

(1) Kabul Bombing...

State Department Spokesperson Heather Nauert said.

"The United States remains committed to peace and stability in Afghanistan, and stands by the people of Afghanistan who want peace and a future free from these horrific acts of violence," Nauert said.

At the UN headquarters in New York, members of the Security Council condemned in the strongest terms the "heinous and cowardly" terrorist attack.

Expressing their deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and to the government of Afghanistan, the Security Council reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

Underlining the need to hold perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice, the Security Council reiterated that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

In a separate statement, the UN Secretary-General strongly condemns the attack targeting Afghans gathered in Kabul to celebrate a day of special religious significance.

"The deliberate targeting of civilians is a clear violation of international humanitarian law. Every effort should be made to bring perpetrators to justice," said a statement attributable to the Spokesperson of the Secretary General.

"The Secretary-General extends his deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and the government of Afghanistan. He wishes a speedy recovery to those injured," the spokesperson said.

In a statement, EU also strongly denounced the terrorist attack and conveyed its condolences to the families and friends of those who have lost their loved ones and wished a speedy recovery to those injured.

The people of Afghanistan deserve the lasting peace and security that they have long demanded the EU would continue to work tirelessly to make this a reality, the statement added.

Tadamichi Yamamoto, Special Representative for Afghanistan and head of UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) also unequivocally denounced the Tuesday's attack at an event facility where religious leaders had gathered peacefully to mark a day of special significance.

"The UN continues to stand with all Afghans in solidarity and remains committed to an Afghan-led peace process that will end the ongoing war and enable the government to allocate more resources to protect all its citizens from such atrocities," the statement said.

Yamamoto expressed deep condolences to the families of the victims and wished a speedy recovery of the injured.

Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs, Nahzat Ulama-i-Afghanistan and other political parties denounced the barbaric attack on Milad-u-Nabi (SAWS) gathering in Kabul.

Qatar and Iran unequivocally condemned the inhuman and barbaric terrorist attack in Kabul

and extended heartfelt condolences to family members of the victims and wished early recovery to the injured.

Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qasemi expressed solidarity with the Afghan nation and government as well as families of the victims of the evil and unforgivable crime, a media report said.

NATO Senior Civilian Representative (SCR) Ambassador Cornelius Zimmermann condemned yesterday's appalling attack in Kabul.

"On this day of national mourning, we sympathize with the Afghan people. We are shocked by yesterday's appalling attack in Kabul, claiming so many lives. NATO stands firm with Afghans."

Egypt's Grand Mufti Shawki Allam denounced the disgraceful terrorist attack which targeted a gathering of religious scholars in Kabul.

The Mufti said the terrorist attack showed those terrorist groups' hate toward scholars and reveal their attempts to shut down the voice of righteousness that stand against their false ideas.

India embassy in Kabul condemned the heinous and cowardly terrorist attack in the strongest possible words which resulted in the death and injury of scores of innocent Afghans.

It conveyed heart-felt condolences to the families of the victims and prayed for the early recovery of the Injured. (Pajhwok)

(2) Afghans Must...

this visit to Kabul, Ambassador Khalilzad met with men and women active in Afghan civil society and peace efforts, members of the media, and other governmental and nongovernmental organizations," Pompeo said. (Pajhwok)

(3) US Halt Security...

Trump said he has cut those payments off a long time ago. "We're not paying Pakistan any money because they're not helping us at all and we'll see where it all goes," Trump said referring to the decision he took early this year.

"I hope to have a good relationship with Pakistan. But right now, we're paying Pakistan nothing. I cut them off. They were getting \$1.3 billion a year. They're not getting anything now," Trump asserted.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon said the US has suspended USD1.66 billion in security assistance to Pakistan. "USS1.66 billion of security assistance to Pakistan is suspended," Col Rob Manning, spokesman of the Department of Defense told reporters in an email response to questions. He did not elaborate further.

David Sedney, the former Deputy Assistant Secretary Defense for Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia during the Obama administration, said that the blocking of military assistance to Pakistan, which began in January of this year is a strong signal of American frustration.

"But, so far Pakistan has taken no serious steps to address the core US concern - that Pakistan tolerates and often encourages groups which use violence against Pakistan's neighbors," Sedney told Pajhwok Afghan News.

"Pakistan's leaders have promised cooperation, but beyond words, serious cooperation has

not happened, therefore President Trump is frustrated and so are most Americans," he said. "This frustration does not ignore the suffering that Pakistani people have undergone. It just asks Pakistan to recognize that it should act to help stop the suffering of others," he added.

Currently a Senior Associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies think-tank, Sedney said while Pakistan has suffered terribly from terrorism by Islamic extremists, Islamabad has also enabled extremists groups that attack its neighbors, he observed.

After years of dithering, in recent years Pakistan's security forces have moved strongly against the extremists that threaten the Pakistani state, he added. "What the US seeks, what President Trump is asking for, is for Pakistan to take the same kind of measures against the Taliban, against Lashkar-e-Taiba, and against all groups in Pakistan that threaten Pakistan's neighbors," he said.

"But, we still see the Taliban moving weapons, fighters and money through Pakistan. We still see Taliban commanders taking refugee in Pakistan, keeping their families in Pakistan, holding meetings and conducting training in Pakistan, and shipping explosives from Pakistan into Afghanistan," Sydney alleged.

"We see leaders of sanctioned organizations acting freely in Pakistan and speaking publicly in favor of violence. If Pakistan would take some strong measures against the Taliban, peace would come to Afghanistan quickly," he argued. The US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has roped in former top American diplomat Zalmay Khalilzad for peace talks with the Taliban. With peace, both Afghanistan and Pakistan would benefit from a huge "peace dividend," he said. (Pajhwok)

(4) Afghans Try...

and its Western allies while they pursued talks with the Taliban, to end the 17-year long war.

"As of now we don't know which militant outfit could be behind the attack. Investigations are at a preliminary stage," said a senior security official who was at the blast site on Wednesday to collect forensic evidence.

The council, the country's largest religious organization, gathered scholars from the Sunni sect, but it was uncertain whether the attack could have had a sectarian dimension.

Though Sunni themselves, Taliban and Islamic State fighters have targeted religious scholars aligned with the Afghan government in the past.

This time, the Taliban quickly denied responsibility and condemned the attack on religious preachers and scholars, but investigators in Kabul said the hardline Islamist group's involvement cannot be ruled out. The toll from Tuesday's attack could rise as most of the 80 wounded had severe injuries, hospital and government officials said.

On Wednesday, two rockets hit Ghazni city where the top U.S. general leading the NATO-led force in Afghanistan, Scott Miller, was meeting the provincial governor and senior officials at the governor's compound, said Ahmad Khan Serat, a spokesman

for Ghazni police.

"Gen. Miller was not hurt in the rocket attack," Serat said, adding that two rockets fell on a money exchange market, about 200 metres (656 ft) from the governor's compound in the central strategic province.

Debra Richardson, a spokesperson for the NATO-led Resolute Support mission, said Miller was in Ghazni province for a meeting with Afghan military leadership to discuss security.

"While he was there, the Taliban indiscriminately launched indirect fire but we do not believe General Miller was the target," Richardson said in a statement. No militant group has claimed responsibility for the rocket attack in Ghazni.

In October, Miller survived an attack by a Taliban fighter in the southern province of Kandahar in which a legendary Afghan police general and the local intelligence chief were killed, and two Americans were wounded.

Last week, Taliban leaders met U.S. special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad at their political headquarters in Qatar in an effort to pave the way for peace talks. The three-day meeting was the second in the past month.

Khalilzad has declared a deadline of April 20, the day of Afghanistan's presidential election, to end the war, but the country's security situation has worsened since NATO formally ended combat operations in 2014.

U.S. President Donald Trump has angered neighbouring Pakistan, which Afghan intelligence and Western military leaders have long suspected of supporting the Taliban.

Over the weekend, Trump said in an interview Pakistan doesn't "do a damn thing" for the United States despite billions of dollars in U.S. aid, and alleged Pakistani officials knew of former al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden's location before his killing by U.S. troops in a raid inside Pakistan in 2011. (Reuters)

(5) Mail Plans Ahead...

abroad as we do with pine nuts," said Rustami.

Depending on the quality, jujube's sell in Kabul for between 400 and 800 AFs per kilogram and is a popular snack among local residents.

"We have different types of jujube. We bring it mostly from Farah and people are interested in buying the dried fruit," said Lala Sherin, a shopkeeper in Kabul.

The Ministry of Agriculture said however the lack of processing centers for jujubes has resulted in the illegal trafficking of the dry fruit to neighboring countries. (Tolo news)

(6) Govt, People...

the beginning of the 21st century, this country faced new movements such as the Taliban and extremist groups such as Al Qaeda," he said.

After the terrorist attack on the US in September 11, 2001, the situation in Afghanistan and the region fundamentally changed, he added.

Afghanistan opened a new page after the fall of Taliban regime and experienced positive changes with approval of the Constitution and international assistance of which France was a part.

Abdullah cited economic development, freedom of expression, education and women rights as

examples of the positive changes in Afghanistan.

He added the Afghan people were committed to democracy. Pointing to the peace process in Afghanistan, the CEO said the government and people supported peace and efforts have been accelerated in this regard but the Taliban were yet to respond positively.

He stressed over continued fight against extremism and said that terrorism and extremism were major challenges for Afghanistan and the international community.

Abdullah said that dealing with the mentioned challenges required long term cooperation between Afghanistan and the international community. (Pajhwok)

(7) Khost Protesters...

is over. Now they have introduced another strategy which is if 10 percent votes are not polled according to a voter list in a ballot box, all the votes would be invalidated."

Hazrat Zaman, another candidate, said the two electoral bodies were not independent in their decisions and everything was decided under deals.

Meanwhile, IEC Director Abdullah Ansari said the commission was inspecting and recounting votes from 91 polling stations due to alleged claims of rigging and fraud. (Pajhwok)

(8) Historic Inquiry...

a very rigorous process will get beyond their denials," says Mr Hager.

The NZDF has flat-out rejected the claims, saying it acted honourably and instead killed nine insurgents. Lawyer for the Afghan villagers, Deborah Manning, says the issue of deaths should be a priority.

The NZDF and government agencies are pushing for secrecy around the raids.

Today will be one of the few open and public hearings held by the inquiry, as it grapples with what information should be made public and what should be kept secret.

"It is not an exaggeration to say that the Government's ability to deal with hostile international forces would be seriously harmed by the loss of intelligence information from the country's partners, and New Zealanders put at risk," says Ms McDonald.

After public hearings on Wednesday and Thursday, inquiry chairs Sir Geoffrey Palmer and Sir Terence Arnold will read over thousands of documents and listen to accounts of those involved.

They're expected to report back to the Government by April. (Agencies)

(9) NDS Personnel...

is yet to comment in this regard, but a security source, on the condition anonymity, said the NDS personnel had recovered the device three days back.

Provincial Independent Election Commission director Haroon Bawar confirming losing three biometric devices on the election day in Terwa district. (Pajhwok)

(10) Experiment Show...

so I decided to plant Kinnow and Tangor sapling in my orchard. Najibullah said: "I planted apple trees which produce fruit in summer when fruits from Pakistan and Iran are being imported and local fruits are still in trees." He asked the government to pay more attention to the local fruit production. (Pajhwok)