

DUBAI (Al Jazeera) – A fire has swept through an apartment building in an older neighborhood of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, killing at least 16 people and injuring nine, local media report.

The fire broke out on the fourth floor of the building in the al-Ras neighborhood.

The Dubai Civil Defence Force said preliminary investigations showed the fire was caused by “a lack of compliance with building safety and security requirements”, according to a statement quoted by The National, a UAE-based newspaper.

A Divine rule can be established only by a man, who, where justice and equity are required, neither feels deficient nor weak and who is not greedy and avaricious.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

UN to Commemorate Nakba Day for First Time



Protesters wave Palestinian flags during a demonstration marking the annual Land Day in the northern occupied town of Sakhnin on March 30, 2023.

NEW YORK (Anadolu/TRT) – The UN will commemorate Nakba Day, which marks the creation of the Zionist regime in historical Palestine, for the first time in 2023, according to media reports.

“Commemorating the Nakba must be at the top of our priorities in order to preserve our narrative, which we must adhere to and convey to the whole world,” the Palestinian Wafa news agency quoted Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Abbas urged all Palestinians to commemorate the Palestinian trag-

edy of 1948 “to confront all lies and false narratives that attempt to distort history and facts.”

Nakba Day is marked annually by Palestinians on May 15 to remember the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homes and areas in 1948 after the founding of the occupying regime.

“What Palestinians everywhere are required to do is to commemorate this tragedy, because it is the first time that the global community does not deny the Nakba,” said Abbas.

“On these blessed days, we call on all our people to stand together to face the challenges facing our cause, our land and our sanctities, and to focus our compass towards confronting the occupation and getting rid of it,” he added.

This year marks 75 years of Nakba, or catastrophe, when nearly 800,000 Palestinians were driven out of their homes by then Zionist paramilitaries in 1948 and onward.

“The UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People [CEIRPP] will commemorate the 75th anniversary

of the Nakba at UN Headquarters in New York,” the UN said.

“For the first time in the history of the UN, this anniversary will be commemorated pursuant to the mandate by the General Assembly.”

“Commemorations... will bring to life the Palestinian journey and will aim at creating an immersive experience of the Nakba through live music, photos, videos, and personal testimonies.”

Nakba, Arabic for Catastrophe, resulted from the first Arab-Zionist war in 1948.

Following the war, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were forced out of their homes and areas, paving the way for the establishment of the Zionist regime.

Arabs in general and Palestinians in specific often mark May 15 as a reminder of their collective suffering, their ancestral home, the continued occupation of the West Bank and the blockaded Gaza.

Palestinians legally hold the “right of return” to their own lands, which are now considered occupied territories, according to the UN General Assembly Resolution 194 of 1948.

Millions of Nakba survivors are living with their descendants in refugee camps in blockaded Gaza, occupied West Bank and other neighboring countries.

Erdogan Leads in Surveys Ahead of Turkish Elections



Incumbent President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who faces another test to his long tenure in Turkey's top offices, maintains his lead against rivals according to one survey, as the country counts down to the May 14 elections

ANKARA (Daily Sabah) – Two surveys held at an interval of two weeks will likely put a smile on the face of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, as he runs for another term, this time against an apparently stronger opposition.

The latest poll by the Areda survey company was conducted between April 12-14 and with 10,136 people. It follows another carried out by the same company between March 28 and April 1. Erdogan will win 50.8% of the vote, according to the survey, while Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, the candidate of the main opposition bloc, may garner 43.1% of the vote. The two men are far ahead of Muharrem İnce, the only candidate without the backing of the alliance, who would win 4.5% of the vote, according to the survey. Sinan Oğan, a far-right candidate, remains at 1.6%.

Interviewees also overwhelmingly supported Erdogan in the case of a two-round election. Erdogan was their favorite, at 52.6%, when they answered who they would vote for in a possible second round. Kılıçdaroğlu also increased his vote in the survey regarding a two-round election and 47.4% of the interviewees said they would support him in the second round. The latest survey shows a 0.2% increase in Erdogan's vote compared to March 28-April 1 survey.

Meanwhile, Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AK Party) secured 40.4% of the vote in the survey, ahead of 25.5% for the Republican People's Party (CHP) of Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu. The Peoples'

Democratic Party (HDP), which is viewed as the kingmaker in the election, comes third in the survey with 10.3% of the vote, although its candidates will run under the name of the Green Left Party (YSP) in the upcoming elections amid risk of a court-sanctioned closure of the party.

The HDP earlier implied it would endorse Kılıçdaroğlu in the presidential election while it will field its own candidates in the simultaneous parliamentary elections. The Good Party (IP), the major partner of the CHP in the opposition bloc, trailed behind the HDP at 7.6%.

Another poll, by the Metropoll survey company, sheds light on the rate of “undecided” voters, a segment of the society all parties seek to court. This segment, largely comprised of supporters of political parties disillusioned by their policies, may still carry the AK Party to power in May 14 elections after more than two decades in office. The AK Party will win only 35% of the vote without the inclusion of the “undecided” vote, according to the Metropoll survey, while this rate rises to 40.1% with the inclusion.

This is the first election since Turkey held its first multiparty elections, again on another May 14, some 73 years ago, in which such a high number of alliances will compete. Although the partnerships were born out of necessity for the opposition, which has repeatedly failed against Erdogan and the AK Party, the AK Party has also found new allies in its People's Alliance over the years.

Yemen's Ansarullah, Saudi-Backed Forces Complete Prisoner Exchange

SANA'A (Dispatches) – Yemen's Ansarullah movement and the Saudi-backed forces freed scores of prisoners Sunday on the last of a three day exchange of nearly 900 detainees, boosting hopes of ending their protracted war.

Planes carrying detainees took off at the same time from the capital of Sana'a and the northern city of Marib, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said.

“The first flight from Marib and the first flight from Sana'a have left,” ICRC media adviser Jessica Moussan told AFP.

“Forty eight former detainees

were on board the Marib-Sana'a flight, and 42 on the Sana'a-Marib flight.”

Three other flights during the day were to complete the deal reached in Switzerland last month to exchange 181 mercenary forces for 706 resistance fighters.

Four journalists sentenced to death are part of the exchange, said negotiator Majed Fadail.

Mahdi al-Mashat, head of Yemen's Supreme Political Council, said the next round of talks with Saudi Arabia would start after the Eid al-Fitr holiday, which is expected on April 21 and marks the end of the holy Muslim fasting

month of Ramadan, Yemen's official Saba news agency reported.

The last talks ended hours before 318 prisoners were transported on four flights on Friday between the southern Yemeni port city of Aden and Sana'a, reuniting detainees with their families.

On Saturday, 357 detainees took flights between the Saudi city of Abha and Sana'a. Saudis were among the prisoners freed. It is not known how many prisoners each side still has.

Saudi Arabia launched the bloody war against Yemen in March 2015 in collaboration with a number of its allies and

with arms and logistics support from the U.S. and several Western states to reinstall Hadi, who resigned from the presidency in late 2014 and later fled to Riyadh amid a political conflict with the popular Ansarullah movement.

The war objective was also to crush the Ansarullah movement, which has been running state affairs in the absence of an effective government in Yemen.

However, it has stopped well shy of all of its goals, despite killing tens of thousands of Yemenis and turning the entire country into the scene of the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Dozens Zionist Websites Targeted by Pro-Palestine Hacker Groups

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Pro-Palestinian hackers have knocked offline the websites of dozens of prominent Zionist companies and institutions in a show of solidarity with the Palestinian people on the occasion of International Quds Day, and to condemn heinous crimes committed by the occupying regime against the oppressed nation.

According to a report published by the Hebrew-language Israel Hayom newspaper, the hackers brought down at least 60 websites over the past two days, and the cyber attacks, which took place on an unprecedented scale, caused widespread disruption across the occupied territories.

The report added that apart from the regime's banks, which came under cyber attacks on Quds Day, the websites of international ride-hailing service Yango and the private College of Law and Business in Ramat Gan were among those affected.

Information technology specialists and ex-

perts emphasize that the methods used for the hacking were significantly more advanced than those employed in previous years.

The Israel Hayom further noted that the Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks, during which websites are targeted by overwhelming their servers with too many requests to connect, have made many of the websites unavailable, with hackers asserting they managed to take over a number of servers and take control of computers at two water supply monitoring systems.

There have also been reports of intrusion into CCTV systems of several sensitive facilities, with anti-Zionist slogans and sentences in condemnation of the occupation of Palestinian lands showing on many websites.

The Yedioth Ahronoth daily newspaper also reported that Anonymous Sudan hacker group has claimed responsibility for cyber attacks on the websites of the regime's banks, including

Benleumi Bank, Discount Bank, and Mizrahi-Tefahot Bank.

Every year on the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan, worldwide rallies are held to commemorate the Palestinian people's resistance against the Zionist regime and their struggle to liberate their territories, which the regime has occupied for decades.

The annual event is seen as an opportunity for freedom-seeking people across the world, regardless of faith, to voice their support for the Palestinian cause and vent their anger against the apartheid regime in Tel Aviv.

Since the start of the holy month of Ramadan, the Zionist regime has imposed strict restrictions on the entry and exit of Palestinians to and from the gates of Al-Aqsa Mosque. Amid heightened tensions with Palestinian worshippers, Zionist settlers also went ahead with their frequent incursions and provocative rituals at the holy site.

Reports: Militants Kill Scores of People in Syrian Countryside

BEIRUT (AP) – Daesh terrorist have killed 26 people who were foraging for wild truffles in Syria's Hama region, opposition and state media reported Sunday.

Amid the economic devastation of Syria's years-long war, foraging for truffles can help people earn money, as the seasonal delicacy fetches a high price.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition media group based in Britain, said civilians and military personnel were among the victims of the armed attack in the eastern outskirts of the city of Hama, 115 miles (186 kilometers) north of the capital Damascus.

State news agency SANA said that the attack was carried out by members of the Daesh group.

Despite their defeat in Syria in

March 2019, the terrorist group's sleeper cells still carry out deadly attacks both in Syria and Iraq where they once held territories and declared a “caliphate.”

Since the truffle hunters work in large groups in remote areas, Daesh terrorists have repeatedly preyed on them, emerging from the desert to abduct them, kill some and ransom others for money.

In February, Daesh sleeper cells attacked workers collecting truffles near the central town of Sukhna, killing at least 53 people, mostly workers but also some Syrian government security forces.

Earlier this month, six people were killed by a land mine planted by the Daesh group in the southern Dayr al-Zawr province also while foraging for truffles, according to state-run news agency SANA.