

(1) Suicide Bombers, ...

the training centre, which is close to the Paktia police headquarters.

The blasts flattened a building and enabled gunmen to force their way inside the compound, according to officials and the interior ministry.

"Most of the victims are civilians who had come to the police headquarters to get their passports and national IDs," a statement from the Paktia governor's office said.

A university student who was in class at the time said he heard "a big boom" which shook the building and shattered windows. "As we were trying to find our way (out of the building) I heard a second blast and then the dust and dirt covered us in the class. Several of my classmates were wounded by broken glass," Noor Ahmad told AFP.

The battle between the attackers, armed with guns and suicide vests, and security forces lasted around five hours before it ended with all five militants killed, officials said.

The second attack, in Ghazni some 100 kilometres (62 miles) west of Gardez, followed a similar pattern involving insurgents detonating an explosives-laden Humvee near a police headquarters then storming the building, Haref Noori, the Ghazni governor's spokesman, told AFP.

"Dozens of Taliban" were killed in the attack, Ghazni police chief Mohammad Zamani said.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani condemned the attacks and praised the "bravery and sacrifice" of security forces.

- Drone strike -

The attacks are the latest in a series of assaults on security installations, including one on a military hospital in Kabul in March which may have killed up to 100 people, and a devastating attack on a base in Mazar-i-Sharif which left 144 people dead.

They came one day after four-day talks between Afghanistan, Pakistan, the United States and China were held in Oman with the aim of ending the Taliban's 16-year insurgency.

Paktia province borders Pakistan's militancy-plagued tribal areas where the Taliban-affiliated Haqqani network has a presence.

Tuesday's attack in Gardez began hours after a US drone strike in Pakistan's Kurram tribal district, part of which borders Paktia, killed at least 26 Haqqani militants, officials have said.

A senior commander in the Afghan Taliban told AFP on condition of anonymity the attack was in retaliation for the US aerial assault, the deadliest targeting militants in the Pakistani tribal region this year.

On Monday the US also carried out strikes in the Jaji Maidan district of Paktia "under counter-terror authorities", said US Forces spokesman Navy Captain Tom Gresback.

In Kurram last week the Pakistani military rescued a US-Canadian family who had been abducted by militants in Afghanistan in 2012. US President Donald Trump has said they were being held by the Haqqani network.

The extremist group is known for its frequent use of suicide bombers. The Haqqanis have also been accused of assassinating top Afghan officials and holding kidnapped Westerners for ransom.

These include the recently rescued hostages Canadian Joshua Boyle, his American wife Caitlan Coleman, and their three children - all born in captivity - as well as US soldier Bowe Bergdahl, who was released in 2014. (AFP)

(2) Govt. Approves ...

contracts approved during the meeting include contract for the Kabul river cleansing project from Khatam ul Nabieen Mosque to Pol e Sokhta related to the job creation project of the Capital Region Independent Development Authority (CRIDA), the Contract for the 500 kw, Transmission Line Project from Sheberghan to Dashte-Alwan in Baghlan Province related to DABS, and the Contract for the construction of 17 km of Asphalt and Concrete roads with water canal, including 8 Meters iron-ore concrete bridge, in east of Gozara district of Herat Province, related to the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development.

Other contracts approved during the meeting include the construction project of Water Supply in Khost province, which is approved conditionally, the Contract for reactivation of Provincial Hospitals in Gardez city of Paktia and Khair Kot district of Paktia Provinces, contract for procurement of 12 vehicles to the President's Protection Service Directorate, and the Contract for supply of 9 different vehicles for headquarter and the provincial institutions of higher education. The National Procurement Commission also approved the Contract for supply of 9 bathroom items accessories, related to the fiscal year 1396, required by military corps of Ministry of Defense, the Contract for the procurement of 16 items of individual clothing equipment required by the Ministry of Interior, and the amendment contract for transportation of 100 thousand metric wheat from Hairatan Port to six provinces due to increased financial expenditures. (KP)

(3) Ghani, Abdullah ...

people of Afghanistan will remain thankful to their sacrifices," said the president.

"We stand against these criminals and defend every inch of our country and will never allow our country to become safe-haven for terrorist and their affiliates," the statement said.

The CEO office also denounce the Paktia attack and said the Taliban's criminality continued and again brought grief to some families of the country with their unforgivable act today. (Pajhwok)

(4) EU Renews ...

A statement from EU said supporting economic and human development, as well as addressing challenges related to migration, were other focal points of the new policy.

EU High Representative Federica Mogherini said: "The EU has agreed today to adopt a new strategy on Afghanistan, which is based on the Joint Communication published earlier in July."

She acknowledged Afghan people deserved peace and prosperity. "We have been standing by them and will continue to do so in support of the reform process.

She also pledged EU support for Afghanistan's democratic path, rule of law and human rights and efforts for bringing peace to the country to the benefit of Afghans and the world at large.

"This work towards peace needs to be led by Afghans and owned by Afghans, but the active support of the region and of the international community is crucial. The Afghan people can count on the European Union to accompany this process," Mogherini concluded. (Pajhwok)

(5) FAO Strives...

to make migration safe, orderly and regular.

FAO had a unique role to play in this context, and strived to address the root causes of migration, advocating for solutions that make migration an act of choice and not a desperate last resort.

FAO was also working with governments, UN agencies, the private sector, civil society and local communities, to generate evidence on migration patterns and was building countries' capacities to address migration through rural development policies. This way rural people can have the option to remain on their land, or to leave if they want to.

"As per the statistics, near to 40% of the country are living below the poverty line. Some serious actions have been taken to collectively combat with this situation. During the last three years, the main focus of the government is to supporting the people in this critical situation. In accordance with the current statistical data, agriculture sector contributes to 1.8% of the GDP growth of the country which highlights the highest contribution compared with the other sector" said, by Excellency Nasir Ahmad Durani, MAIL Minister.

"An increasing number of people particularly the rural community, are forced to migrate because of conflicts, hunger, poverty, lack of access to resources and livelihood opportunities and the impacts of climate change. In 2018, FAO will act as co-chair of the United Nations Global Migration Group (GMG) to emphasize the linkage between agriculture and rural development and migration. We are committed to support the Government of Afghanistan together with our partners to take productive steps to collectively resolve the issue of migration. Furthermore, FAO supports the process of institutionalization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) followed by its implementation together with investment and monitoring schemes. FAO is mandated to assist the Government in 6 SDGs (i.e. 1,2,6,12,13 and 15 goals) that will ultimately contribute to poverty reduction, food security and nutrition, contributing to the reduction of IDPs and migration," said, Tomio Shichiri, FAO Representative in Afghanistan.

"Concerns are growing that progress in defeating global hunger is being reversed as record numbers of people flee their homes to escape fighting. Hunger, conflict and migration are linked, therefore on World Food Day 2017 we make a plea for peace," said WFP Afghanistan Country Director, Mr. Mick Lorentzen. "To mark World Food Day, the World Food Programme (WFP) would like to emphasize on the importance of joint efforts and constructive partnerships among governments, business and organizations that will create the requisite momentum towards achieving Zero Hunger and shaping a brighter future for millions of people. By working towards Zero Hunger - Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, we can tackle many of the issues that cause people to migrate," he added. Every year, the World Food Day took place on October 16th, whose main goal remained to raise public awareness about hunger challenges and encourage people worldwide to take action in the fight against hunger. (Pajhwok)

(6) Senators Hold Mixed ...

meeting and not keeping the National Assembly in the loop about vital meeting. Senators proposed inclusion of Russian and Iran in the quadrilateral process.

The house also decided to summon Salahuddin Rabbani, acting foreign minister, to brief the public representatives on the QCG meeting in Oman and answer lawmakers' questions about deficiencies at his ministry.

Senator Abdullah Qarraq said several meetings similar to the QCG had been held in the past which produced no results but rather were just waste of time.

He hoped that this meeting of the four-nation group would yield positive results in case the countries involved took 'sincere' steps with regard to bringing peace in Afghanistan.

Rana Tarin, another lawmaker, suggested those Afghan diplomats participating in the QCG meeting to have a serious, determine and plain-spoken discussion with the three countries that have direct hands in Afghanistan war to make the global meeting on Afghan peace productive.

She didn't mention the three countries but said if the QCG meeting passed like the earlier ones, it would have no results.

Mualvi Ghulam Mohaiuddin Munsif, another public representative, emphasized the QCG should have all member countries of the UN, especially Afghanistan neighbors; because if other countries were not involved, it would lead to doubts and speculations about the meeting.

Senator Dr. Zalmai Zabuli said people weren't aware of the QCG meeting in Oman and the minister of foreign affairs should be summoned to the house for sharing information in this regard.

Gul Mohammad Rasoli, another senator, said the QCG had so far held five sessions but none of them had tangible results; because Pakistan didn't want peace in Afghanistan.

Fazal Hadi Musliymar, the Meshrano Jirga chairman, while wrapping up today's session said he was optimistic about the QCG meeting in Muscat and it would be better if Iran and Russia was given part in it.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), on Tuesday declared that the QCG meeting in Oman was a revival of the previous meetings in order Pakistan honored its promises.

Shakib Mustaghni, the MoFA spokesman, said next session of QCG wouldn't be held until Pakistan delivered on its promises. (Pajhwok)

(7) China Provides ..

returnees from Pakistan in eastern Afghanistan, as well as internally displaced families in central and southern regions.

"This contribution is an opportunity to start a partnership between WFP Afghanistan and China" said Yao Jing, Chinese Ambassador to Afghanistan. He added that as winter drew near, displaced people in the country were faced with difficulties and as a friendly and close neighbor to Afghanistan, China hoped to work with WFP in helping Afghan people get through the food crisis.

"My sincere thanks go to China's government for its first contribution to WFP's emergency operation in Afghanistan. WFP Afghanistan sees this exciting development as a foundation for a new and fruitful partnership between WFP Afghanistan and the Government of China that will help achieve our shared vision of an Afghanistan free from hunger" said Paul Howe, WFP Deputy Country Director for Afghanistan.

In 2017, WFP plans to assist up to 2.9 million food insecure people in Afghanistan by providing food or cash to those affected by conflict and natural disasters, as well as additional nutrition support, disaster risk reduction activities and school meal take-home rations for girls and boys in food insecure areas. In addition, WFP is providing food and cash assistance to more than 550,000 internally displaced people, refugees and returnees. (Pajhwok)

(8) Schools Closing ...

Afghanistan," the authors wrote. "In the most insecure areas of the country, schools are closing at an alarming rate due to insecurity."

While the war has affected schools since at least 2005, "as the fighting has escalated and spread to previously secure areas, more schools have closed".

In Kandahar, for example, at least 130 of 435 schools were closed over the summer, a local government official told HRW.

Threats from Islamic State militants forced the closure of at least 61 schools in the northern province of Jawzjan, education ministry spokesman Kabir Haqmal told Reuters. He said he could not yet comment on the report's findings, but acknowledged that "Security has a great impact on education, and when there are challenges, fewer girls attend."

Access to education can be undermined by factors ranging from limited numbers of qualified teachers and community opposition to a lack of sanitary facilities.

One of the more successful education programmes is also one of the most threatened by a drop in international funds, the HRW report found.

So-called "community-based education" (CBE) programmes have helped expand access to schools in many areas, the researchers said. But such programmes were only a temporary solution, as they were all run by non-profit groups out a shrinking pool of international donations, they said.

"The absence of long-term strategic thinking by government and donors exposes CBE programmes, and students, to unpredictable closures," they added.

"International aid has been essential to the progress in expanding access to education

since 2001," they concluded, but ranked bureaucratic hurdles, corruption, and insecurity among the reasons why the government often left the funds unspent. (Reuters)

(9) Research Finds ...

The telecom tax law was approved by the Wolesi Jirga in December, 2015. According to the law mobile phone users had to pay 10 percent.

According to Hekmat a committee comprised from members of the Communication Ministry, Finance Ministry, and Afghanistan Telecom Regulatory Authority (ATRA) was formed to oversee the tax collection process, but the committee was unable to monitor the process.

He said according to Afghans Coordination against Corruption (ACAC) organization, most members of the committee were unprofessional to properly monitor the tax collection process.

He said the government and telecommunication companies should have collected over 20 billion Afghani from taxes of around 23 million mobile phone users in the country compare to 8.5 billion Afghani that have been collected so far.

So far the ministries of communication and information technology and finance did not react to the report, but earlier, acting communication and technology minister, Shazad Gul Aryubi said corruption existed in the collection of tax on mobile phone services.

He said the process of tax collection was not transparent but assured the system to properly monitor the process would be established within four months. (Pajhwok)

(10) Forces Retake

this morning. Four people, including three policemen, were killed during the clash, he said.

Mohammad Haleem another resident of locality, also confirmed to Pajhwok security forces retook the Shebkoh district centre.

Police spokesman Iqbal Baher said the Taliban attacked Shebkoh district centre on Monday night but their attack was beaten back and the assailants unable to capture the district centre. Three policemen were killed and four other injured in the clash. The Taliban suffered casualties but the exact number was not known.

The resident of locality who wished to go unnamed said the Taliban destroyed most part of the district centre with bomb and burned three military vehicles.

Meanwhile, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said a huge quantity of weapons and ammunition were captured and security forces suffered casualties as the district changed hands. (Pajhwok)

(11) Pak FM Asks ...

Following the strike, Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif said on a Geo News programme that the United States should not conduct any drone strikes in either Afghanistan or Pakistan at a time when Afghan peace talks have resumed, according to the private TV channel.

According to the local security and intelligence officials, the airstrikes were carried out late on Monday night.

The officials further added that several missiles were fired on a compound of the terror network, leaving at least twenty of them dead.

According to the officials, the missiles were apparently fired from the unmanned aerial vehicles belonging to the US forces with the initial reports indicating at least five were killed.

However, the officials said the dead bodies of at least fifteen more were recovered in the aftermath of the airstrikes.

The target of the airstrikes was believed to be a commander of the Haqqani terrorist network identified as Abu Bakar. (KP)

(12) High State Medals ...

armed forces commander in chief meeting chaired by President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani.

The statement further added that the provincial police chief of the central Maidan Wardak province Gen. Fahim Qayem received a High State Medal for his services and specifically after the security personnel under his command recently thwarted the smuggle of a 2800-year-old ancient book out of the country. The police chief of the 5th police district of Kabul city General Kabir Ahmad Barmak also received a High State Medal after his the security forces under his command managed to thwart a deadly attack in the city.

Four other officers from the same police station also received High State Medals for their devotion and services, the statement added.

According to ARG Palace, other issues discussed during the meeting included the security situation and recent security developments in other provinces of the country including Faryab, Ghor, Jawzjan, Baghlan, Ghazni, Paktika, and Farah. (KP)

(13) 80pc of Helmandis ...

the growing medical problems in the restive problems.

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) provided medicine for only one million people of Helmand while the real size of population was around three million, he claimed. Up to 700 patients visit Bust Hospital every 24 hours.

"We perform 18 operations on a daily basis

at Bust Hospital. Unfortunately, we don't have a well-equipped operation theatre in this hospital," he lamented.

Many unprofessional people had been employed in the health sector due to interference by some individuals, he alleged. However, he did not name the individuals but said: "All of them are powerful figures."

The Import of poor-quality drugs by some traders to the province has created more problems for the people, another big issue that must be addressed on priority, he stressed.

Tobagar said some personnel were given high salaries by donors without consultation with his department. Such employees are unwilling to work in districts and instead stayed in Lashkargah, the provincial capital.

Considering the existing problems, 80 percent of Helmand residents went to other provinces or travelled abroad for medical treatments, he said. "Barring people with seasonal diseases, all other patients are referred elsewhere due to problems in Helmand," he argued.

He has shared the problem with MoPH for solution, with the ministry having promised corrective steps.

Helmand Civil Hospital Director Dr. Nisar Ahmad Barak acknowledged the health sector in the province was marred by brazen interference.

"Besides meddling in our affairs, they allocate us limited funds. The number of personnel is also insufficient, but even then they don't receive salaries in time.

"Some of our gardeners and others are taken out of here while we don't know where they work," he charged, saying support from the Doctors Without Borders helped resolve their problems.

Currently the Helmand Civil Hospital has 900 staff members, including 161 from MoPH and the rest from MSF, he explained. The hospital has 400 beds but 500 people with seasonal diseases visit it daily.

To Asked why some people visited other provinces and foreign countries for medical treatment, he replied: "Yes, some patients who could not be treated here go to other areas and abroad."

Barak continued otology, otorhinolaryngology and dental sections of the crowded hospital were still inactive.

Mullah Baran, hailing from the Dasht area of Nad Ali district, claimed local doctors could not treat his mother's stomach disorder. "I have spent 100,000 afghanis, visited different clinics - private and government - but my mother's health remains precarious."

Baran finally took his mother to a hospital in Quetta, the capital of Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province. Within few days, his mother regained her health. She has never complained again of stomach problems. Ezzatullah, who belongs to Lashkargah's Babage area, was diagnosed with malaria, which later degenerated into typhus.

"I visited every doctor in Helman but no one gave me medicine that could improve my health. Finally, I went to Kabul where doctors hospitalised me and I recovered," he recalled.

Gul Khan, a visitor to Helmand's Bost Hospital, said the facilities for treating all sick people were far from adequate. "My child has been admitted, but there is no place for attendants. My wife has to stay with the child."

Mullah Atiqullah, a resident of Musa Kala, said most of doctors in Helman were non-professional and inexperienced. "My father has been hospitalised for three days his health is yet to improve."

Atiqullah added he had been looking for other options and intended to transfer his father to another province for medical treatment.

A individual in the Public Health Department said on condition of anonymity that most of the individuals in the Vaccination Section had been hired on the basis of nepotism, not qualifications.

Some workers have been registered and regularly receive salaries - a clear something amounting to corruption. In this way, vaccination drives could not be successfully implemented in Helmand, where positive cases occasionally surface.

Helmand's Baghran, Dishu, Musa Kala, Nawzad, Khanshin and Sangin districts and parts of Lashkargah have been under Taliban's control. The government holds some areas of Nad Ali, Washer, Marja, Nawa, Gramseer and Greshk district. (Pajhwok)

(14) Turkish Airlines..

customers where they can place their orders and choose their colors and sizes.

"We are improving. Our customers from around the world are familiar with our products therefore it is crucial for us to use different ways to sell the carpets produced by our company," Qasemi said.

Other members of the union called on government to provide them with further marketing opportunities.

"Now the cost of transferring carpets abroad has sharply decreased. Before the agreement with Turkish Airlines, we were paying \$2 for each kilogram of carpet just to Dubai but now we are paying 8 cents," said Sayed Abbas, a member of the union.

Officials from the Ministry of Commerce has said they continue their efforts to provide better ways for the export of domestic goods, especially carpets. (Tolonews)