Iranians Rally in Big Cities to Support Resistance TEHRAN -- People in Tehran and other major cities in Iran rallied Saturday in big numbers to honor Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and condemn the Israeli act of terrorism in assassinating him in southern Beirut.

In Tehran, protesters gathered on Palestine Square to express their solidarity with the resistance and the Lebanese and Palestinian people in confronting the occupying regime of Israel.

Kayhan International

Gen. Nilforoushan Martyred in Beirut Attack

TEHRAN -- A senior general in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps was martyred in an Israeli airstrike in Lebanon alongside Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah.

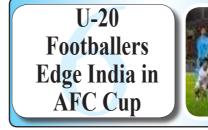
General Abbas Nilforoushan, deputy commander of IRGC operations, "was martyred in Israel's attack on Lebanon that assassinated the Hezbollah chief," said the official IRNA news agency, giving no further details.

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Nasrallah Achieves 'Victory of God'

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- Lebanon's Hezbollah confirmed on Saturday that its leader, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, was martyred after the occupying regime of Israel launched a series of barbaric airstrikes on the Lebanese capital a day earlier.

In an assassination that risks triggering all-out war in a region already on the brink, Zionist warplanes dropped approximately 10 bunker-busting bombs on residential buildings in Beirut's southern suburbs, an area colloquially known as Dahiyeh, on Friday.

The Zionist military immediately confirmed it was behind the strikes and initially claimed it targeted Hezbollah's command centre. Later, Israeli media reported that Nasrallah, 64, was the intended target of the strikes.

The Zionist military said Nasrallah was martyred alongside Ali Karki, the commander of Hezbollah's southern front, as well as a number of other commanders.

Later, Hezbollah said in a statement: "His Eminence, the Master of Resistance, the righteous servant, has joined his Lord and His pleasure as a great martyr — an outstanding, courageous, wise, and insightful leader — joining the ranks of the radiant martyrs of Karbala in the divine journey of faith, following in the footsteps of the prophets and martyr imams."

"The leadership of Hezbollah vows to the highest, most sacred, and dearest martyr in our journey, filled with sacrifices and martyrs, to continue its struggle against the enemy, supporting Gaza and Palestine, and defending Lebanon and its steadfast, honorable people," it added.

According to analysts, the man widely regarded as Nasrallah's successor, Hashem Safieddine, survived Friday's attack. Safieddine, who oversees Hezbollah's

political affairs and sits on the group's Jihad Council, is a cousin of Nasrallah. Like Nasrallah, he is a cleric and descendant of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him).

Speaking to reporters in New York on Friday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken defended the terrorist attack as Israel's right to self-defense and said Ayatollah Khamenei Declares 5 Days of National Mourning Leader: Nasrallah's Blood Will Strengthen Resistance



This combination of pictures shows a sketch of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah as well as Lebanese youths mourning the Hezbollah chief and a man holding his picture over the rubble of buildings targeted in Israeli bombings in Beirut's Zahiyeh.

TEHRAN -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said Saturday the resistance front will deal more crushing blows on the "dilapidated and decaying body" of the Zionist regime. In a message of condolence over the martyrdom of Hezbollah chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the Leader declared five days of national mourning in Iran. Iraq, Lebanon and Syria each declared three days of national mourning.

The Leader said the foundation that Nasrallah established in Lebanon and provided direction to other centers of power will not disappear with his loss, but will rather be strengthened by blood of the Hezbollah chief and other martyrs of the Beirut attack.

Ayatollah Khamenei described Nasrallah as a great fighter, the bearer of the re-

and a wise political leader.

The Leader said Nasrallah was martyred as he was planning to defend the defenseless people living in the Dahiyeh neighborhood of Beirut and their destroyed homes.

Nasrallah fought for decades to defend the oppressed Palestinian people, their occupied cities and villages, destroyed homes, and their slaughtered loved ones, Ayatollah Khamenei added.

"The blessing of martyrdom was his undeniable right after all these efforts," the Leader said. "The Muslim world lost a great personality, the resistance front lost a prominent flag-bearer, and Lebanon's Hezbollah lost a unique leader."

The blessings of decades of Nasrallah's prudence and jihad, however, will never be lost, Ayatollah Khamenei said.

ist regime has failed to achieve victory through the terrorist act.

The Hezbollah chief, Ayatollah Khamenei said, "was not just a person, but rather he was a path and a school of thought and this path will continue."

Earlier, the Leader said the Zionist criminals are too small to cause significant damage to the strong construction of Hezbollah in Lebanon.

In a statement on Israel's barbaric bombing of residential buildings in Beirut's Zahiyeh neighborhood, the Leader said resistance forces are the ones to decide the fate of the region despite the criminal Israeli massacres.

"The killing of defenseless people in Lebanon once again revealed to everyone the ferocity of the Zionist rabid dog, and proved the short-sightedness and stupid if its interests in the region were attacked. Blinken's remarks came shortly after Abu Alaa al-Walaei, a senior commander from Iraq's Sayyid al-Shuhada Brigades, warned that if an all-out war broke out, his group would target U.S. and Israeli interests in the region.

"Even the [United Arab] Emirates, which we consider the advanced site of the usurping entity, will be the first line of targeting," Walaei said, according to the Hezbollah-affiliated Al Mayadeen website.

Born in 1960 to a Shia family from east Beirut's Karantina, Nasrallah became head of Hezbollah's executive council in 1985 as well as a member of its Shura Council.

In 1992, Hezbollah's then-leader, Abbas al-Musawi, was assassinated in an Israeli airstrike along with his wife and child. Speaking at his funeral, Nasrallah said: "We will continue this path... even if we are martyred, all of us and our houses demolished over our heads, we will not abandon the choice of the Islamic resistance."

Nasrallah then took the reins of Hezbollah and soon after, the group began acquiring more sophisticated weaponry, including long-range rockets capable of reaching deeper into Israeli occupied territory.

Under Nasrallah, whose surname translates to "victory through God", Hezbollah grew from a local armed movement to the largest political party in Lebanon's recent history.

In October 2021, Nasrallah said that Hezbollah had 100,000 fighters, making it also among the most powerful nonstate armed organizations in the world.

He also maintained Hezbollah's reputation throughout the Arab world as the only armed force to have successfully driven Israel to retreat from an Arab country.

The Hezbollah leader's speeches would often attract the attention of the Middle East and beyond.

During his time as Hezbollah's number one, Nasrallah also saw the further

sistance in the region, a religious scholar

The Leader stressed that the evil Zion-

(Continued on Page 7)

(Continued on Page 7)

Messages Pour in After Nasrallah's Martyrdom

TEHRAN -- Messages of condemnation and condolences poured in over the assassination of Hezbollah chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian saying the international community will not forget that the order for the terrorist act was issued from New York. Pezeshkian said the United States cannot absolve itself of complicity with the Zionists. He said the martyrdom of prominent figures of the resistance movement, particularly Nasrallah, will further strengthen the "tree of resistance."

The Iranian president called Nasrallah the pride of Muslims and the symbol of resistance who finally achieved his long-standing dream of martyrdom.

Pezeshkian said words cannot

describe his bravery and continuous efforts to fight the enemies and that Hezbollah will further shine after Nasrallah's assassination.

Iraqi Prime Minister Muhammad Shia al-Sudani said in a statement that the Zionist entity had crossed all red lines with "this heinous act of aggression:.

"The criminal act that targeted Dahiyeh neighborhood yesterday exposes Israel's reckless desire to expand the conflict at the expense of regional nations' security and stability," the statement added. He emphasized that international organizations, five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all key regional powers have a responsibility to take decisive action to halt the aggression and prevent the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians, which the usurping Tel Aviv regime has been committing for decades.

"This aggression has ramped up in the aftermath of the bloody onslaught against Gaza in early October last year, and has recently extended to Lebanon, where indiscriminate killings have claimed the lives of hundreds of innocent people in a matter of few days. Whose interests are served by the expansion of this brutal ferocity?" Sudani pointed out.

He reaffirmed Iraq's principled stance in standing with Palestinian and Lebanese nations and announced three days of national mourning over the assassination of Nasrallah.

Iraq's prominent cleric Grand (Continued on Page 7)

Israeli Occupied North Under Heavy Hezbollah Fire

BEIRUT (Dispatches) --Hezbollah on Saturday fired several waves of rockets towards Israel's military positions and settlements in the north of the occupied territories in response to the regime's bombing of residential buildings in southern Beirut.

The Lebanese resistance movement said it fired a barrage of Fadi-3 missiles at the Ramat David base, one of the three main Israeli airfields, about 20 km southeast of Haifa on Saturday morning.

The operation, it said, came "in support of steadfast Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and their valiant and honorable resistance front, in defense of Lebanon and its nation, and in response to the barbaric Israeli violations against

Lebanese cities, villages, and civilians."

Israel's Ynet website said Hezbollah sent its reconnaissance drones over David Ramat, taking pictures of all the sensitive positions ranging from the residences of soldiers and officers to the routes of airplanes and even the military command office before targeting them.

Ynet touched on the strategic importance of Ramat David where three squadrons of the most advanced F16 fighters are based, saying all those stationed in the airfield are aware of the danger that threatens them and the areas around the base.

Israeli website Walla, which specializes in security affairs, said the town of Metula has been completely destroyed with the ongoing escalation in the north and the expansion of Hezbollah's missile operations, adding what remains standing is a school.

The website cited a settler as saying that rockets raining down on the settlement has become a rule of the day, but what happened on Friday was phenomenal when the landing of heavy warhead Barkan rockets destroyed a large area.

Last week, Walla said, eight Falaq 2 missiles hit Metula, destroying at least 30 houses.

The Israeli military has imposed a heavy news blackout on the war situation in the northern front, blocking any reports about casualties and damage.

(Continued on Page 7)



Kayhan Group of Newspapers

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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Nasrallah Achieves Immortality as Israel Signs Own Death Warrant

By: Kayhan International

Some two thousand years ago, Israelites who had deviated from the path of Prophet Moses betrayed Prophet Jesus to their pagan Roman overlords and exulted wildly at what they thought the brutal crucifixion of their victim – assuming the end of the message of the Lord Most High to reform them of their evil.

It is another matter the Virgin-born Messiah was not crucified and lifted by the Almighty Creator to the heavens, and unknown to the Roman soldiers they had instead nailed to the cross the turncoat Judas Iscariot. To the horror of the Godless Israelites, however, their murderous plot backfired so badly that the messianic message of their victim soon spread all over the region and into the heart of the Roman Empire, turning the various Gentile races of Europe into Christians.

Unwittingly, the plotters had brought upon themselves an existential crisis, as the majority of the Semitic Jews abandoned Israelite evil to become followers of Jesus, thereby reducing Judaism to an obscure creed, which ceased to exist in Palestine when six centuries later most of the barely surviving Jewish minority embraced the truth of Islam.

Of course, it was but natural for the Christian world to subject to frequent pogroms for over a thousand years as enemies of God, Jesus, and humanity, the Jews who had infiltrated Europe and continued their satanic scandalizing of the Messiah and his Virgin Mother.

Orthodox Judaism may have discontinued this insulting of the basic beliefs of the Christians, but the Zionists, as the non-Semitic self-styled converts from Eastern Europe, illegally planted in Palestine by the irreligious West to carry out the murderously neo-colonialist agenda, continue to do it.

Actually, the US, Britain, and other West European regimes (long removed from the teachings of Jesus), reward sacrilegious Israel with billions of dollars in cash and the most lethal armaments to commit genocide in Gaza, unleash terrorism in Syria, attack Yemen, threaten Iraq, vilify Iran, hold Jordan hostage, scare Egypt, terrify Turkiye, and subject Lebanon to a new holocaust.

If Jesus was the first victim of the progenitors of Zionism, Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah and his equally Moses-like colleagues are the latest victims of the modern day Zionist crimes against humanity.

Martyrdom, whether attempted or actual, badly boomerangs on its ignorant perpetrators. If the Romans slaughtered more than a million of the ancient Israelite enemies of Jesus during the years 36 to 70 AD and expelled the survivors to make Palestine almost empty of Jews, the Crusaders massacred the remnants of the Messiah's rejecters in the 1099 capture of Jerusalem (Bayt al-Moqaddas) from Muslims. These were indeed Divine punishments throughout history afflicting the plotters of the plight of Jesus and his blasphemers for their abortive attempt to crucify him.

Iran: Monster of Zionism **Threatens Whole World**



Pro-Palestinian activists rally in New York City, May 15, 2021.

TEHRAN -- Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman on Saturday described Zionism as a grave threat to the entire international community, warning that inaction in the face of Israeli atrocities will soon plague the whole world.

"The monster of Zionism is a threat to the whole world," Nasser Kan'ani wrote in a post on his X account.

He said the apathy shown towards the crimes of the Zionist regime will soon backfire on the whole world.

On Friday, Kan'ani said the U.S. is complicit in the Israel aggression through its provision of arms and ammunition.

"Besides amounting to egregious

violation of the rules and regulations of the international law and Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the savage attacks serve as an open and undeniable war crime," he said of the barbaric Israeli bombings of Beirut.

The atrocity, he said, has been committed with "the bombs gifted to the wayward and obstinate regime by the U.S."

"Therefore, the American regime is undoubtedly an accomplice beside the Zionist regime and should be accountable," he added.

Kan'ani said the attacks by "the child-killing Zionists against Beirut indicates the depth of the grudge held by the criminal Zionist gang toward the Lebanese resist-

ance.

The continuation of the Israeli crimes, he said, is a clear sign that the U.S. and other Western countries' invitation towards ceasefire is nothing but "open deceit" aimed at buying time for the regime to press ahead with its plans.

that the Lebanese people and the resistance will eventually prevail. "The Zionists will not be able to achieve their sinister and illegitimate goals by intensifying their crimes."

Kan'ani expressed confidence

The official reiterated the Islamic Republic's support for the Lebanese people, government, and resistance in confronting the Zionist enemy.

FM Araghchi: U.S. Complicit in Israeli Crime

NEW YORK (Dispatches) -Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas

Araghchi has used the UN Security Council platform to remind that the world should not disregard U.S. complicity in Israel's crime in Beirut's Dahiyeh neighborhood.

several Araghchi said 5,000-pound bunker busters used by the Zionist regime had been gifted by the United States to hit residential areas in Beirut.

"One cannot disregard the U.S.'s complicity in the crime,"

Lebanon and drag the entire into a full-scale war." "The criminal Israeli mafia is rather being rewarded as a result of the international inaction and its crimes being normalized be-

Senior Diplomat Calls for Emergency OIC Meeting

fore our eyes," he added.

"Israel's warmongering relies on U.S. military support and political backing Therefore, the United States is implicated in every aspect of Israel's atrocity."

Separately, Araghchi said the whole world must "stand up and stop this bloodthirsty monster that is no less a devil than Hitler". The minister the United States

and some other Western states have no regard for the lives of people and their peace and stability in the Middle East.



PRAYER TIMINGS Noon (Zohr)11:55	
Noon (Zohr)	11:55
Evening(Maghreb)	18:09
Dawn(Fajr)" Tomorrow"	05:51
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	04:34

Ex-IRGC Chief: Iraq, Syria, Iran **Should Act** Quickly

TEHRAN -- Former IRGC commander Major General Mohsen Rezaei said Saturday the resistance front should promptly act to stop the Zionist regime's atrocities.

"If the freedom-seekers of the world do not stand up and stop him, history will witness one of its most poignant times," he wrote on X.

"Netanyahu's criminal and racist gang will not stop with condemnations, and after Lebanon, they will attack Damascus and then Baghdad, and if the taste of bloodshed intoxicates them, they may even attack Iran. Therefore, the governments of Iraq, Syria and Iran should make a decision as soon as possible," he added.

President Masoud Pezeshkian the Islamic Republic stands with the Lebanese people and the Axis of Resistance.

The Zionist regime, he said, is "the biggest threat to the regional and international peace and security, urging all countries, especially Muslim states, to decisively condemn the aggression.

he said Araghchi said the failure by the Security Council and the inter-

national community to stop the ongoing genocide has emboldened Israel to "harbor the dream of repeating Gaza massacres in

Fast forward to modern times and the spree of actual martyrdoms of the innocent by the present day blasphemers of Jesus, in Palestine, in Syria, in Iran, and in Lebanon, climaxing in Friday's cowardly killing of Secretary of the legendary anti-terrorist movement - an ardent believer in the return of the Son of Mary, along with Imam Mahdi to end oppression.

Usurper Israel, in its death throes since 7th October 2023 as a result of the heroic Operation Al-Aqsa Storm from besieged Gaza, in a vain attempt to prolong its illegitimate existence, has signed its own death warrant by unleashing terrorism in its most dastardly form on Lebanon.

Hezbollah (literally 'Party of God'), with its well-organised structure and the firm faith of its members in God Almighty and his Messengers (e.g. Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Prophet Muhammad [SAWA]), is too strong to succumb to Zionist barbarism.

As the official statement from Beirut reads: "His Eminence, the Master of Resistance, the Righteous Servant (of God), has joined his Lord as a Great Martyr — an outstanding, courageous, wise, and insightful leader — joining the ranks of the radiant Martyrs of Karbala in the Divine journey of faith, following in the footsteps of the Prophets and Martyr Imams.'

His legacy, however, lives on, and as Nasrallah watches with delight from the gardens of Paradise, in the company of the other martyrs, and, of course, the Prophets of God, the cobweb called Israel will soon be a thing of the past - no matter what more money and weapons (even soldiers) its terrorist godfather, US the anti-Christ, would pour.

NEW YORK (Dispatches) -- A

senior Iranian diplomat has called for an emergency summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to address the Zionist regime's crimes against Lebanon and Palestine.

In remarks at the UN General Assembly, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi underscored the importance of unity and solidarity among Islamic states to support Palestinian rights at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's annual foreign ministerial meeting.

He referred to challenges facing the Muslim world, saying "The Islamic world is at a critical juncture and is facing a series of serious challenges, especially the Palestinian issue, which continues to be our main priority."

Gharibabadi said Iran, as one of the founding members of the OIC, has always backed efforts by Islamic nations to deal with the main challenges and to pay special attention to the Palestinian issue.

"Iran once again announces its unconditional support for the Palestinian cause and the restoration of the indisputable rights of the Palestinian people through the formation of an independent Palestinian state in the entire occupied territories with the holy Al-Quds as its capital and its full membership at the United Nations," he added.

The Iranian diplomat said the Zionist regime's illegal and illegitimate existence is based on the assassination and killing of innocent people.

"The terrorist activities of the regime are not confined to Palestine and Lebanon. The regime recently carried out terrorist attacks on Iran's diplomatic missions and killed the leader of Hamas in Iran in a terrorist move. This regime is a threat to regional and international peace and security. Its brutality and crimes should be halted," he added.

Gharibabadi also said the Security Council should impose "effective" sanctions against Israel and all countries must cut trade with the regime.

He said the UN Security Council has failed to stop the carnage in Palestine due to the United States' "unvielding" support for the Zionist regime.

Israel, he said, is aided and abetted by Washington in its atrocious crimes, emphasizing that both the United States and Israel shall "bear full responsibility for all their internationally wrongful acts and for each and every single life that is taken by the regime."

"The UN Security Council should impose effective sanctions against the Israeli regime under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

"It is also incumbent upon all states to desist and refrain from any form of aid and assistance or economic dealings with the regime so as to stop its genocidal attacks and end its occupation." Gharibabadi pointed to Iran's "utmost restraint" against Israel's (Continued on Page 7)

Iran's embassy in Lebanon said Israel's aggression is a serious game-changing escalation.

"Once again, the Israeli regime is committing a bloody massacre, targeting densely populated residential neighborhoods and making false justifications in an attempt to cover up its brutal crime," it wrote in a post on its X account.

"There is no doubt that this reprehensible crime and reckless behavior represent a serious escalation that changes the rules of the game, and that its perpetrator will be appropriately punished and disciplined."

Art, Science & Culture

September 29 , 2024





TEHRAN – Some books and handicrafts that introduce Iranian tourist attractions have been put on display in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan.

The showcase was presented at the National Academic Library of Kazakhstan on the occasion of World Tourism Day on September 27, the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran reported.

In its pavilion, Iran introduced its tourist attractions through various books and handicrafts.

Speaking about the event, Iran's cultural attaché in Kazakhstan Ali

Akbar Talebi-Matin stressed the importance of paying more attention to the tourism industry.

The official called for the cancelation of visa requirements between Iran and Kazakhstan, describing it as a proper opportunity for nationals of both countries to plan for their tourist destinations.

The tourism exhibition, with the participation of Iran, Turkmenistan, India, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Serbia, Kyrgyzstan and Portugal, was held in the Kazakh capital on the occasion of World Tourism Day.

Campaign Launched to Register Caspian Horse on UNESCO



TEHRAN – The Caspian Conservation Society has launched a campaign to inscribe Caspian horse on the World Heritage List.

By launching the campaign, the society urged all lovers of the ancient heritage to cooperate and support the global registration of the Caspian horse for Iran.

The public welcome shown toward the campaign paves the ground for further efforts to register it in UNESCO.

Members of the Caspian Conservation Society believe that polo was registered in the name of Iran in UNESCO, but attempts were made by some countries to register polo in their name.

The Caspian is a horse, not a pony, and therefore should be viewed in the same manner as when judging a well-bred horse, that is, the limbs, body and head should all be in proportion to each other.

Hong Kong Festival Fuses Persian Music With Carpet Weaving

HONG KONG (Dispatches) -- The Asia+ Festival, presented by Hong Kong's Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau and organized by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, is introducing the "Middle Eastern Series" this year with "The Woven Sounds" concert on October 19 as its first offering.

Persian carpet-making is a world-famous craft. Iranian ethnomusicologist and musician Mehdi Aminian will lead his ensemble to perform traditional Persian instruments rarely seen in Hong Kong and revive a folk custom of carpet weavers. Fusing Persian music with carpet-making, the program features the folklore and cultural traditions of Iran.

In the long history of Persian culture, carpets are a unique symbol and their making has been recognized by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage item. The weavers would turn the patterns of the rugs into lyrics, sing them aloud to let other weavers know the patterns while slipping in casual conversations. This long tradition of pattern singing, called "naqshe-khani", has been passed down through generations.

Aminian, after years of research, has recreated this fading custom on stage. His ensemble will perform traditional Persian instruments rarely featured in Hong Kong, including the ney (flute), setar (stringed instrument) and kamancheh (bowed string instrument).

Along with ensemble performances, each instrument will be showcased separately in



an improvisation session.

The concert's repertoire also has a distinct flavor. For instance, the piece "Silence" is depicted with audible music which exudes an ethereal quality. As a female weaver sings soulfully while working on stage, video footage of other carpet weavers filmed in Iran will also be shown, offering audiences a glimpse into the social landscape of the country.

"The Woven Sounds" concert will be held at 8pm on October 19 at the Sheung Wan Civic Centre Theatre. Tickets priced at \$240, \$300 and \$380 are now available at URBTIX (www.urbtix.hk). For telephone bookings, please call 3166 1288, or use the mobile ticketing app "URBTIX".

The program is performed in Persian and Qashqai. A free meet-the-artist session will

be held after the performance on October 19. In addition, a weaving workshop and a documentary screening and sharing session will be held on October 17 and 18 respectively at The Mills, formerly known as Nan Fung Cotton Mills. For details, please refer to asiaplus.gov.hk/2024/en/the-wovensounds.

The second Asia+ Festival is running from September to November, highlighting the arts and culture of nearly 30 countries from Asia, the Middle East and Belt and Road regions. Apart from stage programs, there are also thematic exhibitions, an outdoor carnival, film screenings, outreach activities and more, numbering over 100 in total. For program enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2370 1044 or visit asiaplus.gov. hk/2024/en/.

Iranian Inventor Ranked First at Silicon Valley Festival

TEHRAN – Iranian inventor Mostafa Shamluie has been ranked first at the Silicon Valley International Invention Festival (SVIIF) 2024 for producing an antibody to treat lung cancer.

Shamaluie, from the western city of Hamedan, told IRNA that he led an 11-member team to the festival, which is the largest innovation exposition in the U.S., after a uni-

versity in California approved his initial plan to produce the antibody.

He said he was ranked the first from among 1,200 people taking part in the festival from 40 countries.

Shamaluie explained that his invented treatment uses hypochlorous acid (HOCl) in a sustainable and controlled way to reduce side effects.

High-Pressure Hydrocompressor



Built by Iranian Specialists

TEHRAN -- Specialists of a knowledge-based company in Iran have produced reciprocating compressors for compressing a wide range of gases in the capacities and pressures required by customers.

"Previously, the first high-pressure reciprocating hydro compressor was made in our company and it was unveiled for the first time in Iran. We have succeeded in making the first high-pressure mechanical reciprocating compressors that are fully indigenous with all the standards of the world after about 10 months," said Muhammad Afkanpour, the managing director of the knowledge-based company. Noting that the compressor can be used to compress various gases like hydrogen, natural gas, oxygen, carbon dioxide, flare gas, etc., he said, "One of the unique features of the manufactured compressor is much less vibration (about half) compared to its foreign models."

"By acquiring the knowhow and technology of making this compressor, the company is able to manufacture all types of mechanical reciprocating compressors (linear, W and V-shaped) as well as hydro compressors for different types of gases up to an output pressure of 750 bar and a flow rate of 1000 cubic meters per hour," Afkanpour said.

A reciprocating compressor is a positive displacement machine in that a volume of gas is drawn into a compressor cylinder's chamber compression where it is trapped, compressed, and pushed out. In a reciprocating hydrogen compressor, a piston or plunger compresses the hydrogen gas. As the piston or plunger moves back and forth, it increases the pressure of the hydrogen gas by reducing its volume.

The Old Bridge of Dezful, connecting the western and eastern part of the city goes back to the Sassanid dynasty some 1700 years ago. However, its original foundation was built during the Elamite era. Photo by ISNA



Russia, Iran Energy Ministers Discuss Enhancing Cooperation



Iranian Minister of Energy Abbas Aliabadi attended the Russian 'Energy Week international forum' in Moscow.

TEHRAN – Iranian Minister of Energy Abbas Aliabadi has suggested the connection of Russia's power grid to Arab countries via Iran.

Speaking in the inaugural ceremony of the meeting of Energy Ministers of BRICS Member States in Moscow on the sidelines of the Russian Energy Week international forum, Iran's energy minister described the entry of Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt and Ethiopia into the BRICS group of emerging economies as strategically important.

Considering the huge energy resources and the significant transit role of these countries in the political geography of the world, their entry can turn BRICS into a unique economic and political power, he emphasized. Aliabadi pointed to the unique geo-economic situation of Iran, and said that the Russian power grid can be connected to the power grid of Arab countries through Iran, which will help to preserve the environment and increase energy security.

Russia's minister of energy, who presided over the meeting, referred to developing cooperation between the member countries in the field of energy, deepening collaborations in technology and investment, and boosting the role of BRICS in the international energy system as the three priorities of BRICS during the Russian presidency.

Aliabadi also met and held talks with South Africa's Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy Gwede Mantashe discussed bilateral ties and issues of mutual interest. The two sides exchanged views on strengthening bilateral cooperation in the field of energy, IRIB reported.

Iran's energy minister pointed to the high capabilities and potential of Iran in the field of energy and said the country is ready to share its technical and specialized capacities with the member states of the BRICS group of emerging economies, including South Africa.

In this meeting, which was also attended by Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali, the South African energy minister emphasized taking advantage of the technical know-how and specialty of the Iranian engineers in the electricity industry of South Africa.

The two sides also discussed cooperation in smarting the electricity production and consumption chain, exchange of experiences in the field of using renewable and sustainable energy including solar and wind energy production, and the use of new technologies.

The Iranian minister of energy, who traveled to Moscow to participate in the meeting of energy ministers of the BRICS group, expressed the proposals and views of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the development of cooperation within the framework of this group.

Ankara in Talks With Tehran to Import Natural Gas

TEHRAN – Turkey's state-owned BOTAŞ Petroleum Pipeline Corporation said it is in negotiation with the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) for importing gas from Iran.

The Turkish company in a statement announced that its CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors Abdulvahit Fidan traveled to Iran at the head of a high-ranking delegation on September 25 and held talks with the officials of the NIGC.

During the meeting with CEO of the NIGC Saeed Tavakkoli, the two sides explored avenues for enhancing bilateral cooperation, especially in the field of long-term supply of Iranian natural gas to Turkey, ISNA reported.

The transfer of gas from Turkmenistan to Turkey via Iran was also discussed at the meeting.



Earlier, the Turkish minister of energy and natural resources had said that Turkey can import up to 2 billion cubic meters of gas from Turkmenistan through Iran's natural gas network annually. Fidan and Tavakoli emphasized continuing cooperation between BOTAS and the NIGC within the framework of deep-rooted relations between the two countries.

BOTAS is the state-owned crude oil and natural gas pipeline and trading company in Turkey.

Official: Over 4,800 Tonnes of Tea Exported

TEHRAN – The Executive Manager of Iran's Tea Syndicate Muhammad Sadegh Hassani has said that 4,856 tonnes of tea were exported from the country in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21, 2024). Hassani said Iran's export of tea

to other countries from March 21 to August 22, 2024, registered a 28.8 percent decline compared to the same period last year.

In this period, 20,170 tonnes of tea were imported into the country, showing a 51.45 percent growth compared to last year's corre-

sponding period.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Hassani noted that 22,272 tonnes of coffee were imported into the country between March 21 and August 22, 2024, showing a two percent rise compared to the same period last year.

French Debt Soars Reinforcing Concerns About Budgetary Control

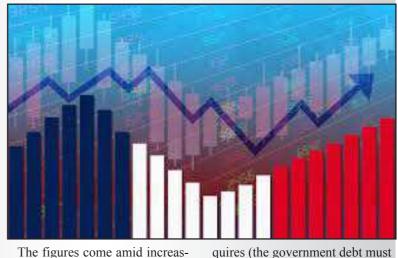
PARIS (Euronews) - France's borrowing of €68.9 billion in the second quarter of 2024 has added to the country's debt pile reinforcing concerns about its budgetary control.

Public debt in France swelled between April and June to 112% of the GDP, according to the latest figures published by the French statistics office INSEE.

"At the end of Q2 2024, Maastricht debt [government debt] reached $\in 3,228.4$ billion; it increased by $\in 68.9$ billion, after ± 658.2 billion in the previous quarter," an INSEE press update said.

The increase in the general government gross debt is mainly due to the State while the public debt of other central government bodies decreased, mainly due to a decrease of $\in 4.5$ billion in France's national state-owned railway company SNCF Réseau's debt.

The debt of the social security funds kept increasing and that of local governments remained sta-



The figures come amid increasing concern about whether the new French government is going to find a way to close a gaping hole in the budget as the public deficit is expected to exceed 6% of GDP this year, as well as present long-term solutions to fix its mounting debt.

In twenty years, the French public debt has jumped by more than 2,000 billion euros.

The current 112% is almost dou-

not exceed 60% of GDP). However, France's debt is hair-raising, it is not the high-

est in the EU, at the end of the first quarter of 2024, Greece recorded 159.8% of its GDP, Italy 137.7%, and France came in third with 110.8%, closely followed by Spain and Belgium.

The lowest debt was recorded in Bulgaria (22.6%), Estonia (23.6%) and Luxembourg

Iran Among World's Top 7 Countries in Gold, Jewelry Industry

TEHRAN – Head of the Association of Producers and Exporters of Gold, Silver, Jewelry and Precious Stones of Tehran Province Esfandiar Seifi said on Saturday that Iran is among the top 7 world countries in the gold and jewelry industry.

Highlighting the launch of the Chamber of Precious Metals at Customs Office at the Imam Khomeini International Airport (IKIA), he said Iran is among the top 7 countries in the gold and jewelry industry.

With the launch of the chamber at the airport, it is hoped that the country will witness considerable jump in the export of gold, he stated.

The domestically-produced gold and jewelry can compete with those produced by other countries such as Turkey, Italy and South Korea, he said, adding that quality of some domestically-produced gold products is better than those made in neighboring Turkey.

Once the problems facing the domestic gold producers are resolved, 200 tons of gold could be exported from the country to the target markets annually, Seifi added.

Sanctions have no effect on Iranian gold and jewelry industry, he said.

States Up 14%

IRICA: Non-Oil Trade With Islamic

TEHRAN – Iran's non-oil trade with the member states of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21, 2024) exceeded \$32.2 billion, showing a 14% growth compared to the same period last year.

This is according to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRI-CA), which added that \$15.6 billion of non-oil goods were exported from the country from March 21 to September 22, 2024.

More than 48 million tons of non-oil products were exchanged between Iran and the member states of the OIC during the first six months of



the current Iranian calendar year, showing a 4% growth compared to last year's corresponding period.

Out of that, 38.4 million tonnes, valued at \$15.6 billion, were the exports, registering a one and a 10 percent growth in weight and value, respectively compared to the same period of last year. In this period, 10.4 million tonnes of non-oil goods, valued at \$16.6 billion, were imported into the country from the member states of the organization, indicating a 16 and an 18 percent growth in weight and value, respectively, IRICA added. ble, according to INSEE.

ble what the Maastricht Treaty re- (27.2%)

China Leverages Stimulus Measures to Steer Economy

BEIJING (Xinhua) - China's central bank has cut the reserve requirement ratio (RRR) for financial institutions by 0.5 percentage points and lowered the seven-day reverse repo interest rate by 20 basis points, enhancing policy support to solidify economic operations.

From Friday, the weighted average RRR for lenders will be approximately 6.6 percent, but those that have already implemented a 5 percent RRR will not be involved, according to a statement from the People's Bank of China. The move followed an RRR cut of 0.5 percentage points in February. The 1-percentage-point RRR reduction so far this year is expected to provide about 2 trillion yuan (about \$285.3 billion) in long-term liquidity for the financial market.

The seven-day reverse repo interest rate, a key shortterm policy rate, was lowered from 1.7 percent to 1.5 percent on Friday, according to the central bank. The decrease was the largest in nearly four years.

The move aims to intensify the counter-cyclical adjust-

ment of monetary policy and support the country's stable economic growth, according to the central bank. The seven-day reverse repo interest rate has fallen by a cumulative 30 basis points so far this year.

The simultaneous cuts to the RRR and policy rate reflect the central bank's determination to adhere to a supportive monetary policy with strengthened intensity and more targeted regulation, as well as its concrete efforts to help the country meet major annual economic and social development targets, experts have said.

China seeks to expand its economy by approximately 5 percent year on year in 2024. The country's GDP expanded by 5 percent in the first half of the year.

The policy moves followed a crucial meeting convened by the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee on Thursday, which called for intensified efforts in economic work, including the implementation of substantial interest rate cuts and the promotion of the property market's stabilization.

Kayhan

WORLD NEWS

September 29 , 2024

Millions in U.S. Still Without Power From Helene as Flooding Continues



The remains of a home on Davis Island that burned during Hurricane Helene on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024, in Tampa, Fla.

PERRY, Fla. (AP) - The cars started lining up before the sun rose on Saturday at a free food distribution site in Perry, near where the storm made landfall. Dozens of vehicles wound through the parking lot and out onto U.S. Highway 27, filled with families who are running out of food in a county where, as of Saturday morning, 99% of customers didn't have power.

Sierra Land said although her home seems to have dodged any major damage, with no electricity, she's lost everything in her refrigerator. "We're making it one day at a time," Land said.

Land said she arrived at the Convoy of Hope distribution site with her two sons, ages 5 and 10, and her grandmother between 6:30 and 7 a.m., more than three hours before volunteers were expected to begin handing out food, water and hygiene kits.

"There was no reason to sit at the house. Not when we needed to be in the line." Land said "The kids ... they needed to get out and see something besides the four walls." Western North Carolina was essentially cut

off because of landslides and flooding that forced the closure of Interstate 40 and other roads. Video shows sections of Asheville underwater.

Francine Cavanaugh said she has been totally unable to reach her sister, son, or friends in the Asheville area

"My sister checked in with me yesterday morning to find out how I was in Atlanta," she said on Saturday. "The storm was just hitting her in Asheville, and she said it sounded really scary outside.'

Cavanaugh said her sister had no idea how bad the storm would be there. She told Cavanaugh she was going to head out to check on guests at a vacation cabin "and that's the last I heard of her. I've been texting everyone that I know with no response. All phone calls go directly to voicemail."

Davis Islands, the Tampa neighborhood that star athletes like baseball's Derek Jeter and football's Tom Brady have called home, was cleaning up Saturday after Helene's chest-high storm surge tore through its streets the day be-

The two islands sit just off the city's downtown and are home to about 5.000 people. The neighborhood had never seen storm surge like it had Friday. No one died, but homes, businesses and apartments were flooded.

Authorities warned residents to evacuate, and many did, but some stayed behind.

"I don't think anybody was expecting it," Faith Pilafas told the Tampa Bay Times. 'We've kind of gotten accustomed to lots of talk about big storms, and never actually like feeling the effects of it. So for all the people who didn't leave the island, I feel like they were all just expecting it to be a normal storm, anticlimactic. And wow, were we surprised."

Vice President Kamala Harris on Friday urged residents impacted by Hurricane Helene to pay heed to local authorities as the storm continues to wreak havoc on a significant swath of the southeast.

"The storm continues to be dangerous and deadly, and lives have been lost and the risk of flooding still remains high," Harris said at the start of a campaign speech in Douglas, Arizona. "So, I continue to urge everyone to please continue to follow guidance from your local officials until we get past this moment."

Tennessee Emergency Management Agency said Friday that a "catastrophic failure" was not taking place at Walters Dam, also known as the Waterville Dam, which sits in North Carolina close to the Tennessee border.

A local mayor had urged residents to evacuate due to the dam potentially breaking, but TEMA said in a statement that the "dam has not failed" after talking to Duke Energy, which owns the nearly 100-year-old dam.

There have been hundreds of water rescues due to Helene, but perhaps none more dramatic than in rural Unicoi County in East Tennessee, where dozens of patients and staff were plucked by helicopter from the roof of a hospital that was surrounded by water from a flooded river.

China Stages Naval Drills Near Disputed South China Sea Reef



Independence-class littoral combat ship USS Mobile (LCS 26) (background) conducts a Maritime Cooperative Activity with Philippine Navy's Gregorio del Pilar-class patrol ship, BRP Ramon Alcaraz (PS 16), in the South China Sea, July 31, 2024.

Delaware.

During a leaders' meeting of the so-called Quad alliance between the U.S., Australia, India, and Japan, Biden said the group is "here to stay' He vowed to strengthen Quad amid growing tensions with China.

During his talks, intended for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, which was recorded on a hot mic, Biden claimed China had adopted an increasingly assertive stance in the Pacific Ocean region.

He told the leaders of Australia, India and Japan that "aggressive" China is "testing us."

"China continues to behave aggressively, testing us all across the region, and it's true in the South China Sea, the East China Sea, South China, South Asia and the Taiwan Straits," Biden was heard in what was supposed to be behind-closed-doors remarks to the Quad grouping of four countries.

Biden added that while Chinese President Xi Jinping was focused on "domestic economic challenges", he was also "looking to buy himself some diplomatic space, in my view, to aggressively pursue China's interest.

He then claimed that Washington was making "intense efforts" to reduce tensions with Beijing, including a phone call to the Chinese leader in April, to prevent direct conflict be-

Meanwhile, naval and air forces from Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines and the U.S. also held joint exercises in the South China

'Friends of Peace' FMs Commit to

⁺Tens of Thousands of U.S. Dockworkers Set to Strike⁺

NEW YORK (AFP) - Tens of thousands of U.S. dockworkers plan to strike next week if there is no breakthrough on contract talks, just a month before November's closely contested presidential election

A walkout affecting 14 large ports on the East and Gulf Coast could start at midnight on Tuesday October 1, posing a potentially significant headwind to the U.S. economy

Negotiations on a new contract began in May but have stalled in recent weeks

The United States Maritime Alliance (USMX), which represents shipping companies and terminal operators, asked federal officials to intervene, citing the union's "repeated refusal to come to the table.

The International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) dismissed the complaint as "another publicitv stunt."

The union is pressing for protections against automation-related job loss and for hefty wage hikes after dockworkers kept providing essential services throughout the pandemic

ILA President Harold Daggett dismissed USMX's "low-ball wage offer" as a "joke," signaling that the rank-and-file are prepared to walk off the job and follow workers at Boeing, Detroit automakers and in other sectors over the last 18 months who have launched strikes in the tight U.S.



If the International Longshoremen's Association goes on strike, the U.S. economy could be hit for anywhere between \$1 billion and \$5 billion for each day it persists, according to estimates.

vannah, New Orleans and Houston. But a strike would affect additional workers at smaller shipping facilities and terminals all along the coast of the eastern half of the United States, from Maine to Texas.

"A strike will be very disruptive across the U.S. economy and the global economy," said Brent Moritz, a professor of supply chain management at Penn State Smeal College of Business. The ports that would be on strike accounted for more than half of total US imports through the first seven months of 2024, according to Lloyd's List. Oxford Economics estimated that the strike hit depends on the length of the strike, analysts say. Under the Taft-Hartley Act, President Joe Biden has authority to order the parties to resume talks for an 80-day "cooling off" period.

But Biden, who has embraced organized labor as president, has ruled out that option, even as White House officials have encouraged talks to resume.

On September 17, a group of nearly 180 businesses, organizations and trade groups urged Bider

to work to ensure there are no disruptions, saying

in a letter that a strike "would have a devastating

impact on the economy, especially as inflation is

Fresh fruit and produce are expected to be

on the downward trend.

gion are stirring up trouble in the South China Sea, creating instability in the region," the Southern Theater Command said in a statement. "China holds indisputable sovereignty over Huangyan Island and its adjacent waters," it added, using the Chinese name for Scarborough Shoal

> Beijing claims almost the entire South China Sea, brushing off rival claims of several Southeast Asian countries, the Philippines among them

BEIJING (Dispatches) - Chinese

naval and air forces have held mili-

tary drills in a disputed territory in

the South China Sea amid tensions

with the United States and its re-

The People's Liberation Army

(PLA) forces conducted patrols

around a flashpoint reef in the South

China Sea on Saturday, after a slew

of tense encounters with the Philip-

pines in the disputed waterway in re-

The PLA's Southern Theater Com-

mand said it held air and sea patrols

across the triangular chain of reefs

and rocks situated between the Phil-

ippines' main island of Luzon and the

Chinese land mass of Hainan named

Beijing said the training activities

around the shoal included "recon-

naissance, early warning, and air-sea

"Certain countries outside the re-

Scarborough Shoal by the West.

gional allies.

cent months.

patrols"

On Wednesday, the PLA Rocket Force test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) into the Pacific Ocean

China's military drills came shortly after the U.S. hosted a Quadrilateral Summit earlier this week which cothe Philippines in Manila's exclusive economic zone and within the South China Sea.

Earlier this week, U.S. President Joe Biden hosted the summit at the Archmere Academy in Wilmington,

incided with joint military exercises carried out by the United States, Australia, Japan, New Zealand and

tween the countries.

Sea.

The military drills by the U.S. and its regional allies, the fourth iteration of the Multilateral Maritime Cooperative Activity, were held in an unspecified location in Manila's exclusive economic zone in the strategic waterway, the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said in a statement.

KATHMANDU (Xinhua) - Floods and landslides triggered by incessant rainfalls in Nepal have claimed at least 59 lives and injured 36 others by Saturday afternoon, police said. A total of 44 others had gone missing in the disasters sparked by rainfalls since Friday evening, and the police had rescued 1,252 people from different parts of Nepal, said Dan Bahadur Karki, Nepali Police spokesperson. "Of the total casualties, 34 deaths

5

were from the three districts in the Kathmandu Valley," Karki told Xinhua. "At least 17 people were missing while 16 others were injured in the valley." According to a police statement, almost all the highways, including those connecting the rest of the country with the capital city of Kathmandu, have been obstructed due to the disasters. The Nepali government has announced that over 20,000 police officers have been mobilized for the rescue operations. Nepal has seen more-than-average rainfalls during the monsoon season this year, which started on June 10 and is coming to an end.

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - Seventeen people were killed in mass shootings at two homes in a village in South Africa's Eastern Cape province and police said on Saturday they had launched a manhunt for the suspects. South Africa has one of the highest murder rates in the world, with about 20,000 murders recorded every year out of a population of over 60 million. Police said in a statement that the shootings occurred in two separate homes in the village of Lusikisiki and that in total, 15 women and two men had been killed. "In one house 13 people were killed, which included 12 women and one man. In another homestead, four people were also killed," the South African Police Service said. The motive for the attacks was not known but police said they had begun a manhunt for the shooters.

ISLAMABAD (Anadolu) - A chartered helicopter crashed on Saturday in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, killing six people on board while injuring at least eight others. The Chinese Xinhua news agency cited police officials as saying in a statement that a chartered helicopter crashed on Saturday in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, killing six people on board and injuring at least eight others. According to Anadolu Agency, citing Pakistani state media, the incident involved a chartered Mi-8 helicopter operated by Mari Petroleum Company, which crashed in North Waziristan, close to the Afghan border. The incident involved a chartered Mi-8 helicopter operated by Mari Petroleum Company, which crashed in North Waziristan, close to the Afghan border. Pakistani television reported that the crash was attributed to engine failure as the helicopter was attempting to land. Local media sources indicated that some foreign nationals were aboard the helicopter at the time of the accident. However, local authorities have yet to release further details regarding the passengers or the circumstances surrounding the crash.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Somalia's prime minister told the UN General Assembly on Friday that his country is facing a serious threat to its territorial integrity from Ethiopia that must not be overlooked by the international community. Hamza Abdi Barre said Ethiopia's collaboration with a Somali separatist group is a "flagrant violation" of his country's territorial integrity. Ethiopia's attempts "to annex parts of Somalia under the guise of securing sea access are both unlawful and unnecessary," he said. "Somali ports have always been accessible for Ethiopia's legitimate commercial activities as part of Somalia's commitment to enhance regional trade. "However, Ethiopia's aggressive maneuvers, including its illegal MoU (memorandum of understanding) with a separatist group in northern Somalia undermines Somalia's sovereignty and emboldens secessionist movements and is a threat to our national unity." He said Somalia has the sovereign right to defend its territorial integrity, and called on Ethiopia to cease its provocations and adhere to international law.

LONDON (Reuters) - Former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said he ordered military chiefs to plan a raid on a Dutch factory in March 2021 to secure 5 million COVID vaccines that the European Union had threatened to bar from being exported to Britain. Johnson said the deputy chief of Britain's defense staff at the time, Lieutenant General Doug Chalmers, had told him a raid using small boats to cross the Channel and navigate Dutch canals would be possible - but warned him of diplomatic repercussions. According to Johnson, Chalmers - who has since retired from the military - told him it would not be possible to carry out the mission undetected and that "if we are detected we will have to explain why we are effectively invading a long-standing NATO ally". "I secretly agreed with what they all thought but did not want to say aloud: that the whole thing was nuts," Johnson said in an extract from his memoirs that was published in Saturday's Daily Mail newspaper. Britain's defense ministry had no immediate comment on the account. A spokesperson for Chalmers who now serves as chair of the government's committee on standards in public life - said he was unable to comment on confidential security discussions.

abor market

The ILA represents 85,000 workers across 36 ports

A walkout would be the ILA's first since 1977. The contract directly affects some 25,000 ILA members at 14 large U.S. ports, including New York/New Jersey, Boston, Philadelphia, Sa-

would hit US gross domestic product by \$4.5 billion to \$7.5 billion per week. The overall economic among the most affected items.

China Hits Out at U.S for 'Smear' Campaign

NEW YORK (RT) - Washington should stop "smearing" China, especially when it comes to Beijing's stance on the Ukraine conflict, Foreign Minister Wang Yi has told U.S. counterpart Antony Blinken. The two top diplomats met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York to discuss tensions in bilateral relations and international issues. Hostilities between Moscow and Kiev loomed large on the agenda, as Blinken rebuked China for what he claimed was the fueling of Russia's "war machine.

The U.S. Secretary of State charged that while Beijing says it wants peace, it is "allowing its companies to take actions that are actually helping [Russian President Vladimir] Putin continue the aggression, that doesn't add up."

Wang Yi fired back, saying, as quoted by China's Foreign Ministry, that "the United States should stop smearing and framing China, imposing sanctions indiscriminately, and stop using this as an excuse to create confrontation and incite confrontation between camps.'

Beijing, he added, maintains an "open and above board" position on the Ukraine conflict, and "has always insisted on promoting peace and dialogue, and has made its own efforts to promote a political solution."

Wang also noted that China opposes what he called "the U.S. suppression of China's economy, trade and technology," adding that "national security cannot be politicized, and the 'small courtyard and high walls' cannot become the 'big courtyard iron curtain'.'

Last month, the U.S. released a new sanctions list targeting almost 400 companies and individuals, including those from China, UAE and Turkey, over what Washington says is their support for Russia in the Ukraine conflict. At the time, the State Department voiced particular concern about "the magnitude of dual-use goods exports" from China to Russia which it claimed helped Moscow address "critical gaps in Russia's defense production cycle."

Following the start of the Ukraine conflict, China refused to join Western sanctions against Russia, and trade between the two has since steadily increased. Beijing has also positioned itself as a neutral party in the crisis, repeatedly calling for peace talks.

Commenting on ties with Beijing, Putin has rejected the idea that Russia is becoming too dependent on China economically, insisting that the EU economy is much more vulnerable in that regard.

Political Solution to Ukraine War

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - In its first gathering at New York, "Friends of Peace" group called for an immediate end to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

The meeting, co-chaired by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Brazilian counterpart Mauro Vieira, was attended by top diplomats and representatives from 17 "Global South" countries, including Egypt, Indonesia, South Africa, Mexico and Zambia, a statement by the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Saturday.

Speaking to the gathering, Wang Yi said that the purpose of this gathering is to seek peace as Ukrainian crisis has entered its third year.

"The flames of war are still spreading, the risk of spillover is increasing, the dawn of peace has not yet appeared, and the development of the situation is worrying," he said.

The top Chinese diplomat said that Brazil, China, South Africa, Egypt, Indonesia, Turkey and other countries, as partners of the Global South, committed to the political solution of the Ukrainian crisis, and agreed to launch the "Friends of Peace" initiative on the Ukrainian crisis on the UN platform.

Friends of Peace is not about taking sides in the conflict, or replacing the existing platforms, he explained, adding they will gather more countries to raise voice and create an atmosphere for a cease-fire and restart peace talks.

On Thursday, China and Brazil agreed to form a "Friend of Peace" platform to work towards ending war in Ukraine that began in February 2022

The agreement came during a meeting between Wang Yi and Brazilian president's chief adviser Celso Amorim on the sidelines of the 79th UN General Assembly in New York.

The two countries issued a sixpoint consensus, calling on all parties concerned to de-escalate, create conditions for direct talks until the realization of a cease-fire, increase humanitarian assistance, oppose use of weapons of mass destruction, oppose attacks on nuclear power plants and other peaceful nuclear facilities, and protect the stability of global industrial and supply chains.

MADRID (Xinhua) – At least 9 people died and 48 went missing after an illegal migrant boat capsized off the island of El Hierro on Friday night, Spain's maritime rescue service confirmed on Saturday. Another 27 people were rescued, according to the maritime rescue's X account. The rescue is still going on with several vessels and a helicopter searching for the missing. All the occupants on the boat were men, and one of the recovered bodies was that of a teenager aged between 12 and 15, Spanish public TV network RTVE reported. A total of three migrant boats arrived near the island of El Hierro in the Canary Islands on Friday night, including the one that overturned. A fourth boat is still being searched for, as rescue teams haven't located it yet. The two boats that arrived at El Hierro around midnight Friday carried a total of 151 people, including six children and four babies. Ten people from the three boats were sent to the port of La Restinga in the southern tip of El Hierro for medical care.

6 September 29 , 2024 OR SPORTS MY XA

side was able to break the stalemate in the opening 45 minutes at

The South Asian side wasted another opportunity in the 60th minute after Kelvin Singh Taorem set up Korou Singh Thingujam nicely, only for the forward to pull his ef-

The miss came back to haunt In-

dia as Iran struck in the 88th min-

ute through Yousef Mazraeh to seal

the three points and take a huge

Iran, with six points, remain at the

The top teams of the 10 groups,

along with the five best second-

place finishers, will qualify for

the AFC U-20 Asian Cup 2025 in

Salamat ran the wings and con-

Wing Ting To and Wing Man

To were Kwai Tsing's main hit-

ters, who posted by the flanks

and helped surprise the oppo-

Saipa took their best possible

finish of 7th place in 2024. They

have recorded their best finish

in the competition's history as

fourth placer in the 2021 edition,

also held in Nakhon Ratchasima,

Г

Thailand.

nents with some key blocks.

nected with good percentage.

step towards making the Finals.

the Lao National Stadium.

fort just wide.

top of the group.

China

U-20 Footballers Edge India in AFC Cup his free-kick over the bar as neither



TEHRAN - Iran needed a late strike to earn a hard-fought 1-0 win against India in its AFC U-20 Asian Cup China 2025 Qualifiers Group G match. Both teams enjoyed opening day wins with India sealing a 4-1 vic-

scored eight unanswered goals against Laos.

India came close in the 25th mintory over Mongolia, while Iran ute but Manglenthang Kipgen shot

Saipa Finish 7th in Asian Women Club Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN - Iran's Saipa defeated Hong Kong Kwai Tsing 3-0 (25-20, 25-20, 25-17) to finish 7th in the 2024 Asian Women's Club Volleyball Championship on Saturday at Chartchai Hall.

Saipa's Mahtab Rahmani was the top scorer of the match, contributing 18 points in the straightsets victory.

The Saipa Club had the luxury of a taller lineup, which gave them the advantage in attacks and blocks. Mahtab and Aytak



Newcastle Come From Behind to Draw With Man City



LONODN (Sky Sports) - Anthony Gordon's second-half penalty earned Newcastle a point as Man- utes when he finished smartly from

City defender Josko Gvardiol had put the visitors ahead after 35 minand Rico Lewis combined well in covering for the influential Rodri, who has been ruled out for the rest of the season with a knee injury, City eventually buckled during Newcastle's best spell of the game just after the break.

When Bruno Guimaraes played an excellent pass through the City defense, Kyle Walker played Gordon onside and the England forward went down under Ederson's challenge. Ederson was booked and Gordon kept his cool to send the Brazilian the wrong way from been further ahead at the break but Ilkay Gundogan fluffed his attempted chip after Newcastle keeper Nick Pope had presented a clearance straight to City when he was a long way out of his goal.

Both sides tried to force a winner, with Newcastle substitute Sean Longstaff going close for the hosts and Bernardo Silva testing Nick Pope deep in stoppage time.

The Magpies remain with only one win in 34 top-flight meetings with City, who have now dropped four points in the space of a week

Iran Claim Title at World Men's **Bodybuilding Championships**



TEHRAN, IRNA - Iranian athletes have been crowned champions at World Men's Fitness & Bodybuilding Championships and Annual Congress at all junior, senior, and master categories.

The 78th edition of the competition went underway on the southern Iranian island of Kish for five days ending on Friday, with the representatives of as many as 65 countries in attendance.

The Iranian bodybuilding and fitness team snatched a total of 153 medals, 51 golds, 52 silvers, and 50 bronzes, by the end of the event.

At the junior category, Iran came first with 122 points followed by Iraq and China, which respectively earned 79 and 53 points.

The Islamic Republic came first in the senior category too with 285 points followed by China (152) and Saudi Arabia (147).

The country likewise took the pride of place at the master category with 160 points. The veteran athletes superseded their Russian and Romanian counterparts, who respectively earned 125 and 82 points.

The competition was held through joint cooperation between the Iranian Federation of Bodybuilding and Fitness and the International Fitness and Bodybuilding Federation (IFBB).

Earlier this year, Iranian bodybuilding champion Hadi Choopan grabbed headlines by winning the Arnold Classic title in the 2024 Arnold Sports Festival.

He had already made history for the country by winning the prestigious title of Mr. Olympia in 2002, and coming second in the event's subsequent edition in 2023.

Choopan is slated to return to the contest in Las Vegas in October 2024

WADA Appeals to CAS Against Sinner **Doping Verdict, Seeks Suspension**





St James' Park.

chester City were held to a draw at Jack Grealish's lay-off. However, while Mateo Kovacic

the spot.

after their 100% start to the cam-

Pep Guardiola's side should have paign.

FIFA Suspends Argentina Goalkeeper for 2 Matches in World Cup Qualifying

BUENOS AIRES (AP) -Argentina's soccer association (AFA) said on Friday that FIFA suspended goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez for two matches of South American World Cup qualifying in October.

The decision rules out the 32-year-old from official games in the round-robin competition against Venezuela and Bolivia on Oct. 10 and 15.

AFA said in a statement that FIFA's disciplinary commission sanctioned Martínez due to incidents in two World Cup qualifying matches against

Chile and Colombia earlier this month. The soccer body did not describe which incidents led to the punishment. Martínez made an obscene gesture after his team's 3-0 win against Chile by holding the Copa America trophy close to his genitals, as he did after the South American team lifted the World Cup title in Qatar in the end of 2022.

Later, he slapped a local cameraman after Argentina's 2-1 defeat against Colombia in Barranquilla.

Argentina's soccer body said it "absolutely disagrees" with



Aston Villa goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez reacts after receiving a yellow card during the British Premier League.

FIFA's decision. Argentina leads South American World Cup qualifying with 18 points after eight games, followed by Colombia (16) and Uruguay (15).

Jannik Sinner of Italy hits a return to Nicolas Jarry of Chile during the men's singles first round match at 2024 China Open tennis tournament in Beijing, China, Sept 26, 2024.

PARIS (Reuters) - The World Anti-Doping Agency has appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport against an independent tribunal's decision in August to clear world number one Jannik Sinner of wrongdoing after he failed drug tests, WADA said on Saturday.

WADA said the tribunal's finding of "no fault or negligence" on Sinner's part was incorrect under the applicable rules, and it would seek "a period of ineligibility of between one and two years" for the Australian Open and U.S. Open champion.

The tribunal, organized by the International Tennis Integrity Agency, had accepted Sinner's explanation that the anabolic agent clostebol entered his system from a member of his support team through massages and sports therapy.

The ITIA said in a statement on Saturday: "The process was run according to World Anti-Doping Code guidelines; however, the ITIA acknowledges and respects WADA's right to appeal the independent tribunal's decision."

Sinner said his physio, Giacomo Naldi, applied an over-the-counter spray containing clostebol to his skin to treat a small finger wound and then administered massages between March 5 and 13 without using gloves, according to the ITIA.

Italy's Sinner has maintained his innocence, saying the amount of clostebol found in his system was less than a billionth of a gram However, some players criticized the verdict, saying Sinner's explanation "made no sense."

MIDDLE EAST

Europeans, Arab, Muslim Nations Launch Initiative for Independent Palestinian State

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) European, Arab and Islamic nations have launched an initiative to strengthen support for a Palestinian state and its institutions, and prepare for a future after the war in Gaza and escalating conflict in Lebanon, Norway's foreign minister says.

Espen Barth Eide told The Associated Press that "there is a growing consensus in the international community from Western countries, from Arab countries, from the Global South, that we need to establish a Palestinian Authority, a Palestinian government, a Palestinian state - and the Palestinian state has to be recognized."

Eide said many issues need to be addressed, including the security interests of the Palestinians and recognition and normalization of relations after decades of conflict.

"These are pieces of a bigger puzzle," Norway's chief diplomat said. "And you can't just come in there with one of these pieces, because it only works if all the pieces are laid in place."

But even if the puzzle is completed, it's unlikely to gain traction with prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Still, Eide



European, Arab and Islamic nations have launched an initiative to strengthen support for a Palestinian state, Norway's foreign minister says.

believes that after decades of failed or stalled negotiations, "we come out of this deadlock and try need to take a new approach" to achieving an independent Palestinian state.

To accelerate work on these issues, Eide said almost 90 countries attended a meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's current gathering of world leaders. He and Saudi Arabia's foreign minister co-chaired the session to launch "The Global Alliance for the Implementation of a Palestinian State."

"We have to see how we can to use this deep crisis also as an opportunity to move forward," Eide told a UN Security Council meeting on Gaza later Friday.

Norway is the guarantor of the 1993 Oslo Accords, hailed as a breakthrough in the decadeslong conflict, which created the Palestinian Authority and set up self-rule areas in the Palestinian Authority. Eide said more than 30 years later, the Zionist regime's occupation is continuing, and there are no negotiations leading to a final settlement and an independent Palestinian state - which led to Norway's decision in May to recognize a Palestinian state.

Now, 149 of the UN's 193 member nations have recognized a Palestinian state. Eide urged all countries "to contribute to universal recognition" and strengthen Palestinian institutions so they live up to the expectations of people in the West Bank and are prepared to return to Gaza: "We want one Palestine, not different Palestines," he said.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan al-Saud told the UN Security Council that his country, the joint Islamic-Arab ministerial committee, Norway and the European Union launched the alliance "because we feel responsible to act to change the reality of the conflict without delay."

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell urged all countries to take practical measures "to bring about the free Palestine."

Borrell said on X that the first meetings of the alliance would be in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and Brussels.

Nasrallah... of Nasrallah.

(Continued From Page One)

cementing of ties within "axis of resistance", which includes Hezbollah. Svria, the Palestinian movements Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the Ansarullah movement in Yemen and several Iraqi paramilitary groups.

Following Friday's strikes, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the Ansarullah and the Islamic Resistance of Iraq all released statements of condemnation against Israel.

"We renew our absolute solidarity with the brotherly Lebanese people and the brothers in Hezbollah and the Islamic resistance in Lebanon," Hamas said in a statement.

"We share their pain and hope for victory over this Zionist enemy, and we value and commend their sacrifices and steadfastness in the epic of open accountability in support of our people and our resistance, and in response and defense of the brotherly Lebanese people."

Leader ... (Continued From Page One)

policy of the leaders of the usurping regime," he said.

"The terrorist gang ruling the Zionist regime did not learn from their oneyear criminal war in Gaza and failed to understand that the mass killing of women, children and civilians cannot affect the solid construction of the resistance organization and destroy it

"Now they are trying the same foolish policy in Lebanon. The Zionist criminals should know that they are too small to cause significant damage to the strong construction of Hezbollah in Lebanon. All the resistance forces of the region are with Hezbollah and support it," the Leader said.

Avatollah Khamenei said the fate of the region will be decided by the resistance forces, with Hezbollah at the head of them.

"The people of Lebanon have not forgotten that once upon a time when the military of the usurping regime had all the way to Beirut under its boots, it was Hezbollah that cut off their leg and made Lebanon dear and proud,' he said.

"By the power of God," Ayatollah Khamenei said, "Lebanon will make the aggressor, evil and disgraceful enemy regret" its actions.

He said, "It is obligatory for all Muslims to stand with the people of Lebanon and proud Hezbollah with their resources and help them in confronting the usurping, cruel and evil regime."

Messages... (Continued From Page One)

Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani also offered his condolences over the martyrdom of the late Hezbollah leader.

"The great martyr was an unmatched role model. He played a distinguished role in the victory over the occupying Zionist regime by liberating occupied Lebanese lands, and supported Iraqis with everything he could to help them free their homeland from the clutches of Daesh terrorists," the top Iraqi cleric

Erdogan said on X after the martyrdom

September 29 , 2024

He expressed deep concern over the loss of Lebanese lives, including children, in what he described as "brutal attacks '

7

Erdogan criticized the international community for enabling Israel's actions, saying that as Tel Aviv continues to receive "weapons and ammunition support from its backers," it becomes "increasingly reckless, defying all humanity, humanitarian values, and international law.'

He stressed that Israel's "politics of madness," already seen in Gaza and Ramallah, must not be allowed to spread to Lebanon and other countries in the region.

The Turkish president called on global organizations, particularly the UN Security Council and human rights groups, to take swift action in response to Israel's aggression.

Israeli ... (Continued From Page One)

Analysts say by concealing its losses in the north, Israel seeks to bolster the morale of the settlers and pretend that it is making military gains.

In another statement Saturday, Hezbollah said it hit the Kabri settlement in the Western Galilee region near of the Mediterranean town of Nahariya with Fadi-1 rockets.

Rocket warning sirens were activated in dozens of communities in the northern part of the occupied lands. Sirens were also sounded in parts of Haifa and across the Galilee.

Israeli media outlets reported that Hezbollah launched some 75 rockets at occupied territories on Friday night.

A barrage of some 30 rockets was launched at Safed, according to the Israeli military, with local officials saying that at least two impacts in the northern city caused significant dam-

Meanwhile, a barrage of five rockets was launched from Lebanon at the Jezreel Valley a short while ago, setting off sirens in several towns in the area There were also reports of explosions heard in Tel Aviv, according Ynet.

Referring to the tense situation in the northern areas as a result of Hezbollah's operations, the Hebrew-language media said the entire northern front is under the fire of Lebanese missiles They said Haifa officials are extremely angry with prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his cabinet over their war-mongering policies.

Israel's comptroller and ombudsman Matanyahu Englman, they said, had been accosted during a visit by a furious Haifa mayor, Yona Yahav, who excoriated Netanyahu and his cabinet members for failing to inquire even once about "how dire the security situation" is in the city.

According to Englman, there are generally no specific economic and educational programs in the north, where people are locked indoors and suffer from the consequences of the continuing war.

Hezbollah has been responding to the Israeli aggression with numerous retaliatory operations targeting the occupied territories.

UN: Over 50,000 Left Lebanon for Syria Amid Zionist Strikes

GENEVA (Dispatches) - The UN refugee chief said Saturday that more than 50,000 people had fled to Syria amid escalating airstrikes by the Zionist regime on Lebanon.

"More than 50,000 Lebanese and Syrians living in Lebanon have now crossed into Syria fleeing Israeli airstrikes," Filippo Grandi said on X.

He added that "well over 200,000 people are displaced inside Lebanon."

A UNHCR spokesman said the total number of displaced in Lebanon had reached 211,319, including 118,000 just since the Zionist regime dramatically ramped up its air strikes on Monday.

The remainder had fled their homes since Hezbollah resistance movement in Lebanon began operations a day after its Palestinian ally Hamas staged its unprecedented operation on the Zionist regime on October 7.

The occupying regime has shifted the focus of its operation from Gaza to Lebanon, where heavy bombing has killed more than 700 people, according to Lebanon's health ministry, as exchanges escalated over the past week.

Most of those Lebanese deaths came on Monday, the deadliest day of violence since Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war.

"Relief operations are underway, including by UNHCR, to help all those in need, in coordination with both governments," Grandi said.

On Friday, the UN refugee agencv said well over 30,000 people, mainly Syrians, had crossed into Syria from Lebanon in the past 72 hours, amid an escalating conflict between Zionist troops and Hezbollah that has killed hundreds of people in Lebanon.

About 80 percent of those crossings are Syrians and about 20 percent are Lebanese, said the UNHCR representative in Syria,

Gonzalo Vargas Llosa, adding that about half are children and adolescents, and that men are making the crossing in smaller numbers than women.

"They are crossing from a country at war to one that has faced a crisis conflict for 13 years," an extremely difficult choice, he told a news conference.

"We will have to see over the next few days how many more do so," added the representative.

The Philippines also said on Friday it will evacuate 11,000 citizens from Lebanon the moment Zionist troops cross the border to launch a ground invasion against Lebanon.

Int'l Nurses Federation Warns of Dangers Facing Healthcare Workers in Lebanon

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Howard pened in Gaza and, of course, they taking place now in New York are buildings, limbs that need to be **Catton**, **CEO** of the International are fearful that this could be re- so important," he added.

Council of Nurses (ICN), voiced se- peated in Lebanon," Catton said, Catton described the "horrific"

amputated, loss of eyes, fractures, complicated bone fractures, and

rious concerns over the escalating dangers facing healthcare workers in Lebanon, drawing parallels to the violence experienced by their colleagues in Gaza, Anadolu Agency reports.

In an interview with Anadolu, Catton emphasized that healthcare professionals in Lebanon are feeling the same fears as those in Gaza, as the threat of conflict looms over their hospitals and health facilities.

"They have seen what has hap-

stressing the need to prevent such devastation from spreading.

He underscored the urgency of ongoing discussions at the UN General Assembly in New York, where global leaders and international actors are gathering.

Catton emphasized that the international community must prioritize finding political solutions to prevent further harm to healthcare workers and civilians. "We cannot allow that to be repeated in Leba-

non, which is why the meetings

conditions that healthcare workers in Gaza are enduring, painting a grim picture of the physical and mental toll on both patients and medical staff.

According to Catton, nurses in conflict zones like Gaza and Lebanon are dealing with horrific injuries, including complex fractures, amputations and severe trauma from explosions.

"They are looking after [...] people with injuries caused by explosions or those trapped in deep wounds as well," he said adding that nurses are often forced to work in makeshift facilities with limited access to essential equipment and medication.

In addition to the physical toll, Catton highlighted the severe mental health strain on both patients and healthcare workers. "People who may have lost their entire family, their children, or their friends are deeply traumatized mentally, in addition to their physical injuries," he explained.

said.

Qais al-Khazali, the secretary general of Iraq's Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq resistance group, said Nasrallah scored outstanding victories in the course of struggle against Israel and inflicted heavy defeats on Zionists.

Iraqi clerics and politicians Muqtada al-Sadr and Ammar Hakim, for their parts, offered their sincere condolences over assassination of the Hezbollah chief in an Israeli airstrike on southern Beirut.

Russia's Foreign Ministry said the killing of Nasrallah is "yet another political assassination.'

"This forceful action is fraught with even greater dramatic consequences for Lebanon and the entire Middle East... The Israeli side could not fail to recognize this danger, but took the step of killing Lebanese citizens, which would almost inevitably provoke a new outburst of violence. Thus, it bears full responsibility for the subsequent escalation," the ministry said in a statement.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also condemned Israel's recent military actions in Lebanon.

"Israel's policy of genocide, occupation, and invasion, which has been ongoing since October 7, now targets Lebanon and the Lebanese people,"

Senior ... (Continued From Page 2)

acts of provocation and said the regime however, seems relentless in demonstrat ing its savagery.

The Iranian diplomat warned that Israel "is aiming now to expand its acts of aggression to Lebanon, propelling the region into a possibly irreversible escalation.

"Such provocations and brutality will not prevail our collective determination to stop the Israeli regime. One knows that restraint cannot be infinite," he said.

Elsewhere in his address, Gharibabadi warned against attempts to transform the very intergovernmental nature of the United Nations as well as from the egocentric unilateralism, in particular unilat eral coercive measures.

"Unilateral coercive measures seek to infringe upon the sovereign and inalienable right of states to choose their economic system as well as their political social, and cultural systems without out side interference, coercion, or threat in any form.'

He underscored the importance of responding to such illegitimate purposes in an effective and commensurate manner and urged the Group's members to enhance coordination and cooperation as among their common objectives.

Jordan Islamic Action Front Boycotts British Ambassador's Reception

AMMAN (Arab News) - The MPs of the Jordanian Islamic Action Front officially announced their boycott of a reception held by the British ambassador in the capital, Amman.

The invitation sent by the ambassador to 138 MPs was attended by 45 new members of the Jordanian parliament.

Most of those present at the ambassador's reception were new faces in parliament, and their acceptance of the invitation caused controversy among Jordanians on social media after a statement by the media spokesperson

for the Islamic movement MPs, Yanal Fraihat, highlighted their refusal to participate due to its illegitimacy.

The British Embassy did not announce the reasons for the invitation, but Fraihat confirmed it was sent on the occasion of the British foreign secretary's visit to Amman. He considered the meeting "inappropriate" and that invitations should have been sent through the general secretariat of the House of Representatives, in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The British Embassy, which was immediately accused of trying to "interfere in Jordan's internal and foreign affairs," did not comment.

The MPs who visited the British ambassador's reception have not yet become MPs in the constitutional sense, as the parliamentary session is still to be held, and the elected MPs have not yet taken their constitutional oath. Most of those present were members of centrist parties, who also did not comment on the issue.

Turkish Builder Jailed for 865 Years Over Quake Collapse

RIYADH (Arab News) - A court in Turkey sentenced a builder to 865 years in rison on Friday for the shoddy construction of a 14-story apartment block that collapsed during a powerful earthquake, killing 96 people. Hasan Alpargun was convicted of "having caused the death and injury of more than one person with possible intent," court officials said. The 14-story building in the southern Turkish city of Adana was destroyed by a massive 7.8-magnitude quake in February 2023 that killed more than 53,500 people in Turkey and nearly 6,000 in Syria. Only one of the building's residents survived. The apartment block was built in 1975. Its ollapse immediately aroused suspicions because Adana, although less than 200 km from the earthquake's epicenter, was largely spared from the violent tremors.



Thought for Today

Generosity is to help a deserving person without his request, and if you help him after his request, then it is either out of self-respect or to avoid rebuke.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

VOL NO: LV 12354 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Sunday, September 29, 2024, Mehr 8, 1403, Rabi al-Awwal 25, 1446

Israel Bans Gatherings of Over 1,000 People Amid Reprisal Fears

WEST BANK (Dispatches) The Zionist regime's army has announced a ban on gatherings of over 1,000 people in central parts of the occupied territories, effective from Saturday, amid escalating tensions following Hezbollah leader Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah's assassination.

The army spokesperson, Daniel Hagari, said in a statement that the ban is a precautionary measure to ensure public safety in the light of potential threats.

"We are on alert for both defense and attack, and the public must adhere to the instructions," said Hagari.

He noted that the threat "is not over yet, Hezbollah still possesses capabilities."

Following the tightened directives, the Zionist regime's Premier League's Saturday and Sunday football matches were decided to be held behind closed



Protest held against Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv.

doors

This announcement follows a series of airstrikes carried out by the Zionist regime's army targeting Hezbollah positions in Lebanon

Following Nasrallah's assas-

resistance movement.

Since Monday, the Zionist regime's airstrikes have ravaged Lebanon, killing nearly 800 people and injuring over 2,300, according to the Lebanese Health Ministry. The ministry also reported that since last October, the death toll in Lebanon has reached 1,622, with 98,800 people displaced from the southern and eastern regions of the country.

Hezbollah and the occupying regime have been engaged in warfare since the regime's military onslaught on Gaza on Oct. 7. The Gaza genocide has claimed the lives of nearly 41,600 people, mostly women and children.

The international community has expressed deep concern about the Zionist regime's airstrikes in Lebanon, warning that they could transform the Gaza conflict into a broader regional war.

For Second Time in 2024 **Moody's to Lower Zionist Regime's Credit Rating**

WEST BANK (Dispatches) Moody's Investors Service is preparing to lower the Zionist regime's credit rating for the second time this year, citing growing political instability and economic uncertainty.

The downgrade follows concerns over the regime's contentious judicial reforms and their impact on the Zionist regime's institutional framework and economic performance.

In its latest review, Moody's highlighted the regime's ongoing efforts to overhaul the judiciary, which has sparked widespread protests and increased tensions within the occupied territories.

These developments have raised red flags for investors and financial markets, potentially undermining the stability that has traditionally supported the regime's strong credit standing.

The global credit rating agency previously downgraded the occupying regime's outlook earlier in the year, warning that the proposed judicial changes could harm Israel's economy by reducing investor confidence and weakening checks and balances that ensure long-term political and economic stability. The so-called reforms, led by prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition, have faced fierce opposition from civil society, business leaders and international observers

sination, the regime's army also

threatened to target other senior

The assassination of Nasrallah

marks a significant escalation in

the ongoing conflict between the

occupying regime and Hezbollah

Hezbollah leaders.

A second downgrade would put further pressure on the Zionist regime's economy, increasing borrowing costs and potentially leading to a reduction in foreign investments. It could also have a ripple effect on the regime's tech sector, which has been a key driver of its economic success in recent decades.

Economists warn that political uncertainty, combined with the potential rating downgrade, could slow Israel's GDP growth, strain public finances and widen the fiscal deficit, especially in

light of ongoing security challenges in the region.

The Zionist regime's finance ministry has pushed back against the criticism, claiming that the economy remains resilient and that the judicial overhaul is necessary to ensure long-term stability. However, Moody's upcoming decision suggests that global financial institutions remain skeptical of the regime's ability to maintain both economic and political balance amid the growing internal divisions.

The final decision on the regime's credit rating is expected to be confirmed in the coming weeks.

PLO: Israel Approved Over 80 Illegal **Settlement Plans Since 2022**



Zionist troops intervene in the protest held by Palestinians against illegal Israeli settlers who set up encampments at Umm Safa village, north of Ramallah, West Bank on September 14, 2024.

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) -The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has revealed that the Zionist regime has approved more than 80 illegal settlement plans in the occupied West Bank and East Al-Quds since the end of 2022.

These approvals include tens of thousands of settlement units, according to a report released on Saturday by the PLO's National Bureau for the Defense of Land and Resistance of Settlements.

The report highlights a rapid and unprecedented expansion of Israeli settlements on Palestinian land, facilitated by the regime's decisions and military orders. The Israeli army has reportedly created "buffer zones" around many of these settlements, encroaching on neighboring Palestinian villages under the guise of providing security for settlers.

The Zionist regime's estimates indicate that more than 720,000 settlers now live in illegal settlement outposts in the occupied West Bank, including East Al-Quds. Settlement construction has accelerated significantly since the regime's right-wing cabinet, led by prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, came to power in December 2022.

The international community. including the UN, considers these settlements illegal under international law. The UN has repeatedly warned that continued settlement expansion threatens the viability of a solution, a framework seen as key to resolving the Zionist-Palestinian conflict.

In a significant legal development in July, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued a ruling that declared the Zionist regime's decades-long occupation of Palestinian territories "illegal." The court called for the immediate evacuation of all existing settlements in the West Bank and East Al-Quds.

Despite global condemnation and calls for a halt to settlement activity, the occupying regime continues its expansion efforts, deepening tensions in the region

Report: MBS Told Blinken Saudi People Care About Palestine

BAGHDAD (Dispatches)

the mechanisms needed to fa-

U.S. Outlines Plans for Withdrawal From Iraq

The U.S. invaded Iraq in 2003 without UN sanction. claiming the state possessed weapons of mass destruction - a claim later found to be false. The U.S. "shock and awe" bombing campaign devastated large swathes of Iraq and toppled Saddam Hussein's government, leaving the country in chaos and creating a fertile ground for extremists such as Daesh. Following the spread of the terrorist group across parts of Syria and Iraq in 2014, U.S. troops returned to the country. Coalition military operations wrapped up in 2021, leaving approximately 2,500 American occupation forces as an enduring presence in Iraq. In recent months, U.S. troops have been wounded by missile attacks on American military sites in Iraq and Syria amid heightened tensions related to the Zionist regime's genocidal campaign in Gaza.

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman told U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken that he does not personally care about what he referred to as the "Palestinian issue", according to a report in The Atlantic.

The report gave a picture of 11 months of Washington's negotiation efforts in the region after the outbreak of war in Gaza, citing "two dozen participants at the highest levels of government in America and across the Middle East".

It stated that during a visit to Saudi Arabia in January, Blinken and the crown prince met in the Saudi city of al-Ula to discuss the prospect of the Persian Gulf kingdom normalizing relations with the occupying regime amid the ongoing Israeli aggression on Gaza. Months earlier, Riyadh had appeared to be making prog-

RIYADH (Dispatches) – ress in forming ties with the for the first time through this Zionist regime during U.S.-led discussions, which were later derailed by the outbreak of war on October 7.

If a normalization deal were to occur, the crown prince expressed to Blinken a desire for calm in Gaza.

According to The Atlantic. Blinken enquired whether the Saudis could tolerate the Zionist regime periodically reentering the territory to strike the besieged Gaza Strip.

"They can come back in six months, a year, but not on the back end of my signing something like this," Mohammed bin Salman responded.

"Seventy percent of my population is younger than me," the crown prince explained to Blinken.

"For most of them, they never really knew much about the Palestinian issue. And so they're being introduced to it

conflict. It's a huge problem. Do I care personally about the Palestinian issue? I don't, but my people do, so I need to make sure this is meaningful." A Saudi official described this account of the conversation to The Atlantic as "incorrect".

In public, Mohammed bin Salman has stated that Saudi Arabia will not normalize relations with the Zionist regime without the establishment of a Palestinian state with East Al-Quds as its capital.

"The Kingdom will not cease its diligent efforts to establish an independent Palestinian state with East Al-Quds as its capital," he said at a recent annual address before the Shura Council in Riyadh.

"We confirm that Saudi Arabia will not establish diplomatic relations with Israel until that goal is achieved."

The United States will conclude the American-led international military occupation of Iraq over the next twelve months, as announced in a joint statement from Baghdad and Washington.

After intensive discussions between the Iraqi Higher Military Commission, the U.S., and the international coalition, the American military occupation will come to an end, according to the joint statement published by the U.S. State Department on Friday.

This phaseout will occur over the next twelve months, concluding no later than September 2025.

However, the coalition forces' occupation of the oil-rich areas of neighboring Syria will continue until at least September 2026 allegedly to 'prevent the return of Daesh terrorist threat", the statement added.

A commission will work on

cilitate the transition and "ensure the physical protection of coalition advisors present in Iraq", it stated.

The Pentagon emphasized that while the U.S. mission is changing, it does not constitute a full withdrawal.

"Our footprint is going to be changing within the country," Pentagon spokesperson Sabrina Singh told reporters during a press briefing on Friday.

Baghdad has been in formal negotiations toward the withdrawal of U.S. troops for at least nine months, with similar calls from Iraqi officials ongoing for years.

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani told Bloomberg TV in an interview last week that Iraq no longer needs U.S. troops on its territory.

"Iraq in 2024 is not the same as Iraq in 2014," he said, adding, "We have moved on from wars to stability."