

Yemeni Snipers Kill Six Saudi Troops in Jizan

SANAA (Press TV) – Yemeni army snipers have killed six Saudi troops during retaliatory operations in kingdom's southwestern border region of Jizan. Five Saudi troops were killed in the villages of Jadhe'e Namir and Qwa, while another was shot in the Haskool region. The army's sniper unit, supported by fighters from allied Popular Committees, have over the past few days inflicted heavy losses on the Saudis in Jizan front, where two Saudi soldiers were killed on Friday in two separate sniper attacks.

Overlook and forgive the weaknesses of the generous people because if they fall down, Allah will help them.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Syrian President Visits Troops in Eastern Ghouta



Syrian President Bashar al-Assad talks to government forces while visiting their positions in Eastern Ghouta suburb of Damascus on March 18, 2018.

MOSCOW (Dispatches) – Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has visited army positions and talked to Syrian forces in Eastern Ghouta suburb of the capital Damascus, Syrian state news agency SANA reports.

Russia says more than 20,000 people left Eastern Ghouta on Sunday, using one of the four humanitarian corridors set up to enable safe passage out of the

Syrian capital's suburb.

The Center for Reconciliation in Syria which is run by Russia's Defense Ministry made the announcement, saying the evacuation took place in the town of Hammouriyeh, Interfax news agency reported.

Since humanitarian corridors were set up, more than 68,000 people have left Eastern Ghouta, the center added.

Russia has set up the passageways with Syria's help to contribute to a United Nations Security Council resolution, which came into force last month mandating a ceasefire in the Arab country.

Meanwhile, the Syrian army gave foreign-sponsored terrorists operating inside Harasta town of the Eastern Ghouta enclave to withdraw till 3 p.m.

local time (1300 GMT) on Sunday.

The report came shortly after Syria's official news agency SANA reported that thousands of civilians, whom extremists were using as human shields to slow down the progress of government forces and their allied fighters from popular defense groups, have managed to leave Eastern Ghouta.

The report noted that more than 5,000 civilians, mostly children and women, depart the area through humanitarian corridors set up by the army troopers.

Syria and Russia have cornered foreign-backed terrorists in the countryside as part of their campaign to liberate civilians holed up there and end terrorist attacks from the suburb on Damascus.

During their advances in the area, Syrian forces have uncovered workshops used to make chemical weapons. The Syrian military has also intercepted several arms and ammunition cargoes heading to Eastern Ghouta.

One man, who had fled the suburb to the al-Duweir camp near Damascus on Saturday, said a lot of children suffer from malnutrition because militants are stealing the aid.

On Friday, civilians fleeing through the Hush Nasri corridor described in an interview with AFP news agency how terrorists were preventing them from leaving the area and using them as human shields.

'Saudi Regime Seeking to Interfere in Iraqi Politics'



Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman gestures during a meeting with UK Prime Minister Theresa May (unseen) inside 10 Downing Street, London, March 7, 2018.

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – An Iraqi official and political figure highlighted reasons behind an upcoming visit to Baghdad by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed

bin Salman and said the crown prince plans to interfere in the internal affairs of Iraq as the country heads toward parliamentary elections in May.

Speaking to the Tasnim News Agency, the head of the Iraqi Radios and TVs Union, Sayed Hamid al-Husseini, said bin Salman would pay a visit to Iraq at his own request, adding that the timing of the trip is questionable.

Bin Salman is trying to organize Iraqi political forces who are allied with Riyadh and the recent reports about the opening of Saudi consulates in Iraq indicate that Al Saud have plans for Iraq's political future.

The cleric further emphasized that the crimes of the Saudi regime in Iraq are clear to everyone, adding that the Iraqi people are angry with Riyadh's ongoing pressure on their country and will stand against it and will not allow the Saudi regime to achieve its goals in Iraq.

Earlier this week, an Iraqi

lawmaker said bin Salman is expected to make a two-day visit to Iraq.

"Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman will be on an official visit to Iraq," MP Saadoun Al Dulaimi posted on his Twitter account on Monday.

The visit would come as Iraq's parliament has recently approved May 12 as the date for holding national elections despite calls to delay the vote until the return of nearly 3 million people displaced by the fight against Daesh.

The over three-year-old fight against Daesh has left most of the areas in northern and western Iraq in ruins, and poor public services have exacerbated the situation.

The elections will be the fourth since the 2003 U.S-led invasion of Iraq.

Iraqi Forces Capture Senior Daesh Leader Near Mosul

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Iraqi forces have captured a fugitive Daesh ringleader, who used to hold a "prominent" post within the terrorist group.

Reporting on Saturday, Iraqi News website said the terror kingpin was captured in the al-Shaiqara village, north of the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, the

capital of Nineveh Province.

The terrorist leader used to function as the group's "police chief" for Nineveh, collecting the revenues of its members.

Mosul, once Daesh's so-called headquarters, was liberated last July, upon which the ringleader went into hiding in the Badush mountains in the province's town

of Tal Kaif.

Daesh unleashed a campaign of bloodshed and terror in Iraq in 2014, overrunning vast swathes in lightning advances in the northern and western parts of the country. Iraqi Army soldiers and allied fighters then launched operations to eliminate Daesh and retake lost territory.

Daesh's territorial rule in Iraq came to an end in December 2017, when Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced an ultimate victory against the terrorist group.

Ever since, the Iraqi military and its allies have been combing the country for the group's remnants.

Erdogan: Turkish Troops Capture Center of Syria's Afrin



Turkish tanks are seen during battles between Turkish-led forces and Kurdish militants, on the outskirts of the town of Jandairis, in the northern Syrian region of Afrin, March 7, 2018.

ANKARA (Dispatches) – President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says Turkish troops and their militant allies have entered the Syrian city of Afrin and taken control of its center after Kurdish militia pulled out.

"Units of the Free Syrian Army, which are backed by Turkish armed forces, took control of the center of Afrin this morning at 8:30 am (0530 GMT)," Erdogan said Sunday.

A spokesman for the so-called Free Syrian Army (FSA) militants said they entered Afrin shortly before dawn, from the north, east and west of the town, and did not encounter any resistance.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), however, said fighting was ongoing inside the city, where Turkish forces and allied militants have seized some neighborhoods.

The neighborhoods of Ashrafiyah and Jamiliyyeh are allegedly now under the control Turkish

troops. Erdogan said the center of Afrin was "entirely under control" and Turkish flags had been raised in the northern Syrian town.

An FSA spokesman said the militants were combing the streets and the houses after militants of the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) pulled out.

According to SOHR, over 280 civilians have been killed since the Turkish offensive began on January 20.

Ankara launched the operation after the United States said it sought to create a 30,000-strong force near the Turkish border in Syria with the help of the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) militant group which is mainly comprised of YPG fighters.

Turkey has threatened to expand its operation as far as the nearby city of Manbij, where American forces are stationed.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, however, said Tuesday that Ankara and Washington were to oversee the withdrawal of the Kurdish militants from the city.

Zionist Warplanes Strike Eastern Gaza

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's war jets struck after midnight with at least four missiles east of Gaza city, eyewitnesses and Hamas security officials said early.

No injuries were reported, according to local paramedics.

Eyewitnesses said that the regime's war planes hovered over Gaza city, then several explosions were heard in eastern Gaza city, east of Zaytoon neighborhood, adding that the airstrike damaged a local factory in the area.

During the Saturday night airstrikes a factory and several buildings were targeted by the Tel Aviv regime's warplanes. There have been no reports of casualties yet.

The Israeli army has confirmed the attacks, claiming they were carried out in response to the explosive device that went off next to a border fence.

Earlier in the day, at least one Palestinian man sustained injuries after Israeli battle tanks targeted the eastern part of the Gaza Strip.

The Arabic-language Palestine al-Yawm news agency reported that three rounds of shell struck

an observation post belonging to the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement east of al-Shujaya neighborhood in Gaza City, injuring a civilian who was taken to al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City to receive treatment.

The occupying military frequently bombs the Gaza Strip, with civilians being the main target of such attacks.

Israel has also launched several wars on the Palestinian coastal sliver, the last of which began in early July 2014. The military aggression, which ended on August 26, 2014, killed nearly 2,200 Palestinians. Over 11,100 others were also wounded in the war.

The Gaza Strip has been under an Israeli siege since June 2007. The blockade has caused a decline in the standards of living as well as unprecedented levels of unemployment and unrelenting poverty.

The Zionist regime denies about 1.8 million people in Gaza their basic rights, such as freedom of movement, jobs with proper wages as well as adequate healthcare and education.