

world

Joy turns to horror at Kabul wedding

● IS bomber kills at least 63

● The wedding was largely a gathering of Shia Muslims

● Islamic State group claimed responsibility for a suicide attack

Kabul, Afghanistan

Joy and celebration turned into horror and carnage when an Islamic State suicide bomber targeted a packed Afghan wedding hall, killing at least 63 people in the deadliest attack to rock Kabul in months, officials and witnesses said yesterday.

The massive blast, which took place late Saturday in west Kabul, underscores both the inadequacy of Afghanistan's security forces and the scale of the problem they face as Washington and the Taliban finalise a deal to reduce the US military presence in Afghanistan and hopefully build a roadmap to a ceasefire.

The groom recalled greeting smiling guests in the afternoon, before seeing their bodies being carried out hours later. The attack "changed my happiness to sorrow", the young man, who gave his name as Mirwais, told local TV station Tolo News.

"My family, my bride are in shock, they cannot even speak.



Afghan men investigate in a wedding hall after a deadly bomb blast in Kabul

My bride keeps fainting," he said.

"I lost my brother, I lost my friends, I lost my relatives. I will never see happiness in my life again."

Interior ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi said a suicide bomber carried out the attack, with at least 63 people killed and 182 injured.

"Among the wounded are women and children," Rahimi said.

Afghan weddings are epic and vibrant affairs, with hundreds or often thousands of guests celebrating for hours inside industrial-scale wedding halls where men are usually segregated from women and children.

"The wedding guests were dancing and celebrating the party when the blast happened," recounted Munir Ahmad, 23, who was seriously injured and whose cousin was among the dead.



Afghan security personnel stand next to a pile of shoes and sandals of victims outside a wedding hall

"Following the explosion, there was total chaos. Everyone was screaming and crying for their loved ones," he told AFP from his bed in a local hospital, where he was being treated for shrapnel wounds.

Images from inside the hall showed blood-stained bodies on the ground along with pieces of flesh and torn clothes, hats, sandals and bottles of mineral water. The huge blast ripped parts of the ceiling off.

The wedding was largely a gathering of Shia Muslims, who frequently are targeted in Sunni-majority Afghanistan, par-

ticularly by IS.

The Sunni extremist group's Afghan affiliate claimed responsibility for the blast, saying the bomber targeted the wedding because it was Shia.

President Ashraf Ghani called it "barbaric", while Afghanistan's chief executive Abdullah Abdullah described it as a "crime against humanity".

As a sign of mourning, Ghani postponed celebrations which were scheduled for Monday to mark 100 years of Afghan independence from Britain.

Withdrawal deal expected

While the police and army claim they prevent most bombings from ever happening, insurgents pull off horrific attacks with chilling regularity.

On July 28, at least 20 people were killed when attackers targeted Ghani's running mate Amrullah Saleh during presidential election campaigning.

The issue also goes to the heart of a prospective deal between the US and the Islamist extremist Taliban that would see Washington begin to withdraw its approximately 14,000 soldiers from Afghanistan.

Several US sources suggested in recent days that an agreement could be imminent, but some points remain to be resolved.

US peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, who condemned the "heinous attack" on the wedding

party, could return to the region in the coming days to continue or even finalise the negotiations.

"We must accelerate the Afghan Peace Process including intra-Afghan negotiations. Success here will put Afghans in a much stronger position to defeat ISIS," he tweeted.

The deal relies on Taliban guarantees they will stop jihadist groups such as Al-Qaeda and IS from using Afghanistan as a safe haven.

Saturday's attack suggests any such promise would be tough to keep.

The "Taliban cannot absolve themselves of blame, for they provide platform for terrorists," Ghani said.

Few believe such a deal will bring quick peace and Afghans fear the Taliban could return.

Arabia Insurance

ARABIA INSURANCE COMPANY S.A.L. (BAHRAIN BRANCH) CONDENSED INTERIM COMBINED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT JUNE 30, 2019

	(Unaudited) June 30, 2019 BD	(Audited) Dec 31, 2018 BD
ASSETS:		
Cash and bank balances	3,136,552	3,217,648
Financial assets at amortised cost	232,014	232,448
Insurance receivables	774,611	182,293
Due from related parties, net	40,111	167,666
Reinsurance contract assets	856,516	639,290
Deferred acquisition cost	99,882	71,046
Other assets	95,336	54,854
Furniture and equipment	15,525	13,056
Total assets – general insurance division	5,250,547	4,578,301
Total assets of the life division – Appendix I	1,010,892	958,659
Total assets	6,261,439	5,536,960

HEAD OFFICE EQUITY AND LIABILITIES:

Head Office equity:		
Head Office equity – general insurance division	1,228,892	793,671
Head Office equity – life division	504,405	417,193
Total Head Office equity	1,733,297	1,210,864

Liabilities:

Insurance payables and accruals	629,239	619,654
Insurance contract liabilities	3,312,333	3,050,610
Provision for employees' end-of-service benefits	56,282	94,504
Unearned commission from reinsurers	23,801	19,862
Total liabilities – general insurance division	4,021,655	3,784,630
Total liabilities of the life division – Appendix I	506,487	541,466
Total liabilities	4,528,142	4,326,096
Total Head Office equity and liabilities	6,261,439	5,536,960

ARABIA INSURANCE COMPANY S.A.L. (BAHRAIN BRANCH) CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME - GENERAL INSURANCE DIVISION (UNAUDITED) - PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

	June 30, 2019 BD	June 30, 2018 BD
Gross written premium	1,868,497	1,624,171
Premium ceded to reinsurers	(1,027,026)	(936,444)
Net written premium	841,471	687,727
Net change in unearned premium	(73,175)	109,030
Reinsurance commission	26,673	24,867
Net earned premium	794,969	821,624
Claims incurred	(925,457)	(527,038)
Share of reinsurance companies	594,775	369,107
Net claims incurred	(330,682)	(157,931)
Policy acquisition cost	(43,822)	(36,987)
Total insurance expense	(374,504)	(194,918)
Underwriting profit	420,465	626,706
Other income	58,157	44,305
General and administrative expenses	(327,876)	(236,887)
Profit for the period	150,746	434,124
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the period	150,746	434,124

ARABIA INSURANCE COMPANY S.A.L. (BAHRAIN BRANCH) - APPENDIX I CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - LIFE DIVISION AS AT JUNE 30, 2019

	(Unaudited) June 30, 2019 BD	(Audited) Dec 31, 2018 BD
ASSETS:		
Cash and bank balances	771,654	722,700
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	215,452	183,294
Insurance and other receivables	11,576	35,085
Reinsurance contract assets	8,619	13,990
Prepaid expenses and other assets	815	325
Furniture and equipment	2,776	3,265
Total assets	1,010,892	958,659
HEAD OFFICE EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Head Office equity:		
Head Office equity	493,857	408,920
Profit for the period / year	10,548	8,273
Total Head Office equity	504,405	417,193

Liabilities:

Due to bank	59	59
Insurance and other payables	19,729	52,217
Life insurance contract liabilities	443,482	432,379
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	37,250	49,518
Provision for employees' end-of-service benefits	5,967	7,293
Total liabilities	506,487	541,466
Total Head Office equity and liabilities	1,010,892	958,659

ARABIA INSURANCE COMPANY S.A.L. (BAHRAIN BRANCH) CONDENSED INTERIM STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME - LIFE DIVISION (UNAUDITED) PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

	June 30, 2019 BD	June 30, 2018 BD
Income:		
Written premiums	60,314	50,457
Allocation to saving components	(13,167)	(18,182)
Insurance premiums	47,147	32,275
Reinsurers' share of insurance premiums	(11,677)	(15,114)
Net written premiums	35,470	17,161
Fee and commission income	69	412
Net insurance income	35,539	17,573
Interest received from deposits with banks	10,303	7,490
Change in fair value of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	12,286	(3,640)
Total income	58,128	21,423
Expenses:		
Change in insurance contract liabilities	(12,752)	8,204
Change in reinsurers' share of insurance contract liabilities	(5,371)	(3,463)
Fees, commissions and other acquisition expenses	(672)	(6,142)
Other operating and administrative expenses	(23,755)	(47,431)
Contribution to Head Office's overheads	(3,630)	(4,059)
Provision for expected credit losses	(1,056)	-
Net foreign exchange loss	(344)	(1,980)
Total expenses	(47,580)	(54,871)
Profit / (loss) for the period	10,548	(33,448)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income / (loss) for the period	10,548	(33,448)