Suicide Attack in Kabul

KABUL - A pair of near-simultaneous Taliban suicide bombings attacked the Capital Kabul on Wednesday, targeting a police station and offices of the country's intelligence agency and killing at least three people, officials said.

In the police station attack, a suicide car bomber rammed his car into the gates of the station in western Kabul. An Afghan health official says that at least 15 people have been killed in twin Taliban suicide bombings and a dozen that followed one of the attacks.

Wahid Mujro, the public health ministry spokesman, says 15 people were killed in the second attack, a bomber on foot detonated his explosive device outside the offices of the intelligence service in eastern Kabul.

Ismail Kawasi, spokesman for the health ministry said that at least three people were killed and three others were wounded brought to the hospital.

In a message to media, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for both attacks. It was not immediately clear how many were wounded.

KABUL - The ambassador of Pakistan to Kabul Syed Altaf Hussain and Afghan Army Deputy Chief of Staff Gen. Mansur MAfzul during a meeting discussed de-escalation at the border and reopening of crossing points between the two countries.

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KABUL - The National Procurement Commission (NPC) has approved 10 contracts worth four billion afghans but returned the third project for stepping its business with Afghanistan and Central Asia.
The Chamber of Commerce also cautioned Afghan businesses and traders not to start business with Pakistan as long as that country does not change its punitive policies against Afghanistan. NPC data shows that around 1,000 trucks have stopped on the Pakistan side of the Torkham border post. A total of 1,400 trucks stranded on Pakistan's side of the Spl Torkham border post.

A total of 300 trucks are waiting on the Afghan side of Durand Line and a 2,800 trucks transiting from Pakistan are stranded in Afghanistan, are stranded elsewhere in Pakistan.

KABUL - The International Contact Group (ICG) has met in Kabul to discuss the political, security, and economic situation in Afghanistan, a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said on Wednesday.

The meeting was hosted by the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and welcomed by Ambassador Sabine Sparwasser, German Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, and Mr. Hekmat Khalil Karzai, Deputy Foreign Minister of Afghanistan. Over 30 ICG Member States and multilateral organizations participated.

ICG Members affirmed their commitments to strengthen and renew cohesion among all of Afghanistan's international and regional partners. They welcomed initiatives towards closer cooperation among the key international and regional stakeholders to help stabilize Afghanistan, underlining the importance of Afghan leadership and ownership.

ICG Members took stock of security developments and improvements in the performance of the National Afghan Defense and Security Forces. Acknowledging the sacrifices of the Afghan people and its international partners over the past 15 years, they recalled that Afghanistan was a front line in the regional and global fight against terrorism and extremist entities and that its security and prosperity were critical for ensuring regional stability and prosperity and maintaining international partnership.

They reaffirmed the enduring commitment of the international community to support Afghanistan in countering terrorism and violent extremism, noting the important role of the Muslim world in this regard.

Recognizing that violent conflicts and religious extremism continue to threaten peace and stability across the world, the ICG members welcomed initiatives towards Afghan-led peace and reconciliation processes.

The ICG Members also welcomed the announcement by Pakistan of its readiness to cooperate with Afghanistan to implement the 2016 Joint Action Plan and welcomed the continued coordination between the two countries in the fight against terrorism and extremism.

They also welcomed the commitment of the European Union to support Afghanistan's development and regional cooperation, and the United Kingdom's announcement of a new pledge of 800 million USD in support to address the pressing challenges facing the country.

The ICG members welcomed the steps taken by the US and other countries to support Afghanistan, including the Ghani Administration's recent pledge of 10 billion USD.

They emphasized the importance of a comprehensive and inclusive political process, including the participation of all Afghan stakeholders, including women, youth, and civil society, to achieve a lasting peace and prosperity in Afghanistan.