#### (1) Last Chance ...

responding to this threat, we are gathered here today because the international community has pledged it would not tolerate terrorism and countries supporting it. We today want the world to be committed to its pledges against terrorism," he added. He said everything was on the table and the national unity government wanted to start work on peace negotiations. "The location of peace negotiations maybe any place both sides can agree on, it may be in Kabul or elsewhere, we would finally develop a roadmap for peace that both sides should agree on," the president said. Ghani said the Afghan government had suggested peace because the current chance might not exist forever. He asked the Taliban to stop fighting and accept the Constitution, let the women get education and cut ties with terrorist groups.

"The government will allow the Taliban to open their office," he said. He said the chance was losing and Afghanistan would finally reject the Taliban, stressing this was the last chance for the Taliban to join the peace process otherwise they would be destroyed.

"Terrorism is not the enemy of Afghanistan only, it is the enemy of the entire world," he said. Citing an example, he said 22 people were killed and 12 others wounded in a suicide attack in Manchester city of Britain about three weeks ago. "Terrorists are merciless to anyone.

The president said more than 75,000 Afghans were killed or wounded only between 2015 and 2016.

"Our people want good life for their children, but our economic situation could not be improved with increasing violence, people suffer from joblessness and disappointment...the country is full of mourning mothers and widows, so there is no question that we want peace," he added.

Ghani said the international community had been unable to overcome all dimensions of terrorism. The UN recorded a surge in violence, but the global response to the challenge had been slow and inadequate, he remarked.

He noted the level of cooperation had improved, but frameworks, tools and necessary measures for identification and eradication of terrorist activities needed to be put in place.

The president, while talking about relations with Pakistan, said: "We want peace with Pakistan, we want to be able to trust Pakistan, we want a chance of cooperation between the two countries so both the neighbors develop and reduce poverty."

"This remains a challenge that Afghanistan does not know what Pakistan wants? Ghani asked, saving Afghanistan was trying to make Pakistan believe that a stable Afghanistan was also in interest of Pakistan and the region.

"We once again ask Pakistan to present its agenda and mechanism for negotiations and finding a way to peace," he said.

The first meeting of Kabul Process held with participation of representatives from 25 countries and international organizations amid tight security measures in Kabul today.

The government said that clear vision of the conference was peace establishment and fighting terrorism. Deputy foreign minister Hekmat Khalil Karzai said: "Despite more than 600 people suffered casualties in deadly recent attacks in Kabul, presence of foreign delegates in this meeting on supporting peace and stability shows that concerns about terrorism exist on international level." He said terrorism damaged peace, stability and security in the word and posed a great threat to all countries. The recent incidents in Kabul, Manchester, Saint Petersburg and

"We all know that terrorism knows no borders, there is a need for joint cooperation among all countries in eradicating this phenomenon," he

other parts of the world had created

concerns for the entire world, Karzai

Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani boycotted the meeting after the government rejected Jamiat-I-Islami Afghanistan (JIA) demands. Rabbani is the leader of JIA party.(Pajhwok)

# (2) **Recent** ...

Meanwhile, President Ashraf Ghani has said the key to peace in Afghanistan is to undertake systematic reforms in the security institutions particularly reforms in the Ministry of Interior (MoI).

"The important issue for security strategy is whether we are successful in bringing reforms in the ministry of interior; the ministry of defense has already started its work on reforms. Over the past six months, we took serious decisions to improve the leadership and decrease corruption,"

It is believed that weakness among the leaders of security institutions and the lack of equipment were still among the key challenges facing the Afghan security forces. (Tolonews)

#### (3) Mattis, ...

Mattis and Tillerson spoke alongside their Australian counterparts at the opening of a joint meeting expected to touch on a range of subjects including defeating Daesh, stabilizing Afghanistan and dealing with North Korea's nuclear threats.

In her opening remarks, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said "countering terrorism" would be high on the meeting's agenda.

Bishop said: "We meet a day after the shocking events in London and I know that we've spoken to our counterpart (British) Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson to express our deepest condolences to the British people and the British government for yet another barbaric terrorist attack.

And the issue of countering terrorism will be high on our agenda today. The global terrorist threat is ever evolving, we've seen brutal attacks in a number of European cities, we've thwarted attacks here in Australia, and so we want to discuss with you, the links back into the Middle East, the role we're playing with you in Iraq and Syria and also in Afghanistan.

'We are united in our resolve to defeat ISIS (Daesh), the Islamic State terrorist organization and its ilk."

Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne said her government was concerned by IS (Daesh) linkages in Asia and the Pacific.

Payne said: "For Australia, from our perspective today it's important that we do discuss Daesh's links in Southeast Asia, violent extremist organizations and the risk that returning foreign fighters who may endeavor to resume positions in their own countries might pose in this region. They'll come back with battlefield skills, they'll come back with hardened ideology, they'll come back angry, frustrated, and we need to be very aware of that."

Meanwhile, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said the attack in London underscores the importance of "stepping up efforts to fight

Speaking to CBS' Face the Nation on Sunday after attackers used a van and large knives to kill seven people late Saturday night in the heart of London, Stoltenberg said: "What we see is that terrorists want to change the way we live. They want to attack our open and free societies."

"The best response is to stand up for our open, free societies and continue to live the lives we want to live. Because then the terrorists will lose."

"What happened overnight in London just underlines the importance of stepping up efforts to fight terrorism. NATO has an important role to play. Our biggest military operation ever, our presence in Afghanistan, is about fighting terrorism and preventing Afghanistan from once again becoming a safe haven for terrorists and we are in Afghanistan as a response to a terrorist attack in the United States. 2001 11/9.

"But what we decided at the meeting last week was to step up our efforts by joining the global coalition to fight ISIL (Daesh) and also to provide more guided support with our surveillance planes. And the NATO allies are in many different ways contributing to very important but a fight that will take time to defeat ISIL and extremism," Stoltenberg said.

"It also underlies the importance of doing many different things. We need many tools. We need to fight the ideology, extremism, political diplomatic means but we also need military tools as we see for instance in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria." (Tolonews)

# (4) Working ...

meet President Ashraf Ghani.

UNDP has supported the people and Government of Afghanistan since 1966, and the two parties now plan to meet in order to address recent challenges and to set a course for the future.

In a statement, the UN agency promised aligning its work to the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework and engaging with line ministries in this regard.

It hailed the strong sense of national ownership that the government signaled on the issue - and now looks forward to resetting relations with the government of Afghanistan.

UNDP is aware of concerns expressed by Kabul and others about patterns of mismanagement before 2012. Its Office of Audit and Investigations -from 2012 to 2015 -- investigated or assessed 13 cases at the UNDP Office in Afghanistan.

instances of mismanagement Afghanistan during this period. In Afghanistan, UNDP has made it a matter of priority to ensure that similar situations do not arise in the future. (Pajhwok)

### (5) Afghan...

rate, said M Ayhan Kose, director of the World Bank Group's Development Prospects Group.

Also lead author of the latest World Bank report Global Economic Prospects, he told Pajhwok Afghan News: "Well, the uncertainty of the security situation is, of course, something that holds back growth in Afghanistan."

In its latest report, the bank also forecast a 3.4 and 3.1 percent growth rates respectively for 2018 and 2019. In 2015, Afghanistan's economy grew at 1.1 percent while in 2014 the growth rate was 1.3.

The 2.2 percent growth projection for 2017 is 0.6 percent higher than its January projections for the same period. In its report, the bank underscored rising security threats in the country.

According to the Bank, growth in South Asia remains strong, with regional output projected to rise by 6.8 percent in 2017 and an average of 7.2 percent in 19-2018. Excluding India, growth is projected to average 5.8 percent in 2019-2017, with some crosscountry variation. (Pajhwok)

#### (6) Palace Spurns ...

maintain a unified view of the problems being faced by the country. The Presidential Palace promised recent terrorist attacks would be investigated in a transparent and fair manner and results would be shared with the people.

Earlier, the Jamiat-i-Islami (JIA) Afghanistan demanded investigations into the deadly attacks in Kabul and dismissal of the National Security Advisor (NSA) and security sector leadership.

The party leaders, including Salahuddin Rabbani, warned if their demands were not accepted, the party would take decisions on how to realize a 'positive change.'

Rabbani, the JIA chairman, told a press conference that recent attacks in Kabul might have been carried out in collusion with some security agencies. But the government strongly defended the role of top security leaders and said they were discharging their duty effectively.

The Palace insisted the NSA was working honestly and professionally. Raising concerns regarding the top security brass would only benefit the enemy, it argued. (Pajhwok)

# (7) Those Using ...

whose headquarter is located outside our borders, misuses Islam & provokes ethnic politics to recruit terrorists," he added.

He also added "In our fight against terrorism, we need to commit to uprooting sanctuaries and dismantling support infrastructures." "Most of these elements are external to Afghanistan, and we need to do something about them before it's too late," he said, adding that "Therefore, our efforts, bilateral or multilateral at core need to be pragmatically centered on dealing with the externalities." (KP)

# (8) ISI Provided ...

Haggani network with explosives to conduct the bombing in Kabul.

Meanwhile a source within government said on condition of anonymity that the truck had been seen in parts of city from 5:30 am on the morning of the explosion. At no point did security personnel appear to have stopped the vehicle, he said.

It is believed that 1,500 kg explosives was used in the bombing.

"One of the problems is about the involvement of some elements within the security forces, there is the possibility that they (some elements in the security forces) were involved in it, secondly the weakness of these forces," said MP Abdul Hai Akhundzada.

"The entry of the truck in this important area is surprising," said one Kabul resident Navid Ahmad.

The ministry of interior said its investigations into the bombing were ongoing, however it said initial investigations show that Pakistan's ISI supplied Haqqani with the explosives. According to the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), there are thirty sewage companies working in Kabul, but some of the sewage tankers operate without licenses. However government's investigations will need to uncover who the truck belonged to. (Tolonews)

# (9) MoU on...

prisoners affected by TB and Hepatitis B. he said.

Naim said implementation of the agreement was important for UNDP acknowledged there were reducing and diagnosing of HIA

among inmates.

Policy and strategy assistant at Mol, Maj. Gen. Massoud Aziz, welcomed the agreement and said: "Addressing health related problems of prisoners is one of the government's main jobs, the ministry supports this good action and will take serious steps for its implementation."

According to the MoPH statement, a total of 2,326 people are infected with HIV/AIDS virus across the country. (Pajhwok)

#### (10) Global...

impassable routes. Recent estimates show the number of foreign fighters surged from 200 to 11,000 in Afghanistan in the past two years," the presided revealed.

Ghani said the international community was still unable to overcome all dimensions of terrorism. The UN had witness the growth of the menace, but the global response to the challenge had been slow and inadequate, he remarked.

He noted the level of cooperation had improved, but frameworks, tools and necessary measures for the identification and eradication of terrorist activities needed to be put in

The participants of the conference remained silent for a minute to pay respects to the victims of recent attacks in Kabul, London and other parts of the world. (Pajhwok)

### (11) 6 in Every ...

Paihwok statistics show since fiscal year 2015 until May 2017, among every 10 middle level taxpayers, six evade taxes. Some of the taxpayers might have been evaded tax while some might have been inactive.

The statistics also show, 15,000 middle level taxpayers on average had escaped taxes if they had been active during the past two and a half years. If had been active and paid taxes, the tax of 15,000 taxpayers being paid to the government revenue is estimated at around 41 billion afghanis over the past two and half years.

The middle level tax department refused to provide the list of these 15,000 tax evading companies to Pajhwok. The department officials said work on preparing the list was underway and a copy of the list would provided to Pajhwok when completed.

They, however, provided a list of 14 health institutes, 19 schools and higher educational institutes and 19 hotels in Kabul, which do not pay taxes. Factors behind tax escape

Amena Ahmadi said administrative corruption, misuse of authority or use of influence, power and lack of awareness about the law were main reasons behind the non-payment of

According to the income tax law, a taxpayer counts his/her income and pays the tax, but some individuals do not disclose their sources of income and thus escape tax.

Yousuf Ghaznavi, an investigative officer at MoF, said some business markets owned by parliament members or people who have close ties with government and tribal elders refused to pay taxes.

He said: "Haji Ramzan, who owns a huge garments market in Metab Qala area of Kabul has not paid taxes over the past few years. But I will not let him and will take the tax from him. Some markets in Shahr-i-Naw area show strong resistance to paying

"Our local teams cannot be blamed for the situation, I told them not to take bribe and they also are often threatened by powerful individuals." "Some show them gun bullets and others offer bribe in order not to ask them for tax. They are so powerful that they can challenge our president and minister who according to them cannot ask them for tax."

Abdul Qayyum Arifi, a university teacher, said \administrative corruption, the lack of professional individuals and taxpayer encouragement programmes were some of the reasons behind tax evasion.

He said the government, specially the MoF, in the first phase should take effective measures to control corruption and ensure the law was implemented on every citizen equally. Arif said MoF should work to enhance the capacity of its staff involved in tax collection and equip them with necessary machinery and tools. He added the ministry should

launch more awareness creating programmes for taxpayers who could be encouraged by decreasing levy and by making sure the income tax payment procedure was simple and easy.

Amena Ahmadi, who has been working as head of the middle level tax collection department, said the department had taken steps to facilitate taxpayers and ensure the law was implemented on every

individual. (Pajhwok)

# (12) Rocket Strikes ...

Indian Express: "A rocket landed in the India House compound at 10:25 am. There were no casualties. Investigations are ongoing."

Sirens and warnings of missiles sounded in several embassies, followed by a dull thump as the rocket exploded.

The rocket strike occurred days after an explosives-packed truck was detonated near the Green Zone, where the Indian embassy is located. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Kabul Protestors ...

Road in PD2.

The protestors have called for the dismissal of all security heads, including the national security council chief Haneef Atmar.

They warned that the number of sit-in camps would increase in the capital and in other parts of the country if their demands are not met.

On Tuesday, the protestors launched a purple ribbon campaign. They have tied purple ribbons around their wrists and all social media messages of theirs are now going up with a purple background.

"Our protest is being extended inside and outside Afghanistan; it is increasing, the number of our camps are surging and more camps are about to be erected in Kabul," said Mohayuddin, a protestor in Kabul.

"Our main demand is that government should agree to our demands and the international community should pay attention to this matter," said Baes Nizami, another protestor. (Tolonews)

### (14) U.S. Embassy ...

Afghanistan and the region. The United States stands resolved with the Government and the people of Afghanistan, and all those who seek an end to the violence that has too long plagued Afghanistan. We shall not waver or be intimidated by those who advocate violence and intolerance. (PR)

### (15) UNAMA ...

At the meeting, UNAMA endorsed the ownership taken by the Afghan Government to start a discussion with neighbouring countries about sustained stability in the region, as well as the establishment of the Kabul Process - a forum to increase regional cooperation for peace and stability - and recognized that the gathering sends a strong signal that the international community stands firmly with Afghanistan and its people to seek collective solutions to the current challenges.

"I am encouraged to see the participation of high-level representatives from so many countries, which signifies the solidarity of participating countries with the Afghan people, particularly in the wake of the egregious attacks in Kabul," said UN envoy Tadamichi Yamamoto, who is also head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). "It demonstrates the confidence that the international community has in the government and Afghan society at large to find a common vision for countering terrorism and ensuring peace."

The participants strongly supported this vision for peace, and commended it as underlining the principle of inclusion, an important building block for a national peace process. The conference participants noted that such a process should be embedded in a positive international consensus to bring peace to the country and stability to the wider region. They also discussed ways to contribute to an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process.(PR)

# (16) UK Commends...

It said the UK commended the steadfastness of the national unity government's vision for a peace based on equality, pluralism and inclusiveness. "We remain fully committed to an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process. '

"Such a process requires regional and international support to address the drivers of terrorism and instability to allow Afghanistan the space for peace-building and peace-making to succeed."

The statement said this week's events in London and in Kabul underlined the imperative and resoluteness of a shared and continued fight against brutal elements, as well as the importance of laying the foundations for a political settlement to build lasting peace.

"The UK stands firmly together with the Government and people of Afghanistan in building harmony and prosperity for the country and region."

The UK said a stable Afghanistan was in the interests of the region and the world. "The United Kingdom's commitment to a peaceful Afghanistan

remains enduring." (Pajhwok)

### (17) 31 Roshan..

remember the victims." Four of the company's injured workers are said to be in critical condition. They are still under medical treatment in a city hospital, according

to the statement. Roshan said at the moment the security of its employees and their families, as well as financial assistance to them, were more important to it than anything else. (Pajhwok)

#### (18) Press TV...

when a truck bomb was detonated in Wazir Akbar Khan, killing over 150 people.

According to Zada's brother, his body had been so badly mutilated in the explosion that identifying him had been difficult.

"Due to the lack of resources in identifying bodies, we could not identify his body sooner. Finally on Monday the National Directorate of Security employees brought us some things of his, including his wallet that contained his cards, and it helped us identify Habibullah's body," said Rahmatullah Hussain Zada, Habibullah Hussain Zada's brother.

"As we saw Habibullah's body, it showed that he was near the bombing, because his body was damaged badly and was unidentifiable," Press TV's senior journalist in Kabul, Mohammad Amin Alemi said.

There are still a number of families who have not yet been handed the remains of their loved ones who are thought to have been killed in the explosion. Among those missing are policemen, guards, motorists and others. (Tolonews)

#### (19) Female...

had provided a market for women's products about three years ago, but the market did not attract sufficient

Suhaila, another woman, who sold goods under a fire-emitting sun while in burga, said she had been involved in the business over the past four years. She said he earned enough money to meet her livelihood needs.

"Our business is good in summer, but we face problems in winter due to too much raining and winds. Sitting on roadsides to sell goods is hard, but we do it," she said.

To a question whether they would sell products in a shop if the government provides them, she said: "We were previously working in the market, but we suffered losses as we paid the rent of shop for six months." "We created a group of 70 members,

but no one supported us and the group was divided after some days and after that all the women again took to the streets for selling their products." Jamila Mohammadi, who served as

head of Businesswomen's Association in Shiberghan, also said women's business was failing in Jawzjan. She said female street vendors lacked government's support and faced cultureal restrictions. She said many

businesswomen but they did not delivery on their pledges. Mohammadi said women selling products in streets today had been selling the same in a market built by the Businesswomen Association

institutes had promised to support

about four years ago. "Around 70 woman sellers were in the market, but right now there is no woman in the association and we are obliged to close its door," she said.

She said a number of people were negatively propagating against the association when it was functioning that caused business of women to collapse.

Women's business would not boost until people were made aware of the importance of women's partnership in the commerce sector, Mohammadi added. However, provincial women's affairs director, Najiba Quraishi, said the department had arranged different educational programs for Jawzjan women over the past three years."We are aware about businesswomen and their activities and we also support them to the best of our ability, but they are unable to continue their businesses due to families' restrictions, we are currently working on construction of a special market for women that would help them continue their business," she said.She said 20 women were currently busy learning how to cook cookies and cakes in the Women's Garden in Shiberghan where the market was being constructed.

However, Shah Pikay, a female vendor, said they were not enrolled in educational programs of the women's affairs department. "We are not included in such programs because we have no friends there," he said.

However, the women's affairs director said economic problems of women were the only rule for membership of educational programs. Currently 60 women are working as street vendors in Shiberghan. (Pajhwok)