An attack on the Liberian-flagged Campo Square was confirmed on Saturday by the ship's captain, who said it was damaged by an airborne object on Feb. 10 while sailing through the Arabian Sea. "Last week Iran again attacked an oil tanker in the Persian Gulf," Netanyahu stated at a weekly cabinet meeting.

Azerbaijan Told Not to Politicize Embassy Attack

TEHRAN — The Iranian foreign ministry on Sunday called on Azerbaijan to avoid prejudgments and politicized comments about an attack on its embassy in Tehran on January 27. Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev has alleged that entities related to the Iranian government were involved in the armed attack. "Offering non-legal interpretations on the incident to the public media is not a constructive measure in the course of pursuing the case legally and judicially," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said Sunday.

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Monday, February 20, 2023, Esfand 1, 1401, Rajab 29, 1444, Price 200,000 Rials

Viewpoint

Syria at the Mercy of the Triangle of Terrorism

Raisi: West
Also Waging
'a Form of War'
on Iran



Iran Win World Wrestling Clubs Cup Title



Saudi FM Shifts Stance, Says Arabs Need New Approach Towards Syria



## Iran to Unveil Unmanned Qaher Jet in March

TEHRAN -- The Iran Aviation Industries Organization (IAIO) has announced plans to unveil an unmanned version of homegrown Qaher single-seat stealth fighter aircraft in the next solar calendar year that begins on March 21.

Speaking during a TV program on Saturday night, IAIO chief executive Brigadier General Afshin Khajefard said the aircraft was manufactured at the IAIO and the project was first brought up in the media 10 years ago.

"The Qaher project has reached full maturity in terms of technology, but we are producing more diversified products. It means that by the middle of next year, you will see versions of this aircraft that will be delivered to the armed forces," he said. "The Qaher project will emerge as an unmanned aircraft."

Khajefard also emphasized that Iran is self-reliant in the field of overhauling commercial aircraft and manufacturing components in defiance of sanctions.

"We have reached a level of selfsufficiency in the field of engines so that today we can produce 10 types of engines, most of which are used on drones and cruise missiles. Of course, our defense industries have also reached selfsufficiency in designing and making heavy engines," he added.

Referring to electric aircraft, Khajefard said that the IAIO has started working on several prototypes that will be tested next year.

"Of course, our electric drones have reached full maturity, but manned eclectic aircraft require more improvements," he explained.

Touching on Iran's achievements regarding development of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), he said, "We have various classes of missiles, precisionstrike bombs, electronic warfare avionics and reconnaissance drones. However, we are trying to develop drones with civilian applications, because drones can be used for agriculture, mapping and firefighting."

Iranian military experts and technicians have in recent years made substantial headway in manufacturing a broad range of indigenous equipment, making the armed forces self-sufficient in the arms sector.

Iranian officials have repeatedly warned that the country will not hesitate to strengthen its military capabilities which are entirely meant for defense.

## Protests Hit Al-Quds for 7th Week

#### Palestinians Begin 'Civil Disobedience'

### **Flames of Strife Keep Raging**



Protesters gather outside the Knesset to vent anger at the extremist direction of the occupying regime of Israel.

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) – Hundreds of demonstrators took to the streets in Al-Quds for the seventh consecutive week Sunday to protest against the current Zionist regime's plans to extremely harden judicial laws.

On Monday, Knesset members will be able to vote on the bill, which aims to allow parliament to overrule the supreme court with a simple majority vote

Lawyer Nati Ron said Benjamin Netanyahu's regime was "aiming at ruining" the Zionist regime by "cancelling the courts".

Netanyahu returned to power following elections in November, at the head of a coalition with extreme-right and ultra-Orthodox Jewish parties, but he is still on trial accused of corruption.

President Isaac Herzog, who holds a largely ceremonial role, had urged Netanyahu's regime to suspend the legislative process and hold talks with the opposition in hopes of reaching a compromise.

According to an Israel police spokesperson, protesters blocked road access in the Shuafat, Issawiyam, Jabel Mukbar and Silwan neighborhoods.

The "one-day civil protest" is staged against the checkpoints that were installed last week in response to the deadly attack in which police officer Asil Su'ad was killed. The protests are also sparked by recent measures announced by the Zionist regime, including the demolition of illegal Palestinian houses

Protests broke out early Sunday in several neighborhoods of East Al-Quds, with participants blocking roads with burning tires and garbage cans.

A police statement said troops handled a fight that broke out in one of the neighborhoods between the rioters and residents who wanted to go to work.

The Zionist regime's extremist security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir said he has instructed police to continue with Operation 'Concentration of Effort' in East Al-Quds. He urged troops to show

"zero tolerance towards those lawbreakers".

Unprecedented protests have hit Occupied Palestine amid deepening political divisions over the current extremist regime's plans to overhaul the judicial system. In a recent television address, Herzog warned that Israel was on the verge of "societal collapse" from the tensions.

Police commissioner Kobi Shabtai on Saturday warned that the current political climate could lead to deadly violence, as he pleaded with Israelis to "lower the flames".

"I've tried to refrain from these kinds of interviews. But the situation we're in keeps me awake at night. We're on a steep slope, of inflammatory argument, of people writing things without considering the impact they can have on the other side," Shabtai told Channel 12 news.

"This is an opportunity to tell everyone to breathe, calm down, to discuss, and not to become violent in words or deeds... Israel has already seen harm done to public figures," he said.

"We saw a hand grenade thrown [with fatal consequences at a demonstration 40 years ago, killing Emil Grunzweig]. We saw the assassination of a prime minister," Shabtai added, referring to the 1995 assassination of then-prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

dia," he continued. "We have to lower the flames... we will do everything we can to prevent harm to any public figure."

Turning to recent retaliatory attacks

'We see these threats on social me-

Turning to recent retaliatory attacks in Al-Quds, Shabtai said police were operating in Palestinian neighborhoods of East Al-Quds.

"There are more than a few warnings of attacks, in recent weeks we've seen a tangible increase in the number of warnings. Our concern is the unknown—lone-wolf attackers. I wouldn't call the situation now an intifada, but there is an escalation," he said.

To help prevent retaliatory attacks, Shabtai said Zionists with gun licenses should carry their weapons, conceding that "it's not possible to have police on every corner all the time."

Earlier this month, Ben Gvir expedited the civilian gun license process, reportedly leading to a sharp rise in the number of permits issued by his ministry's firearms licensing department.

#### Palestinians Declare Civil Disobedience

Palestinians in occupied East Al-Quds declared a general strike and civil disobedience on Sunday to protest against the growing Israeli crackdown in the city.

Young protesters burnt car tires and set up barricades overnight at entrances to different neighborhoods, including Shufat, Anata, Jabal al-Mukabber, Is-

sawiya and al-Ram town.

The civil disobedience action includes not going to work in Israeli workplaces and refusing to pay taxes to

(Continued on Page 7)

# Nearly a Dozen Casualties in New U.S. Shootings MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — shooter knew the victims. They

One person was killed and 10 were injured early Sunday after a pair of shootings in Tennessee that police believe are connected, according to a news release from the Memphis Police Department posted on Twitter.

Police responded to a shooting at a Memphis nightclub at 12:43 a.m., according to the release. Two victims were transported to the hospital in critical condition. Five others with less serious injuries went to area hospitals in private vehicles.

While police were on the scene, they were notified of a second shooting about a mile away. At that scene, one male victim was pronounced dead and three other victims were transported to the hospital in critical condition, according to police.

Police do not know what led to the shooting or whether the

shooter knew the victims. They do not yet have a solid description of the shooter or shooters.

A lone gunman killed six people including his ex-wife and stepfather Friday at multiple locations in a tiny rural community in northern Mississippi, laving investigators searching for clues to what motivated the rampage.

The U.S. has seen a deadly start to 2023, including six mass killings in a three-week period in January, according to an Associated Press/USA Today database. It defines a mass killing as four or more people dead, not including the perpetrator.

There have also been a number of mass shootings in which fewer people were slain, such as Monday's shooting at Michigan State University in which three people were killed and five were wounded.

ANTAKYA/KAHRAMANMARAS,
Turkey (Reuters) -- Rescue efforts in
earthquake-hit Turkey were winding
down on Sunday, nearly two weeks after
the country's deadliest disaster in the

Sunday

"Would you pray to find a dead body? We do ... to deliver the body to the family," said bulldozer operator Akin Bozkurt as his machine clawed at the rubble of a destroyed building in the town of Kahramanmaras.

modern era, with many praying only for

"You recover a body from under tonnes of rubble. Families are waiting with hope," Bozkurt said. "They want to have a burial ceremony. They want a grave."

According to Islamic tradition, the dead should be buried as quickly as possible.

The head of Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), Yunus Sezer, said the search and rescue efforts would largely end on Sunday night.

More than 46,000 people have been killed after the quake struck Turkey and Syria on Feb. 6. The toll is expected to climb, with some 345,000 apartments in Turkey now known to have been destroyed and many people still missing.

Neither Turkey nor Syria have said how many people are still unaccounted for following the quake.

Orhan Tatar, General Director of Earthquake and Risk Reduction at Turkey's Disaster Management at AFAD, reiterated on Sunday that the Eastern Anatolian Fault broke apart in five dif-

ferent branches, with 25 kilometers of fractures measured in the province of Malatya alone.

Turkey Winds Down Rescue Efforts in Quake-Hit Areas

Some 400 kilometers of surface fractures and deformation on the earth's crust resulted in large shifts, with the largest measured at 7.3 meters with a depth of eight to nine kilometers.

In one of the last efforts to pull people out of the rubble 12 days after the earthquake, emergency teams on Saturday night began clearing debris with their hands at a rescue site in Antakya.

Search dogs and thermal cameras had detected signs of life from two people, rescuers said, but just after midnight, eight hours into the operation, the teams called off the rescue.

"No one is alive," said Mujdat Erdogan, a member of AFAD, his face and

uniform covered in dust. "I don't think we can rescue people anymore."

Workers from Kyrgyzstan tried to save a Syrian family of five from the rubble of a building in Antakya in southern Turkey.

Three people, including a child, were rescued alive. The mother and father survived, but the child died later of dehydration, the rescue team said. An older sister and a twin did not make it.

"We heard shouts when we were digging today an hour ago. When we find people who are alive we are always happy," Atay Osmanov, a member of the rescue team, told Reuters.

Ten ambulances waited on a nearby street that was blocked to traffic to allow the rescue work.

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