

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – A funeral was held in Gaza on Tuesday for a Palestinian man shot by Zionist troops during a protest at the border. Zionist troops on Monday shot dead the Palestinian man and injured dozens of others who were protesting near Gaza, according to Gaza health officials. The regime's military said thousands had taken part in the demonstration, throwing burning tires, rocks and explosive devices toward the troops on the other side of the fence. A military spokesman said soldiers responded with "riot dispersal means according to rules of engagement." Gaza health officials said 90 people were hurt, 10 of them by live fire.

When you have to depart from this world and have to meet death (eventually), then why wish delay (why feel nervous about death).

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

If Funding Gap Not Plugged

Palestinian Schools, Health Centers at Risk



A Palestinian man stands in front of the emblem of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) outside the agency's offices in Gaza on July 31, 2018.

NEW YORK (Dispatches) – A UN agency that supports Palestinian refugees said schools and health centers are at risk if it is unable to plug a \$185 million funding gap needed to keep operating until the end of the year, the agency's head says.

"Currently we have money in the bank ... will last I presume somewhere into ... mid October," said Pierre Krahenbuhl, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)

in New York, where world leaders are attending the annual UN General Assembly.

"But it's clear that we still need approximately \$185 million to be able to ensure that all of our services, education system, health care, relief and social services and our emergency work in Syria and Gaza in particular can continue until the end of the year," Krahenbuhl said.

The United States last month announced a halt in its aid to UNRWA,

calling it an "irredeemably flawed operation", a decision that further heightened tensions between the Palestinian leadership and the Trump administration.

Meanwhile, the World Bank has raised alarm at the deteriorating economic situation in the Gaza Strip amid a crippling Zionist blockade, calling for immediate global action to prevent the "economic collapse" of the Palestinian coastal enclave.

In a report, the Washington-based

international financial institution highlighted the critical challenges facing Gaza's economy, among them a negative growth rate and an unemployment rate of over 70 percent for the youth.

"The economy in Gaza is collapsing, suffering from a decade long blockade and a recent drying up of liquidity, with aid flows no longer enough to stimulate growth," the report said.

It also enumerated several factors which have contributed to the deterioration of the Gaza economy, especially the Israeli siege on the coastal sliver and the US decision to stop funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

The administration of President Donald Trump has decided to cancel all US financial aid to the United Nations aid program for Palestinian refugees.

"Gaza's economy is in free fall, marking minus 6 percent growth in the first quarter of 2018 with indications of further deterioration since then," the report said.

"While the decade long blockade is the core issue, a combination of factors has more recently impacted the situation in Gaza; including the decision of the Palestinian Authority to reduce the monthly payments by 30 million to the area, the winding down of the \$50-60 million per year of the US Government aid program, and the cuts to the UNRWA program," it added.

Saudi Airstrikes Kill More Civilians in Yemen



This file picture shows Emirati soldiers during demining operations at the al-Anad airbase in the southern Yemeni province of Lahij, situated 50 kilometers north of Aden.

SANAA (Dispatches) – At least three civilians were killed and seven others injured after Saudi-led warplanes targeted residential areas in the Yemeni provinces of Hudaydah, Sa'ada and Lahij.

In the southwestern province of Lahij, a pregnant woman was killed when her house in al-Haidain area was pounded.

A Saudi missile also targeted Razih district in Sa'ada province. The districts of al-Daher, Kataf, Mjz and Baqim also came under Saudi fire, the source said.

In the western Hudaydah province, six children from one family were injured when an airstrike hit a village in al-Tahta district, a military official told Saba news agency on condition of anonymity.

Saudi jets also waged three raids on a Poultry farm in Taribah area in

Zabid district, killing two citizens and one other near Thabit Industrial Complex in al-Hally district.

Yemen's defenseless people have been under massive attacks by the coalition for more than three years but Riyadh has reached none of its objectives in Yemen so far.

Since March 2015, Saudi Arabia and some of its Arab allies have been carrying out deadly airstrikes against the Houthi Ansarullah movement in an attempt to restore power to fugitive former president Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi, a close ally of Riyadh.

The Yemeni Ministry of Human Rights announced in a statement on March 25 that the war had left 600,000 civilians dead and injured until then. The war and the accompanying blockade have also caused famine across Yemen.

Bahraini Regime Charges 169 Anti-Regime Activists With 'Terrorism'

MANAMA (Press TV) – Bahrain's attorney general says officials have charged nearly 170 anti-regime protesters with terrorism offenses as the ruling Al Khalifah regime presses ahead with its heavy-handed clampdown on political dissidents and pro-democracy activists in the tiny Persian Gulf kingdom.

Ahmad al-Hamadi said 169 people, 111 of whom are in custody, will be tried for forming "Bahrain's Hezbollah" – a local offspring of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement, det-

onating a bomb, training on the use of firearms and explosives in addition to making and using explosives and firearms.

Hamadi added that the Public Prosecution had received a report from the Criminal Investigation Directorate (CID) regarding the formation of the group inside Bahrain.

He further noted that the defendants will be put on trial by the Fourth High Criminal Court on October 3.

Thousands of anti-regime protesters have held demonstrations

in Bahrain on an almost daily basis ever since a popular uprising began in the country in mid-February 2011.

They are demanding that the Al Khalifah regime relinquish power and allow a just system representing all Bahrainis to be established.

Manama has gone to great lengths to clamp down on any sign of dissent. On March 14, 2011, troops from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were deployed to assist Bahrain in its crackdown.

Scores of people have lost their lives and hundreds of others sustained injuries or got arrested as a result of the Al Khalifah regime's crackdown.

On March 5, 2017, Bahrain's parliament approved the trial of civilians at military tribunals in a measure blasted by human rights campaigners as being tantamount to imposition of an undeclared martial law countrywide.

Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifah ratified the constitutional amendment on April 3 last year.

Turkey Detains 26 Former Police Officers Over Failed Coup

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) – Turkish police on Tuesday detained at least 26 former police officers over their alleged link to a U.S.-based Turkish cleric accused of masterminding a failed coup in 2016.

Police launched simultaneous operations against the suspects in different locations in Turkey's northwestern province of Bursa, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported.

The detainees were previously dismissed over their alleged involvement in the putsch.

On Monday, Turkish authorities arrested 61 soldiers in the capital Ankara and detained another 21 people, including former teachers, in Istanbul, over their alleged link to cleric Fethullah Gulen, who lives in exile in the U.S.

During the 2016 botched putsch, a faction of

the Turkish military declared that it had seized control of the country and the government of Erdogan was no more in charge. The attempt was, however, suppressed a few hours later.

Ankara has since accused Gulen of having orchestrated the coup. The opposition figure is also accused of being behind a long-running campaign to topple the government via infiltrating the country's institutions, particularly the army, police and the judiciary.

Gulen has denounced the "despicable putsch" and reiterated that he had no role in it.

The 77-year-old cleric has also called on Ankara to end its "witch hunt" of his followers, a move he says is aimed at "weeding out anyone it deems disloyal to President Erdogan and his regime."

Turkish officials have frequently called on their US counterparts to extradite Gulen, but their demands have not been taken heed of.

Turkey, which remains in a state of emergency since the coup, has been engaged in suppressing the media and opposition groups suspected to have played a role in the failed coup.

Tens of thousands of people have been arrested in Turkey on suspicion of having links to Gulen and the failed coup. More than 110,000 others, including military staff, civil servants and journalists, have been sacked or suspended from work over the same accusations.

The international community and rights groups have been highly critical of the Turkish president over the massive dismissals and the crackdown.

Afghan Forces Launch Operations Against Daesh Terrorists

KABUL (Dispatches) – The Afghan security forces launched operations against the Daesh terrorist group in Watapur district of eastern Kunar province amid reports of the presence of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the fugitive leader of the armed group, in eastern Nangarhar province of the insurgency-plagued country.

According to Haq Nawaz Haqyar, police chief of Kunar province, a well-coordinated operation was launched against Daesh hideouts in Watapur district and so far five militants have been killed.

"The operations launched against Daesh hideouts in Ghondi area of Watapur district today morning and so far five armed militants have been killed and three others injured," Haqyar told Xinhua.

According to the official, the operations would last for four days to wipe out the Daesh terrorists from the area.

The Daesh terrorist group has yet to make comment.

The operations against Daesh have coincided with report about the presence of Abu

Bakr al-Baghdadi, the elusive chief of the self-claimed Islamic caliphate in Kunar's neighboring Nangarhar province.

"Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of Daesh group, has been shifted to Afghanistan," a local newspaper the Daily Weesa reported.

Citing unknown sources, the paper added that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi has entered Nangarhar province.

The Daesh fugitive terrorist Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi has been disappeared since the collapse of his self-claimed caliphate in Iraq last year and the gradual defeat of his fighters in Syria.

Daesh terrorists had been badly defeated by Taliban outfit in northern Jawzjan province in August forcing the militants to surrender to the Afghan government.

Since the defeat of Daesh terrorists in Jawzjan province, the armed group has reportedly massed its terrorists in Nangarhar and the neighboring Kunar province.

Officials have yet to make comment on the report.