

# Increasing Terrorist Attacks Spell Fear Among Afghans

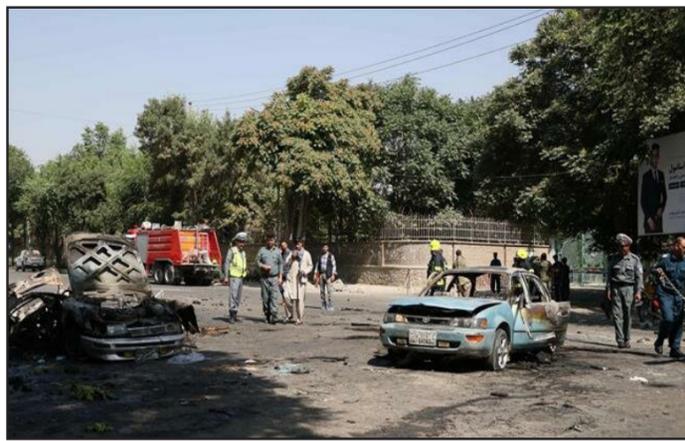
KABUL (Xinhua) – Afghans people are worrying about their living conditions and the future of their children as terrorist attacks have unprecedentedly increased over the past few months.

Anti-government militants have intensified indiscriminate violent offensives mostly in the shape of suicide attack which mostly claim the lives of civilians including women and children.

At least eight people, mostly civilians were killed and over 100 others including 51 schoolchildren wounded earlier this month in a car bomb in Kabul, for which the Taliban outfit claimed responsibility.

A sticky bomb tore through a bus carrying civil workers of a company in Kabul, killing and wounding over two dozen people early in June this year.

Dozens of people, mostly civilians had also been killed and wounded during Taliban attacks in



Afghan security personnel inspect the site of a bomb explosion in front of Kabul University in the Afghan capital, on July 19, 2019.

eastern Ghazni and western Ghor provinces couple of months ago, while hundreds of households have been forced to leave their houses for safer places in eastern Kunar province due to bloody clashes between Taliban and the

rival Daesh group.

A car-bomb attack near the Kabul University on Friday left at least eight people, including two of the university's students and a taxi driver dead and more than 30 others injured.

Suraya Raiszada, a Kabul resident, who usually takes her nephew to school every day, told Xinhua that she wouldn't dare anymore to escort her small nephew to school due to growing bomb blasts and suicide attacks in the city.

"My nephew, Ahmad Masih, needs me to help him join school as his father leaves for work, early morning, and I several times witnessed deadly terrorist incidents on my way to the child's school, so I don't know what to do," Suraya regretted.

Shukria Kohistan, another Kabul resident, said she was scared many times by increasing attacks and bombings, when leaving for office.

"I am a journalist and have to cover events under my routine works for a government newspaper, but it is too difficult to continue my job, due to increasing terrorist attacks in the country," lamented the young woman.

## Iran... (Continued From Page One)

The head of the Ports and Maritime Organization in Hormozgan Province said on Sunday the crew of the tanker seized by Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) are all safe.

"All 23 crew members aboard the ship are safe and in good health in Bandar Abbas port," Allahmorad Afifipour said.

Afifipour said the seized tanker "risked maritime safety" in the Strait of Hormuz, through which almost a fifth of the world's annual oil consumption passes.

He said the fate of the tanker depends on the cooperation of its crew with an investigation.

"We are required by regulations to investigate the issue ... the duration of the investigation depends on the level of cooperation by the involved parties," said Afifipour.

Iran has opened an investigation into the Stena Impero after its collision with an Iranian fishing boat.

The fishermen had issued a distress call and contacted the port authority when it went unanswered, said Afifipour, quoted by Fars news agency.

## Trump's... (Continued From Page One)

carrying out their scheduled surveillance and control operations," armed forces spokesman Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi also said.

The American political newspaper and website the Hill on Friday said Iran is becoming a drone superpower.

"Iran's drone technology appears to be growing more sophisticated," it said. "Since the 1980s, Iran sought to build up a force of locally produced drones."

The article said Iran wants to show off its drones, at home and abroad, to show it can get around U.S. sanctions and continue to develop this military capability.

"This is why, from January to July, Iran has been conducting drone exercises and has said that it even monitored the movements of a U.S. aircraft carrier. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which Washington designated a terrorist organization, is spearheading these recent drone efforts."

"In any future conflict with Iran that might involve the U.S. and its allies against Iran and its proxies, the drone threat will need to be addressed," the Hill warned.

"It is a clear symbol of Iran's growing footprint across the Middle East, which stretches from Beirut to Damascus, Baghdad and Yemen via the Gulf of Oman."

## U.S.... (Continued From Page One)

independence, and territorial integrity.

The ministry added that the SDF, by committing criminal acts, intends to subjugate the Syrian citizens who are demanding their rights and calling for the Syrian government's handling of affairs in the country's east.

"The actions of the SDF and their shameful alliance with Syria's enemies prove without a doubt their criminal and terrorism nature, and that they do not express the Syrian people," the letters said.

They also stressed that massacres committed by the SDF will only bring them disgrace and the contempt of the Syrian people.

The SDF illegally transports crude oil from Syria's eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr to neighboring Hasakeh province in Syria's northeast -- a move that has angered the people.

The U.S. has long been providing the SDF with arms and militants, calling them a key partner in the purported fight against Daesh. Many observers, however, see the support in the context of Washington's plans to carve out a foothold in the Arab country.

The support has angered Turkey, which views militants of the People's Protection Units (YPG), the backbone of the SDF, as a terrorist organization tied to the homegrown Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

The PKK has been waging a destructive war inside Turkey for decades.

# Pompeo 'Dismayed' at Turkey's Acquisition of Russian S-400

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has spoken with Turkey's Foreign Minister and expressed disappointment over the country's acquisition of the Russian S-400 missile system, the U.S. State Department said in a statement.

Washington had opposed Turkey's purchase of the Russian missile system and threatened to impose sanctions. Since then, President Donald Trump has been unclear over whether his administration was planning such an action.

In an official statement, the U.S. Department of State said Pompeo also discussed Ankara's "security concerns" along the Turkey-Syria border while reiterating Washington's "obli-

gation to ensure the protection of local partners working with the United States" in Syria.

Reuters also cited Turkish foreign ministry sources as saying that the two top diplomats also discussed the U.S. F-35 fighter jet program, just two days after Washington confirmed Turkey's expulsion from the program that involved joint manufacture of the advance war plane and training of Turkish pilots to fly the aircraft.

"The US and other F-35 partners are aligned in this decision to suspend Turkey from the program and initiate the process to formally remove Turkey from the program," said US Under Secretary Of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment Ellen Lord last

week.

Used by NATO and other U.S. allies, the F-35 stealth fighter jet is dubbed the world's most advanced jet fighter. Washington has expressed concerns that deploying the S-400 with the F-35 would allow Russia to gain too much inside information of the stealth system.

"The F-35 cannot coexist with a Russian intelligence collection platform that will be used to learn about its advanced capabilities," the White House said in a statement last Wednesday.

Ankara, however, reacted by blasting Washington's measures against Turkey with a foreign ministry statement saying: "This one-sided step neither complies with the spirit of

alliance nor is it based on legitimate reasons."

"It is unfair to remove Turkey, one of the partners in the F-35 program," the statement added, dismissing as "invalid" American claims that the advanced Russian air defense system S-400 would be a danger to the F-35s.

"We invite the U.S. to take back this error, which will pave the way to irreparable damage to our strategic relations," the Turkish Foreign Ministry further emphasized.

Meanwhile, several U.S. Republican and Democratic lawmakers pressed the Trump administration on Thursday to impose sanctions on Ankara over the purchase of the Russian S-400 system.

# Camel Dung Fuels Cement Production in Northern UAE

RAS AL-KHAIMAH (Dispatches) – Thousands of tonnes of camel dung are being used to fuel cement production in the northern United Arab Emirates, cutting emissions and keeping animal waste out of landfill.

Under a government-run scheme, farmers in the emirate of Ras al-Khaimah drop off camel excrement at collection stations. It is then blended with coal to power the boiler at a large cement factory.

"People started to laugh, believe me," said the general manager of Persian Gulf Cement Company, Mohamed Ahmed Ali Ebrahim, describing the moment the waste management agency proposed the idea.

But after running tests, the company found two tonnes of camel waste could replace one tonne of coal.

"We heard from our grandfathers that they used cow dung for heating. But nobody had thought about the camel waste itself," said Ebrahim, whose factory now uses 50 tonnes of camel dung a day.

Cow dung has been tapped as a resource to generate energy from the United States, to Zimbabwe to China. Camel dung is a rarer fuel but one well suited to Ras al-Khaimah, one of the seven emirates that make up the UAE, home to around 9,000 camels used in milk production,

racing and beauty contests.

Each camel produces some 8kg of faeces daily - far more than farmers use as fertilizer.

A blend of one part dung to nine parts coal burns steadily - essential for cement ovens that work continuously at up to 1,400 degrees Celsius.

The main aim of the project is to prevent camel waste from ending up in the dump, with the government seeking to divert 75% of all waste from landfill by 2021.

"We don't make use of it. The most important thing is for the area to be clean, for the camels to be clean," said farm owner Ahmed al-Khatri, stroking camel calves in the afternoon sun as a farm worker sifted dung for collection.

Authorities want more cement plants to adopt the practice and start using chicken and industrial waste, as well as sludge from water treatment, said Sonia Ytaurte Nasser, executive director of the waste management agency.

"Waste is just a resource in the wrong place," she said.

# British Airways Suspends Flights to Cairo for Seven Days

CAIRO (Reuters) – British Airways and Lufthansa abruptly suspended flights to Cairo over security concerns, but giving no details about what may have prompted the move.

"We constantly review our security arrangements at all our airports around the world, and have suspended flights to Cairo for seven days as a precaution to allow for further assessment," British Airways said in a statement.

Lufthansa (LHAG.DE) later said it had canceled its flights to Cairo from Munich and Frankfurt.

British Airways, a unit of IAG (ICAG.L), also said that it would never operate an aircraft unless it was safe to do so. When asked for more details about why flights had been suspended and what security arrangements the airline was reviewing, a spokeswoman responded: "We never discuss matters of security."

Three Egyptian airport security sources told Reuters that British staff had been checking security at Cairo airport on Wednesday and Thursday. They gave no further details.

The British Foreign Office updated its trav-

el advisory to add a reference to the British Airways' suspension, advising travelers affected to contact the airline.

Egypt's Ministry of Civil Aviation said in a statement late on Saturday that it had contacted the British Embassy in Cairo which had confirmed that the decision to suspend the flights was not issued by Britain's transport or foreign ministries.

The Egyptian ministry added that it will add more flights from Cairo to London starting "to facilitate transporting passengers during this period."