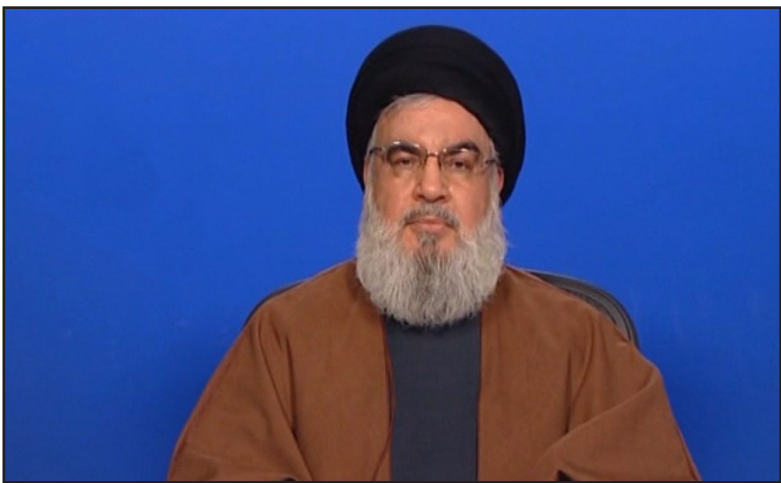


Syria's Aleppo Airport Reopens After Zionist Attack
DAMASCUS (AFP) – Syria's Aleppo airport, a key conduit for relief flights after the devastating February earthquake, reopened on Friday, an official said, following air strikes by the Zionist regime this week that hit its runway.
The damage caused by Tuesday's raid forced aid deliveries and all flights to be diverted to Latakia and Damascus airports, the transport ministry had said. "The airport has been operational since 8 his morning the morning (0500 GMT) ... We repaired all the damage," ministry official Souleiman Khalil said on Friday.

Thought for Today
Two kinds of people will be damned on my account; those who form exaggerated opinion about me and those who under estimate me because they hate me.
Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Nasrallah: End of Zionist Regime Near

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah says the resistance front in the region is more powerful than ever despite a myriad of challenging facing it and ready for the main battle.
“Despite the challenges that the axis of resistance is facing today, it has become more coherent and stronger and is ready with a strong will to respond to any major aggression of the Zionist regime that targets the region,” he said.
Nasrallah made the remarks in a private meeting with about 200 intellectual, political and media figures from Arab and Islamic countries in Beirut.
Nasrallah said although the enemy is trying to influence the minds of the youth with a cognitive warfare, the main battle is the battle for the freedom of Palestine.
“We are fully prepared for this battle and we are waiting for the zero hour,” he said.
Nasrallah touched on the political turmoil within the occupying regime where hundreds of thousands have taken to the streets in



Secretary General of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah speaks in a televised speech broadcast live from the Lebanese capital city of Beirut.

recent months to vent anger at the extremist direction of the entity.
“A big war is taking place in Occupied Palestine, and considering the scale of what the Zionist regime is facing, the end of this fake regime is so close that it may happen at this stage,” he said.
Protests have taken place across the occupied territories over the past two months.
On Thursday, Nasrallah said the United States has failed miserably to implement its plots in the

Middle East region, referring to the U.S.-led invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq where Washington did not achieve any of its goals.
“America failed in Iraq and Afghanistan; and its project in the Middle East fell short accordingly,” he said.
Nasrallah touched on a de facto sanctions regime which the U.S. and its allies are implementing against Lebanon, warning that the aim is to have the Lebanese people lose hope and submit to

Western demands.
The so-called Caesar Act imposed by the U.S. has hindered the Arab country's economic cooperation with its neighbors. Meanwhile, creditors under the U.S. influence such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have conditioned the release of billions of dollars in emergency loans to specific reforms.
“We must not give up. Don't expect us to give up. We also say to those who threaten us with murder and siege that we will not surrender with murder and our will will not be shaken in any way. We believe that there is a solution,” Nasrallah said.
“We should not submit to international and regional conditions, because those who surrendered were not saved,” he added.

Nasrallah pointed to the withdrawal of Zionist troops from southern Lebanon in May 2000 and Israel's defeat in the 33-day military onslaught against Lebanon back in the summer of 2006 as two major achievements of such a strong belief in the Axis of Resistance.

Damascus Says to Hold U.S. Accountable for Destabilizing Syria



A U.S. soldier looks on while an AH-64 Apache assault helicopter flies above during a patrol by the Suwaydiyah oil fields in Hasakah province, northeastern Syria, on February 13, 2021.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Syria says the U.S. officials seeking to destabilize Syria must be held accountable, in response to the vow by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken to hold the Syrian government accountable for “human rights violations and abuses.”
“The American officials who used unlimited funds to destroy Syria and shed the blood of its people must be held accountable,” the Syrian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.
“Without funding, support, and armament from the United States of America and its Western allies, the armed terrorist organizations would not have been able to commit massacres against the Syrians and destroy their infrastructure and civilization,” it said.
The ministry stressed that lasting peace in Syria could not be achieved amid the presence of U.S. forces on Syrian soil.

The statement came in response to a press statement issued by Blinken on Monday, in which he said Washington will continue to support the international efforts “to ensure there are consequences for the ongoing human rights violations and abuses committed in Syria.”
“The U.S. Secretary of State, or the ex-secretaries, couldn't wash their hands stained with Syrians' blood ... in addition to the theft of Syrian resources estimated at nearly 30 billion U.S. dollars that the U.S. should pay to the Syrians,” the Syrian foreign ministry said.
U.S.-led occupation forces invaded

Syria in 2014 under the pretext of the emergence of the Daesh terrorist group which had seized huge swathes of land in both Syria and neighboring Iraq and aimed to overrun Iran as well.
It took over three years for the national Iraqi and Syrian armies to liberate the areas from the grip of the world's most notorious terrorist group.
Damascus and Baghdad declared the extermination of the terrorist outfit in late 2017 and have since been involved in clear-up operations against the extremist group's remnants.
Despite the announced demise of Daesh, Iraq's border regions shared with Syria are still suffering from sporadic attacks by underground cells.
China has also called on the United States to stop plundering the natural resources in Syria and withdraw its military forces from the country.
“We call on the United States to sincerely respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of other countries, and to immediately stop its illegal military presence and marauding in Syria,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a news briefing on Friday.
China also urged the U.S. to lift the illegal sanctions slapped on Syria and to stop all actions that exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in the country.
“The United States has illegally intervened in military activities related to the Syrian crisis, which has led to the death of a large number of innocent civilians and a serious humanitarian disaster,” Mao said.

Bahrain Cancels Rights Group's Parliament Conference Visas

DUBAI (Reuters) – Bahrain has revoked entry visas issued to Human Rights Watch to attend an international parliamentary conference, the rights group said on Friday, days after raising concerns about the Persian Gulf state's rights record.
The event would have marked the first time that HRW representatives had been able to enter the Persian Gulf state since 2012.
Bahrain, a U.S. ally, will from Saturday host the 146th assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), an international organization with the motto

“For democracy. For everyone”.
HRW, which has permanent observer status with the IPU and was granted the visas earlier this year, had on Monday called for conference attendees to raise concerns about what it called “the serious repression of human rights in Bahrain”.
The IPU said it was aware the visas had been revoked by Bahraini authorities. A spokesperson said the IPU did not know of any other delegations that had had restrictions imposed on them to attend the

meeting.
Bahrain's government communications office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.
Rights groups, including HRW, have criticized Bahrain for holding international events, such as last week's annual Formula One race, as a way of distracting from repression of political opposition.
The state has, since a 2011 anti-government uprising, jailed thousands of people, including opposition leaders, sometimes in mass trials. It has

also dissolved leading opposition groups.
Bahrain's government says it has made key reforms in recent years on human rights, criminal justice and prisoner treatment.
“(Bahrain's) unilateral reversal of Human Rights Watch's access to the IPU conference is a blatant example of its escalating repression,” said Tirana Hassan, HRW's acting executive director.
HRW members have not been granted access to Bahrain since 2012, a spokesperson said.

Erdogan Sets May 14 Election Date

ANKARA (AP) – Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday formally set the country's parliamentary and presidential elections for May 14 — a month earlier than scheduled despite last month's devastating earthquake.
The elections could be the country's most significant vote in decades. It will determine whether the country will take continue on the course set by the politician.
Erdogan has ruled over Turkey since 2003 — first as prime minister and as president since 2014 — but this year's elections could be his most challenging.
The country is struggling with a troubled economy, soaring inflation and the aftermath of the powerful earthquake that killed more than 46,000 people and left hundreds of thousands of people across 11 Turkish provinces sheltering in tents or temporary accommodation.
Many have criticized his government's response to the earthquake and accuse it of failing to prepare the earthquake-prone country for a disaster in waiting.
Experts have pointed at lax enforcement

of building codes as a major reason why the earthquake was so deadly.
Earlier this week, Turkey's disparate opposition parties, including nationalists and conservatives, ended month of uncertainty that had frustrated supporters of the anti-Erdogan bloc and nominated a joint candidate to run against Erdogan.
The six opposition parties, which have pledged to roll back the erosion of rights and freedoms, united behind Kemal Kilicdaroglu, the 74-year-old leader of the center-left, secular Republican People's Party, or CHP.
“May our decision to renew the elections be beneficial for our country, our nation, the Turkish Grand National Assembly and our political parties,” Erdogan said after putting his signature on a decision confirming the election date, which was then published in the Official Gazette.
The Supreme Electoral Council will now determine the electoral calendar. A runoff presidential election would be held on May 28 if none of the candidates secure more than 50% of the vote.

The presidential and parliamentary elections were scheduled to be held on June 18, but the government moved them forward to avoid coinciding with the Hajj pilgrimage, a university entrance exam and the start of the summer vacation season.
Erdogan has signaled that he will base his electoral campaign on the reconstruction of the earthquake-devastated provinces, trying to convince voters that only his government can rebuild lives.
“We are starting the election calendar even as we are focusing all of our attention on healing the wounds caused by the earthquake, rebuilding and restoring our cities and ensuring that our people obtain homes as soon as possible,” Erdogan said.
“We need to implement a program that will heal the wounds of an unprecedented destruction in an unprecedented speed,” he said. “The only way to overcome the direct and indirect effects of the earthquake and normalize the situation in the region and our country as soon as possible is through the implementation of decisions by a strong political will.”

Daesh Claims Attack on Senior Governor in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (AP) – The Daesh group has claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing that killed the governor of Afghanistan's northern Balkh province and two other people at his office.
The regional affiliate of Daesh — known as the Daesh in Khorasan Province — is a key rival of the Taliban. The militant group has increased its attacks in Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover of the country in August 2021. Targets have included Taliban patrols and members of Afghanistan's Shia minority.
Thursday's attack in the city of Mazar-e-Sharif killed three people, including governor Daud Muzmal, and injured four others, said local police spokesman Mohammad Asif Waziri.
The Daesh late Thursday claimed responsibility for the attack, naming the assailant as Abdul Haq al-Khorasani.
It said Khorasani passed through all security measures to enter the

official building and carry out the attack.
Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban's chief spokesman, said Muzmal was killed “by the enemies of Islam.” He said an investigation is underway, but provided no further details.
Muzmal is one of the most senior Taliban officials to have been killed since they took power in mid-August 2021 as U.S. and NATO forces withdrew from Afghanistan after 20 years of occupation.
In recent months, the Taliban cracked down on Daesh. Their security forces killed several regional members, including leaders, in separate operations in February.
Taliban forces have also detained Daesh members, including foreign nationals planning deadly attacks, during raids, according to Mujahid.
In January, eight Daesh militants were killed and nine others arrested in raids targeting key figures in Kabul and Nimroz provinces.