

(1) Bombing Hits ...

Danish said in a post on social media that based on initial reports, 20 people were killed and 40 others were wounded in the mosque attack.

Security forces cordoned off the area one hour after the explosion.

The Ministry of Public Health said in a statement that many of the wounded are in critical condition.

Many people were chanting slogans against insurgents outside the mosque few hours after the attack.

President Ashraf Ghani in a statement sent hours after the incident condemned the attacks on Kabul and Ghor mosques and called them inhuman and against the values of Islam.

The president said the attacks were aimed at creating division among the people, adding that these nefarious acts will not yield any result and will not affect the unity of Afghans.

Daesh has claimed responsibility of the attack.

This attack occurred just hours after an explosion close to a mosque in Daleema district in Ghor province in which at least 10 people were killed and many other were wounded.

Afghanistan witnessed many attacks on mosques in the past few months.

In August, more than 30 people lost their lives in a coordinated militant attack in Imam Zaman Mosque in Qala-e-Najarha area in Kabul's PD15.

Another attack on al-Zahra Mosque in Herat province, in the west of Afghanistan, killed at least six people and wounded many others. (Tolonews)

(2) People Not ...

with South Asia Satellite and the process will be completed next week. People would gain satisfactory access to telecommunications services as a result.

Ghani said the people were not happy with the services, asking the ministry concerned to work on enhancing its internal capacity, evaluating all telecom networks and offer a clear analysis thereof.

About the contract procurement process, he said all the details and information should be discussed at the meeting of the Economic High Council.

He emphasised greater focus on providing improved telecom services, according to a statement from the Palace. More work was needed to strengthen the telecom sector, he believed.

Ghani added the system of telecommunication should be clearly evolved so as ensure quality and standards. He instructed the authorities concerned to provide guidelines for to telecom companies to deliver improved services to citizens and strengthen their systems. (Pajhwok)

(3) Daesh to be...

would be crushed but the Taliban would be given the chance to reconcile.

He said the people of Bamyan were peace-loving and praised their behavior and political maturity. "You present a clear picture of our modernity on national and international levels."

He called on the government to stay in touch with the peoples of the central zone and not let the gap between them and the government widen. (Pajhwok)

(4) India a Partner...

Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a top American think-tank, he welcomed India's development assistance to the war-devastated country.

Pakistan, too, was an important US partner in South Asia, he said, adding their relationships in the region stood on their own merits.

"We expect Pakistan to take decisive action against terrorist groups based within their own borders that threaten their own people and the broader region. In doing so, Pakistan furthers stability and peace for itself and its neighbors ..." Tillerson remarked.

Responding to questions later, the secretary said the Afghan government had to be committed to being open to addressing the full needs of the ethnically diverse culture in the country and its own history as well.

"We think that is achievable and we can have a stable, peaceful Afghanistan. When that happens, a big threat is removed from Pakistan's future stability as well, which then creates a better condition for India-Pakistan relationships," he said.

The Trump administration intended to work closely both with India and Pakistan to ease tensions along their border, Tillerson said, adding Pakistan had two

troubled borders.

"And we'd like to help them take the tension down on both of those and secure a future stable Pakistan Government which we think improves relations in the region as well," he said.

Asserting that the Afghanistan issue could be resolved by addressing regional challenges, Tillerson said Pakistan and India were the two important elements of that.

"India is an important element of how we achieve the ultimate objective, which is a stable Afghanistan which no longer serves as a platform for terrorist organisations.

"Our policy, quite simply, on terrorism is that we will deny terrorists the opportunity, the means, the location, the wherewithal, the financing, the ability to carry out attacks against Americans at home and abroad, anywhere in the world," he said.

"Clearly the threat to that policy finds its locus in many ways in Afghanistan. And so, to the extent we can remove that as an opportunity for terrorism in Afghanistan, the greatest beneficiaries are going to be Pakistan and Afghanistan," he said.

Tillerson said India had an important role in providing development assistance to Afghanistan as they moved forward to create better economic conditions for a very diverse ethnic group of Afghans.

"So it is about a commitment, a message to the Taliban and other elements that we're not going anywhere. We'll be here as long as it takes for you to change your mind and decide you want to engage with the Afghan government in a reconciliation process and develop a form of government that does suit the needs of the culture of Afghanistan," Tillerson said. (Pajhwok)

(5) Taliban Must Have No

have long accused Pakistan of turning a blind eye or helping the Afghan Taliban and the allied Haqqani network. Pakistan has repeatedly denied ties with the militant groups.

This comes after the US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said at a debate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington DC on Wednesday, the United States will remain in Afghanistan as long as the Taliban refuse to join the peace process.

"So it is about a commitment, a message to the Taliban and other elements that we're not going anywhere. And so we'll be here as long as it takes for you to change your mind and decide you want to engage with the Afghan government in a reconciliation process and develop a form of government that does suit the needs of the culture of Afghanistan," he said at the debate titled "Defining Our Relationship with India for the Next Century". (Tolonews)

(6) States Sponsoring...

would mobilize development among regional countries and Afghanistan, which had never been in isolation, would remain in contact with the world.

About urban planning, the president said such plans should be alerted keeping in view available resources and conditions and the motive should be service to the people.

He said urban plans should benefit equally men, women, children and the disabled and vision of citizens should be incorporated in urban development.

Ghani said the creation of mayor's forum was a basic need of regional countries and urged the creation of such forum of local mayors in order to share experiences.

He hoped participants of the Silk Road Mayors Forum would present short, mid and long term plans at the end of the gathering.

The president praised the valor and heroism of the Afghan forces in fighting against terrorist groups, which he said had no place in Afghanistan and would be destroyed.

He said country which saw their existence in continuation of their support to terrorists should understand they were being isolated.

Ghani said no power on the earth could defeat the Afghan nation or harm the Afghanistan hope and its national unity. "We want a lasting and dignified peace, we want Asia and the entire world to live in peace," he said. (Pajhwok)

(7) Turkmenistan ...

during the conference on issues related to the implementation of energy, transport and communication project, being implemented with the participation of Afghanistan, trade, private sector development and business cooperation.

The RECCA, initiated in 2005 in Kabul, aims to consolidate the efforts of the countries of the region in stabilizing the

situation in Afghanistan and promoting regional economic integration of South and Central Asia. (Trend)

(8) Andar District...

Andar today. He said since Thursday two security men had been killed and nine others wounded.

But Andar district chief Mohammad Qasim Desiwal had told Pajhwok last night that the rebels captured three security posts on Thursday.

"But the reinforcement reached last night and the district was rescued from falling," the official said.

He said they had been besieged by the rebels for two days amid fierce clashes because the reinforcement could not reach them in-time.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said dozens of police were killed and wounded in the attacks in Andar district. He said the fighters were careful in their raids to avoid civilian casualties.

He admitted the killing of three fighters in clashes with security forces and the district remained besieged by the insurgents. (Pajhwok)

(9) Taliban Repts, ...

society activists had been invited to the summit in Dubai.

He said the two-day huddle would discuss the United States new policy on Afghanistan and the South Asia, the stalled Afghan peace process and the role of regional countries in this regard.

Similar gatherings had taken place before in Dubai, Qatar, Germany, France, Islamabad and other countries.

The Dubai event follows the four-nation talks on the Afghanistan peace process in Oman. (Pajhwok)

(10) Terrorists on...

the president offered sympathies and condolences to the armed forces over the loss of their colleagues in the Maiwand attack.

Forty-three Afghan National Army soldiers were killed and nine others wounded on Thursday when the Taliban stormed their base before dawn. (Pajhwok)

(11) Recent Attacks ...

but failed.

In recent days, dozens of Afghan soldiers and civilians have been killed in Taliban attacks in Paktia, Kandahar, Farah and Ghazni provinces.

Waziri said the recent attacks did not mean the enemy was succeeding but they would face with the same fate they faced in the spring.

He said 20 operations of commando forces and 15 regional operations supported by air forces were ongoing today, in which dozens of militants had been killed and wounded.

"These attacks are organized by the enemies of Afghanistan from across the border, the terrorist attacks carried out in the recent days were out of Taliban's ability," he said.

Pakistan intelligence agents supported the Taliban in organizing such attacks, he alleged. "When a district falls to Taliban, for example when some districts fell to rebels in Badakhshan and Helmand provinces, the enemy seized 70 percent of vehicles but most of them were destroyed."

He said the international community should press Pakistan to stop supporting terrorists. "Those who are Afghans can join the peace process like Gulbuddin Hekmatyar," he said.

The enemy by conducting suicide attacks wanted to show to the international community that they were still powerful, he said.

About the attack in Kandahar, he said the enemy targeted an Afghan National Army (ANA) base in Maiwand district last night, killing a large number of soldiers killed in a short time.

In the Maiwand attack, of 60 troops manning the base, 43 soldiers were killed, nine wounded and six others were missing, he said. Only two soldiers survived in the attack, Waziri concluded. (Pajhwok)

(12) China Strongly ...

the victims.

Lu said that China was concerned about the escalation of violence and called on related parties to participate in the reconciliation process to safeguard the country's peace and development.

The Taliban killed 43 Afghan troops and nearly wiped out an army camp in southern Kandahar province, officials said Thursday.

The pre-dawn attack on the army camp involved two suicide car bombs, said

spokesman Dawlat Wazir, who claimed the attack was beyond the Taliban's ability. Nine other soldiers were wounded and six have gone missing, Wazir said, adding that 10 attackers were killed.

Late Wednesday, Taliban killed six policemen in northern Balkh province and killed nine policemen during an attack on their posts in western Farah province the same day. (Pajhwok)

(13) Over 8,000 People...

relations with influential or political figures.

It was the second exam held by the commission.

"Previously, those who were appointed were somehow linked with influential and political figures. But this transparent process will not force anyone to be grateful and they will only be appointed based on their merit," he said.

"The results of this initiative is a big step towards fighting the endemic corruption and improving governance," said Faizullah Zaki, acting minister of labor and social affairs.

According to the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission, the lack of capacity is one of the main reasons for underspending of budget by government institutions - every fiscal year.

"I assure you that this is a transparent process," said Latif Roshan, acting minister of higher education.

"Those who pass the exam will go through training and capacity building processes," said Suhail Kakar, media officer for the commission.

From 8,175 individuals who participated in the exam, only 470 of them were women. (Tolonews)

(14) US Will Remain a...

engage with the Afghan government in a reconciliation process and develop a form of government that does suit the needs of the culture of Afghanistan," he said at the debate titled "Defining Our Relationship with India for the Next Century".

Meanwhile, Tillerson called on Islamabad to take concrete steps against terrorists.

"Pakistan, too, is an important US partner in South Asia. Our relationships in the region stand on their own merits. We expect Pakistan to take decisive action against terrorist groups based within their own borders that threaten their own people and the broader region. In doing so, Pakistan furthers stability and peace for itself and its neighbors, and improves its own international standing," he added.

He also termed India as a strategic partner of Washington in establishing peace in Afghanistan.

"And as we implement President Trump's new South Asia strategy, we will turn to our partners to ensure greater stability in Afghanistan and throughout the region. India is a partner for peace in Afghanistan and we welcome their assistance efforts," he stated.

Tillerson said the US government will destroy terrorist safe havens wherever they are and that it will cut off their financial sources and other chances.

"Our policy, quite simply, on terrorism is that we will deny terrorists the opportunity, the means, the location, the wherewithal, the financing, the ability to organize and carry out attacks against Americans at home and abroad, anywhere in the world," he said. (Tolonews)

(15) Women ...

university graduates.

Susan DeCamp, director of USAID's Gender Office, hailed young entrepreneurs as the future of the country and the forefront of economic development and sustainability in Afghanistan.

"We congratulate the hard work and entrepreneurial vision of these young women," the director said in a statement from the USAID. Ten of the new companies already registered have a presence in Kabul, and are generating income; the others are in the process of incorporating.

The new business concepts include mobile applications, a health centre for women, landscaping services and a seeding and agriculture venture, the statement added.

Startup Valley and WIE will provide six months follow-up support including advisory services, networking, assistance in procuring office space and relevant technical help. A second group of 26 female entrepreneurs, ready to enter the second chapter of Startup Valley, will attend workshop sessions and receive coaching and mentoring besides taking part in networking and learning opportunities. They will benefit from the skills of

entrepreneurs who have already navigated the startup and launch process.

The incubates will validate their ideas, develop business models, conduct market research, develop viable products and finally launch their startups.

Executive Director of AGHAEZ Professional Services Ahmad Fahim Didar said: "We believe that by nurturing a startup ecosystem in Afghanistan, we will contribute to the economic growth of the country by helping reduce unemployment..." (Pajhwok)

(16) Electricity ...

Meanwhile, Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat, the country's electricity company, said they continue their efforts to increase their capacity for industrial parks.

"The need of the factories for electricity has increased unprecedentedly. Now they need more than 100 megawatts of power. But our capacity is the same as the past. We will face this problem until the new power line is connected," said Waheedullah Tawhidi, spokesman for the company.

The factory owners said they will need 160 megawatts of power for industrial parks in the coming winter season. (Tolonews)

(17) US-Canadian ...

ahead of a visit to Pakistan next week by US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who said on Wednesday the United States expected Pakistan "to take decisive action against terrorist groups."

A senior Trump administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told a foreign news agency on Thursday the United States considers the family's rescue a "template for more cooperation" by Pakistan.

Pompeo said the United States would do everything it could to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table in Afghanistan, but added it could not be achieved if the militants had safe havens. (Pajhwok)

(18) No Response yet ...

suspended telecom services in Andar district and the provincial government was unable to contact the Afghan forces stationed in the district centre.

Inamullah, a resident of the province, confirmed the militants had intensified attacks in Ghazni. "Taliban conduct assaults daily. Their failure to capture a district does not mean the situation is good here."

Mohammadullah, a resident of Deh Yak district, told Pajhwok Afghan News the security situation was worse in the district than at any time before.

Most areas of this district are under the Taliban control and the Afghan forces engage in clashes with them, he said. Civilians are also killed and wounded in the conflict.

Two days earlier, 25 people including five civilians were killed and 24 security personnel and 25 local residents wounded when Taliban stormed Andar district. (Pajhwok)

(19) Explosion Targets...

claimed the lives of at least 10 civilians.

Eyewitnesses meanwhile said more than 30 people were killed in the blast.

Fazl-ul-Ahad Khan, a commander of the public uprising forces in Ghor, is among those who lost their lives in the explosion, eyewitnesses said. (Tolonews)

(20) Taliban Irreconcilable, ...

members of Wolesi Jirga or lower house of parliament would be selected in the Presidential Palace and the CEO office.

The president and the CEO have joined hands to rig future elections, he alleged, asking the international community play its role in ensuring impartial elections.

Yousuf, another NCAY member, also stressed fighting against militants. "The Taliban do not believe in peace, so the government should continue fighting them", he said.

He called Pakistan as home to terrorist groups and said the Afghan government should tighten its borders with Pakistan and stop rebels from entering Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(21) High-Tech ...

visited the exhibition. They welcomed this initiative," said Abdul Hakim Saberi, head of Sancharak Oqab company.

Farmers said they want further assistance from government in terms of providing them with marketing opportunities as well as fertilized seed. "This tractor is doing everything for my land. It has many facilities," said Ghulam Ali, a farmer.

"Farmers have less access to machineries therefore they cannot increase their crops," said Nangiyalai, a farmer. (Tolonews)