

CAIRO (AP) – A vehicle accident involving an overturned microbus in southern Egypt killed at least nine people and injured eight, authorities said Saturday. The crash took place Friday when the passenger vehicle overturned following a tire blowout on a highway in Minya province 273 kilometers (170 miles) south of the capital Cairo, provincial authorities said in a statement. The microbus, a sort of mass transit minivan, was transporting people from Sohag province to Cairo, the statement said. Deadly traffic accidents claim thousands of lives every year in Egypt, which has a poor transportation safety record. The crashes and collisions are mostly caused by speeding, bad roads or poor enforcement of traffic laws.

He is the wisest and the most knowing man who advises people not to lose hope and faith in the mercy of Allah and not to be too sure and over-confident of immunity from His wrath and punishment.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

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UK Defence Secretary Admits 20-Year Afghanistan Occupation Ended in 'Failure'

LONDON (The Daily Mail) – UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace has admitted Britain's bloody campaign in Afghanistan ended in failure and said the reasons for intervening "crumbled before our eyes" during last year's chaotic withdrawal.

Monday marks the anniversary of the UK and the U.S. pulling out of the country, allowing the Taliban to arrive unopposed into Kabul and sweep back into power.

The Defence Secretary told Mail+ Defence and Diplomacy Editor Mark Nicol of a visit to a war memorial dedicated to the hundreds of British troops killed during the 20-year occupation, and spoke of his fear that their grieving parents would feel they had given their lives for nothing.

"We'd gone there for the right reasons and stayed for 20 years, we'd done security, economic development, education, but we'd



UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace has admitted Britain's bloody campaign in Afghanistan was a failure and said the reasons for intervening 'crumbled before our eyes' during last year's chaotic withdrawal.

failed," he told Mail+.

"And history told us when the West left the country it was going to go back to how it had been," he added.

"We were leaving people behind, conceding the country to the

Taliban and the Haqqani network, mainly because the West didn't really want to stay. And if they didn't want to stay, why did they go there at all?" he said.

The Taliban launched a 10-day takeover of Afghanistan in Au-

gust last year as United States-led forces withdrew from the country.

This was despite billions of dollars being spent by the U.S. and NATO over nearly two decades to allegedly build up Afghan security forces.

The takeover culminated in the fall of the capital Kabul on August 15 as President Ashraf Ghani fled to Abu Dhabi and admitted the Taliban had won.

Chaos ensued at Kabul's airport as people tried to flee, with refugees pictured clinging to planes as they tried to take off.

The Defence Secretary himself choked up last year as he talked about the consequences of the collapse of the Western-trained Afghan army.

Wallace - who himself served in the military before entering politics - said he felt the issue so deeply because he was a soldier.

Rallying for 'Bread, Work, Freedom' Taliban Violently Disperse Women Protesters in Kabul



Women protesters flee as Taliban members fire their guns in the air at a rally in Kabul.

KABUL (AFP/ANI) – Taliban members beat women protesters and fired into the air on Saturday as they violently dispersed a rare rally in the Afghan capital, days ahead of the first anniversary of the group's return to power.

Since seizing control on August 15 last year, the Taliban have rolled back the marginal gains made by women.

About 40 women -- chanting "bread, work and freedom" -- marched in front of the education ministry building in Kabul, before the Taliban members dispersed them by firing their guns into the air, an AFP correspondent reported.

Some women protesters who took refuge in nearby shops were chased and beaten by Taliban members with their rifle butts.

The demonstrators carried a banner which read "August 15 is a black day" as they demanded rights to work and political participation.

"Justice, justice. We're fed up with ignorance," they chanted, many not wearing face veils.

"Unfortunately, the Taliban from the intelligence service came and fired in the air," said Zholia Parsi, one of the organizers of the march.

"They dispersed the girls, tore our banners and confiscated the mobile phones of many girls."

Some journalists covering the protest -- the first women's rally in months -- were also beaten by the Taliban, an AFP correspondent saw.

After seizing power last year, the Taliban promised a softer version of the harsh rule that characterized their first stint in power from 1996 to 2001.

But many restrictions have already been imposed, especially on women, to comply with the movement's vision of ruling.

Tens of thousands of girls have been shut out of secondary schools, while women have been barred from returning to many government jobs.

Women have also been banned from travelling alone on long trips and can only visit public gardens and parks in the capital on

days separate from men.

In May, the country's leader and chief of the Taliban, Hibatullah Akhundzada, ordered women to fully cover themselves in public, including their faces -- ideally with an all-encompassing burqa.

The United Nations and rights groups have repeatedly slammed the Taliban government for imposing the restrictions on women.

These policies show a "pattern of absolute gender segregation and are aimed at making women invisible in the society", Richard Bennett, UN special rapporteur on human rights in Afghanistan, told reporters in Kabul during a visit in May.

Some Afghan women initially pushed back against the curbs, holding small protests.

But the Taliban soon rounded up the ringleaders, holding them incommunicado while denying they had been detained.

4 Injured as Bomb-Laden Vehicle Explodes

At least four people including two Taliban forces were injured in an explosion that took place near an electronic identity card center in Kabul on Saturday.

The explosion was caused by a mine embedded in a motorcycle, TOLO News reported.

According to the publication, a security commander in the 13th security district of Kabul said four people including two forces of the Taliban were wounded in the blast.

However, the reason and source behind the blast have not been confirmed yet.

Last week, at least three people were killed and seven others suffered injuries in a blast that occurred near the Pul-e-Sokhta area in the west of Kabul, a commander of PD6 in Kabul, Mawlawi Zabihullah said at the time.

A day before that at least eight people were killed and 18 others injured in Kabul during a Shia community mourning gathering in the lunar month of Muharram.

U.S. Ambassador Supports Zionist Raids on Gaza

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – U.S. ambassador to the Israeli-occupied territories Tom Nides says Washington fully backed the Tel Aviv regime in its last week's military onslaught against the besieged Gaza Strip, which killed 49 Palestinians, including at least 17 children, describing resistance fighters in the coastal enclave as "bad guys".

Speaking in an interview with the Israeli Hebrew-language Channel 13 television channel, Nides said the Joe Biden administration is "aware of the situation going on in Gaza" and believes that the latest Israeli operations there were part of "an important mission."

"These are bad guys," the U.S. ambassador said of members of the Gaza-based Palestinian resistance movements.

"We support Israel's right to defend itself, its right to basically take the actions it needs to keep this place safe, so we're fully supportive of Israel's actions," he told Channel 13.

Nides said the White House had not been informed of Zionist airstrikes against the Gaza Strip ahead of time, but said, "I don't think we were surprised."

"I don't think we were told in advance but I think we were aware as the actions were taking place," he said. "We were pretty clear that we support Israel's security."

Last Friday, the Zionist regime carried out massacre in Gaza, killing 49 people, including Taysir al-Jabari, a senior commander of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad resistance movement.

The airstrikes prompted the Al-Quds Brigades, the Islamic Ji-

had's military wing, to respond by firing hundreds of retaliatory rockets toward the occupied territories, pushing the regime forces on the back foot.

The strong retaliation, as was pledged by the resistance group, forced Tel Aviv to demand a ceasefire in order to prevent maximum damage. The Egyptian-mediated truce took effect late on Sunday.

On Thursday, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights raised the alarm over the rate by which the regime has been killing Palestinian children so far this year.

"Inflicting hurt on any child during the course of conflict is deeply disturbing, and the killing and maiming of so many children this year is unconscionable," Michelle Bachelet said.

So far this year, 37 Palestinian children have been killed at the hands of the Zionist regime. The figure includes 17 children, who perished as a result of the regime's recent back-to-back airstrikes against alleged positions belonging to the Palestinian resistance movement of the Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip.

"International humanitarian law is clear," the UN official said. "Launching an attack which may be expected to incidentally kill or injure civilians, or damage civilian objects, in disproportionate manner to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated, is prohibited. Such attacks must stop."

Bachelet lamented "this climate of impunity, along with the long-standing violations" that drives the cycle of violence and the violations.

Iraq Wheelchair Tennis Players Refuse to Face Zionist Opponent

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Two Iraqi wheelchair tennis players have withdrawn from an international tournament held in Romania to avoid playing against a Zionist opponent.

Nasr Mahdi and Mohammad al-Mahdi refused to face the Zionist player during the Bucharest Open Wheelchair Tennis Tournament 2022, the President of the Iraqi Tennis Federation, Majid al-Ugaili, announced on Friday.

Wheelchair tennis is played in the same way as able-bodied tennis, with the only exception being that a wheelchair tennis player is allowed two bounces of the ball.

The tournament, which begins on 15 August, is part of the "Performance has no limits!" platform and is the result of a partnership between Licinium Foundation and the International Tennis Federation. The Zionist regime is often ac-

cused of using its presence in international sports and cultural events as a means of "sportwashing" its human rights violations. Other Arab athletes have taken public stances against the normalization of relations with the occupying regime under the guise of diplomacy in sportsmanship.

Earlier this year, 14-year-old Kuwaiti tennis player, Muhammad al-Awadi, withdrew from the Dubai Tennis Championships after he was set to face a Zionist player.

Algerian judoka Fethi Nourine withdrew from the 73kg men's event at the Tokyo Olympics after he found out he would have to face Zionist fighter Tohar Butbul in the second round.

Algerian football player Ahmed Toubia refused to accompany his team, Istanbul Başakşehir, to the occupied territories to play with the Zionist team Maccabi Netanya FC

in a European competition.

Last month, Maysir al-Dahamshah, the star player of the Jordanian national taekwondo team, avoided confrontation with a rival from the Zionist regime in the Cadet and Junior World Championships 2022 hosted by Bulgaria.

The Jordanian taekwondo practitioner failed to bag the bronze medal of the tournament after withdrawing from the competition in protest against the normalization of relations of some Arab countries with the Tel Aviv regime.

In a similar move, Jordanian national fencing player Eyas al-Zamer withdrew from facing a Zionist opponent in a world championship for juniors held in the Emirati city of Dubai.

Iraq has no diplomatic or other ties with the Zionist regime. Its political factions reject normalization with the regime.

Syria: Zionist Shelling Injures 2 Civilians in Quneitra

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Two civilians have been injured due to a Zionist shelling targeting a site in the Quneitra suburb in Syria, according to Syrian officials.

The Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) confirmed that: "Two civilians were wounded when a tank belonging to the Israeli occupation forces fired two shells near the village of al-Hamidiyah."

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) reported that the Zionist troops used military tank shells to target al-Hamidiyah in the Quneitra countryside, which led to the injuries of two people, who have not yet been identified.

According to SOHR sources, a Zionist tank fired three shells when the two people approached

the disengagement zone.

On 7 July, SOHR reported that a Zionist drone targeted an individual from the town of Hader in the northern countryside of Quneitra, resulting in his immediate death.

Emboldened by the inaction of international organizations, the Zionist regime frequently targets positions in Syria, not least those of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah, which has played a key role in helping the Syrian army in its fight against foreign-backed terrorists.

The occupying regime has been the principal supporter of terrorist groups operating in Syria.

In one of the latest attacks on Syria, the occupying regime targeted areas near Damascus on July 22, killing three soldiers and wounding seven others.

Bassam Sabbagh, Syria's per-

manent representative to the United Nations, slammed the "unacceptable" silence of the UN Security Council and the West's support for Zionist aggression.

"The Israeli regime presses ahead with its hostile practices in order to consolidate its occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights, and prolong its authority in violation of international principles and resolutions," Sabbagh said while addressing a Security Council session in late July.

He called on the world body to help end the occupation and hold the Tel Aviv regime responsible for its vicious behavior.

"Syria reiterates its inalienable right to fully take back occupied Golan Heights by means of all available means guaranteed by the international law," Sabbagh stated.