

DUBAI (AP) — An Abu Dhabi air ambulance flown by the emirate's police crashed Saturday, killing four people. The Abu Dhabi police gave no details on the location or cause of the crash.

Police said the dead included two pilots, a civilian doctor and a nurse.

Abu Dhabi is the capital of the United Arab Emirates.

Generosity is to help a deserving person without his request, and if you help him after his request, then it is either out of self-respect or to avoid rebuke.

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# 240 Bahraini Scholars Reject Normalization With Zionist Regime



Protesters dodge tear gas canisters on a street in Sitra, Bahrain on Oct. 1, 2021.

MANAMA (Dispatches) — More than 240 Bahraini scholars have strongly denounced the first visit by the Zionist regime's foreign minister to the Persian Gulf state since the two regimes established ties last year and expressed their solidarity with the Palestinians. "We denounce the presence of the foreign minister of the Zionist enemy in Bahrain, and renew our

rejection of all forms of normalization with the usurping regime, including the opening of an embassy and a trade office in Manama," the scholars said in a joint statement.

"We also reiterate our firm support for the Palestinian nation and every iota of the blessed Palestinian lands, which has been drenched in the blood of martyrs

through years of resistance and steadfastness. The murderous invaders are now spilling the blood of Palestinians in Al-Quds and Jenin."

Yair Lapid arrived at Manama airport on Thursday to become the highest-ranking Zionist official to visit the country since the occupying regime and Bahrain forged formal relations last year.

He met King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifah and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifah.

On Friday, a group of young Palestinian men converged outside the diplomatic mission and raised national Palestinian flags to condemn the Al Khalifah regime's decision to normalize relations with Israel, and voiced their support for the Palestinian people.

Dozens of people took to the streets in Samaheej village on the northern coast of Muharraq Island, waving Palestinian and Bahraini flags.

Protesters staged similar rallies in the villages of Abu Saiba and Shakhura, where they carried banners in denunciation of the visit.

Elsewhere in Sitra Island, which lies 5 kilometers (3.1 miles) south of the capital Manama, Bahraini regime forces attacked demonstrators.

The participants were chanting slogans against the inauguration of the occupying regime's embassy in Manama, when regime forces fired shots and tear gas canisters to disperse them.

## Saudi Shelling Kills Civilians in Yemen



Boys look on as workers use a hose to put down fire at a vehicle oil and tires store hit by Saudi air raids in Sana'a, Yemen, in July 2020.

SA'ADA (Dispatches) — The Saudi army has conducted an artillery attack on a residential area in Yemen's northwestern Sa'ada province, killing at least five civilians and wounding 11 others.

Yemen's al-Masirah TV channel reported that the shelling targeted the border town of Manbeh on Friday.

Saudi Arabia launched a military aggression against Yemen in March 2015 in collaboration with a number of its allied states such as the UAE, and with arms and logistics support from the U.S. and several Western countries.

Seven years of the Saudi-led war on Yemen has pushed the Middle East's poorest country to the brink. The aim was to return to power the former Riyadh-backed regime and crush the popular Ansarullah movement which has been running state affairs in the absence of an effective government in Yemen.

The war has stopped well shy of all of its goals, despite killing tens of thousands of Yemenis and turning entire Yemen into the scene of the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

On Friday, the United Nations' top humanitarian official in Yemen

was quoted as saying that while widespread famine was averted in the country earlier this year, the situation is fragile and many essential programs remain at risk of further cuts.

"It's not enough that we just got that one push, we need a continuous stream of support coming in over the next weeks into 2022," David Gressly told VOA. "And until this crisis is solved politically, this situation on the ground will persist."

Efforts to broker a nationwide ceasefire, reopen Sana'a airport and ease restrictions on the flow of fuel and other imports through Hudaydah port have been unsuccessful amid a Saudi-led siege.

More than 20 million Yemenis — in a population of around 30 million — need humanitarian assistance. The World Food Program says 16 million of them are "marching towards starvation," due to a combination of conflict and crippling siege.

The situation of children is especially critical. The UN says one child dies every 10 minutes from preventable causes, including malnutrition and vaccine-preventable diseases.

## Qataris Cast Ballots in First Legislative Elections

DOHA (Al Jazeera) — Qataris voted in the country's first legislative elections for two-thirds of the advisory Shura Council, in a vote that has stirred domestic debate about electoral inclusion and citizenship.

Voters began trickling into polling stations on Saturday, where men and women entered separate sections to elect 30 members of the 45-seat body. The ruling emir will continue to appoint the remaining 15 members of the council.

Polls opened at 05:00 GMT and closed at 15:00 GMT.

The council will enjoy legislative authority and approve gen-

eral state policies and the budget, but has no control over executive bodies setting defense, security, economic and investment policy for the small but wealthy gas producer, which bans political parties.

The elections were seen as a major step in the modernization of the governing system.

"What we've seen so far ... is quite an active presence of voters," an Al Jazeera reporter said.

"There is excitement among nationals who are able to vote in these elections. The [Shura Council] body has been mainly a consultative one over the past few decades but there has been a push

within Qatar to share responsibility, to widen participation, to develop the relationship between the citizen and the state," he added.

Qatar's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, last month described the vote as a new "experiment" and said the council cannot be expected from the first year to have the "full role of any parliament".

All candidates had to be approved by the powerful interior ministry against a host of criteria, including age, character and criminal history. They have uniformly avoided debate about Qatar's foreign policy or status as

a monarchy, instead focusing on social issues including healthcare, education and citizenship rights.

The candidates are mostly men, with nearly 30 women among the 284 hopefuls running for the 30 available council seats.

Campaigning has taken place on social media, community meetings and roadside billboards.

Qataris number about 333,000 — only 10 percent of the population of 2.8 million — but an electoral law approved last July stated only descendants of those who were citizens in 1930 are eligible to vote and stand, disqualifying members of families naturalized since then.

## UNRWA: \$800mn Needed Annually to Assist Palestinians

NEW YORK (Al Jazeera) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) said it will seek a new injection of funds at an upcoming donor conference, after it withstood years of financial instability during the administration of former United States President Donald Trump.

UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini told reporters at the UN headquarters in New York that the organization needed "predictability" for its operations in order to implement "three core activities" — education, health and social services.

The Palestinian refugee agency will seek \$800m a year at a donor conference scheduled to take place in Brussels next month.

The funding will allow the UN agency to run around 700 schools, catering to 550,000 children, as well as health centers and to provide social welfare to Palestinian refugees and their descendants.

Lazzarini said there was also a need for an additional amount, estimated at around \$500,000 in 2022, to cover the humanitarian aid provided by UNRWA.

The agency, which assists more than five million Palestinians in the Palestinian territories, Jordan and Lebanon, was \$100m short to see out this year, and warned that it might have to shut down some activities in November and December.

"Today we keep struggling, running after cash," Lazzarini said. "I never know as a commissioner-general weeks ahead if I would be able to pay the salaries of 28,000 staff."

Washington stopped nearly all aid to UNRWA in 2018 under Trump, who rejected the very idea of Palestinians being refugees.

The organization was badly wounded from years of budget cuts, but managed to stay intact.

## Survey: 8,000 Turkish Doctors Resigned, 80 Leaving Country Monthly Amid Pandemic

ANKARA (Ahval) — Around 80 doctors are leaving Turkey each month while over 8,000 have resigned since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic over what they are calling increasingly difficult working conditions, according to a news survey released by Turkey's top medical association.

Thousands have requested documentation from the Turkish Medical Association (TTB), which would allow them to work abroad, BirGün newspaper cited the association as saying during a press conference on Saturday.

The TTB is beginning an initiative to have the demands of the country's overworked doctors met, BirGün said.

Long shifts that can extend to 36 hours, heavy

workloads, physical and verbal attacks, workplace bullying are some of the concerns cited by the country's doctors, which have increased since March 2020, according to the TTB.

The TTB survey arrives as COVID-19 infections in the country climbed above 20,000 daily in late July, reaching their highest levels in the country since April, after the government ended daily curfews and travel restrictions at the start that month. New cases numbered less than 5,000 per day in early July.

In terms of vaccination, Turkey ranks 67th globally after fully vaccinating 51.3 percent of its citizens, according to ourworldindata.org. The country lags behind 27 European countries. The

average inoculation rate is 62.1 percent in the European Union.

The TTB on Saturday accused the government of remaining indifferent to the concerns facing the country's doctors, which are prompting them to resign, migrate and suffer mental breakdowns, among other repercussions.

"In the year 2020 alone, some 12,000 cases of attacks on health personnel took place, the TTB said, adding that "8,000 doctors had resigned over the span of 18 months, according to unofficial documentation."

"Around 80 doctors a month are choosing to serve as migrant doctors abroad instead of being doctors in this country," the TTB added.