

Mass Grave Discovered in East Afghanistan

KHOST (Xinhua) – Local authorities have found a mass grave in Khost City, capital of east Afghanistan's Khost province and reburied the remains of bodies on Tuesday, Qari Bismillah Bilal, mayor of Khost City, said. The remains of about 100 bodies were discovered from a place during work to build a reservoir dam on the outskirts of Khost City on Monday, the official said, adding all the carcasses were buried at a ceremony attended by local people. Without providing more details, the official suggested that the victims in the mass grave could speak of the brutality of decades of war in war-torn Afghanistan.

Thought for Today

Blessed is the man who always kept the life after death in his view, who remembered the Day of Judgment through all his deeds, who led a contented life and who was happy with the lot that Allah had destined for him.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

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World Leaders Denounce Israel's Incessant Aggression Against Gaza

DUBAI (Dispatches) – Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Tuesday said there are no prospects for a quick stabilization of the situation in the Gaza Strip due to the “uncompromising attitude” of the Zionist regime.

“Taking into account the uncompromising attitude of the Israeli leadership to continue the military action in Gaza, now extending it to Rafah, we do not see prospects for a quick stabilization of the situation in this sector,” Lavrov said during a meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club on the Middle East.

Expressing that it is nevertheless necessary to create conditions for “reliable sustainable settlement” in Gaza, while also achieving a ceasefire, Lavrov said Russia drew attention to its initiative in the UN Security Council to hold consultation with regional countries to “harmonize their approaches in support of the creation of a Palestinian state.” “Following this, we propose holding an inter-Palestinian meeting with the participation of all leading Palestinian factions to overcome the internal division,” Lavrov further said.

In another development, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan



A Palestinian child gestures as he moves through the rubble of a building destroyed by Israeli regime forces bombardment in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip.

said on Tuesday that world leaders must end the crisis in Gaza by addressing the source of the problem and establishing an independent Palestinian state.

“We need accurate diagnosis to come up with the right treatment. If we cannot diagnose a problem at its source, there will be no solution,” Erdogan said during an address as the guest of honor at the World Governments Summit in Dubai.

“Without an independent Palestinian state, we will never be able to find a temporary solution.”

The Turkish leader refuted claims that the Hamas-led Oct. 7 surprise

operation acted as the source of the crisis, highlighting the long Palestinian struggle against injustice and the expansion of Israeli territory since 1948.

Settlements on occupied lands in contravention of UN security resolutions show that “Israel deems itself above international law and for many decades now, occupation, illegal settlements and massacre policies have been sustained,” Erdogan said.

The Gaza conflict is an example of what happens when critical issues are left unresolved, he added.

Also on Tuesday, the secretary-

general of the Arab League said the displacement of the Palestinian population from the occupied territories by Zionist troops would lead to confrontation “for the next 1,000 years.”

Speaking at the World Governments Summit in Dubai, Ahmed Aboul Gheit also reiterated his warning of the “dangerous consequences” of the Zionist regime’s ongoing assault on Rafah.

“The (Israeli) occupation’s intentions to impose the reality of displacement on hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, who have taken refuge in Rafah as a last resort from indiscriminate attacks on civilians, is an open and completely rejected plan; it entails serious threats to regional stability,” he added.

Israel’s military action in Gaza has claimed more than 28,000 Palestinian lives, according to the Hamas-run health authorities in the enclave.

Aboul Gheit pointed out that it was imperative that the U.S. and the Western bloc asked Israel to stop its attacks and called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, otherwise there would be an “explosion” of violence in West Asia.

‘Surprises at Highest Level’ Hezbollah Continues to Hit Israeli Targets Near Lebanese Border



A Hezbollah rocket aimed at a target in the occupied territories is fired from southern Lebanon

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Fighters from the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement have separately targeted espionage equipment and a gathering of Zionist troops stationed at military outposts close to the border between the Arab country and the 1948 occupied territories.

Hezbollah said in a brief statement that its fighters carried out an operation at 9:30 am local time on Tuesday (0730 GMT) against the Hadab Yarin site, and fired a salvo of rockets at the surveillance devices there.

The statement added that the projectiles hit the designated targets, and destroyed them.

Earlier in the day, Hezbollah fighters had struck a gathering of Zionist troops in Hounin Castle, causing injuries among the troops.

On Tuesday afternoon, Hezbollah said in a separate statement that it had launched a number of rockets at an Israeli police building in Kiryat Shmona city, which lies in the northern part of the occupied lands, and hit it precisely.

This came on the same day that the Gaza-base resistance group Mujahideen Brigades stated that its fighters had fired a number of rockets at the illegal Netiv HaAsara, just at the northern border with the Gaza Strip.

It went on to note that the resistance forces are engaged in fierce clashes with Israeli infantry units in the eastern and western neighborhoods of the city of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip.

Mujahideen Brigades also stated that it had struck an Israeli armored vehicle in al-Jamiat area, west of Gaza City, with a rocket-propelled grenade.

Moreover, the resistance fighters hit and destroyed an Israeli personnel carrier with a tandem-charge weapon near the Gaza Industrial Estate.

A Lebanese lawmaker from the political wing of the Hezbollah resistance movement has warned of retaliatory surprises if the Zionist regime oversteps the limits and commits an act of great folly against his country.

Speaking on Monday, Ibrahim al-Moussawi, a member of Loyalty to Resistance parliamentary bloc, threatened more strikes in the occupied territories in solidarity with Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

“If the Zionist regime commits an act of great folly or oversteps the limits, it will face an appropriate response,” he was quoted by Lebanon’s al-Ahed news website as saying.

“The enemy must know that it is facing the resistance that is very powerful and a nation that does not back down in the face of threats.”

Moussawi also noted that Hezbollah has retaliated against the attacks carried out by the enemy over the past few months.

He asserted, “The axis of resistance has surprises, and will be ready at any moment to raise the level of its response to aggression to the highest level imagined by its enemies.”

UNRWA Chief Deplores ‘Short-Sighted’ Calls to Dismantle Agency

NEW YORK (Dispatches) – The head of the UN Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA) said Tuesday that calls to dismantle the aid agency were short-sighted and that terminating its mandate weakened the world’s ability to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Reuters reported.

“I have talked to the member states about all these calls to have UNRWA dismantled, to be terminated. I have warned about the impact, I have said that these calls are short-sighted,” UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini said after a meeting with member states at the United Nations in Geneva.

“The impact is not just on the short-term. It not just weakens our collective ability to respond to the humanitarian crisis...”

Israel has claimed 12 of the agency’s staff took part in the 7 October attack on the towns and villages around Gaza, however it has provided no evidence for its claims. In spite of this, 18 countries have cut funding to UNRWA leaving the agency warning that it will have to cease its vital services at the end of the month.

Israel has repeatedly equated UNRWA staff with Hamas members in efforts to discredit them, providing no proof of the claims, while lobbying hard to have UNRWA closed as it is the only UN agency to have a specific mandate to look after the basic needs of Palestinian refugees. If the agency no longer exists, argues Israel, then the refugee issue must no longer exist, and the legitimate

right for Palestinian refugees to return to their land will be unnecessary. Israel has denied that right of return since the late 1940s, even though its own membership of the UN was made conditional upon Palestinian refugees being allowed to return to their homes and land.

Meanwhile, the United Nations (UN) human rights chief Volker Turk has warned that a potential full-fledged military incursion into Rafah is terrifying, as an extremely large number of civilians, mostly women and children, will likely be killed and injured.

“Not so long ago, I had flagged the unimaginable suffering faced by Palestinians in Gaza. Today, sadly, given the carnage wrought so far in Gaza it is wholly imaginable what would lie ahead in Ra-

fah,” the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said in a media statement.

Located in the southern Gaza Strip and being Gaza’s only gateway to the rest of the world that is not directly controlled by Israel, Rafah now houses some 1.5 million Palestinians whereas before the Oct. 7 attack, its population stood at 250,000.

In addition to the pain and suffering incurred by the bombs and bullets, this incursion into Rafah may also mean the end of the meager humanitarian aid that has been entering and distributed with huge implications for all of Gaza, including the hundreds of thousands in grave risk of starvation and famine in the north, Turk said in the statement.

ICC Prosecutor Threatens Israel With Potential Action Over Rafah Onslaught

THE HAGUE (Dispatches) – International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor Karim Khan has stated he was “deeply concerned” about reports of the bombardment and potential entry of the Zionist regime into Rafah in Gaza, saying that his office may be pushed to take action against the occupying regime.

“All wars have rules and the laws applicable to armed conflict cannot be interpreted so as to render them hollow or devoid of meaning. This has been my consistent message, including from Ramallah last year,” he wrote.

“Since that time, I have not seen any discernible change in conduct by Israel. As I have repeatedly emphasized, those who do not comply with the law should not complain later when my Office takes action pursuant to its mandate.”

Khan posted the statement on the social me-

dia platform X, adding that his office has an ongoing and active investigation “into the situation in the State of Palestine”.

Agnes Callamard, the secretary general at Amnesty International, also took to X to say that there is nowhere safe for Palestinians to go following the air strikes in Rafah.

“The Israeli incursion will have devastating consequences. Mass killings, forced transfers, more war crimes. The carnage must stop,” Callamard stated.

Khan has been a vocal critic of Israel’s military assault in Gaza since the Zionist regime’s genocidal campaign on Gaza started on 7 October. In late October, Israel announced it would not allow Khan to enter the country, according to reports in the Israeli press.

Khan, speaking from the Rafah crossing at the time, expressed his desire to enter Gaza and

the Israeli-occupied territories to investigate potential crimes.

The Zionist regime is not a signatory to the Rome Statute, which established the ICC, and is not a member of The Hague-based court.

However, the ICC can investigate nationals of non-member states in some circumstances, including when alleged crimes are committed in the territories of member states.

The Palestinian Authority is a member of the court. However, Israel refuses to allow members of the ICC to enter the occupied Palestinian territories in the West Bank and Gaza.

In December, Khan called on Israel to respect the international rules of war and said he was accelerating his investigation into violence by Zionist settlers against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, issuing a statement similar to the one made on Monday.

Indian-Made Israeli ‘Killer’ Drones Set to Make Their Way to Gaza

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime’s army is set to include Indian-made Hermes 900 drones in its expanding fleet of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), in a move human rights activists and defense analysts say will further implicate India in the occupying regime’s war on Gaza.

The delivery of the Hermes 900 drones comes as Israeli air strikes pummel Rafah and Palestinians brace for a major aggression on the densely crowded urban area.

Defense analysts say that drones have been one of the mainstays of the Israeli military during its ongoing assault on Gaza where they are used for intelligence as well as to carry out attacks on Palestinian civilians and homes.

The occupying regime and the United States have both deployed drones over the war-battered enclave, either for surveillance purposes or to carry out operations against alleged Hamas targets.

Hermes 900 drones, capable of remaining airborne for more than 30 hours and usually used for a variety of military operations, including reconnaissance missions as well as aerial bombardments, were first introduced in 2014 during Israel’s war in Gaza in which 2,000 Palestinians were killed and 10,000

others were injured.

The Hermes 900 drone, also known as the Hermes 900 Kochav or Star, has since come to represent the gold standard in the “medium-range long endurance” class of drones. It is one of the four lethal or “killer” drones that the Zionist regime employs.

“The Hermes 900 has a documented history of use in the region, and Israel consistently utilizes its various military assets in both surveillance and targeted strikes within Gaza,” Girish Linganna, a defense analyst in India, told Middle East Eye.

“Regrettably, it’s highly likely that drones manufactured through the Adani-Elbit venture may be deployed in Gaza,” Linganna added.

On 2 February, Shephard Media reported that Israel had taken delivery of 20 Indian-made Hermes 900 drones from Adani-Elbit Advanced Systems India Ltd, a joint venture between India’s Adani Defence and Aerospace and Israel’s Elbit Systems.

Though neither country has publicly acknowledged the transfer of Indian-made drones to the Israeli-occupied territories, a source at Adani confirmed to The Wire that drones were, in fact, exported to Israel.