

Kabul blast condemned

Eight killed, scores injured in an explosion outside Kabul University campus

● The explosion occurred as students were waiting outside the university to attend exams.

● Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said that Taliban militants had carried out the attack.

Manama

Bahrain has strongly condemned the terrorist bombing that took place near Kabul University in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, resulting in the death and injury of a number of people including students.

In a statement, the Foreign Affairs Ministry expressed deep condolences to the families of the victims and wishes the injured speedy recovery.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed the solidarity of the Kingdom with the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

It also reiterated the Kingdom's position that rejects all forms of violence, extremism and terrorism and calls for



Investigators carry out probe at the blast site.

concerted international efforts to eradicate this phenomenon that threatens international peace and security.

Afghanistan's Health Ministry said at least eight people have been killed when an explosion struck near the entrance to Kabul University.

Dr Wahidullah Mayar, a min-

istry spokesman, said on July 19 that 33 people had also been wounded and taken to hospital.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility and it was not clear if the attack was carried out by a suicide bomber or remotely detonated.

Ferdous Faramarz, a spokesman for the Kabul police chief,

said two vehicles caught fire after the blast.

Faramarz said police defused a second bomb that was placed close to the explosion site.

The explosion occurred as students were waiting outside the university to attend exams.

The blast came after at least 12 people were killed and almost 90

wounded on July 18 when Taliban militants detonated two car bombs at a gate outside police headquarters in the southern city of Kandahar.

After the car bombs, Taliban gunmen opened fire from nearby positions, triggering a battle with security forces, said Tadeen Khan, the city's police chief.

The attackers targeted the counter-narcotics wing of the police, Khan said.

Baheer Ahmadi, the spokesman for the Kandahar provincial governor, said 12 people had been killed, including nine civilians and three police officers.

Another 89 were wounded, he added.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said that Taliban militants had carried out the attack.

Afghan security forces across the country have been coming under nearly daily attacks by the Taliban.

The increase in violence comes despite reported progress in efforts by the United States to broker an end to Afghanistan's nearly 18-year war.

The US peace envoy for Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, has held eight rounds of peace talks with the Taliban in Qatar. He described the latest round that ended on July 9 as the "most productive" ever.

Taliban negotiators also reported good progress at the talks, but the deadly violence has continued as Kabul's Western-backed government struggles to fend off attacks across the country by Taliban fighters, Islamic State extremists, and other militant groups.

Maritime, air navigation security meeting set

Manama

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has confirmed that the Kingdom of Bahrain is preparing to host a maritime and air navigation security meeting in the coming period in co-operation with the United States of America and the Republic of Poland.

More than 60 countries will participate in the event, which is one of the outcomes of the International Conference in Support of Security and Peace in the Middle East held in Warsaw last February.

This initiative comes within



the framework of the role played by the Kingdom of Bahrain to contribute to the establishment of security and stability in the region, raise awareness of the dangers that threaten the region in light of Iran's practices which pose a

great threat to maritime and air navigation, the ministry said.

"The initiative also reflects the policy of the Kingdom of Bahrain based on the need to strengthen international cooperation in the face of all problems and crises that threaten international peace and security."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed that the meeting would provide an opportunity for consultation and exchange of visions among many countries in the world, to find ways to deter the Iranian threat and ensure freedom of navigation in this strategic region to the world.

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