

At Least 8 Killed in Afghanistan Earthquake

KABUL (AFP) – At least eight people were killed and nine others injured after an earthquake in eastern Afghanistan overnight, an official said on Monday. The 5.3-magnitude tremor that hit districts along the eastern border with Pakistan comes less than three months after a powerful quake killed more than 1,000 people, also along the same frontier. The latest quake was felt in the provinces of Kunar, Laghman and Nangarhar, and in the capital Kabul. “We are collecting information from other areas regarding casualties and the damage,” deputy minister for disaster management Sharafuddin Muslim told AFP. Afghanistan is frequently hit by earthquakes — especially in the Hindu Kush mountain range, which lies near the junction of the Eurasian and Indian tectonic plates.

Thought for Today

Not to have a thing is less humiliating than to beg it.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

VOL NO: LV 11790 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Tuesday, September 6, 2022, Shahrivar 15, 1401, Safar 9, 1444

Zionist Regime Admits

‘Highly Probable’ It Killed Abu Akleh

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – A Zionist regime army investigation into the killing of the veteran Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh concluded that she was likely to have been ‘unintentionally’ shot by a Zionist trooper but was not deliberately targeted, the military said on Monday.

Abu Akleh was shot dead by Zionist troops on 11 May while covering a Zionist military raid in Jenin in the occupied West Bank. Her colleague Ali al-Samoudi was also shot and injured.

A statement on the investigation published on Monday said “there is a high possibility that M. Abu Akleh was accidentally hit by IDF (the Zionist regime’s army) gunfire that was fired toward suspects identified as armed Palestinian gunmen”.

The occupying regime’s military advocate general’s Office said it would not open an investigation into any troops involved in the incident as “there is no suspicion that a criminal offence was committed”.

The army investigation also said it was possible that she was hit by



Shireen Abu Akleh, a veteran Palestinian correspondent, was shot and killed in May while covering a Zionist military raid in the West Bank.

Palestinian gunmen.

In a statement in response to the army’s findings, the Abu Akleh family said: “Today, the Israeli regime and military released a statement that tried to obscure the truth and avoid responsibility for killing Shireen Abu Akleh, our aunt, sister, best friend, journalist, and a Palestinian American.

“We’ve known for over four months now that an Israeli soldier

shot and killed Shireen as countless investigations conducted by CNN, the Associated Press, the New York Times, Al Jazeera, Al-Haq, B’tselem, the United Nations, and others have all concluded.

“And yet, as expected, Israel has refused to take responsibility for murdering Shireen.

“Our family is not surprised by this outcome since it’s obvious to anyone that Israeli war crimi-

nals cannot investigate their own crimes. However, we remain deeply hurt, frustrated, and disappointed.”

In June, the UN concluded that Zionist troops had fired the fatal bullet that killed Abu Akleh.

UN Human Rights Office spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani told reporters in Geneva that the organization found that the shots that killed Abu Akleh came from the Zionist troops.

“It is deeply disturbing that the Israeli authorities have not conducted a criminal investigation,” she said.

“We at the UN Human Rights Office have concluded our independent monitoring into the incident.

“All information we have gathered - including official information from the Israeli military and the Palestinian attorney-general - is consistent with the finding that the shots that killed Abu Akleh and injured her colleague Ali Samoudi came from Israeli Forces and not from indiscriminate firing by armed Palestinians, as initially claimed by Israeli authorities.”

Zionist Troops Martyr Palestinian Teenager



Deceased Palestinian teenager Taher Mohammad Zakarneh

Ramallah (Dispatches) – Zionist troops have shot and killed a Palestinian teenager during a raid on the northern occupied West Bank city of Jenin and its outskirts, according to the Palestinian health ministry.

Taher Mohammad Zakarneh, 19, was killed on Monday in the village of Qabatiya, south of Jenin, after being shot in the head and legs.

Zakarneh was alive when he was taken to hospital in the morning, before succumbing to his injuries several hours later.

The occupying regime’s raid on Jenin began at dawn and led to confrontations with Palestinians.

A funeral procession was held for Zakarneh in Qabatiya shortly after the killing.

The official Palestinian Wafa news agency, citing the Palestinian Health Ministry, reported that he was shot in the head, the right foot and the left thigh, and suffered burns as well.

Another Palestinian was also injured with live bullets and three others detained during the regime’s army raid on Qabatya, according to reports.

Zionist troops also rounded up five Palestinians, including a young man identified as Odai Manasra from his workplace at a bakery, in the town.

Moreover, Zionist troops raided the city of Jenin and violently searched several homes, before abducting four young men who were named as Amin Sa’adi, Nawras Ghawadra, Mohammad Nasif Ghawadra and Nidal Saba’na.

According to witnesses, Palestinian resistance fighters exchanged fire with the regime’s troops as the latter invaded several parts of Jenin.

The troops continue their near-daily raid-and-arrest operations in various parts of the West Bank, wounding or killing Palestinians. Such raids are carried out while settlers also conduct acts of violence against Palestinians and their property.

Settler violence is rampant in the occupied Palestinian territories. The acts of violence and vandalism, known as price tag attacks which are committed by settlers against Palestinians and their property, have risen in recent years.

Iraqis Agree to Work Towards Snap Elections Following Unrest

BAGHDAD (AFP) – Iraq’s top executive powers and major parties agreed Monday at a meeting boycotted by powerful cleric Moqtada al-Sadr to work towards holding early elections, a week after deadly unrest, the prime minister’s office said.

The president, prime minister and parliament speaker met with representatives of political parties to chart an exit from an 11-month-long political paralysis.

They “agreed to form a technical committee comprising the various political forces... to bridge differences with the aim of reaching early elections”,

Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi’s office said in a statement. Early elections have been a key demand of Sadr and his supporters who have called for the dissolution of parliament.

Sadr’s rivals in the Coordination Framework want a new head of government appointed before new polls are held.

Under the constitution, parliament can only be dissolved by an absolute majority vote in the house, following a request by one-third of deputies or by the prime minister with the approval of the president.

Participants at Monday’s meet-

ing “renewed their invitation for brothers in the Sadrist movement to take part in technical and political meetings... to reach a solution,” the statement said.

The dialogue was the second of its kind following an initial meeting last month, also boycotted by Sadr.

It came a week after Sadr supporters clashed with the army and rival factions after they stormed government headquarters in the capital’s fortified Green Zone.

More than 30 Sadr supporters were killed and hundreds injured in nearly 24 hours of

violence that ended when Sadr called on his supporters to pull out.

Sadr’s bloc emerged from elections last October as the biggest in the legislature, with 73 seats, but far short of a majority.

Since then the country has been mired in political deadlock that has left Iraq without a new government, president or prime minister.

In June, his lawmakers quit in a bid to break the logjam.

Last month, Sadr said “all parties” including his own should give up government positions in order to help resolve the crisis.

Two Russian Embassy Staff Killed in Kabul Bomb Attack

KABUL (AFP) – A bomber struck near the Russian embassy in the Afghan capital Kabul on Monday, killing two staff from the diplomatic mission and wounding several other people, the foreign ministry in Moscow said.

In the first attack targeting a foreign mission since the Taliban seized power in August last year, the bomber blew himself up near the entrance of the embassy’s consular section.

“As a result of the attack, two employees of the diplomatic mission were killed, and there are also Afghan citizens among the wounded,” the Russian foreign ministry said.

Afghan interior ministry spokesman Abdul Nafy Takor gave AFP a different account, saying an attacker was shot dead by Taliban guards at the Russian embassy.

An Afghan civilian was killed and

several others wounded, he said.

As with other recent attacks, heavy Taliban security quickly sealed off the area and prevented media from filming nearby.

No group has so far claimed the attack on the embassy.

“Without any doubt, we are talking about a terrorist act, which is absolutely unacceptable,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists in Moscow.

Violence in Afghanistan has largely declined since the Taliban returned to power, but several bomb blasts -- some targeting minority communities -- have rocked the country in recent months, many claimed by the Daesh terrorist group.

Last week, a bomber struck one of western Afghanistan’s biggest mosques, killing at least 18 people, including an influential imam.

Cleric Mujib ur Rahman Ansari,

who had called for those who committed even the “smallest act” against the government to be beheaded, was killed in that attack in the city of Herat.

Ansari was the second pro-Taliban cleric to be killed in a blast in less than a month, after an August 11 attack targeted Rahimullah Haqqani at his madrassa in Kabul.

Several mosques across the country have been targeted this year, some in attacks claimed by Daesh.

At least 21 people were killed and dozens more wounded on August 17 when a blast ripped through a mosque packed with worshippers in Kabul.

Daesh has primarily targeted minority communities.

Taliban officials claim that Daesh has been defeated but experts say the group is the main security challenge for the country’s current rulers.

Report: U.S. Continues Smuggling Syria’s Oil to Iraq

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The U.S. military has reportedly used dozens of tanker trucks to smuggle crude oil from the war-ravaged country’s northeastern province of Hasakah to the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region in northern Iraq.

Syria’s official news agency SANA, citing local sources in al-Ya’rubiyah town, reported that a convoy of 31 U.S. military trucks, including tankers and flatbed trucks carrying battle tanks, left Syria through al-Waleed border crossing on Monday, and headed towards Iraqi territories.

The sources added that three four-wheel-drive vehicles belonging to American occupation forces also escorted the convoy as it entered Iraqi soil and drove towards U.S. military bases in northern Iraq.

The U.S. military has for long stationed its forces and equipment in northeastern Syria, with the Pentagon claiming that the deployment is aimed at preventing the oilfields in the area from falling into the hands of Daesh terrorists.

Damascus, however, maintains the deployment is meant to plunder the country’s natural resources. Former U.S. president Donald Trump admitted on several occasions that American forces were in the Arab country for its oil wealth.

On August 30, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman denounced the illegal presence of U.S. military forces in Syria, saying Washington’s continued looting of the war-torn country’s energy and mineral resources has only exacerbated the suffering of the Syrian people.

ple.

“It is appalling to see the sheer scale of U.S. plundering in Syria, which has been going on as the country tries to emerge from a crisis that has dragged on for over a decade and a grave humanitarian crisis facing its people,” Zhao Lijian said at a regular press conference in Beijing.

“There is no greater injustice than the world’s wealthiest country robbing one of the poorest,” he added.

“U.S. troops control Syria’s oil, natural gas and other natural resources. They continue to occupy Syria’s main oil fields and have plundered more than 80% of the country’s oil products. They have smuggled and burned Syria’s grain stock, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis there,” Zhao stressed.