


TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Muslims across the world are mourning the passing away anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him). As of every year, the holy shrine of Imam Reza, the eighth Shia Imam and a descendant of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) hosts pilgrims who converge on the holy site to mourn the demise of their prophet. This year, however, there is a difference; the coronavirus pandemic has called off most of the ceremonies, and the holy shrine of Imam Reza has hosted a fewer number of pilgrims. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was born in modern-day Saudi Arabia in a society gripped by violence. (Continued on Page 7)

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran and Ukraine will start three days of talks over a downed Ukrainian aircraft in Tehran from Monday, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The sides will discuss compensation terms as well as the technical and legal aspects of Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 that Iran mistakenly shot down in January, killing all 176 aboard, IRNA reported, citing Mohsen Baharvand, the deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs. The previous round of talks was held in Kyiv in July.

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**Iran Blasts U.S. 'Genocide' Against World Nations**



**Iran's Short Film Goes to Canadian Festival**



**Iran's Mixed Team Recurve Open Gains Gold**



**Iraq Resistance Groups' Truce With U.S. Temporary, Conditional: MP**



## Karabakh Conflict Slips Into War of Cities

GANJA, Azerbaijan (Dispatches) -- A missile strike leveled a row of homes in Azerbaijan's second city of Ganja Saturday, killing and badly injuring people in their sleep in a sharp escalation of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The early hours attack saw a second missile strike another part of Ganja and a third reach the nearby strategic city of Mingecevir.

An AFP team in Ganja saw rows of houses turned to rubble by the strike, which shattered the walls and ripped the roofs off buildings in the surrounding streets.

People ran outside in shock and tears, stumbling through muddy alleys in their slippers, some wearing bathroom robes and pajamas.

One witness said he saw rescuers pull a small child, two women and four men from the debris in the minutes immediately after the strike.

"We were sleeping. The kids were watching TV," Rubaba Zhafarova, 65, said in front of her destroyed house. "All the houses around here are destroyed. Many people are under the rubble. Some are dead, some are wounded."

The attack came only six days after a missile struck another residential part of the city of more than 300,000 people, killing 10 civilians.

Hikmat Hajiyev, an assistant to Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev, tweeted that according to "initial information, more than 20 houses were destroyed" on Saturday.

Baku said 13 civilians were killed and more than 50 wounded in Ganja, while Yerevan accused Azerbaijan of continued shelling.

Baku also said that an electricity line which goes from Azerbaijan to neighboring Georgia was damaged as a result of shelling in the town of Mingachevir.

Azeri President Ilham Aliyev accused Armenia of committing a war crime by shelling Ganja. "If the international community does not punish Armenia, we will do it," he said.

Aliyev said the Azeri army has completely taken over two regions previously held by separatists, Fizuli and Jabrail. "We are dominating the battlefield," he said, adding that Azeri armed forces never targeted civilian settlements.

Aliyev also questioned Armenia's ability to keep replacing military hardware destroyed in battles, a thinly veiled jab at Yerevan's ally

Moscow. Armenia denied the Azeri claim that it had been bringing arms illegally and accused Azerbaijan of acting to expand Turkey's influence in the region and of using pro-Turkish mercenaries - charges both Ankara and Baku deny.

The Armenian defense ministry denied the Azeri claim on shelling cities in Azerbaijan and accused Baku of continuing to shell populated areas inside Nagorno-Karabakh, including Stepanakert.

Three civilians were wounded as a result of Azeri fire in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Armenian foreign ministry said.

Armenia also said several Azeri drones flew over settlements in Armenia, attacked military installations and damaged the civilian infrastructure. It denied an Azeri claim to have downed an Armenian Su-25 warplane.

Baku said on Saturday that 60 Azeri civilians had been killed and 270 wounded since the fighting flared on Sept. 27. Azerbaijan has not disclosed military casualties.

Nagorno-Karabakh says 633 of its military personnel have been killed, and 34 civilians.

The fighting is the worst in the region since Azerbaijan and ethnic Armenian forces went to war in the 1990s over Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountain territory that is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan but populated and governed by ethnic Armenians.

But Armenia, which backs Nagorno-Karabakh but does not recognize its independence, has admitted that Azerbaijani forces have made important gains.

AFP on Friday was taken by the Azerbaijani military to one settlement re-captured in the southern section of the conflict zone near the Iranian border.

Officials said they last controlled the settlement of Jabrayil, which includes strategic heights overlooking a fertile valley, during the post-Soviet war.

The current escalation is the deadliest and longest since that six-year conflict.

The shelling of Stepanakert and the strikes on Ganja followed a joint call from Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Wednesday to "end the bloodshed as soon as possible."

## Trump Grapples With Possibility of Losing Election



President Donald Trump walks up the stairs to Air Force One on October 16, 2020 in Ocala, Florida.

OCALA, United States (Dispatches) -- President Donald Trump has begun grappling in public with the possibility he may lose the election. At a rally Friday night, he floated the prospect of fleeing abroad. "Could you imagine if I lose?" he said. "I'm not going to feel so good. Maybe I'll have to leave the country, I don't know."

Trump said this in a jokey manner, but he doesn't make jokes, at least not in the ordinary manner most people do. His "jokes" are almost always the barely-disguised expression of underlying distress, the New York magazine wrote.

Trump also said he would blame

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis if he lost the potentially pivotal battleground state in the presidential election and quipped about firing him -- a statement that raised eyebrows due to Trump's history of accusing Democratic governors of working to tilt the election against him.

"Hey Ron, are we gonna win the state please?" Trump asked DeSantis, a Republican and close ally at a rally in Ocala, Florida, adding that if he doesn't win "I'm blaming the governor."

Trump said he would "find a way" to "fire him somehow. I'm

going to fire him."

The comment comes as Trump has baselessly accused Democratic governors of "rigging" the election against him by expanding mail-in voting and maintaining stay-at-home orders, even claiming in December they pose a bigger threat to the election than foreign countries.

Florida stands as a surprising exception to Trump's unfounded denunciations of mail-in voting as substantially fraudulent -- he said in August that mail-in voting is "safe and secure" in the state because of its "great Republican governor."

Trump made several other shock-

ing statements at his rally, including encouraging supporters to chant "12 more years" instead of "four more years," and calling on the Justice Department to investigate Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.), a common foil of his.

Trump often makes similar statements of questionable legality at his rallies, including saying in September he would negotiate for a third term in office because he's "entitled" to it. He also spoke about issuing an executive order to prevent his Democratic rival Joe Biden from becoming president at a rally in September, exclaiming, "You can't have this guy as your president."

Biden said earlier this month he warned governors that their support for him could lead to retaliation from Trump. "I told some governors, don't endorse me, who wanted to endorse me," he said during a virtual town hall with the Amalgamated Transit Union. "Don't endorse me because you'll pay a penalty. You won't get what you need from the federal government in terms of COVID prep."

Trump's remarks come after a major poll on Thursday put Biden at 11 percentage points ahead. A survey of Florida voters also claimed the Republican is behind by three points.

Addressing supporters in Macon, Georgia, on Friday evening, Trump said: "Running against the worst candidate in the history of American politics puts pressure on me. Could you imagine if I lose? My whole life, what am I going to do?"

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## Russia Says Open to Military Cooperation With Iran

MOSCOW (Dispatches) -- Russia says it will consider military technical cooperation with Iran in line with mutual interests after a UN arms embargo on Tehran expires.

"We are convinced that all possibilities stemming from the expiration of the provisions of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 that are linked with military technical cooperation with Iran will be duly taken into account and used on the basis of mutual benefit and in the interests of the peoples of our two states," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Thursday.

She was referring to the resolution that endorsed a multilateral 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and major world powers, including Russia.

Zakharova said all parties to talks about Iran's nuclear program were aware from the very

beginning that there is no link between restrictions on weapons supplies to Tehran and the settlement of issues pertaining to its nuclear program.

She said the United Nations Security Council did not impose a weapons embargo on Iran in 2015, but the country "voluntarily undertook a number of restrictions."

"It was done in the interests of the soonest successful outcome of the talks on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to settle the situation around the Iranian nuclear program," the Russian diplomat said.

She noted that the term of the corresponding provisions has expired.

Zakharova also stressed that Iran is a "reliable partner" for Russia in many areas of cooperation.

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## Morales Outlines 'Colonial' U.S. Plans in Bolivia

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Former Bolivian President Evo Morales, who is living under asylum in Argentina, says the United States and its allies are making efforts to prevent his return in defiance of calls at home for him to seize power.

Morales made the remarks in an interview with Iran's Hispan TV Spanish-language television network on Friday.

"The U.S. is trying so that I won't return. We seek freedom, which is the goal of the people.... Our intention is to liberate Bolivia in terms of political, cultural, social and even economic ideology. As the government and people, we want to take an important step and move towards industrialization after nationalization, but they (the Americans) do not like this," he said.

The ex-president also criticized interim Interior Minister Arturo Murillo for travelling to the U.S.

last month to buy weapons for allegedly preserving democracy in the Latin American state.

"Weapons for democracy?! How it will be possible? It will make people aware of where these weapons came from! Losing a country's freedom, democracy and international law is like losing that country's natural resources," he added.

Morales further condemned as "racist and discriminatory" a statement by interim President Jeanne Anez, who called for obstructing the return of what she called savages to Bolivia.

Expressing dismay at Anez's "colonial mentality," he noted, "The people are united against these comments. They have shown in gatherings, rallies and etc. that they are stronger and more vigilant than ever and that they are aware of our endeavors to rebuild democracy and peace."

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