KARUL - Officials at Afghanistan’s Ministry of Interior (MoI) confirmed that the explosion near Masoud Square on Tuesday was caused by a suicide attacker, and that it detonated close to one of the Ministry of Defense’s buildings in Police District 9 (PD9) in the city of Kabul.

According to a Ministry of Interior statement, at least 22 civilians were killed and 38 others were wounded in the blast, including women and children. The blast occurred shortly after 11 a.m.

The Taliban has claimed responsibility. The Taliban terrorists sustained major blows by the brave members of the Afghan security and defense forces on the battlefield, and they face shameful setbacks on every front, so they plan brutal and shame-causing attacks on citizens,” the Ministry of Interior stated said (Tolo news).

KARUL - Another US service member has been killed in action in Afghanistan, officials announced Monday, taking American fatalities in combat to 17 this year.

The death was announced by NATO’s Resolute Support mission in a press release, withholding the name of the fallen soldier pending next of kin notification.

However, a defense official told Army Times on background that the fallen soldier was a Green Beret, but did not specify the operator’s unit.

No information was immediately available about where the service member was killed. A total of 20 US troops have been killed supporting operations in Afghanistan so far in 2019, according to media reports.

Seventeen of those troops were killed in combat. The other three died in noncombat incidents.

At least two US military veterans in Afghanistan say that defense contractors have also died.

“In accordance with US Department of Defense policy, the name of the service member is being withheld until 24 hours after family notification is complete,” the release reads.

The death comes after peace talks between US diplomats and Taliban representatives broke down early this week in Doha and amid warnings from the top US general for NATO that he expects increased violence in Afghanistan as that country’s elections draw nearer.

The peace talks collapsed after a round of deadly attacks by insurgents in Kabul that killed 12 people, including an American soldier and a Romanian soldier.

Prior - (More on P4,9).

Major Medicine Factory Being Set up in Kandahar

KANDAHAR CITY - A medical producing factory, the target on national level, is being set up in southern Kandahar province at a cost of $31 million, officials said today.

The factory, which will be of international standard and modern skills on its building is half completed.

People and health workers are happiness over the establishment of such a huge medicine producing factory and hope that it would replace substitute medicines sold on untraceable.

Mohammad Sayed Salij, chief of the factory, told Pajhwok Afghan News that Afghan traders had shares in the factory — the first major joint venture.

He said the factory would cost $31 million and half of its building has been constructed.

He said the factory would be operating under the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

He added that producing medicines the factory would also produce some foods. He said the factory’s construction works would be completed by 2020 and it would be exported abroad as well.

Nasser Ahmad Maiwand, a resident of Kandahar City, the provincial capital, told Pajhwok that unfortunately despite the passage of many years, low quality medicines were still imported to their province.

(-More on P4,7-)

All-Women Business Facility Opens in Kandahar

KANDAHAR CITY - A business centre exclusively for women has been put into service after its completion in southern Kandahar province, an official said on Monday.

Women Affairs Director for Kandahar province, Mirwais Akhazalai said women would get training in different handi-
craft skills such as tailoring, fashion, designing and running restaurants and other modern skills at the center.

(-More on P4,8-)

US Soldier Killed in Action after Peace Talks Fizzle

US Soldier Killed in Action after Peace Talks Fizzle

President Trump wants peace talks to continue... (More on P4)...(7)

Achakzai said women would receive some information that has a specific goal (and you should be), something likely to happen today that you much closer to realizing your goal. What’s the next step?

You would be better served by spending time on opening a bottle of wine, and celebrate!

You would be better served by spending time on opening a bottle of wine, and celebrate!

You would be better served by spending time on opening a bottle of wine, and celebrate!

You would be better served by spending time on opening a bottle of wine, and celebrate!

You would be better served by spending time on opening a bottle of wine, and celebrate!

You would be better served by spending time on opening a bottle of wine, and celebrate!

You would be better served by spending time on opening a bottle of wine, and celebrate!

You would be better served by spending time on opening a bottle of wine, and celebrate!

You would be better served by spending time on opening a bottle of wine, and celebrate!

You would be better served by spending time on opening a bottle of wine, and celebrate!

You would be better served by spending time on opening a bottle of wine, and celebrate!

You would be better served by spending time on opening a bottle of wine, and celebrate!

You would be better served by spending time on opening a bottle of wine, and celebrate!

You would be better served by spending time on opening a bottle of wine, and celebrate!

You would be better served by spending time on opening a bottle of wine, and celebrate!

You would be better served by spending time on opening a bottle of wine, and celebrate!

You would be better served by spending time on opening a bottle of wine, and celebrate!

You would be better served by spending time on opening a bottle of wine, and celebrate!

You would be better served by spending time on opening a bottle of wine, and celebrate!