

(1) 90 Killed, ...

Mohammad Idris Sarwari, in charge of security at the German embassy, confirmed the killing of two Afghan guards of the embassy and injuries to as many others. Two more have been missing.

Nine security guards at a base of foreign forces in the area were among the fatalities. Kabul police chief Shah Hussain Farogh said the explosives had been placed in a water tanker.

Mirwais Yasini, a lawmaker from eastern Nangarhar province who was present at the site, said the explosion was so powerful that it caused a 15 metre deep crater and shattered windowpanes in many buildings.

He alleged the national unity government had failed to ensure public security. He called for President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Abdullah to resign forthwith.

The Emergency Hospital confirmed receiving around 160 injured people. Safiullah, an employee of the German embassy who suffered a hand injury, said women and children were among the casualties. Najib Danish, acting spokesman for the Ministry of Interior (MoI), wrote on his social media account it was a suicide car bombing. He said 30 vehicles were completely destroyed; there was infrastructure loss at the foreign forces' camp and office of the Roshan Telecommunication Company.

An eyewitness said the explosion took place between the 17th road of Wazir Akbar Khan, a diplomatic enclave, and Zanaq Square. German embassy and the foreign military camp are situated in the area.

Another sources said the explosion happened in front of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) compound. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. (Pajhwok)

(2) Truck Bombing...

been evacuated to Wazir Mohammad Akbar Khan, Jamhoriyat and Emergency Hospitals.

No militant group has so far claimed responsibility for the blast while the Taliban had denied involvement. Lower house member from Kabul Nazifa Zaki grumbled: "How this vehicle reached Wazir Akbar Khan and crossed the many check points? This attack in a most secure area of Kabul city has created many questions in people's minds."

She charged security officials with dereliction of duty in ensuring security of Kabul, saying those responsible be held accountable. Another Wolesi Jirga member Allah Gul Mujahid said no one was hanged in the 16 years for suicide blasts and bomb explosions.

He asked President Ghani to execute death row prisoners involved in terrorist attacks so that others shun aiding suicide bombers.

Lawmaker Amir Khanyar from Nangarhar, said: "Police are busy in money extortion and other corrupt activities and have forgotten their original duty of ensuring security of citizens."

Fawzia Kofi from Badakhshan condemned the attack as against Islamic and Afghan teachings, said: "No one with a pistol can walk around the Presidential Palace; but a tanker full of explosives can reach the safest point of the city, it has created hundreds of questions in people's minds."

He said not only security officials had failed to ensure security, but no one in the government had a sense of responsibility.

Ramazan Bashardost, a representative from Kabul, said: "Explosives and suicide bombing materials aren't moved or transferred in ordinary vehicles, but in cars with tinted windows and specific number plates."

Ghazni lawmaker Mohammad Arif Rahmani said suicide bombings and blasts were carried out with the help of 'spies within the system' and until armored and tinted-glasses vehicles of all government authorities weren't stopped and checked, these bombings would continue and couldn't be prevented.

Meanwhile, Homayoon Homayoon, 1st deputy speaker of Wolesi Jirga, who chaired Wednesday's session, strongly condemned the attack, saying it was the handiwork of the enemies of Islam.

He said the enemies of Afghan people would not reach their goals by carrying out such attacks.

He asked the Wolesi Jirga to withdraw the vote of confidence the house had given to security bosses in case they didn't take needed steps for ensuring public security.

Mohammad Nazir Ahmadzai, 2nd deputy speaker, also called the current security situation as worrisome

and asked security officials said: "Don't force the nation's home to retake the trust vote from you." (Pajhwok)

(3) Lavrov Urges ...

exceptions, the support of Afghan government in the fight against terrorism. Renounce the attempts to use everything that takes place regarding Afghanistan in geopolitical games," Lavrov said.

According to the Afghan Health Ministry, up to 90 people were killed and 380 more were injured in the explosion close to the Zanaq square in the diplomatic quarter of the city.

According to the preliminary information of the country's Interior Ministry, an explosive device had been planted in a car used to transport water.

A BBC employee was killed and 4 journalists were injured in the blast. Moreover, the German Embassy's staff was wounded in the attack. (Sputnik)

(4) Kabul Attack ..

Company in Ansari Square, located around three kilometers from the incident area, told Pajhwok that a large number of glasses, fridges, thermoses, ice machines and different other dishes of his company were destroyed. He claiming suffering around \$4,000 loss as a result of the blast.

Shafiq, a resident of Shahr-i-Naw area, also said several window glasses of his home were shattered in the incident.

Meanwhile, Haji Ghulam Rassoul, owner of a restaurant in BiBi Mehro area, said the explosion was very powerful as it collapsed the roof of his restaurant and injured one of his workers.

He built the restaurant about two months ago and is yet back pack loan he had obtained from friends for the restaurant's construction. All windows of his restaurant had been damaged, he added.

Khalid, who owns a mobile phone shop in Deh Afghanan area, said five of his mobile devices were broken in the incident. He said many other shops at his neighborhood had also suffered financial losses. Kabul residents, who suffered losses in the incident, asked the government leaders to take serious measures for preventing such deadly attacks in future.

On the other hand, hundreds of Kabul residents were seen searching for their missing relatives after the blast in Kabul Emergency Hospital, Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital, Ibn-i-Sina Hospital and other healthcare centers.

The Pajhwok reporter, who visited many hospitals, said hundreds of people had gathered in front of these hospitals, with women and children crying over the corpses of their beloved ones killed in the incident. (Pajhwok)

(5) First India...

will help the private sector export their goods to India by air and also increase bilateral trade between the two countries.

The first cargo flight between the two capitals is scheduled for June 15, 2017. (Wadsam)

(6) Germany...

of the danger, but rather because the embassy in Kabul is not in a position to deal with the return of the deportees after being damaged in the attack.

He says Germany's position that deportations, particularly of convicted criminals, are necessary. (AP)

(7) Govt., U.S., ...

At least 85 people were killed and about 400 wounded in the truck bombing during rush hour in Kabul city on Wednesday morning.

The Afghan ministry of foreign affairs also slammed the attack and said that by creating such carnage, the perpetrators will not reach their "ugly goals".

Former president Hamid Karzai also condemned the attack and said this act was carried out by enemies of peace and stability in Afghanistan and this act is against all Islamic values and humanity.

The U.S ambassador Hugo Llorens said in a statement: "The terrorists, and those who provide them support in any form, deserve the utter scorn of all civilized people around the world."

He went on to say the U.S's commitment to Afghanistan is unwavering; "we stand with the Afghan people and the government of national unity as they strive to build a brighter, safer tomorrow for the people of this great nation."

Pakistan said Wednesday's blast also affected the residences of some Pakistani diplomats and staff and

inflicted minor injuries to some of them.

"Pakistan being a victim of terrorism understands the pain and agony that such incidents inflict upon the people and society. The people and Government of Pakistan extend their heartfelt sympathies and deepest condolences to the Government and the people of Afghanistan and the bereaved families.

"While reiterating condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, we pray for early recovery of the injured. We firmly stand with our Afghan brothers in this hour of grief and anguish," read their statement.

India also condemned the incident. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a tweet: "India stands with Afghanistan in fighting all types of terrorism. Forces supporting terrorism need to be defeated."

The blast took place close to the Indian embassy, but according to the statement all embassy staff were safe.

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(8) China, UNAMA, ...

terrorism, said Hua.

According to Hua, the Chinese Embassy to Afghanistan was slightly damaged and no Chinese casualties had been reported at the time of writing.

China will take measures to strengthen protection of Chinese citizens and institutions in Afghanistan, she added.

The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) condemned the indiscriminate suicide attack in downtown Kabul. UNAMA expresses its condolences to the loved ones of those killed in the attack and wishes a speedy recovery to those injured.

"Beyond the immeasurable human suffering caused by today's attack, the deliberate detonation of a massive truck bomb in a civilian area, particularly during the peaceful month of Ramadan, is morally reprehensible and an outrage," said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan.

"Today's attack is an act of terrorism and is a serious violation of humanitarian law," said Yamamoto, who is also the head of UNAMA. "There can be no exceptions: the use of explosive weapons in civilian-populated areas must stop," he added.

The Egyptian foreign ministry said in a statement late Wednesday that Egypt is "standing by the Afghan government and people in the fight against terrorism," urging intensified efforts by the international community to combat extremism.

Jens Stoltenberg, the Secretary General of NATO condemned the terrorist attack in Kabul. He wrote this at Twitter: "I condemn the horrific attack in Kabul. My thoughts are with all those affected. NATO stands with Afghanistan in the fight against terrorism", he wrote.

Pavlo Klimkin, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine also condemned the attack in the capital of Afghanistan.

"Condemn brutal attack in Kabul's diplomatic district. Deepest condolences to families and friends of those killed, speedy recovery to the injured", Klimkin wrote.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassemi condemned the attack, and extended his condolences to the Afghan government and people over the death of their compatriots.

"The suicide blast in Kabul is another warning that not showing firm action against the ominous phenomenon of terrorism and continued support of certain countries for the sponsors of these extremist groups in the region in recent weeks has increased such cruel acts," Qassemi said on Wednesday.

He called on all countries and peace-seeking societies to study and find the root causes of extremism and its promoters and supporters.

Qassemi also reiterated Tehran's support for Kabul, and said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran will always remain beside the Afghan government and the country's oppressed and great people in hard conditions." (Xinhua)

(9) Azerbaijani

to the stability of Afghanistan and thanked for co-chairmanship of the

Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process.

During his visit, Deputy FM Azimov co-chaired the Ambassadorial meeting of the Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process. At this meeting, the issues related to preparation of Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference to be held in Baku by the end of this year were discussed. (APA)

(10) Exact Target...

we have no claim of responsibility, we cannot say for sure how this attack happened and against whom it was directed," she added. (Reuters)

(11) RS Claims ...

enemy who claim that they only target Afghan security forces and foreign forces, yet continue to cause death and suffering amongst innocent Afghans," the statement read. RS said: "Attacks such as these only serve to strengthen our commitment to our Afghan partners as they seek a peaceful, stable future for their country."

The German Embassy in Kabul confirmed that a number of its staff members were injured in the bombing.

In a statement issued by the embassy, they said the attack was carried out in the immediate vicinity of the German Embassy.

"An Afghan security officer who was protecting the Embassy grounds was killed," read their statement.

"I condemn the attack in Kabul, in which dozens of people were injured and killed, in the strongest possible terms," said Sigmar Gabriel, Germany's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

He stated that the wounded embassy staff had been evacuated.

The truck bombing occurred on a busy road that passes the entrance to the Green Zone which houses a number of embassies including the German embassy, the British embassy, Canadian embassy and Resolute Support among many others. The truck used to carry the explosives was believed to have been a tanker used to empty septic tanks at houses, businesses and banks. (Tolonews)

(12) Afghans Flock ...

Hashimi said that thanks to the response from the public, there was enough blood for the injured.

About 400 people were wounded in the bombing that occurred during morning rush hour in the heart of the city. (Tolonews)

(13) Ghazni Students ...

absence of professionally trained teachers a hurdle to a sound education.

"Although hundreds of people receive degrees from universities every year, our schools remain short of professional teachers," Sarwari remarked, asking the education department to hire young graduates from universities.

Mohammad Amin Ibrahimzoy, a resident of Qarabagh district, said students in his town were not taught by professional teachers. As a result, they could not learn and scored poorly in university entry tests.

Shah Mohammad, a student of Shamsul Aarifin High School in Ghazni City, said most of teachers were untrained. He urged the authorities concerned to resolve the problem on priority.

Meanwhile, Education Director Mohammad Abid said that the shortage of professional teachers was being addressed. He added of the 8,000 teachers posted to Ghazni schools, only 1,000 were not professional.

"We plan an exam for 270 more applicants in near future and that will help overcome the problem of professional teachers' shortage," he said.

In response to a question, he said professional teachers were not interested in going to remote areas of the province and that was why teachers had to be hired based on a contractual basis.

There are around 600 schools in Ghazni, where 500,000 students including girls are enrolled. However, more than half of schools lack buildings, a big headache for teachers and students. (Pajhwok)

(14) Violence ...

About 40 cases of violence against women were registered in 1394 solar year against 65 cases last year. "It shows cases of violence happen every day here."

Zargar termed insecurity and lack of government's writ in far-flung areas as other reasons behind the violence against women.

She believed the level of violence could be lowered by creating awareness among the gender about their rights and such programmes

and campaigns were underway in this regard.

She asked tribal elders and religious scholars to provide all-out support to the government in dealing with crimes against women. "Anyone who takes part in combating violence is discharging his religious and humanitarian responsibility."

On the other hand, a victim of domestic violence, Zarmina, a resident of Pangram area of Charkh district, told Pajhwok that she was living at her father's home instead of her husband's due to household issues.

"My situation was very bad at my in-laws' home, my father-in-law and mother-in-law would beat me every day. I was finally obliged to come to my father's home."

According to Zarmina, her husband had been working in Iran over the past few years and she had been living with her in-laws. "He goes to Iran for earning a livelihood and leaves me with his father and mother who treat me as a slave and misbehave with me."

She has been living along with her two children at her father's home over the past few months. Like Zarmina, women usually face such issues across the country especially in remote districts.

Meanwhile, Logar provincial council member, Haseebullah Stanikzai, said needed works had not been carried out to curb violence on women during the past 15 years in the province.

According to him, women are not entitled to the rights given to them by civil law and Islamic Shariah in many parts of Afghanistan including Logar, he said. "Neither the women's affairs department nor other government institutions have properly discharged duty in this regard."

He dubbed insecurity and illiteracy as main factors behind women's vulnerability to violence in Logar. "I call upon families to let their girls attend school because if a woman is literate, she can ask for her legal rights."

Stanikzai said the provincial council had made efforts through people, media and gatherings at lowering the violence level against women.

He asked the government to provide work opportunities to women in government offices in order to enable them to fight for their rights.

Logar governor's spokesman, Salim Saleh, confirmed violence cases concerning women had increased in the province.

He said illiteracy, old traditions and unawareness about women's rights and lawlessness contributed to the increase in violence towards women.

He said the governor's house with support from relevant organizations was making efforts at mitigating violence against women by engaging religious scholars and tribal elders.

According to the Ministry of Women's Affairs, about 5,000 cases of violence against women were recorded last year across the country, showing a significant increase compared to past years. (Pajhwok)

(15) A Form of...

resident of the Qarabagh district of Kabul, is one of such workers.

A father of nine, he is compelled to work along with his 14-year-old son on an orchard all day long. Their job involves a lot of hard labour.

Tragedy and continuing challenges of Ghulam Sediq

At 40, Siddique has visible wrinkles on his dark visage due to hard labour and there were more signs of tiredness and disappointment in his face.

With a spade in his hand standing near a canal, the man told Pajhwok Afghan News he had borrowed money from an orchard owner two years back.

"Two years back, I didn't have cooking oil, sugar or flour to feed my family. Some of my family members were sick. I didn't know what to do. I came to the orchard owner and asked him for a loan

After a pause, he took a quick look at his past and said: "I asked for a small amount of money, but the orchard owner gave me 50,000 afghanis on condition that my family and I will work on his orchard."

During the past two years, they have been unable to return the amount borrowed from the orchard owner; they have no option but to sweat it out on the 20 acres garden.

There are grape, apple, pears, palm and other trees in the orchard. "I am caught in a lot of economic problems. I don't know when I will get rid of this loan." (Pajhwok)

(16) Sweden ...

that some provinces were safer than others.

In 2015 23,000 unaccompanied minors from Afghanistan applied for

asylum in Sweden.

Swedish campaigners for refugee rights have called on authorities to suspend all deportations to Afghanistan and all deportations of minors who came to Sweden without parents or guardians.

"Of course it is our view that deportations to Kabul should be stopped," Sanna Vestin, chairwoman of the Swedish Network of Refugee Support Groups, FARR, told The Local on Wednesday. (Agencies)

(17) Taliban

wounded in the attack.

He said the casualties toll may change as the victims of the incident have been shifted to various hospitals.

Today's incident followed a day after two suspected suicide bombers were killed in an explosion in the 11th police district.

The Kabul police commandment said the incident took place close to Qala-e-Najara area with the suspects detonating their explosives as they were being chased by the police forces. (KP)

(18) Militants ...

the militant was attempting to smuggle 7 weapons to the insurgency when he was arrested.

The anti-government armed militant groups including the Taliban and ISIS insurgents have not commented regarding the report so far. (KP)

(19) 2 Media ...

at the entrance of the Green Zone at Zanaq Square in Kabul city at 8:20am Wednesday.

At least 85 people were killed in the incident and about 400 were wounded.

The Taliban has rejected any involvement in the blast. (Tolonews)

(20) 2-Year ...

be creating green areas in Kandahar City.

Municipality officials dubbed the program as useful, hinting at the launch of another 5-year program worth \$32 million named "Wolasi Taroon" in near future.

Kandahar Municipality has launched more than 300 uplift projects since last year and of which some have been completed and work on some others is ongoing. (Pajhwok)

(21) Poppies ...

cooperation with National Directorate of Security or NDS personnel in Tangi Yaqob, Baloch, Chobaki, Zer Chachal villages during the past seven days of the campaign.

He said the eradication campaign would continue until all lands were cleared of the illicit crop. At least 400 acres of land has been cultivated with poppy in Dra Sauf Payeen and Dra Sauf-i-Bala districts.

About 3,600 acres of rain-fed land had also been cultivated with opium crop in the two districts, but due to a lack of rain, the crop had no yield, Zafari.

Samangan had been a poppy-free province for a period of nine years, but last year farmers in some areas returned to the illicit plant.

Ghulam Sakhi Rezwani, the provincial counternarcotics head, said insecurity was a huge factor behind resumption of poppies cultivation in the province. He said poppy crop in rain-fed land was grown in areas under Taliban control. (Pajhwok)

(22) Huge Fire...

Tareli area of Kot district while sixty houses were damaged in Bru area of Rodat district, the officials said.

They also added that the firefighting teams were immediately deployed to the area in Kot district on the instructions of the provincial governor Mohammad Gulab Mangal which prevented the spread of fire to more houses.

A survey has also been launched to ascertain the extent of the losses incurred to the residents of the two districts, the officials said, adding that emergency aid will be delivered in the two districts to assist the families affected in the incident. (KP)

(23) At Least...

killed and 360 wounded when the bomb ripped through a secure area of Kabul at the height of the Wednesday morning rush hour, Afghan officials said.

The blast, which came a few days into the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, was one of the deadliest to hit the Afghan capital in recent years.

The bomb exploded in the diplomatic quarter near the German Embassy and the Afghan presidential palace. The streets were packed with commuters, women shopping and children going to school. (CNN)