Bombing Kills Dozens and Hurts Schoolchildren as Taliban Talks Resume

Afghan security forces killed five Taliban gunmen who stormed a building in Kabul on Monday after detonating a bomb-laden truck that wounded at least 105 people, including 51 children, officials said.

Ashraf Ghani has appointed Shah Hussain Murtazawi as his special adviser in cultural affairs.

KABUL – The gun battle lasted more than seven hours, a security official said, adding that the Taliban fighters in the under-construction building fired at Afghan forces who rushed to the blast site to rescue the wounded. “Clashes ended with the death of all five attackers,” said interior ministry spokesman Najibullah Zazi, adding that more than 210 people had been rescued during the operation.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. “The target was the defence ministry’s technical installation,” the Islamist militants’ spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said in a statement. Afghan security officials said the truck loaded with explosives was detonated near the ministry’s engineering and logistics department at rush hour.

About 300 wounded people were taken to hospital, said health ministry spokesman Wahidullah Majeed but there was no immediate word of fatalities.

Fifty-one children in two schools near the blast site were hurt by flying shards of glass, said Nooria Nazhat, a spokesman for the education ministry. “These children were in the classrooms when the blast shattered the glass windows. All injured children were rushed out of their schools,” said Nazhat.

Quote of the Day

“Proper nutrition during the first 1,000 days, from a mother’s pregnancy until a child’s second birthday is crucial to the wellbeing and development of any child,” says Shamina Sen Gupta, Acting Representative, UNICEF Afghanistan. “Unfortunately, many children are missing out on this due to poverty, lack of security, conflict and a lack of knowledge on proper feeding practices, resulting in hundreds of thousands of children suffering from acute malnutrition, and many others are suffering from its most severe form.”

An analysis of nutrition surveys conducted across Afghanistan shows that 22 out of 34 provinces are currently above the emergency level threshold of acute malnutrition. In November 2018, the overall estimated number of acutely malnourished under-five year old children in Afghanistan was two million, an increase by 28 per cent in comparison with 2018.

Despite these challenges, Afghanistan has established the Afghanistan Food Strategy, in March 2019 the Ministry of Public Health, Public Nutrition Directorate and in November 2018, the Ministry of Public Health, Public Nutrition Directorate launched the National Public Nutrition Strategy.

Two Million Children Cannot Reach Their Full Potential in Afghanistan Due to Undernutrition

KABUL / BRUSSELS: The Global Nutrition Cluster side-event on Afghanistan is underway in Brussels, there is a chance call for consolidated and sustained efforts to tackle undernutrition. Children in Afghanistan continue to bear the brunt of decades of protracted conflict. In 2019, an estimated 5.3 million people, including 3.8 million children, require some form of humanitarian assistance and protection, twice the number of the previous year. “Proper nutrition during the first 1,000 days, from a mother’s pregnancy until a child’s second birthday is crucial to the wellbeing and development of any child,” says Shamina Sen Gupta, Acting Representative, UNICEF Afghanistan. “Unfortunately, many children are missing out on this due to poverty, lack of security, conflict and a lack of knowledge on proper feeding practices, resulting in hundreds of thousands of children suffering from acute malnutrition, and many others are suffering from its most severe form.”

A number of potential in Afghanistan due to undernutrition a multi-sector platform to address malnutrition. In November 2018, Afghanistan joined the Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) movement, which aims to eradicate malnutrition in 30 countries by 2025. The Afghan government has established the Afghanistan Food Security and Nutrition Agenda (ASF-SNA) – a multi-sector platform to address malnutrition. In November 2018, the Ministry of Public Health, Public Nutrition Directorate launched the National Public Nutrition Strategy.

Kabul, Islamabad Agree to Avoid Blame Game

KABUL – Kabul and Islamabad have agreed on ending the blame game and avoiding giving hostile statements against each other, a media report said on Monday.

The agreement came during a recent visit of President Ashraf Ghani to Islamabad, where he held meet Prime Minister Imran Khan and army chief Gen Bajwa..., "More on P4.01"

Kabul Administration's

The agreement came during a recent visit of President Ashraf Ghani to Islamabad, where he...