

At Least 9 Killed in Heavy Rains, Floods in NW Yemen

SANAA (Xinhua) – Flash floods caused by heavy monsoon rains killed at least nine people in the past 24 hours, displaced hundreds of families in Yemen’s northwestern province of Mah-weet, local authorities said on Wednesday.

“Nine people have died from drowning after the severe flooding destroyed several houses and inundated others in Milhan district,” the authorities’ flood bulletin said.

Torrential rains and flash floods have affected several other provinces.

Who are you to abuse the world when it has openly declared its mortality and mortality of everything connected with it, when it has given everyone of its inhabitants to understand that all of them are to face death.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

# Taliban Claim Bomb Attack on Afghan Police; 14 Killed, 145 Hurt



Afghan policemen arrive near the site of a car bomb attack, as smoke rises from the Police headquarters in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, on July 18, 2019.

KABUL (Dispatches) – The Taliban claimed responsibility for a car-bomb attack on a police station in the Afghan capital, Kabul, on Wednesday which the government said killed 14 people and wounded 145.

There has been no let-up in violence in Afghanistan even though the Taliban and the United States appear close to a historic pact for U.S. troops to withdraw in exchange for

a Taliban promise the country would not be used as a base from which to plot attacks by terrorists.

The blast, in the west of the city during the morning rush hour, sent a huge cloud of grey smoke billowing into the sky.

The Taliban said a “recruitment center” had been attacked by one of their bombers.

“A large number of soldiers and police were killed or

wounded,” the Taliban said in a statement.

Deputy Interior Minister Khoshal Sadat later told a news conference 14 people had been killed and 145 wounded. Four of the dead were policemen and the rest civilians, while 92 of the wounded were civilians, he said.

The bomb went off when the vehicle carrying the device was stopped at a checkpoint outside

the police station, said interior ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi.

Women and children were among the casualties, the health ministry said.

Pictures from the scene showed extensive damage with facades blown off buildings and a jumble of rubble and vehicles strewn through the area.

“Again a Taliban suicide attack in Kabul targets a civilian area that resulted in harming of so many innocents,” Sediq Sediqqi, a spokesman for President Ashraf Ghani, said on Twitter.

“Continued Taliban attacks indicate that they have no commitment to peace,” Sediqqi later told the news conference.

The blast came a day after the Taliban called for a boycott of a Sept. 28 presidential election and threatened to attack election rallies.

Separately, security forces conducted raids on two Daesh terrorist hideouts in Kabul overnight and killed two terrorists and seized a large quantity of explosives and bomb-making equipment, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) said.

Three members of the security forces were also killed, an agency spokesman said.

## Turkey Says Agrees With U.S. on Syria Safe Zone



Members of the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) walk in the village of Baghouz in Syria's eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr near the Iraqi border on March 24, 2019.

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) – Turkey’s Defense Ministry said on Wednesday it agreed with the United States to establish a joint operation centre in Turkey to coordinate and manage a planned “safe zone” in northern Syria.

Turkey and the United States, allies in NATO, have been deadlocked for months over the scope and command of the zone.

After three days of talks in Ankara, the Defense Ministry said that the two countries also agreed to take additional measures for the return of displaced Syrians to their country.

Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said earlier the United States is shifting closer to Ankara’s views on a proposed safe zone in northeast Syria, and that its plans for a military deployment there are complete.

Ankara has accused Washington of stalling on setting up the safe zone spread over hundreds of km along Syria’s northeastern border and has demanded that the United States sever its ties with the YPG.

On Wednesday, the third day of fresh Turkish-U.S. talks on the safe zone, Akar described them as “positive and rather constructive”, and that he expected them to finish within hours.

“In the meeting, we were glad to see that our counterparts approached our viewpoint,” Akar said, according to state-owned An-

adolu Agency.

Akar did not give details on that point. He added, “Our plans, preparations, the deployment of our units in the field are all complete. But we said we wanted to act together with our friend and ally, the United States.”

Washington has proposed a two-tiered safe zone, with a 5-kilometre demilitarized strip bolstered by an additional 9 km cleared of heavy weapons - stretching in total less than half the distance into Syria that Turkey is seeking.

Turkey has also said it must have ultimate authority over the zone, another point of divergence with the United States.

Three Turkish officials who spoke to Reuters this week expressed impatience that the talks have yet to yield results, and warned that Ankara was ready to act on its own.

Turkey has twice sent forces into northern Syria in the last three years, citing security concerns caused by Syria’s eight-year-long war, and President Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday a third incursion was imminent, targeting YPG-controlled territory east of the Euphrates river.

U.S. President Donald Trump announced last year that U.S. forces would leave Syria and began an initial withdrawal, a decision applauded by Ankara, and the two NATO allies agreed to create the safe zone.

## Car Bomb Kills Three Children in Syria’s Northeast

QAMISHLI (Dispatches) – A car bomb killed three children near a village post office on Wednesday in northeast Syria, controlled by Kurdish forces who warn they face terrorist sleeper cells, local police said.

Police spokesman Ali Hassan described it as “a terrorist blast” that had sought to target a military vehicle.

Photos, which the police published, showed plumes of smoke rising from a building and from a car turned into charred, twisted metal.

In recent weeks, a series of attacks, including car bomb blasts, has hit towns and districts in northeast Syria under the control of the Kurdish YPG militia and its allies.

Two rigged motorcycles exploded a day before in Hasakah city, killing a 15 year-old-boy, police said.

Syria’s official news agency SANA reported that terrorists had detonated an explosive-rigged vehicle that was parked near a telecommunication center in the Kurdish-held town of al-Qahtani-

ya in the northeastern province of Hasakah on Wednesday.

The news agency added that a number of people were killed during the attack, including three children.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a pro-opposition monitoring group, put the death toll at five, confirming that three children were among the casualties.

Daesh terrorist group claimed responsibility for the blast on its Telegram channel.

Daesh has been almost purged from entire territories it used to control in Syria and neighboring Iraq. However, sporadic attacks by the group are still reported in the two countries.

Syria, gripped by a militant war since 2011 that has left hundreds of thousands killed, has managed to take back control of many territories from Daesh and other terrorist groups. The devastating war has also displaced millions of people inside the Arab country and into other places.

Zionist Regime FM:

## Rapprochement With Arab World ‘Top Priority’

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime’s officials, including Zionist foreign and intelligence minister Israel Katz, continue to stress the need for improvement in relationships between the occupying regime and Arab states, while dozens of Palestinians were injured in recent clashes with Zionist troops on 3 August.

“My goal, with the full backing of prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is to work toward an overt nor-

malization,” the regime’s foreign minister Katz said in front of the Knesset according to the Times of Israel. “[T]o extend it and turn it public, and to get to the signing of diplomatic agreements with the (Persian) Gulf states. This is the challenge, this is the goal.”

Katz insisted that the regime’s rapprochement with the Arab states comes as his “top priority” which he perceives as “realistic”. The foreign minister also underlined

that the regime expects to conclude formal peace treaties with “moderate” Persian Gulf countries in the next few years.

Although there are still strong disagreements between the regime and many Arab states over the Palestinian issue, cooperation is still possible between the regime and its Middle Eastern “frenemies”, argued Katz, who used the example of growing trade with Turkey to illustrate the possibility of col-

laboration despite a strained relationships with Turkey’s President Erdogan.

Katz earlier visited the United Arab Emirates in July during the United Nations conference on climate, where he met with a senior official whose name he did not disclose.

In the meantime, clashes between Palestinians and Zionist troops erupted near the Gaza Strip on Friday, 2 August, with more than 30 Palestinians injured.

During Meeting With U.S. Delegation:

## Palestinian President Reiterates Anti-U.S. Position

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) – Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on Wednesday stressed his rejection of U.S. administration’s stance on al-Quds, refugees, borders and security.

Abbas’ remarks were made during a meeting with a delegation of U.S. Congress members of the Democratic Party, headed by House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, according to the official Palestinian news agency Wafa.

However, Abbas reiterated his commitment to the so-called “two-state solution” in accordance

with the international legitimacy resolutions.

“Israel did not respect bilateral agreements signed under international auspices and insists on destroying them, which prompted the Palestinian leadership to decide to stop these agreements,” Abbas added.

The Palestinians have already rejected Trump’s Middle East initiative, which is widely reported to be highly biased in favor of the Israeli regime, as “the slap of the century.”

The Washington Post said in April that the

plan is likely to “stop short of ensuring a separate, fully sovereign Palestinian state.”

The economic portion of Trump’s deal, which would inject \$50 billion into struggling economies in the Middle East over the next ten years, was unveiled in June by Kushner during a conference in Bahrain. All Palestinian factions have boycotted the event, slamming Washington for what they view as an attempt to offer financial rewards for Palestinians to accept the Israeli occupation.