

DAMASCUS (Xinhua) – Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on Sunday issued a general amnesty, according to the state news agency SANA. The presidential pardon covers crimes committed before Sept. 24, except for the fugitives, who must surrender themselves to benefit from the amnesty. The decree minimizes some sentences from execution to life-time hard labor imprisonment. It also covers military service penalties. It's not the first time Assad issued such a pardon. However, the amnesty comes at a time the Syrian army has regained much of the country after more than eight years of war.

I define Islam for you in a way that nobody dared do it before me. Islam means obedience to Allah, obedience to Allah means having sincere faith in Him, such a faith means to believe in His Power.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Hezbollah's New Missile 'Capable of Destroying All Military Battleships'



Members of Hezbollah march with the movement's flags during a rally marking al-Quds Day, in Beirut in this file photo.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – A twitter account affiliated with Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement posted a photo of the movement's new missile on Sunday afternoon, which he says is capable of destroying all military battleships.

"Our new missile is capable of destroying all military battleships, killing all who are on board," wrote the Hezbollah activist, who often posts photos of South Lebanon Army (SLA) members.

In August, Hezbollah released footage and pictures of the anti-ship missile that struck the INS Hanit during the 2006 Second Lebanon War, an incident that

killed four Zionist troops in one of the most significant attacks against the IDF in the war.

In a documentary called #Army_To_Be_Drowned aired on Hezbollah's al-Manar TV channel marking the war the movement aired reconnaissance footage of the ship from the Lebanese coastline, preparations for the launch of the missile, the operations room which directed the strike as well as nighttime footage which showed the impact of the C-802 anti-ship cruise missile.

According to al-Manar, Hezbollah's navy commander "Hajj Jalal" said the rocket was launched from the Beirut suburb of Ouzai

after "the Zionist enemy escalated its attacks on various Lebanese areas."

Adding that the group's leadership delayed the operation for several hours, Jalal said that the movement "could have struck Israel's warship SAAR-5 in the 2006 war before it entered Lebanon's international waters," he said.

The secretary general of the resistance movement has said all of the occupied territories is within the range of the missiles of the group, adding that the resistance movement is stronger than ever despite Western sanctions.

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah made

the remarks during a televised interview with Hezbollah's al-Manar television in July on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the Second Lebanon War in 2006.

"Once we said that we could strike targets south of Haifa. Today, we can say that if Israel has sites south of Eilat, then we can also hit them. All of Israel is under the range of our missiles," he said.

The Hezbollah leader, while presenting the group's developed capabilities, warned that in case of any confrontation, the Zionist entity would be brought to the "verge of vanishing, and it knows this."

"We have a larger number of missiles and we have precise missiles that we did not have in 2006. We also have a large and powerful branch of UAVs," Hezbollah's chief further said.

Then, he held up a map of Israeli-occupied territories to the camera, pointing to potential targets for Hezbollah's attacks.

"There is an area 70 kilometers long and 20 kilometers wide ... we can destroy it all," Nasrallah said.

However, he said a war with Israel was unlikely to happen anytime soon, stressing that Israel will not risk another war on Lebanon thanks to Hezbollah's deterrent force.

Nasrallah also said that he had deep hope that "we will pray in al-Quds [Mosque compound]" and that he was "certain of victory in any future war, God is with us."

Zionist Regime 'Becoming Racist, Apartheid Regime' With Annexation Plan



A couple walks past a defaced election billboard for the Likud party showing U.S. President Donald Trump (L) shaking hands with Likud chairman and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in al-Quds on September 14, 2019.

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's announcement of his intention to annex areas of the West Bank following next week's elections shows the Zionist regime is becoming a "racist, apartheid regime", Turkey's foreign minister was quoted as saying on Sunday.

Netanyahu said on Tuesday he would annex the Jordan Valley, a swathe of the occupied West Bank that the occupying regime captured in 1967 and which Palestinians want as part of a future state. The move alarmed Middle Eastern nations, European powers and Arab foreign ministers.

On Saturday, Turkey's foreign ministry said the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) would convene in Jeddah on Sunday to discuss Netanyahu's statement.

Speaking in Jeddah, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Netanyahu's "embarrassing" plan was a "despicable" attempt to earn votes ahead of Tuesday's election, and criticized what he called a lack of reaction from other Muslim countries.

"Israel, encouraged by the support of certain countries, is continuing its aggressive policies that are turning it into a racist, apartheid regime," Cavusoglu was quoted as saying by the state-run Anadolu news agency.

"If the whole Muslim community had reacted together, the reckless plans, policies and behavior of the United States and Israel would never have reached this point," Cavusoglu said.

Turkey and the Zionist regime, former allies, have long been at odds over the regime's policy toward the Palestinians and al-Quds' status. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan called for a summit of the OIC twice last year after U.S. President Donald Trump decided to recognize al-Quds as the Zionist regime's capital.

Turkey and the occupying regime also expelled each other's top diplomats last year during a dispute over clashes when dozens of Palestinians were killed by Zionist troops on the Gaza border. The two sides continue to trade with one another.

Zionist Regime Says 'Approves' West Bank Outpost Ahead of Elections

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's cabinet said on Sunday that it has "approved" an outpost in the Jordan Valley in the occupied West Bank, two days before the regime's parliamentary elections.

The decision was made during a special meeting of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet in the previously unauthorized outpost Mevo'ot Yeriho near the West Bank city of Ariha.

According to a statement issued by the Zionist prime minister's office, the cabinet voted to retroactively legalize the outpost.

Mevo'ot Yeriho was first established in 1999 with nowadays some 30 families living there.

Zionist settlement activity is deemed illegal by most world powers and under the interna-

tional law, and considered one of the issues that hindered the talks between Palestinians and the Zionist regime.

Netanyahu is on a re-election campaign and such moves are sought by his right-wing base.

Last week, he announced a plan to annex the Jordan Valley and some of the Dead Sea settlements if he wins the Sept. 17 elections. The lands comprise together more than 22 percent of the West Bank.

The plan triggered international concerns, including the Palestinian Authority which said that such a move will effectively cancel the interim agreements in the 1990s.

Office of the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that such steps, if implemented, "would constitute a serious violation of international law."

Afghan Forces Kill Taliban Governors, Militants

KABUL (Dispatches) – Afghan forces killed two senior Taliban ringleaders and at least 38 militants of the terrorist group in joint air strikes conducted in northern and western regions of Afghanistan, officials said on Sunday.

The operations, launched on Saturday night, were aimed at foiling attacks planned by the Taliban on Afghan forces, said a senior security official in capital Kabul, adding that clashes have escalated following the collapse

of diplomatic talks between the U.S. and the Taliban.

The defense ministry in a statement said that the Taliban's designate governor for northern Samangan province, Mawlawi Nooruddin, was killed along with four militants in an air strike in Dara-e-Soof Payeen district.

But the Taliban denied the governor had been killed.

"He (Nooruddin) is alive," said Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman said in a state-

ment.

In a separate incident, Mullah Sayed Azim, a Taliban designate governor for Anar Dara district in western Farah was killed in a joint Afghan and foreign force raid.

"Sayed Azim was killed along with 34 other insurgents in Anar Dara," said Mohibullah Mohib, a spokesman for Farah provincial police.

Senior security officials in Kabul said several joint operations will be launched against Taliban

and Daesh terrorists to prevent attacks on Afghan forces and civilians ahead of the presidential polls on Sept. 28.

Fighting picked up in several parts of Afghanistan last week after U.S. President Donald Trump's abrupt cancellation of talks with the Taliban aimed at withdrawing U.S. troops and opening the way to end to 18 year-long war in Afghanistan.

Last week the Taliban killed four Afghan special force members in a car bomb blast.

Thousands of Civilians Return Home in Syria

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Thousands of civilians returned to their homes in the countryside of Hama and Idlib provinces on Sunday through a crossing set up by the Syrian army, state news agency SANA reported.

The civilians crossed to their homes in the southern countryside of the northwestern province of Idlib and the adjacent northern countryside of Hama province in central Syria through the Souran crossing in northern Hama, SANA reported.

The return of displaced civilians comes after the Syrian army secured their areas and removed mines left by the terrorists ahead of their defeat, SANA said.

The al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front prevented civilians for the second straight day from leaving areas in Idlib through the Abu al-Duhur crossing.

SANA said that the terrorists fired on civilian cars attempting to leave the area.

Late last month, the Syrian army agreed to observe a cease-fire in Idlib, the last major terrorist stronghold in the country.

Large parts of the northwestern province of Idlib and parts of neighboring Hama constitute the last major militant stronghold in Syria.

Late last month, the Russian Reconciliation Center for Syria announced a unilateral

ceasefire by government forces in the Idlib de-escalation zone.

On August 5, the Syrian army declared in a statement the start of an offensive against foreign-sponsored militants in Idlib after those positioned in the de-escalation zone failed to honor a ceasefire brokered by Russia and Turkey and continued to target civilian neighborhoods.

The Syrian government troops, backed by Russian warplanes, have been regaining control of further areas once held by militants.

The Russian military assistance began in September 2015 at the official request of the Syrian government.