

Rifts Deepen Within Zionist Regime

Israeli Court: Netanyahu Must Fire Key Cabinet Ally

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime’s so-called supreme court ruled Wednesday that prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu must fire a key ally from the regime’s new cabinet, presenting the new rulers with a potential coalition crisis and deepening a rift over the power of the courts.

The high court ruled that Aryeh Deri, the influential head of the ultra-Orthodox Shas party who has served repeatedly in Netanyahu’s previous cabinets, is disqualified from serving as a minister after he was convicted last year for tax offenses and placed on probation as part of a plea deal. Deri has pledged not to quit and met after the ruling with Netanyahu.

“Most of the judges on the panel decided that this appointment suffers from extreme unreasonability,



Protesters rally against the planned judicial overhaul in the occupied Al-Quds, on January 14, 2023.

and therefore the prime minister must remove Deri from his position,” the court said in a statement.

The much-anticipated ruling comes as the regime is being roiled by a dispute over sweeping changes to the regime’s legal sys-

tem. One such proposal under consideration is the elimination of the court’s “reasonability” test when reviewing cabinet decisions.

Critics say the various changes at issue would place too much power in the hands of the regime.

Netanyahu will now have to decide whether he abides by the court ruling and fires his key ally, Deri — or takes the dispute with the judicial system up a notch and defies it. A spokesman for Netanyahu had no immediate comment.

But the leaders of the parties in the ruling coalition decried the ruling.

It’s not clear whether the proposed legal changes, including a plan to allow lawmakers to overrule supreme court decisions, could retroactively be applied to Deri’s case.

Critics said such a move would bend the rules to accommodate a convict and could encourage corruption among politicians.

The ruling carries potentially troublesome consequences for Netanyahu’s coalition.

Leader...

(Continued From Page One)

He said the Islamic Propagation Organization should work on preserving their good employees in all fields and strive for their development.

Ayatollah Khamenei also warned of damages that will be caused by outsourcing cultural-propagation activities. Officials in cultural-propagation organizations also have a duty to maintain the freshness, vitality, happiness and satisfaction of the people, he added.

Ayatollah Khamenei said if the economy and people’s living conditions improve, their happiness and contentment will be ensured to some extent.

The Leader offered recommendations on certain issues, stressing unity and advising against factionalism.

“We need unity and empathy across the country, let alone in Revolutionary circles which certainly need to avoid falling into the trap of various intellectual trends and factionalism,” he added.

The Leader also advised the Islamic Propagation Organization and its artistic department to refrain from producing any work that is purely intended to be showcased. He also advised against the creation of neutral products that lack any form of correct orientation.

Nurses...

(Continued From Page One)

“We go to work every day as nurses and we do our best, and our best isn’t enough right now, and that’s because our workload keeps increasing and our resources aren’t matching that,” A&E nurse Orla Dooley, 29, told AFP.

“If I was to retrain today I wouldn’t be a nurse. It’s something I used to love, and that’s really sad.”

Parul, a 56-year-old senior nurse who declined to give her last name, added she has “never faced this much crisis” in her 27-year NHS career.

In response to the months-long waves of strikes, Sunak has introduced a draft law requiring some frontline workers to maintain a minimum level of service during walkouts.

MPs gave their initial backing Monday to the controversial legislation, which has prompted fury from unions.

“The government has gone from clapping NHS workers during the pandemic, to ignoring them, insulting them, and now threatening them with the sack if they fight for decent pay,” Unite general secretary Sharon Graham said Wednesday.

Unite and another union representing ambulance workers are set to announce further strikes, after drivers and paramedics held their second walkout in two months over pay and conditions.

Ukraine’s...

(Continued From Page One)

the Russian defense industry as he spoke at the plant, which is part of Russian missile manufacturer Almaz-Antey.

President Putin was visiting his native Saint Petersburg to mark the 80th anniversary of Soviet forces breaking the siege of Leningrad as the city was known at the time.

Putin once again defended his goals in Ukraine, where he initially sent troops to “de-Nazify” the pro-Western country. “We are absolutely justified in saying that we are fighting neo-Nazism,” he said.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov also said the United States had assembled a coalition of European countries to solve “the Russian question” in the same way that Adolf Hitler had sought a “final solution” to eradicate Europe’s Jews.

Lavrov said Washington was using the same tactic as Napoleon and the Nazis in trying to subjugate Europe in order to destroy Russia.

Using Ukraine as a proxy, he said, “they are waging war against our country with the same task: the ‘final solution’ of the Russian question”.

tion” to the Jewish question, now, if you read Western politicians ... they clearly say Russia must suffer a strategic defeat.”

Lavrov also said Wednesday that Russia had not seen any “serious proposals” from the West on solving the Ukraine conflict.

“We are ready to respond to any serious proposals,” he said. “But we haven’t seen any yet.”

He defended the Kremlin’s aims in its 11-month offensive in Ukraine.

“They are not made up, not just taken from thin air, but goals determined by fundamental, legitimate security interests of the Russian Federation.”

U.S. Redirecting Munitions to Ukraine

The United States is diverting munitions stored in Israel to Ukraine for use in the war against Russia, the New York Times reported on Wednesday, saying the decision was made last year.

An Israeli official confirmed the report to Reuters, saying that then-prime minister Yair Lapid approved the transfer although the United States does not formally need such consent.

For decades, the Pentagon has stored munitions in Occupied Palestine to serve as emergency resupplies for the Zionist regime in wartime - or for handover to other U.S. allies.

According to the New York Times, the munitions Washington decided to move to Ukraine are around 300,000 155-millimetre artillery shells. Around half of that has been sent to Europe for redistribution to Ukraine, the newspaper said.

Nasrallah ...

(Continued From Page One)

and place. He is not a martyr of Iraq, Iran or Syria, but rather a martyr of the entire world. He was a great leader during the battle with Daesh and pushed back Israelis way beyond their walls,” Nasrallah said.

“Soleimani was a prominent, sublime, and key leader in the battle that barred the Americans from occupying our region,” the Hezbollah leader added. “He was the liaison of communication within the Axis of Resistance and a great leader in defeating the ‘Greater Israel’ scheme.”

Nasrallah said General Soleimani’s most important characteristic was his “moral strength and unparalleled courage” that inspired all those who worked with him.

The Hezbollah chief said General Soleimani had a great potential to impress the future generations, and that it is our duty to remember and present the personalities of martyrs like him.

“In every generation, we need models such as these martyrs, who are present in every battlefield, and whose names must be revived as they represent a massive intellectual and spiritual wealth that we must not underestimate. We must do this for ourselves and not for their sake alone,” Nasrallah noted.

Pointing to the presidential vacuum in Lebanon, Nasrallah highlighted outside and inside pressure for the election of a head of state.

“Everyone wants to end the presidential vacuum so that the government can be formed and things can return to their normal course,” Nasrallah said. “The point is that there are multiple parliamentary blocs and no one has a majority.”

“It is the natural right of any bloc to say that it does not want a president close to Hezbollah,” he added. “No bloc wants the presidential vacuum to continue.”

Pointing to the energy crisis in Lebanon, Nasrallah said, “Everyone in Lebanon is experiencing the problem of electricity and fuel that goes beyond sects and factions, and its effects extend to the economy and people’s natural life.”

“Months ago, we were told to secure fuel from Iran for 6 months, to raise the hours of electricity supply to 8 hours, and put Lebanon on the track of for a solution,” Nasrallah added.

“We took the initiative and contacted Iran, and they agreed to the Lebanese request for fuel. The offer of Iranian fuel to Lebanon is still valid but the Americans are the ones preventing its implementation,” he said.

Amid Outrage Over Normalization

Bahraini ‘Security’ Delegation Visits Occupied Territories

MANAMA (Dispatches) – Bahrain’s Al Khalifah regime has dispatched a “security” delegation to the Israeli-occupied territories, amid outrage among the public in the Persian Gulf kingdom over normalization with the occupying regime.

The New Khalij news website, citing a post published by Israel in the Persian Gulf Twitter account of the Zionist regime’s ministry of foreign affairs, reported that the visit took place recently, without specifying its location.

The account, which defines

itself as the official account of the virtual Israeli embassy in the Persian Gulf region, announced on Tuesday evening that a delegation headed by Bahrain’s Public Security Deputy Chief Major General Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Khalifah, arrived in the occupied territories on an official visit and met with the Commissioner-General of the Israel Police.

Bahrain has made no official comment about the visit as of yet.

Bahrainis have repeatedly expressed their opposition to the

normalization of ties with the Zionist regime by holding demonstrations.

Bahrain’s main opposition group al-Wefaq and the kingdom’s top cleric Sheikh Isa Qassim have also repeatedly condemned the normalization move made by the Al Khalifah dynasty.

Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates signed U.S.-brokered normalization agreements with the regime in an event in Washington in September 2020.

Sudan and Morocco followed suit later in the year and inked similar U.S.-brokered normal-

ization deals with the occupying regime.

The move sparked widespread condemnations from the Palestinians as well as nations and human rights advocates across the globe, especially within the Muslim world.

Palestinians slammed the deals as a treacherous “stab in the back” and a betrayal of their cause against the decades-long occupation of Palestinian territories. Palestinians are seeking an independent state in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip with East Al-Quds as its capital.

UN: Cost New Obstacle to Oil Transfer From Yemen Tanker

UNITED NATIONS (AP) – The rising cost of purchasing or leasing a vessel that can hold more than 1 million barrels of crude oil now in a rusting old tanker off the coast of war-torn Yemen is the latest obstacle to resolving the grave threat of massive environmental damage from a possible oil spill or explosion, the UN said Tuesday.

UN deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said the availability of very large crude oil tankers “has decreased in the past six months, basically due to events having to do with the war in Ukraine.”

He said just as the UN was finally gearing up its operation to transfer oil from the FSO Safer tanker, the

cost of buying a very large crude oil carrier is now about 50% more than what was budgeted in the original UN plan, and the leasing cost has also increased.

“So we have some additional expenses, and it’s a little bit harder finding the right ships, but we’re proceeding with the work,” Haq said.

He said donors have generously pledged more than \$84 million of the funding required, and additional funding from the private sector is expected soon.

Haq said more than \$73 million of pledges has been disbursed and essential preparatory work has begun.

“All of the technical expertise is in place to undertake the procurement for the complex operation,” he said. “This includes a marine management consultancy firm, maritime legal firm, insurance and ship brokers and oil spill experts” as well as contracting a salvage company that will carry out the emergency operation which is at an advanced stage.

“However, the key challenge at present is procurement of a very large crude carrier,” Haq said. “The UN cannot begin the emergency operation until it is certain that a safe crude carrier will be in place to take on the oil.”

He said the UN is working with a

maritime broker and other partners “to find a workable solution and remains confident the work can begin in the coming months.”

The United Nations and Yemen’s Sana’a-based government signed a memorandum of understanding last March aimed at resolving the environmental threat posed by the Safer tanker to the Red Sea.

The Safer tanker is a Japanese-made vessel built in the 1970s and sold to Yemen in the 1980s to store up to 3 million barrels of export oil pumped from fields in Marib, a province in eastern Yemen that is currently the scene of limited fighting. The ship is 360 meters (1,181 feet) long with 34 storage tanks.

Lebanon to Take Out \$116mn in Loans for Electric Grid

BEIRUT (AP) – Lebanon’s caretaker government Wednesday approved opening credit lines totaling \$116 million to help fix its electricity grid.

The country for over two years has struggled with rampant power cuts that have crippled much of public life, worsening a broader economic crisis that has pulled over three-quarters of the country’s population into poverty. Today, households only receive about an hour of state electricity per day, with millions now relying on expensive private generator suppliers to power their homes.

Lebanon’s state electricity company has bled state coffers dry for decades, costing the government over \$40 billion with annual losses of up to \$1.5 billion. The country’s

two main power plants have occasionally broken down and require heavy maintenance. The World Bank and International Monetary Fund say restructuring the country’s energy sector is a key reform for the country to pull itself from the current situation. Lebanon has instead relied on renewing a fuel barter deal with Iraq.

Caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati’s government agreed to open a credit line of \$62 million for a shipment of fuel at the port, and an additional \$54 million to provide maintenance for the country’s Zahrani and Deir Ammar power plants.

“If we didn’t agree on this, we wouldn’t have any fuel by the end of the week, especially with the delay of the Iraqi fuel arriving,” Mi-

kati said at a press conference following the meeting. “I believe if we succeed at resolving the electricity crisis, though I believe we’re still at the beginning, we would solve over 50 percent of Lebanese’s problems.”

Lebanon last year signed two World Bank agreements with Syria, Jordan and Egypt. The arrangement would bring in Jordanian electricity and Egyptian natural gas through Syria on the condition that Lebanon would increase its outdated state electricity tariffs and establish a regulatory authority as part of wider sector reforms. The World Bank has not yet signed off on the deals to put them into effect, as Lebanon has not yet established a regulatory authority for its state electricity company.