

### (1) Taliban Must Choose

The Taliban was carrying out attacks in Afghanistan on the orders of their masters.

But in a show of support for security forces he said: "I salute the bravery of our security forces, especially the police who are our first line of defense against these cowardly suicide bombers. Reforms in our intelligence services and Ministry of Interior are our top priority now."

"Taliban must choose between Islam and terrorism, between humanity and barbarism," Ghani said a day after Afghans observed a day of national mourning following Saturday's deadly ambulance bombing that killed at least 103 people.

Ghani said if the Taliban really believes in Islam and humanity, then the group must separate itself from barbarism and puppets of religious manipulators and intelligence agencies.

"Those who consider themselves Muslims and Afghans must now separate themselves, in words and actions, from those barbaric puppets of religious manipulators and intelligence agencies," he said, adding that today Afghans are at a crossroads in the country's history and must take decisive and clear steps to bring lasting stability to the country. "We can no longer wait for peace to come to us, we must win it through collective national resolve," he said.

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Ghani also thanked Afghanistan's international partners who supported the country during difficult times and urged other nations to act against what he described as state sponsorship of terrorism.

"We appreciate the sympathies extended by our international partner nations. Thank you for standing with us. It is also an infliction point for our partners. Afghans expect our partners to condemn and take all possible action against state-sponsor of terrorism," Ghani said.

He went on to say that Islam is for all Muslims. Those who distinguish between Muslims, in their Fatwas, by arbitrary lines for their political gains and legitimize the massacre of Muslims are war criminals and must be sanctioned.

The president also briefly touched on the political developments in the country and asked Afghan political elites to come together and unite to defeat terrorism.

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Ghani made the remarks at a joint press conference with Indonesian President Joko Widodo, who arrived in Kabul at about mid-day on Monday - just two hours after a deadly attack on a military academy in the capital was brought under control.

Widodo in turn said his government will establish an Islamic center in Afghanistan and continue to stand by the country. He also says Indonesia is ready to help Afghanistan with various projects.

Over the past few days, Taliban and Daesh militants have carried out a wide range of attacks across the country, including three assaults in Kabul that left almost two hundred people dead and hundreds more wounded. (Tolonews)

### (2) Security Bosses

by terrorist attacks and disturb mega projects such as TAPI and other trans-regional energy projects.

He accused Pakistan of continuing its support for terrorist groups and alleged the neighbouring country wanted to take 'revenge' on the people of Afghanistan.

The spymaster said attacks in Afghanistan surged after Chahbahar Port in Iran was replaced with Pakistan's Karachi seaport for international trade.

He added the country was fighting global terrorism and added 195 people had been arrested country-wide in connection with terrorist activities in the past one week.

The detainees included five people suspected of their involvement in the terrorist attack on the Kabul Intercontinental Hotel and Saturday's bombing in the hear of Kabul.

About growing anger and public criticism over security institutions' failure to stop terrorist attacks, Stanikzai offered apology and added resignation of security institutions heads was not a solution. He added Pakistani ulema had de-

clared terrorist attacks as haram in their country but they considered bombings and terrorism as legal and halal in Afghanistan.

Defence Minister Tariq Shah Bahrami said over 20 terrorist groups were active in Afghanistan fighting against security forces.

He claimed the enemy had been defeated in the battleground and thus opted to soft targets to avenge their defeat. Bahrami urged the nation to remain united until the last terrorist was eliminated. (Pajhwok)

### (3) Deadly Attacks

The Afghan government, however, warned that they will use all means available against the Taliban group in reaction to these attacks.

The president's deputy spokesman Shah Hussain Murtazavi said these attacks will complicate a negotiations process with the Taliban.

"They have crossed the red line and now government has reached an agreement to use all options against them," said Murtazavi.

In under 10 days, Kabul alone has witnessed three deadly attacks which left at least 150 dead and hundreds more wounded.

A number of members of parliament meanwhile said the increase in deadly attacks in Afghanistan, especially in Kabul, is Pakistan's response to the United States' new policy on Afghanistan and South Asia.

"Pressure has been increased on Pakistan and they want to bring attacks to cities to kill more innocent Afghan people in reaction to the United States' strategy," Mirdad Nijrabi, head of parliament's internal security commission said.

Kabul has not however been the only place to witness such deadly attacks - other provinces have also felt the full brunt of insurgents this past week.

Serious attacks were also carried out in Helmand, Kandahar and Nangarhar.

Last Wednesday Daesh operatives attacked Save the Children offices in Jalalabad in Nangarhar, which claimed the lives of six people and left over 20 wounded.

Following the attack, the organization suspended its activities in Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

### (4) Govt Failed

has said government knows a number of spies within the government institutions.

Saleh claimed that one of the deputies of the National Security Council (NSC) is a Pakistan spy. He said the person works for the agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

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But, president Ashraf Ghani has reiterated his resolve to bring reforms to the security sector.

Serious criticism has been levelled against the government's security strategy following a fresh spate of attacks by the Taliban and Daesh in the country. Critics say that government and its security and intelligence agencies have failed to identify the spies.

"Unfortunately, they are collaborating and cooperating with the enemy, we are trying to arrest them, we have arrested dozens of them already from the ranks of the security forces, from inside society and from among the politicians," said minister of interior Wais Ahmad Barmak.

"There are some slave elements who are bringing the Taliban and Daesh operatives in exchange for money or on the basis of other kinds of relations and help them (insurgents) reach to their objectives, it is clear that the Taliban has got some collaborators," said Alokozai.

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"Unfortunately for a long time, the security institutions are engaging in political issues, they engage in the removal of political rivals, make conspiracies against the politicians of the country and work to create a repressive system instead of maintaining security for the public," said AnwarulHaq Ahadi, chairman Jabha-e-Naween party of Afghanistan.

But, president Ashraf Ghani has called on politicians to sideline their political objectives and instead work for national unity.

"Afghan political elite must rise above petty politics and unite to serve our people and defend our nation and country against state-sponsored, regional, and international terrorism,"

said Ghani on Monday.

Afghan politicians and critics have always said that certain circles within and outside the government are collaborating with the insurgents. But no serious action about the arrest of these elements were reported from the government side. (Tolonews)

### (5) Pakistan Closes

Meanwhile, a number of Afghan cotton exporters said that dozens of vehicles have been prevented from crossing the border with cotton in the past 20 days. They said that the drivers have since turned back and are now offloading cotton in Kabul and storing it at a warehouse.

The businessmen in the cotton export sector said Pakistan has stopped all cotton trade across the border.

"We have lots of problems, we have turned back dozens of trucks full of cotton to the country and lost a lot and we don't know what to do," said Mujibullah, a businessman, adding that government has done nothing to help.

In addition, a number of Afghan economists said numerous cotton processing companies have started up in the country on the back of an increase in cotton cultivation. They said the decision by Pakistan to stop the cotton from being taken across the border will have a serious impact on Afghan businessmen. The ministry of commerce and industry admits that Pakistan has introduced new regulations on importing cotton. However, Musesfer Qoqandi, spokesman for the ministry of commerce and industry said the ministry will soon solve the problems.

"We have also begun discussions with the private sector on how to work on a fundamental solution to the problem with Pakistan, we know that this new procedure is very difficult and it is impossible to take our cotton to Pakistan," said Qoqandi.

According to the information provided, Afghanistan annually produces more than 60,000kg of cotton, a large portion of which is exported to Pakistan.

A number of businessmen are worried about the challenges they face and said the Afghan government has so far failed to resolve its trade and transit issues with Pakistan. (Tolonews)

### (6) Noor Warns of

the White House. He said Khalilzad's remarks held no value for him.

"We are only negotiating with ARG, and if someone wants to mediate, then it would only be the White House; we will not negotiate with anyone lower than that; who is he (Khalilzad)? From which position and authority is he talking? He is elderly man who I respect but we do not give value to his decisions or remarks," Noor added.

This comes after Khalilzad was asked over the weekend what would happen if Noor attaches conditions to his demands and if he challenges the international community. He says it would be a mistake on Noor's part to challenge the international community.

However, Noor called on government not to down play the talks with Jamiat-e-Islami but to reach a fair agreement with the party.

The standoff between the government and Noor first emerged in December when President Ashraf Ghani accepted Noor's resignation. However Noor refused to accept this and said this was an old letter and was no longer valid. He has also refused to step down and hand over power to an incoming governor. (Tolonews)

### (7) Kabul on Edge

"Two bombers detonated themselves and two were killed by our forces and one was detained alive," the spokesman, Dawlat Waziri, told AFP, adding that the attack was over.

Officials said the men, armed with a rocket, two Kalashnikovs and at least one suicide vest, had attempted to breach an army battalion near the Marshal Fahim military academy, where high-ranking officers are trained.

An officer at the academy told AFP he could hear an explosion and gunfire, while other witnesses said the first blasts and gunfire came around 5:00 am (0030 GMT).

The gunmen did not enter the heavily fortified compound on the western outskirts of the city, an Afghan security source said. Security forces have swarmed into the area and blocked roads leading to it.

In October a Taliban suicide bomber killed 15 Afghan army trainees as they travelled home from the Marshal Fahim academy.

Militants including the Taliban and IS have stepped up their attacks on beleaguered Afghan troops and police in recent months, sapping morale already hit by desertions and corruption.

Afghan troops have taken what the UN describes as "shocking" casualties since international forces ended their combat role at the end of 2014, though troop casualty figures are no longer re-

leased.

Last Saturday a Taliban suicide attacker driving an explosives-packed ambulance blew it up in a crowded area of the capital, killing at least 103 people -- mainly civilians -- and wounding 235 in one of the worst bombings in the city in recent years.

The blast was a chilling demonstration of the militants' ability to penetrate the heart of Kabul despite stepped-up security since a massive truck bomb killed some 150 people and wounded hundreds last May.

The government has blamed Saturday's attack, which was followed by a national day of mourning, on the Taliban-affiliated Haqqani Network.

Afghans flooded social media with grief and anger. "May God destroy their houses," Kabul resident Aftab Ali wrote on Facebook, adding: "(T)hey are killing innocent humans."

On January 20 Taliban fighters stormed Kabul's landmark Intercontinental hotel and killed at least 25 people, the majority of them foreigners, in an assault lasting more than 12 hours.

But there is still confusion over the true toll from that attack, with conflicting figures given by officials and Afghan media reporting higher numbers.

Kabul remains on high alert as the city braces for further violence. On Sunday, usually a working day, the capital was unusually quiet, while Monday was a national holiday.

Security warnings sent to foreigners in recent days said IS militants were planning to attack supermarkets, hotels and shops frequented by foreigners.

Several foreign organisations, including humanitarian groups, are reassessing their operations after a particularly deadly week in the country.

IS fighters also attacked Save the Children's office in Afghanistan's east on Wednesday. Five people were killed and 26 wounded while the organisation was forced to suspend operations across the country. (AFP)

### (8) Peace in Afghanistan

that the tiniest doubts and misperceptions have the capacity to annihilate the greatest engagement.

Jean acknowledged Pakistan as a key actor in promoting the Afghan reconciliation process. However, he explained the mission was a joint endeavour that all stakeholders must support.

"I have been working in the region long enough to understand that long-term solutions do not only depend on one factor or a declared goodwill. Peace and stability in Afghanistan is a long-term objective for which the level of ambition of all actors must be sustained." (Pajhwok)

### (9) Pope Says

attack which "sowed terror and death in a large hotel" there, AP reported. He asked: "For how long will the Afghan people have to put up with this inhumane violence?"

Francis led a moment of silent prayer for the victims and their families and "for all those in that country who continue to work to build peace." (Tolonews)

### (10) US Won't

Taliban targeted innocent Afghans and brave police in Kabul today. We, along with our international partners, are there to stop terrorists from exporting their evil terror to the US or our allies," Pence tweeted.

Earlier, Trump was briefed on the Kabul attack, which was denounced by some of the prominent American dailies as a massacre.

"President is aware of the Kabul attack," a White House official said.

"It's a Massacre: Taliban Bomb in Ambulance Kills 95 in Kabul," said The New York Times. The Taliban has claimed responsibility for the attack. The Wall Street Journal also described the assault as a massacre. The Washington Post published a detailed story of the grisly strike in a crowded street of the terrorised capital. (Pajhwok)

### (11) Millions Lost

which imports fresh fruits from Pakistan, said: "We take phytosanitary certificates from Pakistan's Food Security Authority against 250 rupees and import the goods, but when we arrive at Torkham, the Afghan Quarantine officials reject the Pakistani certificate by saying it has no formality."

He said drivers were asked to get another certificate from Hameed Company against 3,000 rupees. He showed Pajhwok Afghan News the two certificates -- the one original provided by Pakistani authorities and the fake one provided from Hameed Company.

He said the original certificate maintained logo, e-mail address, and other formal sticker of the concerned authority, but the fake certificate had no logo or address.

Pajhwok also shared the issue with the authorities concerned thought an e-mail to acknowledge the ownership

of the certificate but there had been no response so far.

Pajhwok also established a telephonic contact but confirmation about the originality of the certificate could not be accomplished. (Pajhwok)

### (12) No Tolerance for

He commended the emergency service personnel for their courageous response to the terrorist attack. "The US stands with the people of Afghanistan, and we remain firmly committed to supporting the Afghan people's efforts to achieve peace, security and prosperity for their country." (Pajhwok)

### (13) 2 Million Trees

The more than two million of saplings would be planted on thousands of acres of land in Jalalabad city and in some districts during the upcoming campaign. "We would have fruit and non fruit gardens across the province." Rahimzai further said the seedlings would be planted in government departments, schools and public places free of charge (Pajhwok)

### (14) Rotavirus

in children under age five years in Afghanistan.

"The death toll from rotavirus infections in the development world is enormous. It infects nearly every child in this country before the age of five causing severe, dehydrating diarrhea," said Khodr.

Rotavirus vaccination, coupled with hand-washing with soap, drinking potable water and using latrines, has the potential in Afghanistan to avert more than one million diarrhea cases, 660,000 outpatient visits and approximately 50,000 hospital admission over a period of 10 years.

UNICEF would continue to collaborate with the government, development partners and donors to work toward strengthening of routine immunization, so that every child in Afghanistan has the chance to grow up healthy and reach their full potential. (Pajhwok)

### (15) Indonesian

state visit to Bangladesh he signed at least five instruments, including two memorandums of understanding (MoUs), aiming to enhance bilateral relations, trade and investment, and boosting cooperation in different sectors between the two countries.

Widodo arrived here at ARG on Monday morning and was received by President Ashraf Ghani.

This is Widodo's first visit and he was accompanied by his wife. (Tolonews)

### (16) Clerics Slam

They said that Allah has revealed his curse on those who kill human beings. "Almighty Allah has condemned the killing of the innocents," said Mauw-lavi Baz Mohammad Rahimi, deputy head of Dawat-e-Islami Ulema-e-Afghanistan organization.

"Those who kill the people will be placed in hell forever," said Abdul Baseer Haqqani, head of the Kabul Ulema Council. (Tolonews)

"The secretary-general strongly condemns the deadly attack today in central Kabul, which was claimed by the Taliban," said a statement attributable to his spokesperson. (Pajhwok)

### (17) Latest Massacre

of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed, the 15-member UN body said.

Secretary General Antonio Guterres also said those responsible for the massive bombing must be brought to justice.

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increasing revenue collection, and strengthening government capacity to perform more efficiently and effectively.

"Afghanistan has made significant progress in establishing a functional Public Financial Management (PFM) system that has contributed to increasing revenues from about \$130 million in 2002 to more than \$2.1 billion in 2016," said Hakimi.

He said the system was supported under the Public Finance and Expenditure Management Law and Public Procurement Law which had helped implement new reforms in public financial management system as a whole. (Pajhwok)

### (19) Asfandiyar

Khan had warned of repercussions of the war in Afghanistan, recalled the ANP chief.

Asfandiyar Khan said: "Afghanistan and Pakistan are closely related to each other. Peace and stability in one country affects the other." He lamented the killing of innocent people in terror attacks both in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Bacha Khan and Wali Khan had always opposed Pakistan's involvement in the international game in Afghanistan, he concluded. (Pajhwok)