

BAGHDAD (Xinhua) – Six people were killed and 22 others wounded on Monday in a bus-truck collision near Iraq's southern city of Basra, a traffic police source said. The bus, carrying Iraqi football fans, collided with a truck on a highway between the provinces of Dhi Qar and Basra, where the fans were en route to attend the Iraqi national team's match against Qatar, Colonel Mohammed Abdul-Hussein from Basra traffic police told Xinhua. Abdul-Hussein said the accident occurred due to heavy fog on the highway north of Basra. A statement by the health department of Dhi Qar province confirmed the death toll, adding that the victims, all onboard the bus, have been sent to nearby hospitals and medical centers.

Give to your fellow believer your blood and your property and to your enemy your justice and fairness.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Palestinian Minor Martyred,

Resistance Warns Zionist Aggressors

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) – Zionist troops martyred a 14-year-old Palestinian boy on Monday during a raid in the occupied West Bank that touched off confrontations with residents, medics and witnesses said.

The West Bank has seen a surge in violence since the occupying regime stepped up military sweeps in response to a spate of street attacks in its cities last year.

Palestinian medics said the boy was shot dead in Dheisheh refugee camp, near Bethlehem.

Palestinian Wafa news agency, citing the Ministry of Health, identified the martyr as Omar Khaled Khumour.

Palestinian security sources said a large group of Zionist troops stormed the camp on Monday morning, and forced their way into a number of houses there in pursuit of several activists.

They violently ransacked the buildings before taking away some local residents to an unknown location

During the raid, young Palestinian men and teenagers pelted the Zionist troops with stones, who replied by firing live rounds and tear gas canisters.

Medical sources said Khumour was shot in the head and taken to



Palestinian teenager Omar Khaled Khumour succumbed to his wounds hours after being shot by the Zionist troops during a raid south of the central West Bank city of Bethlehem.

a nearby hospital in critical condition. He was pronounced dead shortly afterwards.

A senior official from the Palestinian Islamic Jihad resistance movement vehemently censured the increase in violence by the occupying regime's military, saying Palestinians will never surrender to the aggressors.

"The rise in the number of retaliatory operations in the West Bank explicitly attests to the fact that Palestinians will not accept the status quo," said Sheikh Nafez Azzam, a member of Islamic Jihad's political bureau who lives in the southern Gaza city of Rafah, on the desert border with Egypt.

"Residents of the occupied

West Bank have always been a source of national pride," he said. "They will never surrender to the occupying regime's attempts to change the realities on the ground. The young Palestinian generation conveyed the message to the Zionist regime and the whole world that the Palestinian cause is alive and nothing can undermine it."

Sheikh Azzam said the Palestinian nation "will neither let their rights forego nor allow desecration of their sanctities, in spite of the Arab world's feeble position and the international community's apathy and inaction."

The senior Islamic Jihad official also reaffirmed that the Palestinian nation will not retreat

from its rights, and will continue its struggle.

Meanwhile, China's foreign minister says the occupying regime must stop "incitements and provocations" against Palestinians, particularly in Al-Quds amid rise in tensions in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Qin Gang said, "We urge the Israeli side to stop incitement and provocations and to avoid [refrain from taking] any unilateral move that may aggravate the situation."

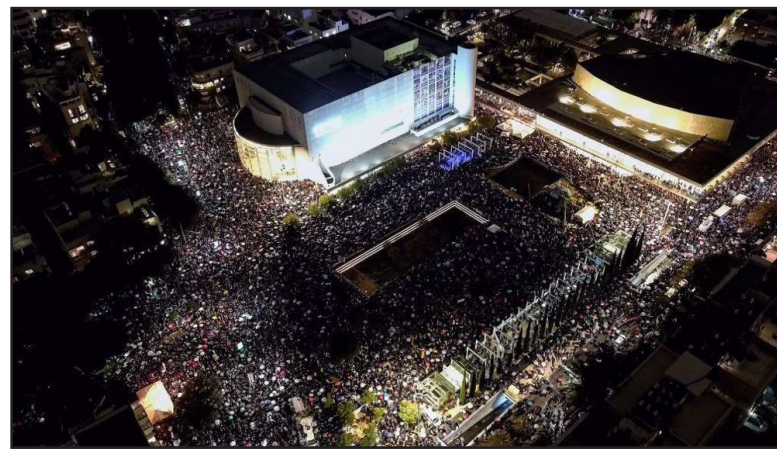
He made the remarks at a joint press conference with his Egyptian counterpart in Cairo.

The United Nations has marked 2022 as the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank in 16 years.

Zionist troops killed at least 171 Palestinians in the West Bank and occupied East Al-Quds last year, including more than 30 children. At least 9,000 others were injured as well.

Qin Gang reiterated that, "China's President Xi Jinping has recently stressed that the historic oppression the Palestinian people are subjected to should not continue indefinitely and that the Palestinians' legitimate, national rights should not be compromised."

Poll: Optimism About Zionist Regime's Future Rapidly Declining



Tens of thousands of demonstrators hold a massive protest rally against Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new extremist cabinet and its proposed judicial reforms plan, in Tel Aviv, the occupied Palestinian territories, January 14, 2023.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – A new poll conducted by an Israeli institute shows optimism about the future of the Zionist regime is rapidly on the decline amid political infighting among the regime's top officials.

The poll, which was conducted by the so-called Israel Democracy Institute, showed that over half (51%) of the people living in the occupied Palestinian territories are fearful for the regime's future.

The poll analyzed statistical data on the inhabitants of the occupied territories from 2003 to 2022.

It showed that only 49 percent of the people living in the occupied territories share optimistic views regarding the regime's future, compared with 76 percent who were asked the same question in a 2012 poll.

Moreover, 2022 saw a steady decline in the trust of the inhabitants of the occupied territories in the Zionist regime's political institutions, including the presidency, the cabinet, the Knesset and various political parties.

Earlier on Sunday, the regime's president said he was deeply worried about the growing protests against prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new extremist cabinet and its proposed judicial reforms plan.

Isaac Herzog said he had been working for days to mediate discussions between political figures in the occupied territories over the hardline cabinet's contentious planned judicial overhaul, which is projected to hand more powers to lawmakers.

"We are in the grips of a profound disagreement that is tearing our nation apart," the Zionist president said in a statement, adding, "This conflict worries me deeply, as it worries many across Israel and the diaspora."

Herzog said he was focused on "averting a historic constitutional crisis and stopping the continued rift within" the occupied territories. Herzog, however, admitted that he could fail in his efforts as "there is still a long way to go and significant gaps remain."

His comments came after on Saturday, tens of thousands rallied in three major cities across the occupied territories against Netanyahu's new extremist cabinet and its judicial reforms plan.

Protesters flooded the streets in Tel Aviv, the occupied city of Al-Quds and the city of Haifa in the northern part of the occupied territories, brandishing signs with slogans decrying Netanyahu's new cabinet as the "government of shame" and urging, "bring down the dictator."

Syria Condemns 'Inhuman' U.S. Measures Against Health Sector

DAMASCUS (Xinhua) – The Syrian Foreign Ministry on Monday condemned the U.S. for targeting of the Syrian health sector through "inhuman measures."

In a statement, the ministry slammed the U.S. Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) for imposing a new set of sanctions that hinder Syria's import of medical equipment and spare parts.

Such illegal and unethical sanctions on the Syrian people are "inhuman measures" and are part of the unilateral siege im-

posed by the United States, said the statement.

It noted that the targeted hospitals that provide health care for millions of Syrians require urgent action by the UN, the World Health Organization, and the Red Cross to put an end to such sanctions.

Meanwhile, Jordan says that the funds it received in 2022 for its support plan for Syrian refugees in the country only met about 30 percent of its total requirements, state-run Al-Mamlaka TV reported.

The Jordan Response Plan

for the Syria Crisis (JRPSC) received only 670 million U.S. dollars in 2022, falling far short of the total funding requirements of 2.28 billion dollars for the year, Al-Mamlaka TV quoted Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Zeina Toukan as saying.

The international support for the JRPSC has declined over the past years because of the global political and economic repercussions, which has directly affected foreign assistance for Jordan, she added.

Alaa Hakeem, an economic

news editor at the Jordan Press Foundation, ascribes the decline in assistance to Jordan to pressures from the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the global inflation that have affected many countries across the world.

However, "Syrian refugees are still in Jordan and the kingdom continues to provide services to them and this is increasing the burden on the Jordanian government and people," Hakeem told Xinhua.

Jordan hosts about 1.3 million Syrian refugees, according to the Jordanian government.

Egypt Hands Out Life Jail Terms in Trial Over 2019 Protests

CAIRO (AP) – An Egyptian court has handed down life prison sentences to 38 people, including a self-exiled businessman whose social media posts helped to spark anti-government protests.

Public protests are rare in Egypt where President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi has overseen a wide-ranging crackdown on dissent. But a series of video and other social media posts by Egyptian businessman Mohamed Ali, who now lives in Spain, led to scattered street demonstrations in September 2019 over allegations of corruption and other issues.

Twenty-three of those who got life terms were tried in absentia, including Ali, according to an Egyptian criminal court handling terrorism-related cases.

The court also sentenced 44 others including children to terms ranging from five to 15 years in prison over the same charges.

Twenty-one were acquitted, according to defense lawyer Osama Badawi.

Those sentenced were convicted of a set of charges that included inciting violence against security forces and state institutions. The case stemmed from the 2019 protests in the port city of Suez that sits at the mouth of the Suez Canal.

Authorities arrested hundreds of people at the time in Cairo and across the country. Many were released but others were referred to trials.

Rights groups have repeatedly criticized such mass sentencing in Egypt and called on authorities to ensure fair trials.

Egypt's government has in recent years jailed thousands of people, including activists involved in the 2011 Arab Spring uprising that toppled longtime ruler Hosni Mubarak.

Cold Weather in Afghanistan Claims At Least Two Dozen Lives

KABUL (Anadolu/Xinhua) – At least 24 people died, some of whom were found frozen to death, in various parts of poverty-stricken Afghanistan, where extreme cold weather conditions, combined with a lack of resources to heat their homes, took their toll on ordinary men.

Parts of Afghanistan including the capital city Kabul have been experiencing an unprecedentedly chilly and freezing winter, as in many parts of the war-ravaged country the temperature fell down to minus 30 degrees Celsius.

At least 24 people have died as a result of the freezing cold that has gripped the country in

recent days, particularly in the country's northern regions, Anadolu Agency quoted local Tolo news on Monday.

According to the media outlet, four children were among five who died in northwestern Badgis province, while four drug addicts living on the streets in western Herat, five people in southeastern Khost province, and 10 in northern provinces, died.

"Four children and a man lost their lives due to heavy snowfall and freezing weather in Qadis district of Badghis province recently," provincial administration spokesman Ahmad Jan

Hanzala told reporters on Monday.

These people died as a result of extremely cold weather, associated ailments, and incidents.

Hundreds of people have been taken to hospitals with hypothermia, while thousands of animals have died in the chilly weather.

A big number of low-income Afghans are unable to afford wood and coal in the winter due to their economic difficulties.

Transportation issues caused by inclement weather, particularly in winter, make it difficult for humanitarian agencies to deliver aid to people in need.