

TEHRAN -- Iranian foreign minister said Iran will soon appoint its ambassador to Saudi Arabia, official news agency IRNA reported on Wednesday.

Hussein Amir-Abdollahian made the remarks on the sidelines of a Monday session of the Iranian parliament's Islamic Revolution party to discuss the latest developments in the country's foreign relations, particularly with regional states, the report said. He also noted that the Saudi embassy in Tehran will soon open.

Kayhan International

TEHRAN -- An Iranian commander unveiled plans for manufacturing the second version of the homegrown missile defense system 'Bavar-373' to hunt ballistic targets. The Iranian Army Air Defense Force's deputy commander for coordination said plans have been devised to manufacture the second version of Bavar-373 air defense missile system in the country. General Muhammad Yousefi noted that the new version will be suited to intercept ballistic targets, saying more details will be made public in the near future.

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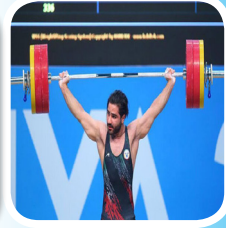
Viewpoint

Time to End Israel, Not Just Its Terrorism

Russia, Iran, Syria, Turkey Hold Four-Way Talks



Mostafa Javadi Wins Bronze in Asian Weightlifting Championships



Documents: Hashd al-Sha'abi Fighters Doubled in Two Years



More Palestinians Martyred in Gaza Gaza Rockets Send Zionists Scurrying for Shelters

GAZA CITY (Dispatches) -- Six Palestinians, including a 10-year-old girl, were martyred in Gaza on the second day of bombing by the occupying regime of Israel, with Palestinian groups firing dozens of rockets, targeting cities as far as Tel Aviv.

Starting from Wednesday noon local time, Israeli fighter jets launched airstrikes in several locations across Gaza throughout the day, including in Rafah, Khan Younis, Beit Lahia and other areas.

The Palestinian health ministry said at least five Palestinians have been martyred, bringing the death toll since the start of the Israeli offensive on Tuesday to 21, including five children. At least 64 others have been wounded.

The Palestinian Joint Command, an umbrella body of armed factions in Gaza, including Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, launched rockets towards Occupied Palestine in response, targeting Tel Aviv, Sderot, Ashkelon and other areas in central and southern occupied territories.

The Wednesday fighting came a day after the occupying regime of Israel launched a new offensive in Gaza dubbed "Operation Shield and Arrow".

On its first day, Israeli bombing martyred 15 Palestinians, including four children and five women.

The Zionist military said in different statements that it struck military targets belonging to the Islamic Jihad as part of the offensive.

The Palestinian Joint Command on Wednesday said it launched the counter "Operation Revenge for the Free".

It said in a statement that it fired rockets in response to Israel targeting civilian homes and assassinating three Islamic Jihad commanders. It added that the Palestinian resistance was ready for all options if the Zionist regime continues its aggression.

In one of the deadly Israeli airstrikes on Wednesday, the military claimed it targeted Islamic Jihad operatives at rocket launch sites.

However, eyewitnesses denied the Israeli claim, saying the target was a group of farmers.

"A man went with his relatives to pick up the cucumber crop from their farmland, 300 meters away from their house in the al-Fukhari area east of Khan Younis, when he was targeted and martyred," Hasan Abu Taima, a resident of the area, told Middle East Eye.

A similar airstrike in a nearby area martyred two people on Tuesday with Israel also claiming they were Islamic Jihad fight-

ers. The group denied they were members.

In an airstrike that hit a house in central Gaza on Wednesday, a 10-year-old was martyred. She became the fifth child to die in the Israeli aggression.

The UN special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, Tor Wennesland, on Tuesday condemned the "unacceptable" killing of civilians.

"I condemn the deaths of civilians in the Israeli airstrikes. This is unacceptable," Wennesland said.

But in a verbal sleight of hand, Wennesland did not condemn the Israeli attack itself. Indeed, he appeared to give the bombing of civilian homes at a time when families were certain to be sleeping inside a veneer of legitimacy by terming it "a military operation targeting members of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement."

The European Union did not offer even the slightest criticism of the Israeli attack, instead expressing only that it was "gravely concerned by the escalation in Gaza following today's Israeli air raids".

Brussels added that it "regrets the loss of civilian lives, including children."

Meanwhile, as the bloodshed in Gaza continued to unfold, European diplomats went ahead with a "Europe Day" party in Tel Aviv on the site of the ethnically cleansed Palestinian village of Jarisha.

The U.S. embassy in Al-Quds said that it was "aware of reports that civilians were tragically killed in the Israeli strikes" on Gaza and called "for all parties to de-escalate the situation to protect noncombatants and prevent any further loss of civilian life."

The embassy added that "the U.S. commitment to Israel's security remains ironclad."

Hours before the Israeli bombing campaign was launched, Eli Cohen, the Zionist regime's foreign minister, spoke with his American counterpart Antony Blinken.

International law experts may well consider that the three Islamic Jihad leaders assassinated by Israel were also civilians protected by international humanitarian law and that their deaths may amount to extrajudicial executions.

In any case, both the principles of distinction and proportionality make the Zionist regime's surprise and unprovoked targeting of leaders sleeping at home with their families an open-and-shut case of war crimes.

Israeli media reports suggested

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Iran's Top General Tells New World Order Conference:

Axis of Resistance at Apex of Power



Participants at the opening of the international conference "Geometry of the New World Order" in Tehran stand as Iran's national anthem is played on Wednesday.

TEHRAN -- The chief of staff of the Iranian armed forces said here Wednesday Europe will plunge irreversibly into a downward spiral if it does not manage to throw off the shackles of subjugation to the United States and stop supporting Washington's policies blindly.

Major General Muhammad Hussein Baqeri made the remarks as he addressed the opening ceremony of an international conference "Geometry of the New

World Order" in Tehran.

"Change has been the rule governing the universal order in different historical eras, and the continuation of an order does not necessarily translate into its accuracy," he said, adding that the Eastern and Western blocs have since the beginning of the 20th century "sought to reap more benefits for themselves, dominate the West Asia region and exploit its strategic potentials."

"Additionally, the 40-year-long Cold War as a form of the bipolar system, exclusion of communism from international equations, atrocious U.S. invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, and creation of Daesh with an intent to overthrow the Iraqi and Syrian governments all point to the fact that the world order is changing," he said.

Gen. Baqeri said there are "signs that a unipolar order has never

stabilized" and the world is on the threshold of a new order."

He described the Islamic establishment in Iran as one of the main obstacles to U.S. domination in the world, saying that God's promises also herald the downfall of arrogant systems and the establishment of righteous ones in their place.

"We were witness to the abrupt withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan and Iraq, spending of more than \$7 trillion in the region with no tangible results, and exhaustion of the U.S. military," he said. "The U.S. is now much weaker than before, and American and European officials have admitted such a fact and expressed it in their statements."

He stressed that the occupying Israeli regime, which once eyed the control of Muslim territories from the Nile to the Euphrates, is sliding downward and experiencing numerous crises since a humiliating defeat in the 33-day-long onslaught on Lebanon in the summer of 2006.

"The oppressed Palestinian nation and the Axis of Resistance, on the other hand, are at the apex of their power, and are moving ahead on the path to liberation of Palestine," Baqeri noted.

The top Iranian military official further noted that China has taken

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IRGC Opens Drone, Chopper Airbase in Zahedan

TEHRAN -- The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has inaugurated an airbase in the city of Zahedan, Sistan and Baluchestan Province, to improve the drone and helicopter fleet in the south-east of the country.

In a statement on Wednesday, the public relations of the IRGC announced that the airbase was inaugurated in the presence of the IRGC first-in-command Major General Hossein Salami.

Established by the aviation division of the IRGC Ground Force, the base can host all kinds of combat and search and rescue helicopters as well as various types of drones, according to the statement.

Named after Martyr Ali Arabi, the base has been constructed based on the latest engineering guidelines and aviation standards, it added.

Speaking at the inaugural event, commander of the IRGC Ground Forces Brigadier General Muhammad Pakpour said that the base would improve the force's helicopter fleet in the southeast of the country for various defense, rescue, logistics, and relief mis-

sions.

"The base has all the necessary capacities for refueling, hangar, repairs, and maintenance, as well as the ability to accommodate and launch dozens of helicopters at the same time," he said.

The new base comes as the IRGC has developed different types of drones in recent years.

Back on April 9, the IRGC Ground Force unveiled a new suicide drone, dubbed Me'raj 532, that is capable of flying up to a height of 12,000 feet for 3 hours and taking off from a vehicle.

Just two days later, the force unveiled yet another homegrown UAV dubbed Mohajer 6 which is a jammer drone capable of transmitting interfering radio signals.

Iran has achieved remarkable breakthroughs in making its own equipment for its armed forces in recent years, clinching self-sufficiency in this area.

Iranian officials have repeatedly stressed that the country will not stop strengthening its defense capabilities, including its missile power, stressing that they are only for defense purposes.

Thousands of Doctors Protest Across Germany

BERLIN (Dispatches) -- Thousand of doctors at municipal hospitals across Germany have staged a nationwide strike action demanding better pay and working conditions amid persisting price increases in consumer goods.

The work stoppage was called by Germany's trade union for physicians, Marburger Bund, which has demanded retroactive compensation for the high inflation as well as a 2.5-percent pay increase.

Social media images of striking doctors in the city of Frankfurt showed the protesters wearing orange vests and waving Union flags in the city's Romerberg Square.

Physicians expect a "fair offer that corresponds to their high workload and takes into account the price increases since the last salary increase," said Marburger Bund's negotiator Christian Twardy in a statement cited in press reports.

The trade union, however, emphasized that emergency medical care for all patients remained un-

affected by the strike action.

After four rounds of negotiations with the Association of Municipal Employers' Associations (VKA), the collective bargaining negotiations on the salaries of nearly 60,000 physicians at municipal hospitals still remain in progress.

According to the union's chief negotiator, however, talks between Marburger Bund and the VKA have reached a deadlock and that doctors' patience with employers has been 'exhausted'.

The VKA has only offered a single payment of 3,000 euros as compensation for inflation, in addition to a proposed salary increase as of 2024, according to local media reports.

"We were able to make significant progress in the round of negotiations with the Marburger Bund the week before last," Wolfgang Heyl, negotiator and chairman of the VKA group committee for hospitals and care facilities, said, rejecting the strike action as "completely unfounded."