

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – The Lebanese Internal Security Forces (ISF) arrested a suspected member of Daesh terrorist group in the Bekaa governorate, a statement from the Directorate General of the ISF reported Saturday. “On Jan. 22, the ISF arrested a Lebanese national in the town of Majdal Anjar on suspicion of belonging to a terrorist organization, committing fraud, selling weapons and people smuggling,” the statement said, adding “the suspect was identified as R.A., born in 1979.”

A conceited and self-admiring person is disliked by others.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Yemeni Army Attacks Saudi-Backed Militants

SANAA (Dispatches) – The Yemeni army has inflicted heavy human and material losses on Saudi Arabian-backed militants during attacks in northwestern Yemen.

On Saturday, the Yemeni army struck the positions of a group of militants backing Yemen’s former Riyadh-allied regime the al-Mahashamah and al-Yatmah districts of al-Jawf Province, Yemen’s al-Masirah television reported.

The attacks killed and injured a large number of the militants and destroyed much of their military hardware, it reported. A number of the militants also reportedly surrendered themselves to the army.

The militants have been receiving logistical and arms support from Riyadh to further its goal of restoring the government of former Yemeni president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi to power. Hadi had resigned back in 2015 but later sought to reclaim power.

The Yemeni army and Houthi fighters, who are helping the army fight off a Saudi Arabian-led war of aggression, also caused an unspecified number of casualties in similar



People inspect a destroyed vehicle at the site of a Saudi airstrike in the northwestern province of Sa’ada, Yemen, on January 24, 2018.

attacks against Saudi mercenaries in the southwestern Yemeni province of Ta’izz on Friday. The operations also destroyed 20 military and armored vehicles, while three vehicles belonging to pro-Hadi forces were destroyed in the nearby Sana’a Province’s Nihm District.

Meanwhile, Yemeni army soldiers, backed by fighters from allied Popular Committees, have shot dead three Saudi soldiers in the

kingdom’s southwestern border region of Jizan, in retaliation for the Riyadh regime’s military campaign against the crisis-hit country.

An unnamed military source told Yemen’s Arabic-language al-Masirah television network that Yemeni forces and their allies shot and killed the soldiers in al-Ghawi village as well as al-Shabakeh and al-Dokhan military camps in the region, located 967 kilometers south-

west of the capital Riyadh, on Friday evening.

Furthermore, Yemeni forces fired a solid propellant Zelzal-2 (Earthquake-2) missile at a position of Saudi mercenaries in the Mawza district of Yemen’s southern province of Ta’izz, leaving scores of them dead and injured.

At least 13,600 people have been killed since the onset of Saudi Arabia’s military campaign against Yemen in 2015. Much of the country’s infrastructure, including hospitals, schools and factories, has been reduced to rubble due to the war.

The Saudi-led war has also triggered a deadly cholera epidemic across Yemen.

According to the World Health Organization’s latest tally, the cholera outbreak has killed 2,167 people since the end of April 2017 and is suspected to have infected 841,906.

In November 2017, the United Nations children’s agency, UNICEF, said more than 11 million children in Yemen were in acute need of aid, stressing that it was estimated that every 10 minutes a child died of a preventable disease there.

Saudi Billionaire Prince Alwaleed Released

RIYADH (Dispatches) – Saudi Arabian billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal was released from detention on Saturday, family sources said, more than two months after he was taken into custody in the kingdom’s sweeping crackdown on corruption.

His release came hours after he told Reuters in an interview at Riyadh’s opulent Ritz-Carlton hotel that he expected to be cleared of any wrongdoing and be freed within days.

A senior Saudi official said Prince Alwaleed’s release had come about after a financial settlement was reached with the attorney general.

“The attorney general has approved this morning the settlement that was reached with Prince

Alwaleed bin Talal, and the prince returned home at 1100 A.M.,” the official told Reuters, without giving details on the terms.

But the decision to free him, and the release of several other well-known tycoons on Friday, suggested the main part of the corruption probe was winding down after it sent shockwaves through Saudi Arabia’s business and political establishment.

“He has arrived home,” one source in Prince Alwaleed’s family told Reuters.

The Saudi prince was one of the businessmen and royals rounded up in November 2017 in an alleged “anti-corruption campaign” spearheaded by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Observers said the campaign

was actually meant to consolidate bin Salman’s power and silence his critics.

Bin Talal’s detention and the ensuing reports regarding his situation in custody made headlines around the world, putting pressure on bin Salman, who was linked to pricey art and real estate purchases at the height of the “anti-graft” clampdown.

On November 9, 2017, the Middle East Eye (MEE) news portal revealed that some of those detained in the Saudi crackdown were beaten and tortured so badly during their arrest or subsequent interrogations.

However, the report added, there are no wounds to the faces of those caught up so they will look normal when they next ap-

pear in public.

Bin Talal had reportedly been hung upside down and beaten at Ritz-Carlton Hotel. His father also went on hunger strike in protest at the detention of three of his sons as part of the kingdom’s purported anti-graft campaign.

Elsewhere in his interview, bin Talal, who is a nephew of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, claimed that he had been well treated, rejecting reports of mistreatment and of being moved from Ritz-Carlton Hotel to a prison.

He further claimed that he was expected to keep control of his global investment company Kingdom Holding without being required to give up assets to the government.

‘Zionist Regime Behind Recent Car Bombing in Lebanon’

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – The Lebanese Interior Ministry says the Zionist regime masterminded a car bombing that injured an official with the Palestinian resistance movement of Hamas in southwestern Lebanon earlier in the month.

A bomb went off in the Bustan al-Kabir neighborhood of the Lebanese city of Sidon on January 14. The target was identified as Abu Hamza Hamdan, one of the leaders of the Gaza Strip-based resistance group.

On Friday, the press office of Lebanese Interior Minister Nohad Mashnuq said one of the perpetrators had been coordinating with the Zionist regime.

In a statement distributed among reporters, it said investigators had

been able to arrest “one of the main perpetrators of the crime, who confessed to being tasked by Israeli intelligence.”

The statement did not specify the suspect’s nationality but said investigators seized “very advanced communications mechanisms from his home, and correspondence between him and his handlers.”

After the attack, Lebanon’s al-Akhbar newspaper published a report saying the Zionist regime’s Mossad spy agency had orchestrated the bombing. It said the Lebanese Army Intelligence Directorate and the Internal Security Forces Directorate had managed to identify the ringleader of the cell that carried out the assassination attempt.

Israel has targeted and assassi-

nated Hamas officials before. It has also waged two major wars against Lebanon in the 2000s, trying unsuccessfully to weaken the Lebanese resistance movement of Hezbollah.

On Wednesday, Lebanon’s Prime Minister Saad Hariri called the occupying regime of Israel the real threat to Lebanon’s stability.

“The only threat I see is Israel taking some kind of action against Lebanon, out of a miscalculation,” Hariri told an audience at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. “And this is the real threat, I believe. I think the other issues are challenges, yes... But when Israel decides to launch a war against Lebanon, this is something that is unexplainable.”

Senior Qatari Delegation to Visit U.S.

DOHA (Dispatches) – A Qatari delegation of high-level officials will visit the United States to boost bilateral relations, Qatar News Agency (QNA) reported Saturday.

According to QNA, the delegation will attend Qatari-U.S. Strategic Dialogue on Jan. 30, aiming to enhance the relations between the two countries.

During the visit, the two countries will sign agreements in various fields, especially in energy and cyber-security.

The delegation, consisting of five teams from various ministries of the Qatar, will be led by Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin

Jassim al-Thani, Minister of State for Defense Affairs, Khalid bin Mohamed al-Attiyah, Minister of Energy and Industry, Mohammed bin Saleh al-Sada, Minister of Economy and Commerce, Sheikh Ahmed bin Jassim al-Thani and Minister of Finance Ali Shareef al-Emadi.

Accompanying the delegation will be representatives of other ministries and authorities.

Qatar, the first country to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the United States in combating “terrorism financing,” is currently facing an all-round blockade imposed by its Persian Gulf neighbors

on June 5.

The Saudi-led Arab quartet demanded Qatar end its alleged support for terrorism, cut its links with Iran and stop its intervention in other countries’ affairs.

But Qatar has vehemently rejected the allegations.

Qatar is home to the vast Al-Udeid air base that hosts some 10,000 U.S. troops.

Over the last several years, Qatar-U.S. bilateral trade has witnessed steady growth. The volume of trade exchange reached 6 billion U.S. dollars in 2016, making the United States become Qatar’s sixth largest trading partner.

Syria: Peace Proposal by U.S., Saudi Arabia ‘Not Even Worth the Ink’



Bashar al-Ja’afari (R), the Syrian ambassador to the United Nations and head of the government delegation to intra-Syrian peace talks, speaks to journalists in Vienna, Austria, on January 26, 2018.

NEW YORK (Dispatches) – The Syrian ambassador to the United Nations and head of the government delegation to intra-Syrian peace talks has strongly rejected a proposal offered by some countries, including the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, for the resolution of the Syrian crisis, saying the so-called plan is “not even worth the ink.”

Bashar al-Ja’afari made the remarks at a press conference held at the end of UN-brokered indirect peace negotiations between the Syrian government and opposition groups in the Austrian capital city of Vienna, referring to what he described as an informal paper about reviving the political process in Geneva proposed by the U.S., Britain, France, Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

“Every word and sentence of this unofficial paper is rejected. And it is not worth the ink that it is printed on because the people will not and do not accept solutions which come down on parachutes or on the backs of tanks,” Ja’afari said.

Furthermore, he blasted the five countries and told reporters that the proposal was “tantamount to a black comedy.”

“All of them have participated in the bloodshed of the Syrian people,” he said of the five nations, denouncing Washington as the creator, financial supporter and protector of the Daesh terrorist group.

How can the U.S., which “has Syrian blood on its hands... and attacks Syria directly,... speak of a political solution and the future of Syria? How can countries like Britain and France, which follow the American policy..., be the makers of any political solution... in Syria?” Ja’afari asked.

The senior Syrian negotiator also blasted Jordan for opening “its territories for foreign terrorists” and becoming “a haven for training camps” for them. He also questioned Amman’s eligibility as a determiner of Syria’s “politics, sovereignty and... future.”

Ja’afari went on to lambast Saudi Arabia for co-authoring such a proposal, describing Riyadh sarcastically as anything but a “beacon of freedom in the east.”

Speaking about the Vienna two-day meeting, he said the Syrian delegation had constructive discussions with UN Special Envoy on Syria Staffan de Mistura. “We used the meeting to answer many questions, especially with regard to Sochi’s congress,” Ja’afari said.

Ja’afari’s comments came just three days before a separate round of intra-Syrian national dialogue between Damascus and the opposition would commence in the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi. On Thursday, Russia said some 1,600 people had been invited to the Congress of National Dialogue aimed at resolving the years-long crisis in the Arab country.