

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) -- Iraq's prominent cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani on Monday expressed solidarity with Lebanon amid latest deadly Israeli strikes on the Arab country, calling for urgent efforts to cease the regime's brutal aggression and protect Lebanese civilians.

"During these difficult times, the honorable Lebanese nation has been increasingly subjected to various forms of Israeli aggression, including the detonation of large numbers of personal communication devices and attacks on densely populated residential neighborhoods."

Kayhan International

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) -- Iraqi resistance fighters have launched a drone strike against a strategic military target in the Israeli occupied territories in response to the Tel Aviv regime's devastating war on Gaza.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella group of anti-terror fighters, in a statement published on its Telegram channel on Monday morning, said that it had carried out an attack on the Israeli army's "Golani Brigade observation base in occupied Palestine with drones."

VOL NO: LV 12350 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Tuesday, September 24, 2024, Mehr 3, 1403, Rabi al-Awwal 20, 1446, Price 500,000 Rials

Viewpoint

Zionist Terrorism Strengthens Lebanese Resolve to Retaliate

Up to Seven Satellites to be Launched This Year



Putin Calls for Bigger BRICS Role in Energy Markets



Iranian Karatekas Scoop 11 Medals in Asian Championships



'Haniyeh Assassination Will Not Go Unanswered' President Pezeshkian Talks to Reporters in New York

NEW YORK (Dispatches) -- President Masoud Pezeshkian said here Monday that Iran will respond to Israel for the July assassination of Hamas's political leader in Tehran but "we do not wish to be the causes of instability in the region."

The Iranian president said Tehran agreed to wait to respond because of U.S. warnings that a ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas in Gaza was days away, but that Washington has misled the world about the status of those talks.

"They told us earlier to prevent a larger war to wait another week or so for peace to be obtained," he said. "Clearly the politicians that lie to us these days ... lie to you as well."

He said the Zionist regime of Israel's assassination will "not go unanswered."

Iran's president spoke to reporters in New York at the beginning of the annual United Nations General Assembly, as Israel waged a barbaric bombing campaign in Lebanon.

Pezeshkian said Iran will continue to back Hezbollah, the Lebanese resistance and political movement, so long as Israel is being armed by the United States.

"We are willing to put all of our weapons aside, so long as Israel is willing to do the same," he said. "But we cannot have outside actors come in, arm one side to the teeth and prevent the other side from having the means to defend themselves."

Since the Gaza war erupted nearly a year ago, Hezbollah and Israel have regularly traded fire, with the Lebanese resistance group staging retaliatory operations in solidarity with the people of Palestine.

Pezeshkian defended Hezbollah's rocket fire into Israel, saying it represented the bare "minimum" in response to Israel's military

invasion of Gaza. "We always keep hearing, 'Well, Hezbollah fired a rocket.' If Hezbollah didn't even do this minimum, who would defend" the Palestinians, he asked.

In July, Pezeshkian, a cardiac surgeon, became Iran's president. He described his victory as the start of "a new chapter" for the country.

To mark his inauguration, Hamas's political leader Ismail Haniyeh traveled to Tehran, where he was assassination in an explosion masterminded by Israel in his guesthouse.

Pezeshkian said the assassination was "condemnable under all international laws" and intended to initiate a regional war that would cause suffering for all sides.

"There is no winner in warfare; everyone loses on all sides in warfare and conflict," he said.

In his remarks to reporters, Pezeshkian also denied any Iranian involvement in supporting pro-Palestinian campus protests in the United States, saying Tehran has enough problems covering its "domestic payroll." He then asked rhetorically, "How do we supply payroll to American students?"

The Iranian president was responding to claims by U.S. Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines who said in July that the United States has "observed actors tied to Iran's government posing as activists online, seeking to encourage protests, and even providing financial support to protesters."

The Iranian president praised the U.S. students for seeking truth and justice, and dismissed the U.S. allegation as absurd.

"So none of these American students have a conscience? ... They just seek money?" he said.

Asked whether Iran planned to free certain convicted

Israel's Desperate Dash to Escape Disintegration

Hundreds martyred in barbaric bombing of Lebanese towns
Hezbollah pounds military sites with massive rocket barrage
More than 300,000 settlers rush to shelters
PM Netanyahu tells Zionists to expect 'complicated' days ahead



Smoke rises from Israeli airstrikes on villages in the Nabatiyeh district, seen from the southern town of Marjayoun, Lebanon, Sept. 23, 2024.

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- Massive Israeli airstrikes on residential towns in southern and eastern Lebanon martyred at least 274 people on Monday, in what has been Lebanon's bloodiest day for decades.

At least 21 children, 39 women and two emergency responders were among the martyrs, Lebanon's health minister said, adding that more than

1,024 others were wounded. The aggression on Lebanon forced tens of thousands to flee north to find safety, with airstrikes leaving smoking ruins on the roadside as Lebanese sought safety.

People across the country were contacted by the Zionist regime by phone and ordered to leave their homes.

In response to the bombard-

ment, Hezbollah fired massive barrages of rockets at military targets in northern occupied territories and illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank.

Hezbollah said it had fired rockets at military sites near Haifa. It later said it launched "dozens of rockets" at two Israeli bases "in response to the Israeli enemy's attacks on the

south and the Bekaa". Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu said there would be "complicated" days ahead.

Lebanese security sources believe that the situation will likely escalate in the coming days, but the military and other security services do not predict an Israeli ground invasion.

(Continued on Page 7)

IRGC Captures 12 Israeli Operatives Across Iran

TEHRAN -- Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) announced that 12 people have been arrested for collaborating with the occupying regime of Israel and planning acts of sabotage and terrorism within Iran.

"As the Zionist regime and their Western backers, most notably the United States, have not succeeded in their sinister goals against the people of Gaza and Lebanon, they are now seeking to spread the crisis to Iran with a series of actions planned against our country's security," the statement said.

The IRGC said that members of the network of 12 operatives collaborating with the Zionist regime were arrested in six different Iranian provinces.

The arrests Sunday came in the aftermath of major terror attacks carried out by the Zionist regime in Lebanon against Hezbollah.

Israel detonated thousands of

paggers and walkie-talkies laced with explosives and distributed among the Lebanese. The attack martyred 39 people and injured and maimed thousands, including Hezbollah members and civilians.

A message was sent to the paggers before they were detonated, leading those carrying them to hold them in their hand to look at the message. The explosions then blew off the hands and blinded many.

Among those injured in the Israeli terror attacks was Iran's ambassador to Lebanon, Mojtaba Amani.

In August, Iran arrested at least two dozen people for involvement in Israel's assassination of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh while visiting Tehran in late July.

The IRGC has ordered all Iranians to stop using any type of communication devices in response to

(Continued on Page 7)

Finland to Propose Scrapping Veto Power at UN

NEW YORK (Dispatches) -- Finland's President Alexander Stubb said Monday the UN Security Council has failed in its main task to preserve peace, adding that his country will make three proposals including scrapping the veto powers of UN Security Council members.

Speaking at the Summit of the Future at the UN, Stubb said the UN is not achieving its targets on the global crisis as the world now is simultaneously witnessing four major wars, in Ukraine, Palestine, Sudan and Syria.

Underlining the need for joint efforts to tackle these problems, he said that the Security Council has failed in its main task.

"The main task of the UNSC (Security Council) is to preserve peace, and let's be honest, it has failed to do so. And you know what the UNSC, in

my mind, does not reflect the world of today," he said.

Stubb decried the lack of representation on the council, as there is only one country from Asia and no representation from Latin America and Africa.

He went on to say that he would make three proposals for reform in the Security Council on Wednesday.

"The first one is to expand it by five members, one from Latin America, two from Africa, and two from Asia. My second proposal is that the veto power of all permanent and non-permanent members of the Security Council should be scrapped.

"The third one is that if a member of the Security Council blatantly violates the UN Charter, its voting rights in the Council should be suspended."

Kayhan

International

Kayhan Group of Newspapers

Editorial Dept. Tel.: 33911561, 33110251-9

Ext.: 2334, 2336, 2337

Advertising Dept.: 33110251-9 Ext. 2336

Subscription Ext.: 2322

Facsimile: 33114228 & 33111120

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Tehran – Islamic Republic of Iran

In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Iran Warns of Dangerous Backlash of Israeli Adventurism



Smoke billows from a site targeted by Israeli shelling in the southern Lebanese village of Burj el-Shmali.

TEHRAN -- Iran on Monday warned of the "dangerous consequences" of Israel's new "adventurism" in Lebanon, following the regime's extensive airstrikes on Lebanese towns and villages.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kan'ani strongly condemned the Zionist regime's aggression on residential areas in south Lebanon and the killing of hundreds of its defenseless people as insane.

He lashed out at the United States and some Western supporters of Israel for keeping silence and even supporting the regime.

The occupying regime of Israel, he said, continues its criminal acts

against the people of Palestine in the Gaza Strip and seeks to drag the entire region into a war.

Kan'ani said that appeasement toward Israel's crimes against Palestinians in the past year has encouraged the regime to continue its criminal and genocidal acts.

The spokesman said the continuation of Israel's crimes in Palestine and the spread of the regime's criminal acts to Lebanon are a "clear example of a serious threat to regional and international peace and security."

He called on the United Nations Security Council to take swift measures to put an end to Israel's crimes.

The large-scale Israeli attacks followed Hezbollah's farthest-reaching Sunday strikes against Zionist targets since October, during the resistance group pounded the Ramat David Airbase southeast of Haifa and the Rafael weapons manufacturing facility in the Zevulun area with scores of rockets.

Hezbollah's attacks forced around 300,000 Israelis to run to shelters. The movement's intensified retaliation came after Israel detonated thousands of communication devices in Lebanon and launched missile strikes on the south, killing dozens, including a senior Hezbollah commander.

FM Araghchi: Israel Expanding War to Flee Gaza Quagmire

NEW YORK (Dispatches) -- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi says Israel is trying to expand war across the region in order to extricate itself from the Gaza quagmire, where the Zionist regime has been waging a genocidal war for more than 11 months.

"The fact is that the Israeli regime has been caught in a quagmire in Gaza," he said, adding despite "having sought to destroy Hamas with an army that has been armed to the teeth with the most advanced weapons, it has not been able to achieve its goal after a year".

Araghchi pointed to the escalation of the regime's aggression across the region, including against the occupied West Bank and Lebanon. He cited the regime's detonation of thousands of booby-trapped pagers

and walkie-talkie radios, describing it "blind terrorism and crime against humanity" which the regime is resorting to "out of frustration."

"The Zionists assume that by expanding the battlefield, they can exit the deadlock," he said. "We are completely alert and would not fall into their trap," he added.

Araghchi, meanwhile, dismissed the United States allegations that it was "unaware" of the blasts in Lebanon. "In our view, this is not acceptable. One cannot believe claims that the Americans were not aware," he said.

The U.S., the minister said, is "largely complicit" in such atrocities through its arms, intelligence, and political support for the Zionist regime, adding it "cannot evade responsibility for these crimes".

Araghchi commented on the lingering hostility between Iran and the U.S., saying "We have differences with the Americans, many of which are fundamental".

He cited Tehran's opposition to Washington's imperialist policies, military interventionism across many parts of the world, and its bullying attitude.

"On the other hand, they are opposed to Iran's spirit of pursuing independence and esteem," the minister said, adding a "complete resolution of these differences is not possible, and is principally not feasible".

"However, the cost can be reduced," he said, adding his ministry is obliged to look into the possible ways of realization of the objective through "honorable means."

President Pezeshkian: We Should Build a New World

NEW YORK (Dispatches) -- President Masoud Pezeshkian said here Monday the West's double standards have resulted in the spread of bloodshed and warfare across the world.

"Instead of bloodshed, war, and massacres, we should build a world, in which all humans can live comfortably, notwithstanding their color, race, ethnicity, and the region where they live," he said upon arriving at the John F. Kennedy airport

in New York for the UN General Assembly session.

"And unfortunately, the world we are currently living in is not like that. There are some double standards," the president said. "The opportunity that we have for living on this earthen planet should be equal for all those living on it."

Pezeshkian said he is going to relay the country's "message regarding peace and security".

Besides addressing the assem-

bly, Pezeshkian will be delivering a speech at the Summit of the Future, which gathers world leaders and is to precede the General Assembly session, and hold various bilateral meetings with foreign officials.

Before departing for New York, the president said he hoped to be able to relay the "voice of our country's people as well as the voice of right-seeking and pursuit of justice."

The Holy Qur'an

Surely We have revealed it-- an Arabic Quran-- that you may understand. We narrate to you the best of narratives, by Our revealing to you this Quran, though before this you were certainly one of those who did not know.

The Holy Qur'an (12.2)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	11:56
Evening (Maghreb)	18:16
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:54
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	04:30

Pezeshkian Sends Congratulatory Messages to Saudi King, Crown Prince

TEHRAN -- President Masoud Pezeshkian, in separate messages on Monday, extended his congratulations to Saudi Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman on the kingdom's national day.

Pezeshkian stressed the importance of improving mutual relations in all fields.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also congratulated his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan on the occasion.

In a post on his X account, Iran's Ambassador to Riyadh Ali Reza Enayati said Araghchi stressed the importance of enhancing mutual ties.

On Sunday, the two ministers met on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York and discussed ways to improve mutual relations in various fields and the need to hold constant coordination and consultation to monitor the progress of their ties.

They exchanged views about leading regional and international developments, particularly Israel's nearly year-long genocidal war on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

In March last year, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed under a Chinese-brokered deal to restore diplomatic relations severed in 2016.

As part of a joint statement issued by the two sides, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to implement a security cooperation agreement signed in April 2001 and another accord reached in May 1998 to boost ties in various sectors.

Zionist Terrorism Strengthens Lebanese Resolve to Retaliate

By: Kayhan International

With almost 300 Lebanese civilians martyred on Monday and more than a thousand others injured by the Zionist entity's aerial terrorism – as we go to the Press – the legendary anti-terrorism movement, the Hezbollah, is all geared up for a fitting retaliation on Israeli military bases and industrial installations to make the cowardly enemy pay for its growing crimes against humanity.

The campaign for liberation of Palestine from the 76-year long usurpation of the non-Israelite and non-Semitic east European Zionists seems all set to enter a crucial phase.

This is evident from the coordinated efforts of the other members of the Axis of Resistance – the Ansarallah of Yemen and Iraq's Popular Mobilisation Units (PMU) – who have in their crosshairs sensitive targets from the Golan Heights to Eilat (Om ar-Rashash) on the Gulf of Aqaba and the Mediterranean ports of Haifa, Jaffa (Yafa), Ashdod (Asdood), and Ashkelon (Asqalan).

The rapidly improving projectiles of the Resistance Forces have repeatedly shattered the so-called iron dome of the murderous enemy whose genocide in Gaza over the past year has resulted in the massacre of almost 42,000 men, women, and children, besides injuring over a hundred thousand others (many of them maimed for life).

Because of US complicity in the terrorism of the racist Zionist entity, the UN, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and the International Criminal Court (ICC) have failed to stop the holocaust despite the passing of resolutions and warrants for Israeli war criminals.

This same toothless attitude of the World Body and human rights agencies has enabled Israel to continue its brutal attacks on the towns and cities of Lebanon, where last week it used a novel form of terrorism through explosives planted in pagers and walkie-talkies to kill over a forty unsuspecting people and wound more than three thousand others.

The free world needs to stop this organized terrorism of the Washington-Tel Aviv devilish duo and their systematic slaughter of the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, as well as the killing of the people of Lebanon and Syria.

The spirit of martyrdom is indeed indomitable. Only the sacrifices of the people of Lebanon for their faith, for their country, for regional stability, and for the avowed goal of the liberation of Palestine will eventually defeat the illegitimate Zionist entity.

Almost a hundred thousand illegal Zionist migrants have already fled from the northern parts of Occupied Palestine to its interior, and many more are all set to join them in view of the coming retaliation by Hezbollah, which however, unlike the Zionists, never targets civilians.

The Resistance Front never launches its drones and missiles indiscriminately and only targets with precision the military and industrial installations of the dastardly Israelis.

Its goal is to persuade the illegal Zionist migrants to pack up and leave Occupied Palestine for their homelands. According to reports over 50,000 of these have already flown out of Israel, with the majority of them with no intention of return.

This is good news, and millions of others should follow suit by handing over Palestine to the Palestinian people. Then only this chronic question will be resolved, if not with more intensity, and this time in great number of fatalities and casualties for the Zionists.

Mystical Power of Persian Poets

Miniature of Hafez



By: Ali Hammoud*

There are few poetic traditions in the world that have entrenched themselves so deeply in their respective societies as has the Persian poetic tradition. This presence, however, is not limited to discussions within literary circles or the adornment of public monuments. Nor is it strictly a source of aesthetic beauty. Within Persian speaking societies, people from all walks of life consult poetry for profound spiritual instruction or genuine guidance for the big decisions in life. This is particularly the case with Hafez.

Within the pantheon of Persian poets, perhaps none is as cherished and revered as Hafez, and with good reason. Reading the poetry of Hafez induces fragmented moments where one oscillates between body and soul; indeed, Wheeler Thackston writes that Hafez "sang a rare blend of human and mystic love so balanced, proportioned, and contrived with artful ease that it is impossible to separate the one from the other". Within his poetic lines are levels and layers, each unfolding simultaneously upon the page and within the reader. Ethics, aesthetics and philosophy are all intertwined, and all possible meanings simmer simultaneously beneath the surface.

I became acquainted with Persian poetry through learning Persian for my PhD. Alongside its utility as a research language, reading these poetic works has inspired a great deal of joy and spiritual contemplation. Leaning on the perspectives of well-known commentators, I present below an analysis of a verse to demonstrate the multi-layered and rich understanding of Hafez, with the hope that it will also inspire introspection, wherever stage you may be at in life, as it has for Persian readers for generations upon generations.

On first reading, the meaning of the verse – in the original Persian – is apparent. Hafez is famous – or infamous – in Shiraz for his exuberant love and does not attune his eyes to see the faults of others. This is an admirable trait, particularly prominent within Malamati Sufism, that one should busy oneself with one's own faults instead of the perceived faults of others. The key principles of the Malamati worldview include exuberant love; being open with one's beliefs; concealing the faults of others; persevering through sneers and censures of others; and a perpetual struggle against self-centeredness.

The second level takes a step further. The evil gaze can also be interpreted as one infused with desire; not desire in and of itself, but a base desire motivated by deceit and duplicity that festers within the lower parts of the human soul and incites one to evil. Hafez informs us that he does not gaze upon others with such a fraudulent eye, instead opting to look upon others with genuine care and compassion.

But beyond these levels is something else; a perspective that offers a radical rethinking of how we view the relationship between God and creation. In the first line, when Hafez says that he is renowned in Shiraz for his audacious expressions of love, he is speaking to the idea that love is not something that can remain concealed. A lover may be able to conceal their love for a brief period of time, but if it is a true love, it will eventually burst forth; every glowing glance and minor motion will sing songs of their love. In this respect the lover mirrors God, as not even God could conceal his love, weaving it seamlessly into the tapestry of the cosmos.

The second line explains the result of this manifest love. The lover does not pollute their eye with seeing bad because a lover only sees beauty in existence. A gaze that is infused with love, purity and sincerity is incapable of seeing any evil in the world. The world's beauty comes to the fore in all that they see, radiating from the mundane. The hidden hand of God becomes visible, the artist and artwork become one, and the Qur'anic verse "And God's is the east and the west: and wherever you turn, there is God's countenance" manifests before one's eyes.

The aim of this piece is not to convince anyone that my reading of Hafez is correct, but to inspire others to delve deeper into Persian literature. Words possess a quasi-mystical power and, in the hands of the master Persian poets, can engender serious transformation: long-buried emotions are stirred, long-forgotten memories are retrieved and long-lost truths are found again. All that is left for us is to read them.

* Ali Hammoud is a PhD candidate at Western Sydney University. He is broadly interested in Shiism and Islamic intellectual history.

-Courtesy: Guardian

Up to Seven Satellites to be Launched This Year

TEHRAN -- The head of the Iranian Space Agency (ISA) said Monday the Islamic Republic plans to send between five to seven domestically-developed satellites into space by the end of the current Iranian calendar year ending on March 20, 2025.

Hassan Salariyeh stated that his agency aims to have several satellite launches this year, just like the previous year, noting they will be carried out by the Aerospace Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), the Ministry of Defense, the Aerospace Industries Organization (AIO), and a number of foreign space companies.

Salariyeh noted that the ISA would have two foreign launches this year, adding that homegrown Tolo-3 (Sunrise-3) and Zafar-2 (Victory-2) satellites will be sent into orbit with foreign space launch vehicles (SLVs) in upcoming months.

He said the Iranian Space Agency is planning sub-orbital launches in cooperation with the IRGC Aerospace Force.

Homegrown Kowsar satellite, designed and manufactured by the private sector, will also be put into space this year, Salariyeh said.



On September 14, Iran successfully sent into orbit the domestically-developed Chamran 1 research satellite, registering another impressive stride in the country's space program.

The satellite was put into orbit at an altitude of 550 kilometers (341 miles) above the Earth's surface onboard a homegrown Qaem-100 space launch vehicle (SLV).

Several hours into the launch, the Iranian research satellite sent its first signals.

Chamran-1 satellite has been designed and manufactured by Iranian technicians at the space division of Iran Electronics Industries (SAIran), a state-owned subsidiary of Iran's Ministry of Defense, in conjunction with experts at the Aerospace Research Institute (ARI) and private knowledge-based firms.

Weighing approximately 60 kilograms, the primary mission of the Iranian research satellite is to test hardware and software systems for orbital maneuver

technology validation.

Despite sanctions imposed by Western countries in recent years, Iran has taken giant strides in the civilian space program.

The country is among the world's top 10 nations capable of developing and launching satellites.

Earlier this year, Iran successfully sent the homegrown Mahda research satellite, along with two research cargoes, to space onboard the domestically developed Simorgh (Phoenix) satellite launch vehicle (SLV).

Mahda weighs 32 kilograms and its primary task is to test the satellite-related subsystems, verify the function of Simorgh SLV in dispensing space cargoes, and evaluate the performance of new designs and the reliability of indigenous technologies in space.

Earlier, the IRGC Aerospace Force successfully put the Soraya satellite into an orbit 750 kilometers above Earth in 11 minutes.

The research satellite, manufactured by the ISA, was launched with a Qaem-100 space launch vehicle (SLV).

Three Knowledge-Based Industrial Products Unveiled

TEHRAN -- Iranian Vice-President for Science, Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy Hussein Afshin on Monday unveiled three knowledge-based industrial products, named Datis welding laser, silica aerogel and

specific type of methane gas in a specific wavelength range by using the technology of semiconductor lasers with adjustable wavelength and combining it with spectroscopy.

In June, experts at a technological company in Iran had



portable methane gas suction laser leak detector.

Afshin attended a ceremony at the science and research center of Isfahan and unveiled the three products made by the Iranian knowledge-based companies.

Elaborating on specifications of Datis welding laser, Javad Rayee, the chairman of the board of directors of the company which manufactured the product, said that very high accuracy and speed, a significant increase in productivity, heat reduction, no deformation of parts and high strength are among the features of this product.

"It can be used in the automotive, electronics, jewelry and medical industries," he added.

Also, silica aerogel is a product of Pispagan company which is very light as thermal insulation and sound and moisture insulation. Also, it is an absorbent of organic substances and oil stains.

Another new product which was unveiled is the portable methane gas suction laser leak detector made by Sepahan Laser Fanavaran company. This product determines the possibility of absorbing a

used locally developed know-how and technology of "Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy" (LIBS) to build products and equipment in the field of laser and plasma.

Vocalist Pays Tribute to Victims of Mine Accident



TEHRAN -- Acclaimed Iranian vocalist Mohsen Chavoshi has made a video tribute to the victims of the recent tragic mine explosion in South Khorasan Province.

The devastating incident, which occurred on Saturday night, claimed at least 31 lives and left 17 others injured due to a methane gas leak.

Chavoshi, known for his impressive performances and

socially conscious lyrics, shared the video clip on his social media platforms.

The video features somber images of some of the mine workers who lost their lives in the incident, overlaid with Chavoshi's distinctive voice singing a mournful melody.

Chavoshi's video quickly went viral, with many sharing it to express their grief and solidarity.

Picture of the Day



The creation of unique patterns by carpet weavers of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari provinces has global renown recognized by UNESCO.

Photo by ISNA

Official: Iran's Services Exports at \$12bn in Year to March



TEHRAN - Deputy head of Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Sadegh Ghannadzadeh has said that the country's exports of services, including technical and engineering services, reached a total of \$12 billion in the year to late March.

Ghannadzadeh said that services exports from Iran had increased by nearly 20% in value terms in the calendar year to

March 19 compared to the year before that.

Ghannadzadeh said Iran counts on services exports as a major and reliable source of earning hard currency revenue, adding that increased services exports from the country would lead to a rise in exports of goods and commodities in the future.

The official said technical and

engineering services from Iran had reached nearly \$2.5 billion over the past calendar year.

He said Iranian suppliers of engineering services face various problems in other countries, including sanctions on banking services which restricts their access to letters of credit issued by the banks to guarantee payments for their projects and services in those countries.

Ghannadzadeh said the Iranian government has plans in place to resolve the issue, adding that the country plans to triple the value of its engineering and technical services exports to \$6 billion in the next two years.

Iran has sought to rely more on non-oil exports in the past years as part of a campaign to reduce the impacts of U.S. sanctions on its oil exports.

Euro Zone Business Activity Unexpectedly Contracts in September, PMI Shows

LONDON (Reuters) - Euro zone business activity contracted sharply and unexpectedly this month as the bloc's dominant services industry flatlined while a downturn in manufacturing accelerated, a survey showed on Monday.

The downturn appeared broadbased with Germany, Europe's largest economy, seeing its decline deepen while France - the currency union's second biggest - returned to contraction following August's Olympics boost.

That fuelled bets of more policy easing by the European Central Bank and the euro fell sharply, on track for its biggest daily fall against the dollar in more than three months.

HCOB's preliminary composite euro zone Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global, sank to 48.9 this month from August's 51.0, below the 50 mark that separates growth from contraction for the first time since February.

A Reuters poll predicted a modest decline to 50.5.

"As the Olympic flame was extinguished, so was euro zone optimism. The August uptick in the PMI was met by a sharp decline in September. This further fuels growth concerns in the bloc as inflation worries fade," said Bert Colijn, an economist at ING.

Overall demand fell at the fastest rate in eight months. The new business index plunged to 47.2 from 49.1.

A services PMI sank to 50.5 from 52.9, below all expectations in the Reuters poll which had predicted a more modest decline to 52.1.

Euro zone government bond yields tumbled on the data,



with yields on German debt falling the most.

Germany's economy contracted 0.1% in the second quarter and Monday's survey suggested it had extended its downturn in the third. A recession is normally defined as two consecutive quarters of contraction.

"A technical recession seems to be baked in," said Cyrus de la Rubia, chief economist at Hamburg Commercial Bank, forecasting Germany's economy would shrink by 0.2% this quarter.

The drop came despite firms increasing charges at a shallower rate. Services inflation eased and the output prices index came in at 52.0 versus August's 53.7, its lowest reading since April 2021.

"The one positive development is that price pressures are easing. This will be reassuring for the ECB and perhaps raises the chance that policymakers will cut the deposit rate again in October," said Andrew Kenningham at Capital Economics.

On Sept. 12 the ECB cut interest rates again and signalled a "declining path" for borrowing costs in the months ahead as inflation slows and eco-

nomical growth in the euro zone falters.

The ECB should keep cutting interest rates gradually, its chief economist said last week, but may need to speed up cuts if the economy faltered.

Central banks around the world are easing monetary policy. China's central bank supplied cash to its banking system for the first time in months on Monday while the U.S. Federal Reserve kicked off an anticipated series of rate cuts last week with a larger-than-usual 50 basis point reduction.

Meanwhile, in Britain - outside the European Union - businesses also reported a slowdown in growth this month, potentially encouraging the Bank of England to consider cutting interest rates again.

A PMI covering euro zone manufacturing, which has been sub-50 for over two years and was forecast at 45.6, dropped to 44.8 from 45.8. An output index fell to 44.5 from 45.8.

Business optimism waned, suggesting purchasing managers do not expect an imminent turnaround, while the factory future output index sank to an 11-month low of 52.0 from 57.5.

Russia, Iran Hold Talks on Expanding Cooperation in North-South Corridor

TEHRAN - Russian Ambassador to Tehran Alexey Dedov has met and held talks with CEO of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI), Jabbar Ali Zakeri to discuss bilateral ties and issues of mutual interest.

During the talk, the two sides explored avenues for the expansion of the upcoming cooperation especially in the field of construction operation of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

Iran's deputy minister of roads and urban development expressed hope that the two countries will witness the growing transit cooperation in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) due to high volume of demand from India.

The chief executive of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways raised



the proposal of setting up the joint technical committee between Iranian and Russian railway experts in Tehran and stressed the need to review the border-related problems and Russia's investment capacities and opportunities in Iran's rail projects.

The Russian envoy, for his part, emphasized that the relations between Tehran and Moscow will be further expanded in all fields.

Dedov conveyed the warm greetings of CEO of Russian Railway Company to his Iranian counterpart and invited him to visit Russia.

IRICA: UAE Main Source of Iran's Imports

TEHRAN - The Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) on Monday reported that on trade in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year that the United Arab Emirates is the main source of goods imported by Iran.

IRICA added that over 15,688 tonnes of non-oil goods, valued at \$26.317 million, were imported into the country in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21 to August 22, 2024), showing a 7.93 and a 5.5 percent growth in weight and value, respectively, ISNA reported.

According to the report, the



volume of the country's foreign transit of goods registered a 52.86 percent growth in the first five

months of the current Iranian calendar year compared to last year's corresponding period.

Gold Trades Near Record

LONDON (Bloomberg) -- Gold climbed to a fresh all-time high ahead of U.S. economic data that may offer clues on the path forward for further rate cuts by the Federal Reserve.

Bullion was little changed after earlier rising as much as 0.4% to a record \$2,631.40 an ounce, beating the previous all-time high posted on Friday. Gold has advanced since the Fed lowered its benchmark interest rate by half a percentage point last week, building on what was already a record-setting year for the precious metal.

Traders will scrutinize comments from Fed speakers including Raphael Bostic and Austan Goolsbee later Monday, before turning their attention to U.S. personal consumption data and jobless claims later in the week. Those could inform the central bank's thinking on future rate cuts, which are often seen as positive for non-interest bearing gold.

"The market looks increasingly in need of consolidation, but at this point, a deep one is needed to rattle hedge funds holding the largest bet on higher prices since 2020," according to a report from Saxo Bank A/S.

Fed Governor Christopher Waller said Friday he'd likely back quarter-point cuts at each of the next two central bank policy meetings in November and December, if the economy evolves as he expects.

Bullion's 27% rally this year has also been supported by robust purchasing by central banks and haven demand amid ongoing conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine.

Spot gold was steady at \$2,622.49 an ounce by 11:33 a.m. in London. The Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index rose 0.1%, while the U.S. 10-year Treasury yield was little changed. Palladium, platinum and silver all fell.

London's Ultra-Rich Flee Threat of Rising Taxes

LONDON (CNBC) — Monaco, Italy, Switzerland, Dubai. They're just a few of the destinations trying to lure away the UK's uber wealthy ahead of proposed changes to the country's divisive non-dom tax regime.

Almost two-thirds (63%) of wealthy investors said they plan to leave the UK within two years or "shortly" if the Labour government moves ahead with plans to ax the colonial-era tax concession, while 67% said they would not have emigrated to Britain in the first place, according to a new study from Oxford Economics, which assesses the

implications of the plans.

The UK's non-dom regime is a 200-year-old tax rule, which permits people living in the UK but who are domiciled elsewhere to avoid paying tax on income and capital gains earnings overseas for up to 15 years. As of 2023, an estimated 74,000 people enjoyed the status, up from 68,900 the previous year.

Labour last month set out plans to abolish the status, expanding on a pledge set out in its election manifesto and stepping up earlier proposals by the previous Conservative government to phase out the regime over time.

It comes as Prime Minister

Keir Starmer has pledged to improve fairness and shore up the public finances, with further announcements expected early next week at the Labour Party's annual conference and during the Oct. 30 Autumn budget statement.

Finance Minister Rachel Reeves has said that scrapping the program could generate £2.6 billion (\$3.45 billion) over the course of the next government. However, Oxford Economics' research, which was produced earlier this month in collaboration with lobby group Foreign Investors for Britain, estimates the changes will instead cost taxpayers £1 billion by 2029/30.

Iranian Karatekas Scoop 11 Medals in Asian Championships



TEHRAN – Iranian karatekas have claimed eleven medals in the 20th Asian Senior Championships held in Hangzhou, China.

Iranian athletes achieved a total of eleven medals at the 2024 Asian Senior Championships in Hangzhou, China from Septem-

ber 20 to 22. The medals included one gold, one silver, and nine bronze. Saleh Abazari (+84kg) and

Mehdi Khodabakhshi (-84kg) grabbed gold and silver medals respectively in the sporting vent.

Fatemeh Sadeghi claimed a bronze medal in the Individual Kata competition.

Additionally, Iranian karate athletes including Bahman Asgari (-75kg), Behnam Dehgan-zadeh (-55kg), Taravat Khaksar (-55kg), Atousa Golshadnejad (-61kg), and Mobina Heidari (-68kg) each earned bronze medals.

Moreover, the Iranian men's karate kumite, men's Kata, and women's Kata teams all received bronze medals.

Iran secured fifth place behind China, while Japan dominated the medal tally with 5 gold, 3 silver, and 3 bronze medals, followed by Vietnam and Kazakhstan in second and third places.

The tournament brought together 370 athletes from 31 countries.

Iran Football Climbs in FIFA Rankings



TEHRAN – Iran's national football team aka Team Melli maintained its status as Asia's second best ranked side, moving up one spot to 19th in the FIFA World Ranking.

Team Melli recently opened its AFC Asian Qualifiers journey with two wins.

Japan remained Asia's top side

in the latest Ranking published on Thursday.

The Samurai Blue improved two spots to 16th.

Korea Republic remained unchanged at 23rd while Australia

dropped one spot to 25th.

The next FIFA World Ranking will be published on October 24.

Azmoun Nets Brace as Shabab Al Ahli Beat Al Wahda

TEHRAN – Shabab Al Ahli football team has defeated Al Wahda 5-4 in Matchweek 3 of the UAE Pro League.

Omar Khribin scored an early goal for Al Wahda in the third minute at the Al-Rashid Stadium but Sardar Azmoun leveled the score four minutes later.

Yuri Cesar was on target for the host in the 13th minute but Khribin canceled out his goal in the 33rd minute.

Azmoun completed his brace



before the break to give Shabab Al Ahli a 3-2 lead.

With nine minutes remaining, Syrian forward Khribin made his hat-trick but two goals from Mu'nas Dabbur made the scoreboard 5-3 in the last minutes of the match.

Lucas Pimenta pulled a goal back in the dying moments of the match.

Shabab Al Ahli moved up to second place in the table while Al Wahda remained in fifth place.

Leverkusen Edge Wolfsburg in Seven-Goal Thriller in Bundesliga



BERLIN (Xinhua) -- Bayer Leverkusen climbed into second place after coming from behind twice to beat Wolfsburg 4-3 in the Bundesliga on Sunday.

Leverkusen started brightly but fell behind after just eight minutes when defender Nordi Mukiele headed Mohammed Amoura's dangerous header into the wrong net.

The Werksself responded well and equalized six minutes later after Wolfsburg failed to clear the ball out of their area, allowing Granit Xhaka to find Florian Wirtz, who curled the ball into the bottom left-hand corner from the edge of the box.

The Wolves continued to wait for a counterattack as the defending champions began to gain the upper hand as the game progressed.

Both goalkeepers had their hands full of work as Kamil Grabara denied Patrick Schick and Wirtz in quick succession on the half-hour mark, before Amoura shot wide from a promising position.

The hosts completed their comeback moments later when Jonathan Tah headed home Alejandro Grimaldo's corner to make it 2-1.

Leverkusen's lead didn't last long, however, as Sebastiaan Bornauw's header leveled

the scores in the 37th minute, before Matthias Svanberg's 18-meter strike gave the Wolves a 3-2 lead on the stroke of halftime.

After the restart, Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso reacted by bringing on Piero Hincapie, who made an immediate impact to level the scores at 3-3 four minutes into the second half.

Yannick Gerhardt was shown a straight red in the 88th minute for a rude challenge on Jeremie Frimpong, before Xhaka's long-range shot hit the left post three minutes later.

Leverkusen had the last laugh when a deflected ball landed in front of Viktor Boniface, who turned on his axis with superb technique to slot home the 4-3 winner in stoppage time.

"On the one hand, I'm satisfied and happy with three points. On the other hand, I'm not happy with our performance, especially in the first half. The second half was better. Overall, it wasn't our best performance," said Alonso.

Elsewhere on Sunday, Stuttgart stunned Borussia Dortmund 5-1 thanks to Deniz Undav's brace, while newly promoted St. Pauli shared the spoils after a goalless draw with Leipzig.

Sublime Alcaraz Delivers Laver Cup for Team Europe



Team Europe's Carlos Alcaraz lifts the Laver cup trophy after winning against Team's World's at the Laver Cup tennis event, in Berlin, Germany, Sept 22, 2024.

BERLIN (Reuters) - Carlos Alcaraz beat Taylor Fritz 6-2 7-5 to hand Team Europe a 13-11 victory over Team World in

the Laver Cup in the last session of the tournament on Sunday.

Four-time Grand Slam

champion Alcaraz romped through a one-sided first set before finishing off U.S. Open finalist Fritz as Team Europe clinched their fifth Laver Cup title.

Team World looked in a commanding position on Saturday when Ben Shelton and Alejandro Tabilo defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas and Casper Ruud to put them 8-4 up.

However, captain Bjorn Borg's Team Europe came into the final day of competition full of fight and Alcaraz teamed up with Ruud to defeat Americans Shelton and Frances Tiafoe 6-2 7-6(6) in the early doubles match to

take three points and reduce the deficit to 8-7.

Team World extended their lead when Shelton beat Daniil Medvedev 6-7(6) 7-5 10-7 putting the team captained by John McEnroe within touching distance of a third consecutive title.

However, Alexander Zverev gave Team Europe hope when he overcame Tiafoe 6-7(5) 7-5 10-5 to send the competition into a thrilling final session where French Open and Wimbledon champion Alcaraz wrapped up victory.

Next year's Laver Cup takes place in San Francisco.

Barcelona Extend La Liga Lead But Ter Stegen Suffers Injury

BARCELONA (AFP) - Barcelona beat Villarreal to maintain their 100% record in La Liga, but Barca goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen suffered a "very serious injury" and was carried off on a stretcher.

Robert Lewandowski got two goals and missed a penalty, Raphinha grabbed a double and Pablo Torre also scored as Hansi Flick's side made it six league wins from six.

However, Ter Stegen's injury near the end of the first half was a worrying development for Barca.

The 32-year-old Germany international and Barcelona cap-

tain was hurt when his right knee buckled as he landed while catching the ball and he was then carried off the pitch, holding his hands over his face as he left the field.

He was replaced by Inaki Pena and the back-up goalkeeper played a crucial part, making an excellent save to tip over an effort from former Arsenal forward Nicolas Pepe when the score was 2-1.

"I think it's a very serious injury. When he lay on the ground, you could see it straight away," Barcelona coach Flick told DAZN after the match.



Marc-Andre ter Stegen joined Barcelona in 2014 and has made more than 400 appearances for them.

Thousands of Gazans at Risk of Death as Winter Approaches

GAZA CITY (Dispatches) – Palestinian authorities have warned of the potential death of thousands of people in the northern Gaza Strip due to cold weather and lack of heating resources amid the Zionist regime's ongoing war on the enclave.

"Thousands are at risk of dying from cold weather due to the unavailability of heating supplies like cooking gas, charcoal and wood," the Gaza-based Ministry of Social Development said in a statement.

"Every passing moment exacerbates the suffering of Gaza's residents, who face harsh conditions due to the war."

The ministry called on international organizations to help by facilitating the entry of cooking gas, fuel derivatives, and heating supplies "to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe."

"Many families have resorted to using wooden furniture as fuel for cooking, given the scarcity of other



Palestinians living in tents provided by the Turkish Red Crescent and aid organizations in the Jabalia Refugee Camp, located in northern Gaza where Israeli attacks continue, struggle with heavy rainfall affecting the region on September 22, 2024.

resources after nearly a year of war and blockade," it said.

On Sunday morning, many refugee tents made of fabric and nylon in Gaza were inundated due to heavy rains, local residents said.

Nearly two million displaced Palestinians are living under dire

conditions across Gaza as winter approaches, according to Gaza's government media office.

Meanwhile, UNRWA said on Sunday that the first heavy rains of the autumn season flooded tents of displaced Palestinian families in Khan Yunis, south of the Gaza

Strip, exacerbating the people's suffering.

The UN agency explained that the displaced persons' crisis is worsening due to the severe shortage of basic materials needed to protect them from winds, rain and floods.

Dozens of families in Khan Yunis were forced to evacuate their tents after the city's municipality warned that staying near rainwater pools with the approach of the rain storms could endanger their lives.

Many feared the prospect of having to find new shelters in the besieged enclave before the winter season sets in.

Following Sunday's rainfall, the Emergency Committee in the Deir al-Balah Municipality in the central Gaza Strip launched a distress call demanding immediate intervention to save citizens and displaced persons from the risk of drowning in rainwater, especially in the Sahen al-Baraka area and low-lying regions of the city.

UN: Gaza War Increasing Speech Disorders Among Children

NEW YORK (Dispatches) – The United Nations has warned of a significant increase in speech disorders among children in the Gaza Strip, due to the fear and anxiety caused by the ongoing war by the Zionist regime.

In a statement published on its website, the UN explained that the relentless bombardment and widespread destruction are causing severe psy-

chological stress, which is affecting children's ability to speak.

The UN cited speech therapist Amina Al-Dahdouh, who works in a temporary camp for displaced people in the west of al-Zawayda in Deir al-Balah, warning that "six out of ten children in the camp currently suffer from speech difficulties."

"Stuttering is the problem that has increased the most," she added.

Al-Dahdouh noted that she is treating more than 50 children in this camp alone, with increasing demand for her services in other camps.

The United Nations emphasized that speech problems are not limited to children, but can affect people of all ages in

Gaza and may become more evident once the war ends.

The organization also highlighted the urgent need for psychosocial support for over one million children in the region. It stressed the severe impact of the war on the mental and physical health of children in Gaza, warning of the long-term consequences for an entire generation.

Heckler Condemns UK's 'Disgusting' Arms Sales to Israel

LONDON (Dispatches) – British Chancellor Rachel Reeves was interrupted during her speech at the Labour Party conference by a pro-Palestine protest on Monday.

Middle East Eye spoke to one of the protesters, who was hauled out of the conference hall in Liverpool and held by police for an hour.

During the protest, Jack, aged 37, held up a banner which read: "Still arming Israel, still backing polluters."

"The banner was grabbed by one of the zealous attendees who was sitting in front of me," he said.

Meanwhile, his friend, who preferred not to be named, shouted "We are still selling arms to Israel" before being tackled by security personnel.

Video footage shows one guard grabbing him repeatedly around

the throat and then knocking him over.

"One of the guards said, 'You little weasel', as he knocked him down," Jack said. The pair were hauled out by several security personnel.

"I was knocked against the wall, pushed around, put in cuffs and held for an hour," Jack added.

Both the protesters are Labour members - and members of an activist collective called Climate Resistance.

When asked by Middle East Eye about what prompted their protest, Jack responded: "The urgency of it all."

"It's disgusting and disgraceful that this government has decided to continue to send the vast majority of arms licenses to Israel as it carries out a genocide. And it continues to back polluters de-

spite the fact that we're in a climate crisis."

In a post on X, Jeremy Corbyn, the former leader of the Labour Party who has since been elected as an independent MP, said: "The brave protestor at Labour conference demanding an end to all arms sales to Israel reminds me of the party member who was dragged out of conference in 2005 for protesting the war in Iraq.

"Who was on the right side of history?"

As the protesters were hauled out of the conference hall, Chancellor Reeves hit back at them, declaring: "This is a changed Labour Party.

"A Labour Party that represents working people, not a party of protests."

Scottish National Party MP Stephen Flynn slammed Reeves' be-

havior, saying: "If you were being heckled for selling arms to a government that has killed or injured over 100,000 civilians, you'd surely be minded to show just a little empathy.

"But then again, this is quite clearly a changed Labour Party."

Yet Reeves' comments as the protesters were removed from the hall received a standing ovation from the audience, mostly Labour delegates.

Jack told MEE he felt it "says a lot about the delegates and where the party has ended up over the last few years.

"We weren't particularly popular in that hall."

Despite the audience reaction, a recent poll showed that three-quarters of Labour members back a full ban on arms sales to the Zionist regime.

Israel's ...

(Continued From Page One)

despite the massing of troops near the border.

"Israel knows that if it infiltrates Lebanon, the Lebanese army and Hezbollah will have military superiority on the ground," one source told Middle East Eye.

"If the Israeli army carries out a ground invasion, the Lebanese army will participate with Hezbollah in confronting and defending." A source close to Hezbollah believes the Israeli attacks are aimed at displacing the population of south Lebanon in retaliation for the way the movement's attacks on northern occupied territories have forced evacuations there.

Over the weekend, an Israeli minister called for what he maliciously called the "Shia enemy population" of south Lebanon to be expelled and a buffer zone created on the border.

As Israel targeted locations across the south, including the outskirts of major cities like Tyre, residents of Beirut and southern Lebanon said they were called on their phones and ordered to move to 1km away from alleged Hezbollah sites.

Some residents also received calls and text messages in Beirut from a Lebanese number ordering them to leave immediately.

Lebanon's information minister, Ziad Makary, described the orders as "a psychological war".

More than 80,000 call attempts to Lebanese people telling them to flee their homes were made, according to the head of the telecoms company Ogero.

Avichay Adraee, Israel's spokesperson for Arabic-speaking media, posted an animated video on X alleging that Lebanese people know there are Hezbollah weapons in their homes. The allegation was made with no evidence and was accompanied by more warnings to flee.

By the afternoon, the roads out of the south were rammed with families trying to move north to apparent safety. Local media reported chaotic scenes in the city of Saida, where roads were blocked as residents scrambled to leave.

Lebanon's interior ministry said it had opened schools in Beirut, Tripoli and eastern and southern parts of the country as shelters amid "heavy displacement".

Amal Sabbah fled Nabatieh with her family for shelter just outside Saida.

"We feel heartbroken," she said. "One moment we're in our home, the next we are leaving it while feeling like we left half our belongings behind."

One man in Beirut was anxiously waiting for his wife and four children to escape the south.

"I did not want them to leave at first, but the strikes intensified and they hit our neighborhood. They got in the car and left," said the man, who did not want to be identified.

"I was not expecting the strikes and barbarism to reach this point. They started hitting homes," he added.

"I have a childhood friend who had a car mechanic shop near his home. Warplanes bombed his home and his shop, killing him."

As Israel stepped up its raids on Monday morning, war minister Yoav Gallant said: "We are deepening our attacks in Lebanon." He told the Israeli public they "will have to show composure".

Israeli troops have not invaded Lebanon since it fought a disastrous month-long war with Hezbollah in 2006, which was widely perceived as a strategic defeat for the Zionist regime. Since then, He-

zbollah has grown in strength, size and experience.

The source close to Hezbollah told MEE it is clear the Zionists are trying to push the conflict to the widest extent without provoking a war on the scale of 2006.

"It is not yet clear whether the Israelis want to expand the operation towards Beirut because they know that this would make Haifa and Tel Aviv a target," the source said.

Hezbollah responded to Monday's attacks by targeting military positions in northern Israeli occupied territories.

For the first time since 2006 rockets targeted wide swaths of the center of Haifa and its surroundings, sending more than 300,000 settlers to shelters.

The movement, which was born out of resistance to Israel's 1982-2000 occupation of south Lebanon, says it is not seeking a wide-scale war with Israel and is fighting in solidarity with the Palestinians under attack in Gaza.

The source close to Hezbollah said it will maintain its strategy of responding to Israeli attacks in kind, explaining "its escalation will match Israel's level of escalation".

The past week has witnessed the largest round of Israeli attacks in the current conflict so far.

On Friday, an Israeli airstrike on a densely populated suburb in southern Beirut martyred 45 people, including several children and women.

It came days after two days of Israeli attacks detonating booby-trapped pagers and radios belonging to Hezbollah members. At least 39 people were martyred in those attacks, and over 3,000 wounded.

President...

(Continued From Page One)

prisoners, Pezeshkian said that "we are attempting to resolve our own internal problems by ourselves."

He drew attention to his appointment of four women to "influential positions" within his administration and said that "maybe on one or two occasions, someone didn't receive perfectly legal treatment or unjust treatment. We are seeking to remedy those."

Of Russia, Pezeshkian said, "We have not approved Russian aggression against Ukrainian territory."

"We do not seek war in Ukraine either. And up to now, to the point that I've been able to follow through since I've taken office, we have not, and we will not supply them with any ballistic missiles."

IRGC ...

(Continued From Page One)

last week's terror attacks in Lebanon.

According to an Iranian security official, a large-scale operation is underway by the IRGC to inspect all devices, not just communication equipment. He said most of these devices were either home-made or imported from China and Russia.

"For now, we are using end-to-end encryption in messaging systems," he said.

According to the same official, IRGC officials have reached out to Hezbollah for technical assessments, and several examples of exploded devices have been sent to Tehran for examination by Iranian experts.

In December, Iran executed a man convicted of collusion with Israel's Mossad intelligence agency. And in December 2022, four men were hanged after being convicted of collaborating with Israel.

Israel Demolishes Bedouin Village for 230th Time

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Zionist troops on Monday morning demolished all the tents and structures in the Palestinian Bedouin village of Araqeab in the Negev desert for the 230th time, displacing its Bedouin residents, the Palestinian Information Center has reported.

According to local sources, Israeli police forces and employees from the Bedouin Authority – which is responsible for such demolitions – stormed the village and razed the tents in the area.

Consequently, dozens of Bedouin citizens,

including children, have once again become homeless and have been left with no shelters during the autumn rain.

The village was last razed on 29 August. The village was first levelled in July 2010, and every time the residents of Al-Araqeab rebuild their tents and small homes, occupation forces return to raze them, sometimes several times in a month.

Located in the Negev desert, the village is one of 51 "unrecognized" Arab villages in the area and is constantly targeted for demolition ahead of plans to Judaize the Negev

by building homes for new Zionist communities. The occupying regime's bulldozers, which Bedouins are charged for, demolish everything, from the trees to the water tanks, but Bedouin residents have tried to rebuild it every time.

Bedouin in the Negev must abide by the same laws as Jewish Israeli citizens. They pay taxes but do not enjoy the same rights and services as Jews in Israel and the regime has repeatedly refused to connect the towns to the national grid, water supplies, and other vital amenities.

DAMASCUS (Reuters) – Syrian President Bashar Assad issued a decree forming a new government under Prime Minister Mohammad Ghazi al-Jalali, the Syrian state news agency (SANA) reported on Monday.

The new cabinet sees new appointments in the ministries of foreign affairs, finance and electricity among others, and replaces an outgoing administration which has been serving in a caretaker role since parliamentary elections in mid-July.

Another decree appointed ex-foreign minister Faisal Mekdad as Syria's Vice President.

Al-Jalali served as communications minister from 2014-2016.

Blessed is the man who always kept the life after death in his view, who remembered the Day of Judgment through all his deeds, who led a contented life and who was happy with the lot that Allah had destined for him.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Experts: Israel Deliberately Targeting Journalists in Gaza

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Press freedom groups point to a pattern of killing clearly identified journalists in the Gaza Strip by the Zionist regime.

On Friday, December 15, Al Jazeera journalists Samer Abudaqa and Wael Dahdouh were reporting at the Farhana school in Khan Younis when Zionist troops struck from the air.

Dahdouh took shrapnel to his upper arm but was able to apply pressure to the wound and escape to a nearby hospital for help.

But Abudaqa was unable to move. Rescue teams tried to reach him, but couldn't due to the regime's bombardment. For more than five agonizing hours, as he lay bleeding, campaigns were launched online and in traditional media to save his life.

"I made that call on air," Jonathan Dagher, head of the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) Middle East Desk, told Al Jazeera from the RSF offices in Paris. "On Al Jazeera, I said: 'We call upon the Israeli authorities to allow first aid to reach Samer.'"

Despite the repeated calls, medical aid wasn't able to reach Abu-



An infographic shows images of 173 journalists killed in Gaza since October.

daqa, who died of his wounds that day.

Abudaqa is one of at least 130 journalists and media workers, based on RSF's count, killed by Israel in Gaza since October 7, 2023.

Other media rights groups have different numbers based on their own criteria, while the Government Media Office in Gaza counts the number of dead journalists and media workers at 173.

This has made working as a reporter one of the deadliest professions in an already treacherous

situation.

The International Federation of Journalists said the mortality rate for media workers in Gaza is over 10 percent.

Seventy-five percent of all reporters killed in the world in 2023 were killed between October 7 and the end of last year.

In December 2023, just two months into the war, the Committee to Protect Journalists said the war zone in Gaza was the "most dangerous ever" for reporters.

Nearly 11 months later, the Zion-

ist regime is still killing journalists in Gaza.

"If there are no journalists, there's no one who can independently verify this and tell the world," Dagher said. "Then the Israeli army becomes the source of information."

Some reporters in Gaza have been able to leave, but "most of them are trapped and those that were able to leave cannot come back in," Dagher said.

"There's a pattern," Dagher said. "We're 10 months in and we're not at five or six journalists killed, which already would have been a tragedy. We are at [more than] 130 journalists killed."

Among the more than 130 media workers and journalists who have been killed, says RSF, are 31 credible cases where there is enough information to confirm the journalists were directly targeted because of their profession.

With the death rate of reporters so high, researchers who monitor the issue told Al Jazeera that they have come to believe the Zionist regime is intentionally killing journalists and media workers, in addition to destroying Gaza's media infrastructure.

Over 40,000 Israelis Fled in First 7 Months of 2024



New data show more than 40,000 settlers have left the occupied territories since the beginning of the year, and have never returned.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – More than 40,000 people have left the Israeli-occupied territories in the first seven months of 2024, according to official data.

The private Hebrew Channel 13 quoted the Israeli Bureau of Statistics as reporting a significant increase in the number of Israelis who have left the occupied territories this year compared to 2023, almost a year since the regime started its genocidal bombing campaign in the Gaza Strip.

Preliminary data from the department also showed that only 27,800 have returned to the Israeli-occupied territories in that period, including those who had left and returned and those who immigrated to the occupied territories for the first time, according to the Anadolu Agency.

In 2023, about 55,300 people emigrated from the Israeli-occupied territories, compared to about 27,000 who chose to return or immigrate, while in 2022, some 38,000 Israelis emigrated, and 23,000 returned or immigrated.

On the other hand, data showed that 21% fewer Israelis returned from abroad, with about 8,900 moving back to Israel between October 2023 and March 2024, compared to about 11,200 the previous year.

Given the lower figure, however, there was no noticeable dip in the number of Israelis returning home in October 2023.

While emigration from Israel has been lower during the war than it was during the same time last year, it was significantly higher in the months before the war broke out than it had been during the same time the year before.

Almost twice as many Israelis permanently left between July and October 2023 than had done so in the same period in 2022.

The figures did not include people's stated reasons for leaving, but Israeli media covering the data noted that emigration in the months leading up to the outbreak of the war last year coincided with mass protests against the regime.

Colombia's President Denounces Media Silence Over Israeli Genocide in Gaza

BOGOTA (Dispatches) – Colombian President Gustavo Petro denounced the silence over the Zionist regime's war in Gaza, insisting that a genocide is taking place in Palestine.

"Anyone who defends this genocide or remains silent in the face of it has destroyed their own human condition," Petro said on X.

"It would seem as if (Nazi propaganda minister Joseph) Goebbels is the one who directs the world's communications so that tens of thousands of journalists are silenced in the face of their murdered colleagues and 20,000 babies torn to pieces by bombs," he added.

He also denounced the Zionist regime's storming of the Al Jazeera television news network's occupied West Bank bureau in Ramallah, in which they ordered the office to be shut for 45 days.

The president's comments come a day after the U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, Deborah Lipstadt, questioned Petro's criticism of the Zionist regime's military aggression in the Gaza Strip.

"President Gustavo Petro's continued rhetoric normalizes anti-Semitism. We cannot accept it. We cannot tolerate it. We must

condemn these harmful narratives," Lipstadt said in a message published on the social media account of the U.S. Embassy in Bogota.

Petro responded to Lipstadt on his X account.

"Madam Ambassador, Palestinians are Semites...It is anti-Semitic to kill children by dropping bombs in Gaza and not to oppose it. The most anti-Semitic thing today is to repeat Hitler's holocaust on humanity and especially on the Palestinian people.

"I am not an anti-Semite. Do not confuse and respect. I am not anti-Jewish. I believe in freedom of religion, and if I had been

born in that era, I would have given my life in the armed resistance against the Nazis. But I do believe in the freedom that international law generates, the freedom that was built after Hitler was defeated by the Americans and Soviets and by all the peoples of the world: humanity," he said.

The Zionist regime launched a destructive genocidal campaign in the Gaza Strip on Oct. 7. Over 41,400 Palestinians have since been killed, the majority of the 2.3 million population has been displaced, and many are starving amid a worsening humanitarian catastrophe.

Turkey to Submit Evidence Over Activist Killed by Zionist Troops

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Turkey will submit evidence about the Zionist regime's killing of a Turkish-American woman in the West Bank this month to the United Nations Security Council, International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC), its justice minister said on Monday.

Aysenur Ezgi Eygi was killed on Sept. 6 as she took part in a protest against settlement expansion in the West Bank amid the war in Gaza.

The Zionist regime has acknowledged that its troops shot the activist, but says it was an unintentional act during a demonstration that turned violent.

The occupying regime's Western allies have been angered by surging settler assaults on Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, part of historic Palestine which Palestinians want for an independent state. The war in Gaza has also increased tensions in the region.

Turkey has opened an investigation into Eygi's killing and will request international arrest warrants, Ankara said this month, while President Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey would go to the ICJ over the matter.

Eygi's killing has added strain to ties between the Zionist regime and its main ally the United States, which has been under public pressure to show some reaction to the surge of assaults on Palestinians in the West Bank and demand a swift investigation into the incident.

Washington has only given a slap on Israel's wrist, said that Eygi's killing was unacceptable and that the Zionist regime must ensure such an event never happens again.

Israel's initial findings on the killing do not exonerate its forces, the United States said, warning that it would consider other measures if it is not satisfied with the results of a full Israeli probe.

"We will both bring Aysenur's reports to the United Nations Security Council's agenda, and submit our sister Aysenur's reports and evidence to the International Court of Justice, where the genocide case is continuing," Justice Minister Yilmaz Tunc told reporters.

"We will also submit Aysenur's evidence to the ongoing investigation about Israeli aggressors at the International Criminal Court," he added, without giving a timeline.

NGOs: Zionist Troops Abducted Over 10,800 Palestinians in West Bank Since Oct. 7

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Zionist troops have abducted more than 10,800 Palestinians in violent raids across the occupied West Bank since the last onslaught on the besieged Gaza Strip started last October, two Palestinian prisoners' rights groups say.

The Commission of Detainees' and Ex-Detainees' Affairs and the Palestinian Prisoner Society (PPS) announced in a joint statement on Monday that over 10,800 individuals have been detained during the said period as Zionist troops continue a large-scale arrest campaign in the occupied territory.

The statement added that the figure includes those abducted from their homes, detained at military checkpoints, those who surrendered

under pressure, and those taken hostage.

The two Palestinian prisoners' rights groups further detailed that Zionist troops have arrested at least 16 Palestinian, including a young girl and former prisoners, from the occupied West Bank during the past 24 hours.

The arrests were carried out across the governorates of Bethlehem, Al-Khalil, Ramallah, Tubas, and Salfit.

They were accompanied by widespread raids and abuse, assaults and threats against detainees and their families, in addition to vandalism and destruction of citizens' homes.

Palestinian detainees have continuously resorted to open-ended hunger strikes in an attempt to express outrage at their illegal deten-

tion.

The Zionist regime keeps Palestinian inmates under deplorable conditions without proper hygienic standards. Palestinian inmates have also been subject to systematic torture, harassment, and repression.

Human rights organizations say the Zionist regime continues to violate all rights and freedoms granted to prisoners by the Fourth Geneva Convention and international laws.

According to the Palestine Detainees Studies Center, around 60 percent of the Palestinian prisoners detained in Israeli jails suffer from chronic diseases, a number of whom died in detention or after being released due to the severity of their cases.