

GAZA CITY (AP) — A Palestinian boy has been mauled to death by a lion in a private zoo in the Gaza Strip, according to the coastal territory's police force. Police officers said 6-year-old Hamada Iqtiet had climbed the fence in the zoo in the southern Gaza town of Khan Younis, and reached an opening in the cage before the lion mauled him. An investigation was underway, they said. The boy's family disputed the account, saying Hamada — who was visiting the Asdaa Park with his mother and other family members, according to relatives — had only reached an outer fence, where the lion was standing, when he was attacked.

When a community is composed of honest, sober and virtuous people, your forming a bad opinion about anyone of its members, when nothing wicked has been seen of him, is a great injustice to him.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Think Tank: Zionist Deterrence Against Hezbollah Dramatically Eroding

WEST BANK (Dispatches) — An Israeli think tank says the Zionist regime's deterrence vis-à-vis Lebanon's Hezbollah and its partners in the resistance front is drastically eroding.

The Institute for National Security Studies, affiliated with Tel Aviv University, said the recent operations and retaliatory rocket attacks by resistance fighters against the occupying regime, compounded by an internal crisis gripping the occupying entity, expose "cracks" in the regime's deterrence against Hezbollah.

"Recent events indicate that Israel's deterrence vis-à-vis Hezbollah and its partners in the axis of resistance is eroding," it added.

"Under these circumstances, Israel's political leadership must launch a deep and thorough discussion with the security establishment in order to formulate a strategy for bolstering deterrence with Hezbollah, which is the vanguard of the broader axis, and which currently poses the greatest



Members of Lebanon's Hezbollah take part in Ashura commemorations in a southern Beirut suburb.

conventional threat to Israeli security."

The INSS also enumerated Hezbollah's accomplishments over the past two years, including a scale-back in Israeli strikes violating Lebanon's airspace, the expanded presence of resistance fighters along the border with the occupied territories and the 2022 maritime

agreement between the occupying regime and Lebanon which Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah described as a victory for Hezbollah.

Hezbollah "is working tirelessly to improve the rules of the game within the framework of the deterrence equation that has evolved in the aftermath of the Second Leba-

non War," it said.

Hezbollah fought off two wars by the Zionist regime against Lebanon in 2000 and 2006, forcing a humiliating retreat upon the occupying regime's military in both cases. The resistance movement has vowed to resolutely defend Lebanon in case of any other Israeli-imposed warfare.

The Israeli think tank further said that the Tel Aviv regime faces "a complex challenge" of how to bolster its deterrence against resistance groups, without escalating the situation and risking all-out war.

Last month, Zionist war minister Yoav Gallant warned that the regime would likely no longer see limited conflicts on single fronts, but rather a multi-front escalation.

"We operated for years under the assumption that limited conflicts could be managed, but that is a phenomenon that is disappearing. Today, there is a noticeable phenomenon of the convergence of the arenas," Gallant said.

UN Summit in Qatar on Afghanistan Ends, Taliban Warn Over Exclusion



Afghan women protest in Kabul ahead of the UN meeting to oppose any moves to recognize the Taliban government

DOHA, Qatar (AP/AFP) — A closed-door summit on Afghanistan ended Tuesday in Qatar without any formal acknowledgment of the Taliban-controlled government there, though the United Nations' chief said they would hold another meeting in the future.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres attended the summit, which the world body described as nations and organizations trying to reach unified stances on human rights, governance, counterterrorism and anti-drug efforts. No recognition had been anticipated to come out of the meeting, though activists in recent days criticized the possibility.

"To achieve our objectives, we cannot disengage," Guterres said. "And many called for engagement to be more effective and based on lessons we have learned from the past."

He did not elaborate, though the Taliban previously controlled Afghanistan from 1994 to 2001.

Asked by a journalist if there would be any circumstance under which he'd be willing to directly meet with the Taliban, Guterres said: "When it is the right moment to do so, I will obviously not refuse that possibility — but today is not the right moment to do so."

Absent from the meeting were the Taliban themselves, who took over Afghanistan in August 2021.

Taliban leaders warned from Kabul that the meeting could be "counter-productive".

"Any meeting without the participation of IEA (Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan) representatives -- the main party to the issue -- is unproductive and even sometimes counter-productive," said the head of the

Taliban political office in Doha, Suhail Shaheen.

"How can a decision taken at such meetings be acceptable or implemented while we are not part of the process? It is discriminatory and unjustified," he said.

Meanwhile, Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi will lead a delegation to Islamabad at the end of the week for talks with Pakistani and Chinese officials, the ministry said Tuesday.

Muttaqi, who is subject to a UN travel ban, has previously been given exemptions to travel to the neighboring country for talks.

The UN Security Council last week unanimously condemned the ban on its Afghan women staff, which the world body says has seriously threatened its efforts to aid the population.

Women's groups staged protests on Saturday fearing the Doha meeting could propose steps toward recognition of the Taliban administration that returned to power in August 2021.

UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Monday however that "is not up for discussion" at the talks, which are being held behind closed doors.

The meeting would discuss human rights, including women's rights, Afghanistan's governance and ways to counter terrorism and drug trafficking, Dujarric said.

Guterres wants "a common understanding with the international community on how to engage with the Taliban on these issues", he added.

The UN review of its Afghanistan operation is due to be completed on Friday. The world body has said it faces an "appalling choice" on whether to stay in the country.

Lebanon Arrests Photographer Over Spying for Mossad

BEIRUT (Dispatches) — Lebanon's security forces have arrested a professional Lebanese photographer over spying for the Zionist regime's Mossad spy agency and collaborating with the regime's authorities through collecting sensitive information and taking pictures of high-profile resistance figures residing in the Arab country.

According to a report published by the Arabic-language al-Akhbar daily newspaper, the woman, identified as Loyal Ramadan, was in close contact with Zionist officials between 2021 and 2022.

She shot photographs and

videos of a house in the Tariq al-Jadideh neighborhood of the capital Beirut, which apparently accommodated a senior leader of the Gaza-based Hamas resistance movement.

Ramadan also took pictures of houses of Hezbollah members in Dahiyeh, the southern suburbs of Beirut, and sent them to Zionist regime agents later on.

Al-Akhbar noted that the photographer received 50 dollars for each of her espionage missions.

The daily newspaper went on to say that counter-espionage officers in the General Security Directorate detected in the summer of 2021 suspicious tele-

phone conversations between a Lebanese phone number, whose owner resided in the al-Sanea area of Beirut, and a number of foreign phone numbers.

After months-long follow-ups, it was discovered that the foreign phone numbers belonged to Israeli users, while the Lebanese number was owned by a female photographer born in 1982.

Al-Akhbar explained that Ramadan was a professional photographer, who worked for the Economic and Social Fund for Development (ESFD), which is affiliated with the Council for Development and Reconstruction, and published her photo-

graphs on her social media accounts.

Lebanon's intelligence agency arrested the woman on April 5 on suspicion of collaborating with the Zionist regime, and it was found after careful investigations and interrogation that the photographer had sent hundreds of pictures and videos from different areas in Lebanon to Zionist authorities.

The newspaper underscored that the woman's connection with the Mossad spy agency has been conclusively proven.

She was tried in a military court and handed down a long jail term.

Zionists Launch Deadly Air Raid on Aleppo Airport

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) — Air raids by the Zionist regime targeted the international airport in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo early on Tuesday, killing one Syrian and putting the airport out of commission, Syria's state media said.

Citing a military official, the state news agency SANA said two civilians and five other Syrian soldiers were wounded.

There was no immediate statement from Zionist authorities to The Associated Press news agency on the attacks.

The airport has been a key channel for the flow of aid into the country after an earthquake hit Turkey and Syria on February 6, killing more than 50,000 people, including more than 6,000 in Syria.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), a United Kingdom-based opposition war monitor, said the attack targeted a munitions depot by the airport.

It also reported raids at a military airport in the Aleppo countryside, though Syrian state media did not report on the matter.

Syria's military noted that the country's air defenses intercepted Zionist missiles, shooting down most of them.

The occupying regime frequently carries out missile attacks on targets in Syria, mostly using the airspace of Lebanon or the occupied territories.

It usually targets military positions inside the country, especially those of the resistance movement Hezbollah, which played a key role in helping the Syrian army in its fight against foreign-backed terrorists.

The regime launched similar attacks on the Syrian capital Damascus and the central Homs province in early April.

Damascus has repeatedly complained to the UN over Zionist assaults, urging the Security Council

to take action against the regime's crimes. The calls have, however, fallen on deaf ears.

Syria has vowed to give a crushing response to such acts of aggression at some point in the future.

Kuwait Parliament Dissolved by Royal Decree Again

KUWAIT (Reuters) — Kuwait's parliament has been dissolved by royal decree, state news agency KUNA said, having only been reinstated in March based on a Constitutional Court ruling after a previous dissolution.

The decree, which was reportedly signed on Monday, came after Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah said last month that the legislature would be dissolved and that new parliamentary elections would be held in the coming months.

The Persian Gulf state, a

member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), has seen prolonged bickering between the government and the elected parliament that has hampered fiscal reforms.

The parliament first elected in 2020 was dissolved last year in a bid to end the feuding, and a vote was held in September in which the opposition made gains. But the Constitutional Court in March annulled those results and restored the previous assembly.

Sheikh Meshal, who signed

Monday's Emiri decree, was handed most of the duties of the ruling emir, Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah, in late 2021. The cabinet had submitted the decree to Sheikh Meshal earlier in the day, according to a previous statement by KUNA.

Sheikh Meshal had said last month that the "will of the people" required new elections that would be "accompanied by some legal and political reforms to take the country to a new phase of discipline and legal reference". He did not go into detail on the reforms, how-

ever.

The Persian Gulf state has strong fiscal and external balance sheets, but the infighting and political gridlock have hampered investment and reforms aimed at reducing its heavy reliance on oil revenues.

Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf al-Sabah, the emir's son, had in January submitted his government's resignation due to friction with the parliament elected in 2020. He was renamed premier in March and a new cabinet was announced this month.