

KUWAIT CITY (MEMO) – Kuwait is looking into the possibility of allowing women to join the army, according to local reports. Assistant Chief of Staff of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces, Major General Dr. Khaled Al-Kandari, was quoted by Al-Anbaa as saying that the move is likely to happen this year. Kuwaiti women have been serving as police officers since 2001. Al-Kandari made his comments during the launch of the “Be among them” campaign, which aims to raise awareness among young people about the various roles available in the military and encouraging them to comply with the requirements of conscription.

What do you want to know about a person whose life is leading him towards ultimate death, whose health is the first stage towards illness and whom society has forced out of his retreat.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Yemeni Army Kills Dozens of Mercenaries in Ma'rib

SANAA (Dispatches) – Dozens of Saudi-backed mercenaries and militants were either killed or injured as the Yemeni army press on with their operation in the country's oil-rich province of Ma'rib, a military official told Xinhua on Wednesday.

“Daily casualties highly increased as the Yemeni army forces continued in attacking Ma'rib from various directions in a coordinated plan,” the local military source said on condition of anonymity.

During the past 48 hours, the army forces have continued with its pus to take back the strategic region from the militants.

Another Yemeni official told Xinhua that “most of the Yemeni army attacks concentrated on the northern and western sides of Ma'rib despite the heavy (Saudi) airstrikes targeting their sites.”

In Rahbah area located in Ma'rib's southern side, the fighting continues heavily between the two warring sides with intensified Saudi-led airstrikes.



Militants loyal to Saudi Arabia man a position near the frontline facing Yemeni troops in the country's northeastern province of Ma'rib, on June 19, 2021.

In a separate incident, Saudi warplanes carried out more than a dozen airstrikes against various areas in Yemen's southwestern province of Ta'izz early Wednesday morning.

Yemen's al-Masirah television network reported that the aircraft pounded the mountainous Jabal Aman area, Ta'izz International Airport as well as At Ta'iziyah

district on 15 occasions.

There were, however, no immediate reports about possible casualties or the extent of damage.

Saudi Arabia, backed by the U.S. and regional allies, launched a war on Yemen in March 2015, with the goal of bringing the government of former Yemeni president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi back to power and crushing Ansarullah

movement.

The war has left hundreds of thousands of Yemenis dead, and displaced millions more. It has also destroyed Yemen's infrastructure and spread famine and infectious diseases.

A senior Yemeni official said the Saudi-led war on his country would have ended in its first year if there had not been political and military support from the United States for the aggressors.

The remarks by Abdul Malik al-Ajri, a member of the negotiating team at the Yemeni National Salvation Government, on Tuesday came after U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken claimed that Yemen's retaliatory attacks were prolonging the war.

“The legitimate right to respond to [the Saudi-led] aggression does not translate into prolonging the war. It is American weapons that are making the Yemen war longer,” Ajri tweeted.

“Without U.S. support, the Yemeni war would have ended in its first year.”

Anti-Taliban Force Vows Resistance to 'Pariah' Government



Afghanistan's last resistance group has called the Taliban's newly announced government 'illegitimate'.

KABUL (AFP) – Afghanistan's last holdout denounced on Wednesday the Taliban's new interim government as “illegitimate” and destined for “pariah” status, after its leader Ahmad Massoud called for a nationwide uprising against the country's new rulers.

Led by the son of legendary resistance fighter Ahmad Shah Massoud -- who was assassinated in 2001 by Al-Qaeda two days before the September 11 attacks -- the National Resistance Front (NRF) remains defiant despite losing control of the Panjshir valley, the group's spokesman said.

He spoke to AFP after the Taliban announced an interim government made up of loyalist hardliners.

“The narrative of a modern Taliban is over... there is no Taliban in favor of an inclusive government,” Ali Maisam Nazary said.

“This is going to become a pariah government, an illegitimate government... just look at the amount of terrorists in this cabinet. And we expect they are going to reform?”

Nazary said the new government does not represent Afghanistan's diverse ethnic mosaic.

All the top posts went to key leaders from the Taliban and the Haqqani network -- the violent faction known for carrying out some of Afghanistan's bloodiest bombings and attacks in recent years.

No women were included.

By excluding representatives from

Afghanistan's many ethnicities -- including its sizeable Shia and Hazara communities -- and launching an attack on the Panjshir Valley, Nazary says the Taliban “have deepened” social divides.

“Afghanistan's ethnic groups are against them.”

In the 20 years the Taliban spent as militants, Afghan society transformed into a much younger population with a taste for greater freedom, Nazary added.

“Afghanistan's ethnic groups are against them.”

As a result, the Taliban will struggle to force people into accepting their restrictive interpretation of sharia law.

“Look at the images from Kabul... Women and men courageously going in the streets, unarmed, and telling the (Taliban) ‘shoot us we don't care we want freedom and justice’,” Nazary said.

“You have a population that hates them. How is the Taliban going to rule a country like this?”

Nazary said the protesters were emboldened by Massoud's audio message on Monday asking Afghans to “begin a national uprising for the dignity, freedom and prosperity of our country”.

The message came after the Taliban claimed to have taken over the Panjshir Valley, a traditional bastion of resistance -- first against the Soviets, then against the Taliban.

Islamic Jihad Warns Zionist Regime Against Harming Inmates, Families

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) – Islamic Jihad resistance movement in Palestine has warned the Zionist regime not to harm the six Palestinian escapees or those prisoners still held in its jails and their families, local media have reported.

“Harming the prisoners is a red line, and the occupation must consider carefully what we say and understand that we are ready and able to protect our prisoners by all means,” a spokesman for the movement military wing, Al-Quds Brigades, told journalists in Jenin.

The escapees, five of whom are Islamic Jihad members, are “heroes,” he added. “They took their freedom despite the will of their jailers.”

All members of the military wings of the Palestinian factions in Jenin, the spokesman said, are ready to defend the city in case

of any incursion by the regime searching for the escaped prisoners.

Al-Quds Brigades pointed out that the response to any aggression against the prisoners “will be faster than Israel expects.”

The prisoners escaped the Gilbao Prison in the northern part of the occupied territories through an underground tunnel. The facility has earned notoriety as the Zionist regime's version of the Guantanamo prison.

Despite conducting a thorough search for an entire day, the Zionist regime's troops failed so far to find any clues about the escapees' current whereabouts.

Zionist troops are arresting relatives of prisoners on the run. Ad-dameer, the Palestinian prisoner support and human rights association, said on Wednesday at least

seven family members of the escapees were detained by Zionist troops throughout the occupied West Bank, though some were held only briefly.

The Palestinian Wafa news agency said the regime had begun taking out the embarrassment on other Palestinian inmates through a number of measures.

It has transferred more than a dozen prisoners from Gilbao's second ward to another prison and stopped allowing prisoners' access to television. The regime has also taken five of the Islamic Jihad's leaders to Gilbao's interrogation center, and begun rummaging every nook and cranny throughout the prison.

The resistance group said it was monitoring the situation at Israeli prisons, warning the occupying regime against taking “retaliatory

measures” against the prisoners.

The movement said it would not leave its prisoners alone and noted that whatever “Israeli terrorist action” against them was to be met with its due response.

“The Israeli regime should know this that violations targeting the prisoners are our redline,” it said, adding, “We are prepared to and capable of defending our prisoners and have several options at our disposal to do so.”

The Zionist regime keeps Palestinian prisoners in deplorable conditions lacking proper hygienic standards.

More than 7,000 Palestinian prisoners are currently held in some 17 the occupying regime's jails, with dozens of them serving multiple life sentences. Zionist troops have arrested more than 17,000 minors since 2000.

Saudi King Sacks Director of Public Security

RIYADH (Dispatches) – Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz has dismissed the country's director of public security and referred him for investigation, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

SPA said the dismissal of Khalid bin Qaraar al-Harbi comes as part of a royal decree that includes 19 other officials which it did not identify.

The decree was issued based on official reports that al-Harbi “committed numerous violations and breaches with the aim of seizing public money and personal interest.”

Al-Harbi stands “accused of committing a number of crimes, including forgery, bribery, and abuse of power, with the participation of

18 people from the public and private sectors.”

The order also directed the kingdom's official Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority, known as “Nazaha”, to complete investigations into him and everyone involved in the matter, without giving further details.

Nazaha will complete the investigation procedures and take necessary legal measures against all those involved in the graft case, the report said.

Harbi was appointed as the director of Saudi Arabia's General Directorate of Public Security in December 2018.

Last month, Saudi Arabia announced the arrest of 207 employees across about a dozen government ministries on allegations of cor-

ruption, abuse of authority and fraud.

Nazaha announced the arrests on August 9. Those detained were not named and it was unclear when the arrests were made.

In April, Saudi Arabia announced that 176 people from across the country's public sector had been detained on corruption charges.

Mohammed bin Salman, who became the Saudi crown prince in June 2017, has taken extreme measures to secure his power and to sideline all his potential political rivals within and outside the royal family.

The series of purges began in November 2017, five months after bin Salman assumed power, targeting more than 300 Saudi princes, public figures and businessmen.

Egypt, Jordan, Syria Agree Energy Plan for Lebanon

CAIRO (Dispatches) – Egyptian natural gas will be piped to Lebanon via Jordan and Syria to help boost its electricity output under a plan agreed by the four governments in Amman on Wednesday to ease a crippling power crisis.

Tarek El Molla, Egypt's minister for oil and mines, said that his country would “be ready to transfer gas [to Lebanon] as soon as possible” via the transnational Arab Gas Pipeline.

But damage to the pipeline and electricity lines during the decade of foreign-backed war in Syria means that energy supplies cannot start flowing before repairs are carried out.

Fuel and power shortages have been paralyzing the economy and vital services like hospitals in Lebanon.

On Wednesday, Lebanese Energy Minister Raymond Ghajar said the country needed “600 million cubic meters of gas to provide 450 megawatts of electricity”.

The gas pipeline linking Jordan and Syria was hit in August 2020 in a blast dubbed a “terrorist act” by Damascus.

“It will take several months to repair the damaged electric lines in Syria,” AFP reported Jordan's Energy Minister Hala Zawati as saying on Wednesday.

Zawati added that the infrastructure is “almost ready, but there are still repairs” to do.

Lebanon is also “working with the World Bank to ensure the financial resources needed to pay for energy imports from Egypt,” Ghajar said.