parties in December in Morocco.

A few days ago, the UN Support Mission in Libya sponsored a political dialogue in Tunisia to discuss how to solve the most pressing issues in Libya, including the implementation of the peace agreement as well as security and the economy. However, Libya's High Council of State has criticized the performance of the dialogue team, saying it lacks expertise on military and other matters. (Xinhua)