

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- The secretary-general of the Hezbollah resistance movement says the Sunday parliamentary vote was a battle against the movement, and the resistance achieved "great victory" in the election.

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said the large turnout and the outcome of the election conveyed a message of people's adherence and commitment to the resistance.

He said the huge support for Hezbollah and its allies in the election showed people's commitment to the path of resistance.

Nasrallah said after years of aggressive campaign targeting

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TEHRAN -- Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi has unveiled the country's new satellite dubbed UrumSat in the northwestern city of Urmia.

The unveiling happened upon Raisi's arrival at Shahid Babasaee Aerospace Exhibition in West Azarbaijan Province. Authorities say UrumSat produces high resolution images and can be put in orbit at a cost of 600 thousand dollars that is much lower than compared to foreign items.

Viewpoint

Are Finland & Sweden on Suicidal Course to Join NATO?

Iran Defeated U.S.: Americans Thankful It Was a Simulation

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Iran did the unthinkable in a 2002 wargame, online international affairs website 19Forty-Five, a bipartisan U.S. defense, national security, and military-focused publication, has reported.

In 2002, the Pentagon convened a fictitious wargame to test a future enemy equipped with advanced technology and tactics. Dubbed the Millennium Challenge, the congressionally-mandated exercise pitted the "blue" U.S. team up against the "red" Iran-like Middle Eastern team, set in a timeframe five years in the future. The warfare practice involved both live exercises and computer simulations, which cost approximately \$250 million. The games grew to encompass 13,500 service members participating from 17 different simulation locations across several training sites. Within a matter of days the red team sunk 19 blue team's ships and rendered its carrier battle group ineffective.

"While the rules of the game remain controversial, its outcome emphasized the detriment of group thinking and the power of innovative asymmetric warfare," 19FortyFive wrote.

In the months following the 9/11 attacks, it said, the Bush Administration implemented its doctrine of pre-emption, meaning the U.S. could launch an offensive on an enemy before being attacked. With this in mind, the red team's leader Lt. Gen. Paul Van Riper decided to begin the wargame by "pre-empting the pre-empter." The U.S. suspected the red team's smaller and inferior military would wait to be attacked first before it responded with a counterattack. Scrambling and caught off guard, the blue team was quickly overwhelmed.

According to War on the Rocks, "Once U.S. forces were within range, Van Riper's forces unleashed a barrage of missiles from ground-based launchers, commercial ships, and planes flying low and without radio communications to reduce their radar signature. Simultaneously, swarms of speedboats loaded with explosives launched kamikaze attacks."

In addition to its initial surprise attack, the red team also used unconventional communication methods that could not be detected and intercepted by the blue team's advanced technology. To signal his army, Van Riper used the minarets of mosques to project coded messages during the call to prayer. Motorcycle messengers were also instrumental in relaying tactics to each team member. The blue team assumed

"Iran" would use the modes of communication that would allow them to listen and ambush their enemy, but Van Riper's asymmetric assault made this tactic impossible.

After the U.S. team's quick and miserable defeat, additional constraints were placed on the red team. The control group of the games instructed Van Riper that his team could not shoot down the airframes flying cover for their enemy's ground forces. The red team was also prohibited from hiding their offensive weapons or from using chemical warfare against the blue team's paratroopers. With these extreme disadvantages in place, the blue team ultimately succeeded in their mission to destroy "Iran's" military capabilities. However, the blue team's inability to use flexibility and quick thinking in its response to the red's initial attack reflected a rigidity that would not serve the U.S. well in real conflict.

"The costliest wargame in America's history did not play out exactly how the Pentagon had hoped. While obtaining advanced technology and sophisticated weaponry is a crucial component in war, it won't necessarily guarantee a win. Innovative warfare combined with adaptability can be just as lethal," the American website said.

Simorgh, Iran-Made Light Transport Aircraft, Unveiled



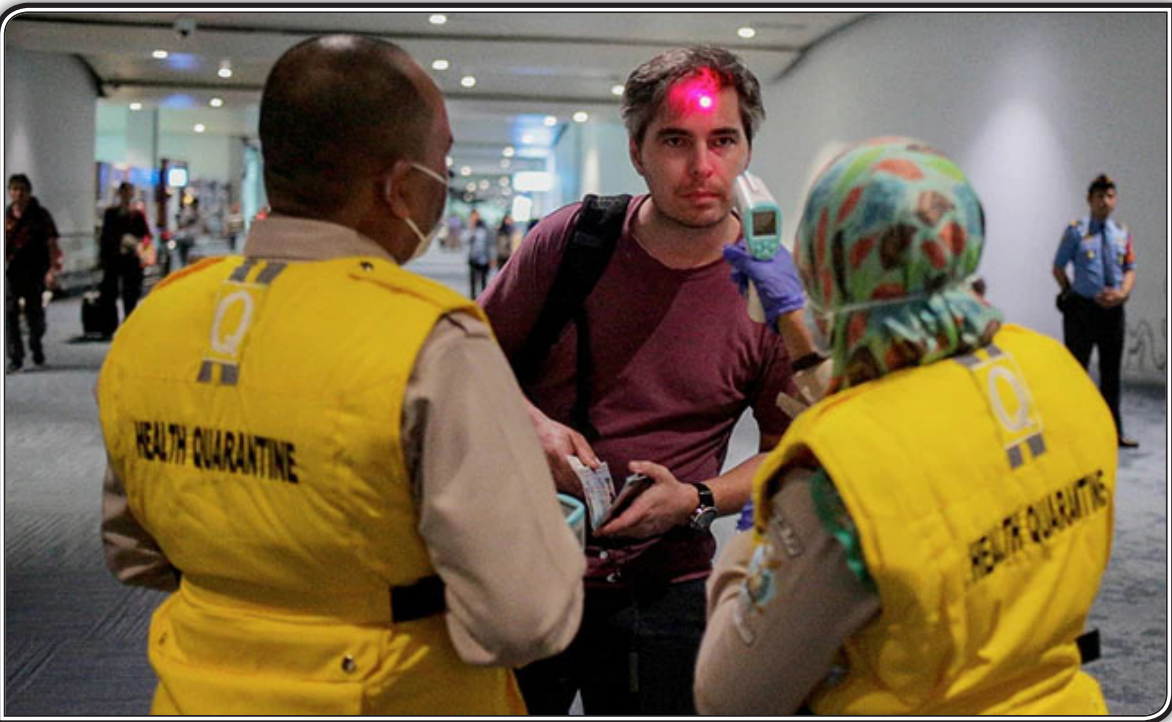
Paykan Advance to Asian Club Volleyball Championship Semifinals



New Video Shows No Fighting Before Abu Akleh's Killing



Monkeypox Cases in West Baffles Scientists



Several countries have begun testing temperatures of arriving Western passengers to detect monkeypox.

LONDON (AP) — Scientists who have monitored numerous outbreaks of monkeypox in Africa say they are baffled by the disease's recent spread in Europe and North America.

Cases of the smallpox-related disease have previously been seen only among people with links to central and West Africa. But in the past week, Britain, Spain, Portugal, Italy, U.S., Sweden and Canada all reported infections, mostly in young men who hadn't previ-

ously traveled to Africa.

France, Germany, Belgium and Australia confirmed their first cases of monkeypox on Friday.

"I'm stunned by this. Every day I wake up and there are more countries infected," said Oyewale Tomori, a virologist who formerly headed the Nigerian Academy of Science and who sits on several World Health Organization advisory boards.

"This is not the kind of spread we've seen in West Africa, so

there may be something new happening in the West," he said.

Monkeypox typically causes fever, chills, a rash and lesions on the face or genitals. WHO estimates the disease is fatal for up to one in 10 people, but smallpox vaccines are protective and some antiviral drugs are also being developed.

One of the theories British health officials are exploring is whether the disease is being sexually transmitted. Health officials have asked

doctors and nurses to be on alert for potential cases, but said the risk to the general population is low.

Nigeria reports about 3,000 monkeypox cases a year, WHO said. Outbreaks are usually in rural areas, where people have close contact with infected rats and squirrels, Tomori said. He said many cases are likely missed.

Tomori hoped the appearance of monkeypox cases across Europe and other countries would further scientific understanding of the disease.

The WHO's lead on emergency response, Dr. Ibrahim Soce Fall, acknowledged this week that there were still "so many unknowns in terms of the dynamics of transmission, the clinical features (and) the epidemiology."

On Friday, Britain's Health Security Agency reported 11 new monkeypox cases, saying that "a notable proportion" of the most recent infections in the U.K. and Europe have been in young men with no history of travel to Africa who were gay, bisexual or had sex with men.

Authorities in Spain and Portugal also said their cases were in young men who mostly had sex with other men and said those cases were picked up when the men turned up with lesions at sexual health clinics.

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Economist: World Facing Food Catastrophe

LONDON (Dispatches) -- The Ukraine war is battering a global food system weakened by COVID-19, climate change and an energy shock. Ukraine's exports of grain and oilseeds have mostly stopped and Russia's are threatened. Together, the two countries supply 12% of traded calories. Wheat prices, up 53% since the start of the year, jumped a further 6% on May 16, after India said it would suspend exports because of an alarming heatwave.

The widely accepted idea of a cost-of-living crisis does not begin to capture the gravity of what may lie ahead. António Guterres, the UN secretary general, warned on May 18 that the coming months threaten "the specter of a global food shortage" that could last for years. The high cost of staple foods has already raised the number of people who cannot be sure of getting enough to eat by 440 million, to 1.6 billion. Nearly 250 million are on the brink of famine. If, as is likely, the war drags on and supplies from Russia and Ukraine are limited, hundreds of millions more people could fall into poverty. Political unrest will spread, children will be stunted and people will starve, The Economist reported.

"Shortages are not the inevitable outcome of war. World leaders should see hunger as a global problem urgently requiring a global solution," the British weekly newspaper

said.

Russia and Ukraine supply 28% of globally traded wheat, 29% of the barley, 15% of the maize and 75% of the sunflower oil. Russia and Ukraine contribute about half the cereals imported by Lebanon and Tunisia; for Libya and Egypt the figure is two-thirds. Ukraine's food exports provide the calories to feed 400 million people. The war is disrupting these supplies because Ukraine has mined its waters to deter an assault, and Russia is blockading the port of Odessa.

Even before the war the World Food Programme had warned that 2022 would be a terrible year. China, the largest wheat producer, has said that, after rains delayed planting last year, this crop may be its worst-ever. Now, in addition to the extreme temperatures in India, the world's second-largest producer, a lack of rain threatens to sap yields in other breadbaskets, from America's wheat belt to the Beauce region of France. The Horn of Africa is being ravaged by its worst drought in four decades. Welcome to the era of climate change.

All this will have a grievous effect on the poor. Households in emerging economies spend 25% of their budgets on food—and in sub-Saharan Africa as much as 40%. In Egypt bread provides 30% of all calories.

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Even Taj Mahal Not Immune From Hindu Extremists

NEW DELHI (AFP) – Thirty years after mobs demolished a historic mosque in Ayodhya, triggering a wave of sectarian bloodshed that saw thousands killed, fundamentalist Indian Hindu groups are eyeing other Muslim sites -- even the world-famous Taj Mahal.

Emboldened under Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aided by courts and fuelled by social media, the fringe groups believe the sites were built on top of Hindu temples, which they consider representations of India's "true" religion.

Currently most in danger is the centuries-old Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi, one of the world's oldest continually inhabited cities, where Hindus are cremated by the Ganges.

Last week reports claimed a leaked court-mandated survey of the mosque had discovered a shivalinga, a phallic representation of the Hindu god Shiva, at the site.

"This means that is the site of a temple," government minister Kaushal Kishore, a member of Modi's BJP party, told local media, saying that Hindus should now pray there.

Muslims have already been banned from performing ablutions in the water tank where the alleged relic -- mosque authorities say it is a fountain -- was found.

The fear now is that the Islamic place of worship will go the way of the Ayodhya

mosque, which Hindu groups believe was built on the birthplace of Ram, another deity.

The frenzied destruction of the 450-year-old building in 1992 sparked religious riots in which more than 2,000 people died, most of them Muslims, who number 200 million in India.

The demolition was also a seminal moment for Hindutva -- Hindu supremacy -- paving the way for Modi's rise to power in 2014.

The movement's core tenet has long been that Hinduism is India's original religion, and that everything else -- from the Mughals, originally from Central Asia, to the British -- is alien.

Some groups have even set their sights on UNESCO world heritage site the Taj Mahal, India's best-known monument attracting millions of visitors every year.

Despite no credible evidence, they believe that the 17th-century mausoleum was built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan on the site of a Shiva shrine.

"It was destroyed by Mughal invaders so that a mosque could be built there," Sanjay Jat, spokesman for the hardline organization Hindu Mahasabha, told AFP.

This month a court petition was filed by a member of Modi's party trying to force India's archaeological body, the ASI, to open

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