

KABUL (Xinhua) – At least 25 people were killed and 10 others injured as a landslide struck a village in the Norgaram district of east Afghanistan's Nuristan province on Sunday, district Governor Qari Habibullah Sabir said Monday. The disaster took place in the wake of heavy rain and snow in the Tatin Dara area of Norgaram district late Sunday night, the official said, adding women and children are among the victims. At least 20 houses were also destroyed or badly damaged due to the landslide. Confirming the incident, spokesman for national disaster authority Mullah Janan Saeg said that the number of casualties would change.

Success is the result of foresight and resolution, foresight depends upon deep thinking and planning and the most important factor of planning is to keep your secrets to yourself.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Hamas Warns of 'Explosion'

Israel Seeking to Restrict Palestinian Access to Al-Aqsa



Palestinians attend Eid al-Fitr holiday celebrations by the Dome of the Rock shrine in the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound on the Temple Mount in Al-Quds' Old City, April 21, 2023.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime has approved restricting the entry of Palestinians living in the occupied territories to the Al-Aqsa Mosque during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, beginning in the second week of the next month, according to reports.

Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has given his approval to the recommendations of far-right minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, despite the security agency warning that restrictions on Palestinians' access to the Al-Aqsa Mosque during Ramadan could

add fuel to the fire.

"Despite warnings from the Shin Bet (internal security agency) of potential disturbances between Palestinians inside Israel and the Israeli police, Netanyahu agreed to a recommendation from Itamar Ben-Gvir to limit the access of Palestinian faithful to the Al-Aqsa Mosque during the upcoming month of Ramadan," Channel 13 reported.

The Netanyahu administration will make an official decision on this issue in the coming days, the broadcaster claimed.

"The entry of Palestinian faithful to the Al-Aqsa Mosque during Ramadan will be limited," the channel reported, citing unidentified sources.

Several Israeli media outlets, including Channel 12, have reported in the last two days that the Shin Bet warned the regime that prohibiting Palestinians from entering the Al-Aqsa Mosque during Ramadan "could lead to major disturbances".

A senior official of the Hamas resistance group says the Palestinians' resilience against the Zionist

regime's occupation can guarantee a potential agreement with the regime in the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian Hamas resistance movement has denounced Israel's plan to restrict Palestinians' entry to the Al-Aqsa Mosque, warning that the measure will explode the whole situation.

"An outburst of anger is waiting to go off in the face of the occupying regime in response to any restrictions on worship at the Al-Aqsa Mosque during Ramadan," Izzat al-Rishq, a member of the political bureau of Hamas, said.

Earlier, Hamas had roundly condemned Israel's plan to restrict Palestinians' access to the mosque, stating that the decision is a reflection of the Zionist crimes and the religious war waged by hardliner elements in the Israeli administration against the Palestinian people.

In a statement, the Gaza-based group said the restrictions would be a "violation of the freedom of worship" in the holy site, adding that the plan showed Israel's intention to increase its attacks on the mosque during the Muslim fasting month.

The statement called on Palestinians in occupied East Al-Quds, the occupied West Bank and the 1948-occupied territories to reject and resist this "criminal decision", urging them to "take action and flock to Al-Aqsa Mosque."

Report: U.S. Base in Syria Attacked Again



An American military convoy stops near the town of Tel Tamr, northern Syria.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – News sources reported Monday that the U.S. military base in the Koniko natural gas field, in the northeastern Syrian governorate of Dayr al-Zawr has been targeted once again on Monday.

A U.S. military base in the Koniko natural gas field, in the northeastern Syrian governorate of Dayr al-Zawr, came under attack by missile fire, sources have told local Syrian media on Monday.

The U News agency reported on Monday, that the American military base in the Koniko gas field located in Eastern Syria was targeted in a rocket attack and several explosions took place there. Details of possible damage or casualties have not yet been released.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella group of anti-terror fighters, has claimed responsibility for most of the retaliatory

strikes on U.S. military bases in Iraq and Syria.

The United States, the Zionist regime's biggest ally, has provided the occupying regime with a raft of arms and ammunition since the initiation of the Gaza war.

Washington has also vetoed UN Security Council resolutions that called on the regime to cease its aggression.

Israel waged the war on Gaza on October 7 after the Strip-based Palestinian resistance groups of Hamas and Islamic Jihad carried out the surprise Operation Al-Aqsa Storm into the occupied territories in response to the occupying regime's intensified crimes against the Palestinian people.

According to the Gaza-based health ministry, over 29,000 Palestinians have been killed in the strikes, most of them women and children, and another 68,395 individuals injured.

Gaza Onslaught Hits Israeli Economy With 19.4% Q4 Drop

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Israelis sharply curtailed spending, travelling and investing at the end of 2023 as the Zionist regime's all-out war on Palestinians in Gaza exacted a heavy toll on the economy, data released on Monday showed.

The war had stopped economic growth in its tracks, especially with a massive call-up of reserves and tens of thousands displaced from border towns near Gaza and Lebanon due to constant retaliatory rocket attacks from Hamas and Hezbollah.

The \$500 billion economy contracted an annual 19.4%

in the fourth quarter from the prior three months, the Central Bureau of Statistics said in an initial estimate of gross domestic product (GDP) that was double the rate expected in a Reuters consensus.

Still, 2023 as a whole ended with positive growth.

"The contraction of the economy in the fourth quarter of 2023 was directly affected by the outbreak of the Iron Swords War on October 7," the statistics bureau said.

For all of 2023, the economy grew 2.0%, compared with 6.5% in 2022 but above an Organization for Economic

Cooperation and Development (OECD) average of 1.7%. However, per capita GDP slipped 0.1% last year versus an OECD average of 1.2% growth.

Until Hamas' Oct. 7 operation on southern parts of the Israeli-occupied territories, the occupying regime's economy was on track for growth of some 3.5% in 2023. But October was a particularly tough month with most Israelis - many of whom knew those killed or kidnapped in the rampage - in no mood to shop, while movie theatres and other forms of entertain-

ment were largely closed.

Depending on the length of the conflict and whether it expands to other fronts, the economy is expected to grow as much as 2% in 2024.

The economy in the fourth quarter was impacted by a 26.9% drop in private spending - the main growth driver - an 18.3% fall in exports and 67.8% slide in investment in fixed assets, especially in residential building.

Regime spending, mainly on war expenses and compensating businesses and households impacted, jumped 88.1%.

Norway to Help Transfer of Frozen Tax Funds to Palestine

OSLO (Dispatches) – Norway has agreed to assist in the transfer of frozen tax funds earmarked for the Palestinian Authority (PA) that were collected by the Zionist regime, the Norwegian government said on Sunday, providing vital funding to the entity.

Under interim accords reached in the 1990s, the Zionist regime's finance ministry collects tax on behalf of the Palestinians and makes monthly transfers to the PA, but a dispute broke out over payments in the wake of the Oct. 7 attack.

The temporary solution will allow payments to

resume and prevent a financial collapse for the PA, enabling it to pay salaries and provide essential services such as schools and healthcare, Norway said.

"This is critical to promoting stability in the region and for the Palestinian Authority to have legitimacy among its people," Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere said.

Under the solution agreed with Israel and Palestinian officials, Norway will serve as an intermediary for holding revenues that Israel has withheld since Oct. 7.

"The Palestinian Authority is then willing to

accept the other funds," Norway said.

The portion of the revenue Norway will keep equals the portion that Israel estimates for Gaza, said a Norwegian foreign ministry spokesperson.

Asked whether the PA retained control of where it spends the money it received, or whether it had committed not to send any money to Gaza, the ministry spokesperson said the questions should be directed to the PA.

Accessing the revenue is key to the survival of the PA, which exercises limited self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Bahraini Activist Calls for Father's Release, Gaza Ceasefire

MANAMA (Dispatches) – Maryam al-Khawaja, a prominent Danish-Bahraini human rights activist, says she is using her diagnosis of cancer to call for her father's release and for a ceasefire in Gaza.

In a video announcement on X, formerly known as Twitter, Khawaja said on Monday that she learned on 30 January that she had Hodgkin's Lymphoma, stage three blood cancer.

"As I fight for my health in this critical time, one truth is very clear: it is time for freedom," she said. "Freedom for my father... and freedom for the Palestinian people."

Maryam called on the Danish government to end arms sales to the Zionist regime and to leverage its diplomatic power to help release her father who she said is the only Danish political prisoner in the world.

Abdul-Hadi al-Khawaja, a well-known Bahraini opposition figure, was sentenced to life in prison in 2011 after leading peaceful protests calling for fundamental freedoms in the kingdom.

Last year, after going on a hunger strike, he was admitted to the ICU at a military hospital with cardiac arrhythmia.

He was among 800 prisoners whom activists said had been on hunger strike for several weeks

to protest against the conditions in Jau Prison, where they are locked in their cells for up to 23 hours a day.

In September, Maryam was denied boarding on a flight to Bahrain by British Airways as she tried to return home to raise awareness of the condition of her imprisoned father.

She said on Monday that she will continue her work while undergoing chemotherapy.

"On the days when I can, I will be staging a sit-in in front of the Danish prime minister's office with two demands - release my father and stop the arms sales and call for a ceasefire now," she said.

She said after spending years "talking, screaming and yelling to no avail", her sit-in, the first of which will be held on Monday afternoon, will be silent, with anyone welcome to join her.

"My father has always said that the fight for human rights is universal. My father and I are appalled by the fact that civilians in Gaza, some who also have cancer, are currently being bombed and killed," she said.

"From Bahrain to Palestine, people are forced to live without their loved ones, either because they are wrongfully imprisoned or because bombs are falling above them. It must stop now."