

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime’s so-called supreme court has rejected an appeal filed by Palestinians to establish an Arabic school in Nof HaGalil, a town in the north of the country, where 37 percent of students and 27 percent of residents are from the Arab community.

Palestinian parents had asked the court to oblige the Nof HaGalil municipality and the Ministry of Education to set up an elementary, Arabic-language school in the town.

When you get ill do not get nervous about it and try as much as possible to be hopeful.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Overpowered by Yemeni Forces

Saudi Arabia Turns to Greece to Defend Itself



Yemeni forces have stepped up retaliatory attacks on strategic Saudi targets, including oil infrastructures and airports.

RIYADH (Dispatches) – **After failing to defeat Yemeni forces in the years-long war, Saudi Arabia will receive a Patriot missile battery from Greece to defend itself against retaliatory attacks from its southern neighbor, officials said on Tuesday.**

Greek officials said that the surface-to-air system would help defend against increasing reprisals by the Yemeni forces against critical energy infrastructure.

Saudi Arabia, a top crude exporter which started its offensive against Yemen in 2015, relies heavily on U.S.-made Patriots to intercept missiles and drones fired at the kingdom on a near-daily basis by Yemeni forces.

“We signed the agreement to transfer a Patriot battery here in Saudi Arabia,” Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias said in a statement during a visit to Riyadh with Defense Minister

Nikos Panagiotopoulos.

In a separate statement, Panagiotopoulos said the Patriot would be “deployed in the coming period and operate on Saudi Arabian soil... to protect critical energy infrastructure from terrorist threats”.

The announcement comes after the United States declared in May last year that it was pulling out four of its Patriots from Saudi Arabia.

It also came the day the Ye-

meni army carried out a successful drone attack against a “military site” within the Abha International Airport in south-western Saudi Arabia, keeping up the impoverished country’s retaliation against a Riyadh-led war.

The reprisal against the terminal that lies in the kingdom’s Asir region took place by one of the Yemeni armed forces’ indigenously-manufactured Qasef-2K UAVs, army spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Saree said in a brief statement.

“The hit was accurate,” Saree noted in the statement that was reported by Yemen’s al-Masirah television network. “This targeting comes in response to the escalation of aggression and the ongoing siege on our dear country.”

The Saudi kingdom and its allies have been waging the war for more than seven years in an attempt to restore Yemen’s former Riyadh-allied officials.

Tens of thousands of Yemenis have perished during the aggression that has been accompanied by a crippling siege of the Arab world’s already poorest nation.

Turkey Postpones Afghan Summit Over Taliban No-Show



Noorullah Noori (C) and Mohammad Nabi Omari (R), members of the Taliban who were former prisoners held by the US at Guantanamo Bay and reportedly released in 2014 in a prisoner exchange, attend the Intra Afghan Dialogue talks in the Qatari capital Doha on July 7, 2019.

ANKARA (Al Jazeera) – Turkey says it is postponing a much-anticipated Afghan conference in Istanbul until the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. “We thought that it would be beneficial to postpone it ... We consulted Qatar, the United States and the United Nations and decided to hold it after Ramadan and Eid festivities,” Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told the Haberturk news channel on Tuesday.

Cavusoglu added that there is “no need to hurry” after the recent decision by the U.S. to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.

The Eid al-Fitr holiday follows Ramadan, which ends this year in mid-May.

The international conference was scheduled to be held from April 24 until May 4.

The Taliban had earlier refused to attend any Afghan peace summit until all foreign forces were pulled out of Afghanistan.

“The conference would be meaningless without the Taliban joining. At the moment, we decided to postpone it since there is no clarity about the formation of the delegations and partici-

pation,” Cavusoglu said.

“The aim is not to initiate alternative talks to Doha but to contribute to the process. Hosting the meeting together in Istanbul will be Turkey, Qatar and the UN.”

A senior Afghan government official told the Reuters news agency the Istanbul meeting is “not happening on the given date because the Taliban refused to attend”.

Taliban spokesman Mohammad Naem told Reuters in a text message that the group did not have any information about the postponement and that he could not say anything about future dates for the conference, post-Ramadan.

An Afghan government spokesman declined to comment on the matter. There was no immediate revised date.

The U.S. and Taliban last year agreed that all foreign forces would be withdrawn from Afghanistan by May 1 – a date that was pushed back last week by U.S. President Joe Biden.

Taliban and Afghan government negotiators began talks last year in the Qatari capital of Doha but progress was slow and violence continued to escalate in Afghanistan.

Biden Green-Lights \$23bn UAE Arms Sales Despite Objections

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – **The administration of U.S. President Joe Biden has informed Congress that it is advancing Trump-era \$23 billion arms sales to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) that includes highly advanced aerial weaponry despite widespread objections, a State Department spokesperson confirmed on Tuesday.**

The notification of the sale of F-35 stealth fighters, MQ-9 Reaper drones and munitions was delivered to Congress more than a week ago.

Lawmakers were notified “even as we continue to review details to ensure that we have clear, mutual understanding with respect to Emirati obligations and actions before, during, and after delivery,” the spokesperson said in an email exchange with Anadolu Agency.

The sale has long faced stiff criticism on Capitol Hill where lawmakers have raised concerns about the UAE’s involvement in a Saudi-led offensive against Yemen.

Saudi Arabia, backed by the U.S. and other regional allies, including the UAE, launched a devastating war on Yemen in March 2015, with the goal of bringing former Riyadh-aligned govern-

ment back to power and crushing Ansarullah.

The Saudi-led military aggression has left hundreds of thousands of Yemenis dead, and displaced millions of people. It has also destroyed Yemen’s infrastructure and spread famine and infectious diseases across the country.

The invasion has resulted in what the UN has said is the world’s worst humanitarian catastrophe.

Seeking to allay concerns about the arms sale, the State Department spokesperson said Biden “has made it clear that the rule of law and respect for human rights are front and center in U.S. foreign policy.”

“Under this Administration, the United States will insist on adherence to our agreements on the use of U.S. origin defense equipment by our allies and partners, compliance with both the laws of armed conflict and respect for human rights, and we will consider the full range of consequences should violations occur,” the spokesperson claimed.

Many argue that policies adopted by Biden are continuation of the Trump administration’s policies.

President Assad to Run for Syrian Presidential Elections

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – **Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on Wednesday applied to run for the Syrian presidential elections slated for May, according to the state news agency SANA.**

Hamoudeh al-Sabbagh, the Syrian parliament speaker, said that so far, six people, including a woman, have applied to take part in the presidential race, and more people are expected to apply in the coming days.

Assad filed his request for candidature in the May 26 elections to Syria’s Supreme Constitutional Court on Wednesday. “Just as the Syrian army managed to confront terrorism in the battleground and defeat the terrorists, each and every one of us will frustrate the plots that have targeted Syria too by taking part in the elections,” he noted.

The election campaign starts

as of April 19 for 10 days.

The election day for the Syrians abroad is set on May 20, while for the Syrians inside the country, it will be held on May 26.

Assad first became Syria’s president in 2000, and has retained the capacity by winning consecutive elections. The last elections were held in 2014.

A legislation was passed two years before the last polls, en-

abling creation of a multi-party political system in the country.

In line with the Syrian law, the candidates must have spent their last 10 years in Syria and should not be dual nationals.

Eyes are on the elections as a landmark reflecting the country’s transition towards stability from the chaos and mayhem that it began experiencing in 2011 in the form of foreign-backed militancy and terrorism.

Ankara Seeks Jail Terms for Dozens Over Student Protests

ISTANBUL (AFP) – **Turkish prosecutors have demanded jail terms for 97 people who joined student protests against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s appointment of a party loyalist as a top university’s rector.**

According to Anadolu state news agency, the indictment said the suspects defied a ban on rallies imposed as part of measures to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

Prosecutors are seeking jail terms from six months to three years because of the suspects’ non-compliance with a law on “unarmed participation in unlawful rallies and refusal to disperse despite the warnings,” Anadolu said.

No date was given for the first hearing.

The protest movement — the biggest to rattle Erdogan’s rule in years — kicked off when the Turkish leader appointed long-standing ruling party member Melih Bulu as rector of Bogazici University at the start of the year.

The rallies began inside the campus grounds before spreading to the streets of Istanbul and other big cities with the backing of government opponents.

The indictment specifically refers to a February 1 protest in Istanbul in which several groups defied police warnings and rallied outside the university’s locked gate.

Police roughly rounded up 108 people that day.

Ninety-seven of them were later released and a probe was launched against them by the prosecutor’s office, according to the indictment.

Prosecutors are conducting separate inquiries against the 11 remaining people, one of whom is underage.

The student demonstrations had echoes of 2013 protests that sprang up against plans to demolish an Istanbul park before spreading nationally and posing the first big political dilemma for Erdogan.

He has compared student protesters to “terrorists” and the rector at the root of the demonstrations has refused to give in to demands to step down.