

(1) Funeral ...

was attacked in Badam Bagh area of Kabul on Saturday, killing at least seven people and injuring another 119. Ezediyar's son was killed along with several others during Friday's protest demonstration. Three explosions took place at the funeral attended by government officials and parliament members.

A statement from the Presidential Palace received by Pajhwok Afghan News said Farid Hamidi, the Attorney General, told the NSC meeting that his office had created an investigative team for investigating the incident.

The statement quoted him as saying the incident would be investigated from different dimensions and seriously.

The NSC meeting also conferred on preparations for the Kabul Process conference to be hosted by Afghanistan and attended by international authorities and representatives. (Pajhwok)

(2) 4 Lawmakers...

They included Muslimyar, senators Baz Mohammad Zurmati and Mohammad Usman Rahmani and Wolesi Jirga (Lower House) member from Samangan province Abdullah Mohammadi.

Atta added that Muslimyar and Rahmani had sustained superficial wounds and had been discharged from hospital. However, Baz Mohammad Zurmati remained hospitalized and Mohammadi's condition was said to be satisfactory.

The Ministry of Public Health said the successive explosions killed seven people and injured 119 others.

Abdullah, acting foreign minister Salahuddin Rabbani, Amarullah Salih, State Minister for reforms in security sector, some cabinet ministers and members of the National Assembly had participated in the funeral, but they survived.

No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack. (Pajhwok)

(3) Funeral ...

shoes and security forces had been unable to detect them.

The statement said NDS operatives had captured one of the attackers who wanted to blow his explosives at the funeral ceremony.

The statement added intelligence forces had detained another 12 terrorists who planned to carry out attacks in Kabul. (Pajhwok)

(4) Security ...

that the casualties are high. I also think so. We don't have the exact figure about this. I hope the exact figure will be shared with the people soon."

He said demonstrations are the right of every citizen and that those who fired on protesters will be prosecuted. "Attacks on protesters and firing at protesters at a peaceful rally is unforgivable and will not be left unnoticed."

Today, the fact-finding team will start their investigation into the issue and victims' families will be involved in this probe. And those who have been negligent in their duties and those who have ordered the shooting at the peaceful rally will be prosecuted and I assure the people this will be done," Abdullah stated.

He said the gap between the people and the government has increased due to current challenges in the country.

This comes after three back-to-back explosions hit the burial ceremony of Mohammad Salem Ezediyar, son of Mohammad Alam Ezediyar, the deputy speaker of Meshrano Jirga (Upper House of Parliament). The senator's son was killed after security forces opened fire on protesters at a mass demonstration in Kabul on Friday.

Sources say at least 20 people were killed in the triple bombing at the burial ceremony. However, government puts the death toll at six. (Tolnews)

(5) MPs Warn

community, particularly the U.S and NATO, for having remained silent over the security situation in Afghanistan.

"If you (international community) are willing to bring us security, then bring it, if you are not willing to do so, then let us do it on our own; we have nothing to do with your dollars and we do not want your money, hundreds of our people are being martyred daily," said MP Musa Janab.

"The government has failed to secure the Military Hospital, the Army Corps, the directorate of VIP protection and even cannot secure the ARG (Presidential Palace), then how can it secure the safety of the public," MP, Amanullah Paiman said.

Meanwhile a number of MPs who were in support of Friday's protest said the move was organized by the people for justice.

"What police and what security personnel were killed by the protesters?" asked another MP Amanullah Paiman.

"Why are they creating conspiracies, why are they trying to stifle the voice of the people?"

"I, as a lawmaker, do not have the right to say the protesters are ignorant and call myself a wise man, thousands of people among them are highly educated people," said MP Ghulam Husain Naseri.

Meanwhile parliament convened an emergency meeting on Saturday and Sunday to discuss the ongoing security developments in the country, but they remained split over issues and failed to reach a consensus. (Tolnews)

(6) Anti-Government ...

of the demonstrators remained in two tents at the site of the massive suicide attack near the Presidential Palace on Sunday, chanting slogans against the unity government's leadership.

All roads and areas leading to the Presidential Palace have been blocked by security forces and passers-by and vehicles aren't allowed to commute.

They chanted 'death to Ashraf Ghani' and 'death to Abdullah'. They demand Ghani and Abdullah resign.

Shafaq Siaposh, a protestor, said they would continue their protest until justice was delivered to them and until their demands were met.

He held the government leadership and security authorities responsible for the massacre of innocent people in latest terrorist incidents.

Mayal Agha Khaksar, a religious scholar, who joined the protesters today, said: "I haven't been invited, but I myself joined my brothers in this duty of every citizen to stand against a cruel and weak government."

He said suicide attacks were illegitimate in Islam, asking clerics and citizens to take to the streets for justice, security, stability and for establishment of a responsive interim government.

Nasima, 35, whose husband has been missing since Wednesday's deadly attack, said: "My husband was a lab operator but had no job. On that day he was out to find a job for himself but went missing after Wednesday's bombing in Wazir Akbar Khan."

Nasima, who have four children, said she had visited and searched all hospitals but was unable to find her husband.

She asked the government leaders to seriously address citizens' problems or step down and leave their posts for competent persons. (Pajhwok)

(7) Worsening...

surrounding villages, according to a Taliban spokesman.

But district governor Imamuddin Qureshi told VOA that Afghan forces are fiercely retaliating to push the Taliban back and military reinforcements have also arrived from the provincial capital of Kunduz to assist them. He confirmed the clashes killed at least six soldiers and 10 insurgents.

Separately, authorities in southern Kandahar province confirmed two policemen shot dead six colleagues and wounded many others at a security installation early Sunday. The assailants, suspected Taliban infiltrators, were killed while trying to flee by Afghan troops.

The Taliban confirmed the assailants were its members who joined the police ranks just to carry out such an attack. Intensified insurgent battlefield attacks come as demands for President Ashraf Ghani's national unity government to quit continue to grow after terrorist attacks last week in Kabul. A massive suicide truck bomb on Wednesday ripped through the highly-secure diplomatic sector of the capital, killing at least 90 people and wounding more than 450 others, including foreigners.

The deadliest terrorist strike in years outraged residents and they took to the streets demanding Ghani and his Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah resign. An anti-government demonstration on Friday turned violent, prompting Afghan security forces to open fire on the crowd. One of several people killed in the clashes was about to be buried in a Kabul cemetery Saturday when three suicide bombers struck the crowd. Abdullah and several ministers, who were also present at the funeral service, narrowly escaped the attack that killed at least eight people and wounded more than 100. Nearly 700 casualties in the three back-to-back incidents in Kabul have made the last week the bloodiest for the Afghan capital in three decades. The Taliban said it had nothing to do with the attacks and blamed internal rivalries in the government. Speaking after the attack on the funeral, Abdullah demanded thorough investigations into the bombing, which appears to have deepened his rifts with Ghani.

"Will soon announce our position towards terrorists within the system and on holding them to account at the national level," said Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani on his official Twitter account after the bombing. Rabbani, who was also at the funeral,

is a member of Abdullah's Jamiat-e-Islami political party.

Opposition politicians have also intensified their demands for Ghani and Abdullah to step down for failing to undertake promised reforms to security and other government institutions to rid them of corrupt elements.

"I have spoken with a broad spectrum of Afghanistan's political leaders, highlighting the importance of unity. They agreed that working together is essential to stop the cycle of violence. Calm is now called for," said Tadamichi Yamamoto, head of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

He reiterated his call for seeking a negotiated settlement to the Afghan conflict. "Meaningful steps must take place now to obtain an immediate, nationwide halt to violence. I encourage all parties to enter discussions toward that end," said Tadamichi.

The United States also called for Afghan leaders to stay united under the challenging circumstances. "The enemy seeks to manipulate the people's anger and sadness to create division and sow instability," a U.S. embassy statement quoted Special Charge d'Affaires Ambassador Hugo Llorens as saying.

Now is the time, to stand unified and announce to the enemies loud and clear that Afghans, along with their international partners, will not allow cowards to break the Afghan resolve to achieve a prosperous, stable, and peaceful nation, noted the American diplomat.

A presidential statement said Ghani chaired a meeting Sunday of his National Security Council to discuss security for the "Kabul Process" meeting scheduled for Tuesday where delegates will discuss how to bring an end to the increasingly deadly Afghan war.

The controversy-marred presidential election in 2014 prompted the United States to help mediate a deal between Ghani, an ethnic Pashtun, and Abdullah, an ethnic Tajik, to form the unity government.

But differences over a number of issues, including appointments to key posts in security and other government institutions, critics say, have hampered international-backed efforts to bring security and political stability to the conflict-shattered country. The internal rifts coupled with rampant corrupt state institutions are blamed for the deterioration in national security and territorial insurgent gains on the battlefield. (VoA)

(8) Govt's Call...

increases the doubts regarding the hand of certain circles inside the system.

Calling the yesterday's incident a direct attack on a specific political movement, Noor also harshly criticized the security establishments and questioned their capabilities to ensure security for a small gathering despite having credible intelligence information and reports regarding the possible attacks.

He said the time has come to take immediate and serious decisions for the safety of the people together with the Jamiat-e-Islami and its political allies. (KP)

(9) Bank Services ...

cash, we cannot go to main branch because roads are blocked," said a resident of Kabul Sami-ul-Haq. "We cannot get our salaries, if the central bank closely monitored the issue, this would not have happened; we are faced with a lot of problems," said governor employee Abdul Khalil.

TOLNews tried to get comment from the central bank, but failed.

Meanwhile, the Banking Union has also confirmed that routine bank services had been disrupted in the city following recent attacks and road closures. "The banks are providing services, but the government has imposed some restrictions due recent protests and this has led to some deficiencies," said Najibullah Amiri, CEO of Bank Union.

The Bank Association has said that Wednesday's bombing in Zanaq square incurred financial losses to some banks. (Tolnews)

(10) Fear Penetrates ...

powerful truck bomb ripped through the city's diplomatic zone.

At least 90 people, mostly civilians, were killed and hundreds were wounded. Officials described the attack as "one of the biggest" to have hit the capital.

Two days later, residents took to the streets to demand answers from the government, who they accuse of security and intelligence failures. Clashes between protesters and security forces broke out, resulting in the death of at least five people.

On Saturday, Afghan police and intelligence officials urged everyone to stay indoors, citing a threat of possible attacks targeting large gatherings of people.

In Kabul's Sarai Shamali area, a funeral was taking place at that time for the son of Senator Mohammad Alam Izdyar who was killed in Friday's protests.

Haseeb Motaref was present at the burial ceremony when he heard a first blast as soon as the mullah said: "Allahu akbar" (God is great).

The triple explosion at the at the Tapa Marshal Fahim cemetery left at least 20 people dead, raising the death toll to more than 100 people dead in just four days of violence - and the numbers are rising.

"As the explosion happened, I ran in panic and cried for help as I saw many dead bodies ripped apart," Motaref told Al Jazeera.

"Where are the security forces? Where is the police? The Afghan intelligence? Who will protect us?"

Pictures of men throwing stones at the remains of a suicide attacker at the cemetery were widely shared on social media.

"We are angry, we are sad. The security services, the police are not efficient," Motaref said.

The Taliban, which is fighting the government and foreign forces, issued swift denials that it had any role in the attacks, and instead blamed factional rivalries within the government.

The government accused the Taliban-allied Haqqani Network and Pakistan of the attack.

Amid the rising tension, police locked down much of Kabul city with checkpoints, while armoured vehicles were seen patrolling the streets.

Some shops, restaurants and universities were closed for the day.

"People here are demanding answers from the government," Yousufi, the photography studio owner, told Al Jazeera.

"We just want peace and security as we had enough of seeing innocent people getting killed."

But Gul Nabi Ahmadzai, Kabul garrison commander, said the threat level had decreased as of Sunday.

"There are no reports of any possible attacks today, but we are asking everyone to stay vigilant," he told Al Jazeera. (Ajazeera)

(11) HIA Seeks...

people were also asked to avoid armed rivalries, seeking power through force and repeating past mistakes.

The HIA called for youth not to let faceless figures exploit their sentiments, touch off unrest or pave the ground for a new round of civil war.

"The warmongers, who take to the streets with weapons, threaten people and create disruption, deserve to be reprimanded and rejected by the entire nation," the statement said.

Despite having reservations about the present regime, the party said it neither wanted to weaken the government nor supported a violent change in the country.

"Our stance is that that the current government should be supported in order to put an end to the conflict. Any change has to be based on ballot and understanding, not on force or violence from certain figures," the HIA explained.

The party said no one reserved the right to topple or change the government by force. Such a step was in fact a repetition of failed attempts and experiences of the past that benefitted no one, it argued.

"We call on all Afghans to stand united and steer their country out of the ongoing crisis. We should have a peaceful Afghanistan for future generations." (Pajhwok)

(12) Noor Strongly ...

No group including the Taliban insurgents has so far claimed responsibility behind the attack so far.

Salim Izadyar, the son of Mohammad Alam Izadyar, the first deputy house speaker of the Afghan Senate, was killed during the violent protests in Kabul on Friday.

The Ministry of Interior confirmed 6 people were killed and 87 others were wounded in the coordinated explosions targeting the burial ceremony of Mohammad Salim Izadyar. (KP)

(13) Scholars ...

and must be stopped. He said some people who had sold their souls were behind the bloodshed in the country and they were disguised as mullahs and clerics.

Azizi asked the scholars condemn such barbaric attacks in their sermons and make people aware of the conspiracy.

Maulvi Anayatullah Baleegh, a scholar from Pul-i-Khushti Mosque in Kabul, said those who shouted Allah-o-Akbar in suicide attacks and kill poor and innocent people were not Muslims because such things had no place in Islam.

At the end of the meeting, a resolution was passed and religious scholars asked the government to ensure people's security and work towards fulfilling their responsibilities in this

regard.

The resolution asked people, political parties and civil society to cooperate with religious scholars in order to ensure peace in the country.

The religious scholars also asked the parties to the Afghanistan conflict to end the war and contribute to peace and security in the country. (Pajhwok)

(14) ANNF Wants ..

and blamed the government for incompetence to protect people. The protest later turned violent, with seven people killed and 10 others wounded.

Mohammad Salim Ezediyar, son of Meshrano Jirga's Deputy Chairman Mohammad Alam Ezediyar, was also among those killed. Some 25 policemen were also injured during the anti-government demonstration.

A day earlier, seven people were killed and 119 others wounded in a suicide bombing and two subsequent explosions at a funeral ceremony for Ezediyar in Kabul.

Anwarul Haq Ahadi, head of the ANNE, told a press conference that his party vehemently denounced the attacks. "We tell terrorists this nation would never surrender to them; our resistance will continue."

He alleged the government was unable to improve people's security and Wednesday's attack was the result of its incompetence.

Ahadi, also a former commerce minister, said protest was the right of every citizen of the country. He supported Friday's protest against insecurity.

"My party condemns firing at protesters and government's use of force against civilians. Those involved in gunfire should be brought to justice," Ahadi stressed.

However, he said ANNF opposed the slogans raised against tribes during such protests. Political figures should express their demands elsewhere, not at public protests, he opined.

"The ANNF urges politicians to hold a meeting involving representatives of different political parties, councils and influential figures to discuss last week's attacks and work on a mechanism for resolving the problems," he said.

Ahadi said they would soon share their suggestions with other political figures. He claimed the government, having no security or economic development plans, lacked leadership qualities, which caused unrest.

The ANNF wanted the president and CEO to resign, creation of a provisional government and holding of elections promptly, he said. (Pajhwok)

(15) Nangarhar ...

harvest of olive from the fields. He said around 507,000 plants of olive have been prepared to be planted in the Canal in the upcoming year.

According to Rahimzai, the government has also managed to recover 4,600 acres of land from the land grabbers belonging to the Canal Directorate.

He said efforts are still underway to recover the remaining lands belonging to the directorate.

Rahimzai also added that the harvest of oranges is also expected to rise during the coming years.

He said the directorate has planted around 230,000 plants of orange and Malt fruit have linked in the Canal and considerable harvest is expected to be produced in the future. (KP)

(16) Nangarhar...

role had been impressive.

They have been effective in curbing violence against women and other criminal activities, according to Mashriqiwal, who urged educated women to join the police force and help bring peace and stability of the country. He assured women police of complete safety in the line of duty. He said separate office and living quarters had been built for policewomen.

At leadership meetings, the spokesman said, female personnel were given the opportunity to raise their voice for legitimate rights. Policemen were never allowed to violate the rights of their women counterparts, he added. Efforts are ongoing to hike the number of policewomen and develop their capacity so they could discharge their duty more professionally. He said literacy courses had been arranged for policewomen with no education.

Meanwhile, the policewomen in Nangarhar say they are happy with their job and the behaviour of male colleagues. Shakeba, guarding the entrance to the police headquarters, said she was content with her profession.

Another policewoman, who wished to go unnamed, said she was proud of being part of the force. She called on other women to join police ranks and play their role in maintaining law and order. (Pajhwok)

(17) Herat ...

within the government.

The demonstrators carrying banners with slogans 'Every Herati calls for justice and security' and 'No Taliban

Daesh or a fifth column.' They said recent bloody attacks in Kabul were achievements of the fifth column within the Presidential Palace.

Naheed Fareed, a member of parliament, who also participated in the protest, said they wanted compensation for the families of those who lost their beloved ones to recent terror attacks in Kabul.

She said some elements within the government supported terrorism in Afghanistan and supporting these elements had resulted in the massacre of innocent people.

"We want reforms in the government, but reforms couldn't be achieved until some individuals are there in the government."

Faisal Karimi, a professor at Herat University, said they wanted those having a hand in recent innocent people's killings in Kabul to be put on trial.

He called the killings in Kabul as a crime against humanity, adding: "Human rights institutions, the UN and the Afghan government should punish the perpetrators of these incidents for their crimes."

He also condemned the killing of some protesters in Kabul's rally, saying it showed government's tyranny. Shah Wazir, a civil society activist from Ghor province, termed the government leaders as main cause of the misfortunes, asking the UN to help prevent further killings.

Mohammad Amin Saedi, another protestor, criticized the government's incompetency, saying: "The president and the CEO are incompetent and should resign at the earliest possible because they have failed to ensure citizens' rights."

On the other hand, some influential figures and provincial council members of Herat expressed support to security forces and the government, saying the protest in Kabul was turned violent on the behest of regional intelligence.

Haji Solat Noorzai, an influential figure in Aadraskan district, said: "A peaceful demonstration is the right of every citizen; but rallies insulting and offending the President and the CEO are not demonstration but a plot backed by neighboring countries' intelligence."

Kamran Alizai, Herat provincial council head, also held similar views, saying: "If someone wants to misuse protests and commit violence or set vehicles on fire, then we won't be silent and will prevent it." (Pajhwok)

(18) 6 Police ...

told Pajhwok a clash erupted among policemen on Saturday evening.

Four policemen were injured in the incident, he said, adding the issue had been resolved.

But Civil Hospital Director Dr. Aminullah Tokhi told Pajhwok one injured police was brought to the hospital from the site. He said some bullets hit the hospital's emergency ward. (Pajhwok)

(19) Taliban's ...

among the relatively calm provinces in northeastern parts of the country but the security situation in some remote parts of the province has started to deteriorate during the recent years. This comes as the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) personnel have stepped up counter-terrorism operations to suppress the insurgency activities of the militants. The insurgents activities mainly led by the Taliban group have been rampant since the group announced its offensive last month and vowed to carry out more attacks across the country. (KP)

(20) Visitor from ..

in the same cemetery.

The gravedigger at the cemetery, Jawid, who has worked there for 14 years, said he has been digging graves since Saturday afternoon for all those killed at the funeral.

"We buried bodies all night," said Jawid. According to the Ministry of Public Health, 87 people were wounded in the three back-to-back explosions, while family members of the victims said a number of the wounded are in critical condition. (Tolnews)

(21) Helmand ...

militants, said more than 70 families had arrived from Helmand in Kandahar.

He said the families had so far received no aid and joblessness and lack of shelter had made their lives miserable. Haji Mohammad Asif, another displaced person, said the government should improve security in their areas so they could return home. Kandahar refugee affairs director Mohammad Azeem Nawabi said the same families had been once assisted by aid giving organizations and his department lacked resources to assist them again. (Pajhwok)