

TEHRAN – Vice chairman of the Iran-Syria Joint Chamber of Commerce Ali Asghar Zebardast on Sunday said that the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has approved setting up a joint bank with Syria, noting that agreements between Iran and Syria are carried out by the governments of the two countries, but the private sector will enforce it. He said the joint Iran-Syria Chamber has held numerous meetings recently and expressed hope that the agreements signed between the two countries would be implemented soon.

Kayhan International

TEHRAN -- Voting in the parliamentary elections in the Tehran constituency is likely to go to a second round. With 4,000 out of the 5,000 ballot boxes in Tehran counted, some of the candidates seem to have to compete in a runoff as there were no clear winners among them, officials say. "The law says any candidate who wins at least 20% of the valid votes can enter Parliament in the first round, but if they fail to garner at least 20% of the ballots, they will probably go to a second round," said Governor of Tehran Province Alireza Fakhari.

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Monday, March 4, 2024, Esfand 14, 1402, Sha'ban 23, 1445, Price 300,000 Rials

Viewpoint

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Algeria Summit Adopts Iran's Proposal to Break Gas Tech Monopoly



Iranian Athletes Take Gold at Fazza Dubai World Cup



UNICEF Cautions 'Every Minute Counts' as Hunger Kills Children in Gaza



Hezbollah Pounds Israeli Military Base With Missile

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Lebanon's Hezbollah on Sunday targeted an Israeli military base in the north of 1948 occupied territories, amid exchanges of near-daily fire between the two sides since the occupying regime launched its assault on Gaza.

Al-Mayadeen television, citing a Hezbollah statement, reported that the group struck Jal al-Alam base with a heavy-caliber Burkan (Volcano) missile, causing casualties among the soldiers deployed at the site.

The development came a day after Hezbollah fighters launched a number of operations against Israeli military sites, troops, and equipment across the border between Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian lands.

They carried out a drone strike against a newly established command and control center of the Israeli military's 300th Territorial Brigade.

The combat drone precisely hit the designated target near Liman moshav in the Western Galilee region.

Hezbollah fighters also attacked a gathering of Israeli troops near Jal al-Alam military base, leaving a number of the soldiers injured.

The Zionist military has been carrying out attacks against the Lebanese territory, prompting retaliatory strikes from Lebanon's resistance movement in support of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

The movement has vowed to keep up its retaliatory operations as long as the Tel Aviv regime continues its onslaught on Gaza.

Israeli settlers are in a hurry to buy generators and other emergency power equipment to get prepared for any potential scenario if military clashes between the regime and Lebanon's Hezbollah turn into a major escalation, London-based news outlet Al-Araby Al-Jadeed said Sunday.

Zionist settlers are afraid of an all-out war with the Lebanese resistance movement, so they have started purchasing generators and batteries to be used in case Hezbollah hits the power network infrastructure in the occupied territories, it

said. Israel's Maariv daily reported that demands for such items and basic needs increased in recent days. The Hamilton Group, which is importing electric devices into the occupied land, announced a surge in demands for these kinds of stuff, the newspaper added.

Maariv also reported that the sale of electrical products witnessed a 500% surge following recent developments.

Following a speech by Secretary-General of Hezbollah Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and an outage throughout the occupied territories, the purchase of products such as batteries, generators, solar panels, and power banks significantly increased, a director of an Israeli electricity company said.

The growing concerns about a widespread war with Hezbollah come in a time when Zionist settlers have already been suffering from livelihood pressures, especially after the onset of the onslaught on Gaza.

Senior Hezbollah official Ibrahim Amin al-Sayyed said Sunday the ongoing war in Gaza

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U.S. Cities Revolt Against Role in Gaza Genocide



This combination of pictures shows thousands of people marching in Manhattan, New York City and downtown Los Angeles to condemn the U.S. role in the Gaza genocide, Feb. 2, 2024.

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) -- Millions of people marched across the world against the Israeli war on Gaza, demanding a ceasefire in the months-long carnage, including in downtown Los Angeles.

Thousands of people took to the streets in Downtown Los Angeles, demanding a permanent ceasefire after more than 30,000 people, mostly civilians, have been martyred in Gaza, including approximately 10,000 children.

"We are five months into one of the worst genocides of the 21st century," Ahmad Hasan, the organizer of the Palestinian Youth Movement, said.

Waving Palestinian flags and banners, the demonstrators rallied outside City Hall about 1 p.m. before beginning a slow march down Broadway chanting and carrying signs that said, "Stop the Genocide," "Free the 2

Million Hostages in Gaza" and "Cease Fire Now."

The crowd of peaceful protesters stretched for several city blocks. Some participants estimated that tens of thousands took part. The Los Angeles Police Department said it did not have a crowd estimate.

Similar demonstrations took place in large cities across the country, including San Francisco, Seattle, New York and

Washington.

Thousands of protesters also rallied in Manhattan, New York City. The protest, billed by organizers as a "global day of action," gathered in Washington Square Park around 1 p.m., and its ranks swelled despite the rain.

"I think it's really cool when folks come out in the rain and the sun and the snow and the sleet," said protester Tova Greene, 23. "It's really affirming to see so many folks even though it's annoying, but we have to do it."

"It's packed. It's like sardines, but in a good way," Greene said of the crowd.

As the march reached Bryant Park in Midtown, police arrested several protesters.

In Washington, D.C., protesters shut down streets near the Israeli embassy, as global calls for a ceasefire have grown in recent weeks.

Similar pro-Palestinian protests in the city have drawn NYPD enforcement in recent weeks. Police made a number of arrests when President Biden visited Rockefeller Center last Monday.

In January, activists shut down the Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Williamsburg bridges and the Holland Tunnel entrance, snarling traffic.

Pressure has been ramping up

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NY Times: Israel Planned Attack on Aid Convoy

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- The Israeli attack on people waiting to receive humanitarian aid on Thursday morning, which killed 118 Palestinians and injured over 750 others, was orchestrated by Tel Aviv and involved local Palestinian entrepreneurs to show a genuine humanitarian aid delivery, media reports said on Sunday.

Zionist officials, Palestinian businessmen, and Western diplomats have revealed that Tel Aviv has been engaged in planning at least four such aid convoys to northern Gaza over the last week, the New York Times reported.

Speaking to the U.S. daily, two Western diplomats said they were informed by Israeli officials about the Zionist regime's motives behind such actions.

The Zionist regime reportedly initiated these efforts to address the dire humanitarian situation in northern Gaza, where famine is threatening lives due to the suspension of most international aid operations, diplomats said on condition of anonymity.

This suspension comes amid Israeli restrictions on aid trucks and escalating

lawlessness in the region. Zionist officials made contacts with multiple local entrepreneurs, requesting their assistance in coordinating private aid convoys to northern Gaza, with the occupying regime of Israel offering security support, according to two Gazan businessmen.

Jawdat Khoudary, one of the Palestinian businessmen who helped organize some of the Israeli aid trucks for the relief initiative, expressed the urgency of the situation, saying: "My family, friends, and neighbors are dying from hunger."

On Thursday morning, Israeli forces shelled a crowd of Palestinians waiting for humanitarian aid south of Gaza City at the "al-Nabulsi Roundabout" area, leaving at least 112 Palestinians dead and 760 others injured, according to the Gaza-based Health Ministry.

The Zionist military said an initial investigation found that some Palestinians approached a military checkpoint overseeing the entry of the aid trucks with soldiers firing warning shots and

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Palestinians Say U.S. Aid Airdrop in Gaza 'Theatrical'

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) -- The government in the Gaza Strip on Sunday dismissed a decision by the United States to airdrop humanitarian aid into the besieged territory, saying the theatrical and ineffective move cannot offset Israeli restrictions on the transfer of food into Gaza via land crossings.

"The policy of airdropping humanitarian aid and preventing the delivery of aid through border crossings is in fact part of an evasive strategy that does not address the core issue and resorts to theatrical and ineffective solutions instead," the Government Media Office in Gaza said in a statement.

The statement said the aid airdrop by the U.S. is in line with the occupying Israeli regime's policy of intentionally starving the Palestinians, adding that it is also meant to kill time and to prolong the hunger crisis in Gaza to inflict as much damage as possible upon the population in the strip.

It said that aid airdrops also entail serious risks for Palestinians in Gaza as some of them could land near the

fence along the border with the Israeli-occupied territories, prompting Israeli military forces to fire indiscriminately on unarmed civilians seeking to pick up the aid items.

The statement reiterated that airdrops of aid into densely populated areas like the Gaza Strip, which is home to some 2.4 million people, are fairly difficult because the aid can be damaged because of potential adverse weather conditions or unexpected incidents.

"Some of the food bundles were dropped into the sea and did not reach needy people. This is while humanitarian aid brought into Gaza via trucks would reach a great proportion of the population, and is not subject to damage," it added.

The government in Gaza held the U.S. administration and the Zionist regime accountable for the ongoing genocidal war against Palestinians in Gaza while calling on freedom-loving nations of the world to stop the Tel Aviv regime from continuing its ethnic cleansing in the enclave.

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