

KUWAIT CITY (Xinhua) – A royal decree has been issued to reappoint Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah as Kuwait's prime minister, reported the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA). The Emir's decree, signed by Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, said that Sheikh Ahmad is responsible for nominating new cabinet members and submitting their names, according to the report. This decree, issued about a week after the Kuwaiti emir accepted the previous government's resignation, came one week before the convening of the newly elected National Assembly (parliament) on June 20.

## Zionist Regime Admits Failures in Egypt Border Shootings

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's army has admitted operational failures to a deadly gunfire incident near Egyptian border that left three Zionist troops dead.

An investigation launched by the army found that there was a gap in the security fence between the occupied territories and Egypt along with an imbalance in preparing the army units to deal with such situation versus the more common smuggling incidents.

The investigation suggested shortening the 12-hour shifts for troops as it is too long and could harm their readiness.

Last week, a 22-year-Egyptian gunman shot and killed three Zionist troops in two separate incidents while manning a guard post near the border between the occupied territories and Egypt, the military says.

Spokesman for the Israeli military Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari



Zionist troops man a gate leading to a military base following a deadly shootout in southern parts of the occupied territories along the Egyptian border, Saturday, June 3, 2023.

told reporters that two soldiers, one male and one female, began a guard shift together late on Friday at an army post.

After the soldiers did not answer calls on the radio, an officer reached the scene and discovered the pair lifeless.

Hours later, the third soldier was killed in a new exchange of gunfire in the area of the initial attack, as Zionist troops were

searching for the suspected attacker.

A non-commissioned officer was lightly wounded during the clash with the attacker, the Israeli military said in a statement.

Hagari said the gunman, who was killed in the afternoon clash, was likely responsible for the deadly early morning attack.

But the regime's narrative was that an officer-turned-terrorist

infiltrated the occupied territories and killed two Zionist troops at a post and then a third soldier was killed in an exchange of fire with the attacker, who was also killed.

Following the attack, the occupying regime's soldiers are refusing military services in the area, Walla news website revealed.

The soldiers, according to Walla, have several conditions, including the reduction of service hours from 12 to eight.

According to the Walla report, the soldiers said that they were unable to perform such long shifts under poor weather conditions.

Rabbis reported by Hebrew media saying that this incident proved that the mixed-gender brigade is useless, claiming that the male and female soldiers could not respond to the fire of the Egyptian soldier "due to the emotional situation they were involved in."

## Arab States Account for Quarter of Zionist Arms Exports



Demonstrators in the Moroccan capital protest Rabat's normalization of ties with the Zionist regime and military agreements signed between the two sides.

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime's military exports hit an all-time high of \$12.5 billion last year, with Arab countries that recently established ties accounting for nearly a quarter of purchase contracts, officials said Wednesday. The occupying regime's war ministry, which oversees and approves the exports of the regime's military industries, said one quarter of deals were for drone systems, with "missiles, rockets and air defence systems" making up another 19 percent.

Ministry figures show total exports have doubled over the past nine years.

The war ministry would not provide further details.

The German parliament was set to approve a \$4.3 billion deal to purchase the regime's Arrow 3 air system.

A breakdown of the regions to which the goods are exported showed a leap among the so-called Abraham Accords countries from \$853 million (nine percent) in 2021 to \$2.96 billion (24 percent) in 2022.

Four Arab countries – the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco – agreed to normalize relations with the Zionist regime under U.S.-brokered agreements in 2020, under then president Donald Trump.

Spearheaded by the UAE, the move has sparked widespread condemnations from the Palestinians as well as nations and human rights advocates across the world, largely within the Muslim world. Palestinians censured the deals

as a treacherous "stab in the back" and a betrayal of their cause against the decades-long occupation of Palestinian territories.

Palestinians are seeking an independent state in the occupied West Bank and the besieged Gaza Strip with East Al-Quds as its capital.

### 'No Normalization Without Palestine Solution'

However, the Saudi embassy in Washington has spoken out on U.S. efforts to normalize relations between the kingdom and the occupying regime, saying that any agreement will only be possible after a solution to the regime's occupation of Palestinian territories is achieved.

"For that to happen, for the kingdom to take that step, we need that core dispute [with the Palestinians] to be resolved," Fahad Nazer, spokesman for the embassy, said in an interview with the English-speaking and state-owned Arab News.

The remarks are a rare instance of the Saudi embassy making a media appearance, with the embassy being one of the most closed off to the media.

Over the past few months, Israeli news outlets had been reporting near-daily updates on the Biden administration's back and forth with the Zionist regime and Saudi Arabia. A report by Axios that the White House aimed to seal a deal within 6-7 months, before the next U.S. elections, added to the frenzy.

## Lebanon's Parliament Fails to Elect President for 12th Time

BEIRUT (Al Jazeera) – Lebanon's parliament has – for the 12th time – failed to elect a president and break a political deadlock that has gripped the country for months.

Lawmakers held a session on Wednesday to pick a replacement for former President Michel Aoun, whose term ended last October, but disagreements prevented them from reaching the required thresholds.

The main competition was between Jihad Azour, a former finance minister and senior official with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and Sleiman Frangieh, leader of the Marada party whose family has a long

history in Lebanese politics.

The Lebanese Parliament requires 86 from a possible maximum of 128 lawmakers, or two-thirds, to elect a new leader in the first round of voting.

Azour edged higher than his opponent during the first round with 59 votes to Frangieh's 51, but failed to achieve the required majority.

Eighteen lawmakers cast blank ballots or protest votes or voted for minority candidates.

The bloc led by the powerful Hezbollah withdrew after the initial round, breaking quorum and preventing a second round of voting, where candidates required only a majority of 65

votes to secure the presidency.

Lebanon has a complex confessional political system based on the National Pact, an unwritten pact between the country's political blocs that was first agreed in 1943 to set out faith-based representation and power-sharing.

Based on the pact, the president and the commander of the army need to be Maronite Christians, while the prime minister must be Sunni Muslim and the parliament speaker Shia Muslim.

The deputy speaker of parliament and deputy prime minister positions are held by Greek Orthodox Christians, and the

armed forces chief of the general staff of the armed forces is always Druze.

The MPs themselves are divided along a quota system, with a ratio of 6:5 required of Christians to Muslims and Druze.

The Shia members of parliament have largely backed Frangieh, who is Hezbollah's preferred candidate, while Azour is backed by the majority of Druze legislators.

When elected, the new president will have to navigate a major economic crisis that began in 2019, along with a political system that has long suffered from corruption and mismanagement.

## Turkey Captures Dozens in Sweeping Operation Against Terrorist Groups

ISTANBUL (Xinhua) – Turkey's re-elected government on Wednesday rounded up dozens of suspects in a sweeping operation against terrorist groups, including a network accused of masterminding the failed 2016 coup, local media reported.

Police carried out simultaneous raids at 36 locations in Istanbul and captured 28 suspects with alleged connections to the group led by U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, the state-run Anadolu agency reported. Four other suspects are believed to be abroad while the search is underway to find another two.

In the southern province of Mersin, police backed up by special forces launched dawn raids to capture 28 suspects over their alleged links to

Gulen, and rounded up at least one, the agency reported.

Police also held 21 suspects in the northwestern province of Bursa in another operation against members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and Daesh terrorist group.

The arrests come after police examined 975 hard disks containing 420 terabytes of data. The disks were obtained from 122 companies, associations, and foundations affiliated with a holding that had been transferred to the trustees' authorities for alleged ties to the Gulen movement.

The Turkish government blames Gulen and his network for masterminding the coup bid in July 2016, in which more than 250 people were killed.

The PKK, listed as a terrorist or-

ganization by Turkey, the United States, and the European Union, has been rebelling against the Turkish government for more than 30 years. The Daesh, meanwhile, has launched a spate of deadly attacks in Turkey since 2015.

The operation comes after the reelection of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in May, as the new government pledges to counter terrorist groups.

Turkey's new Interior Minister, Ali Yerlikaya, who served as former governor of Istanbul, vowed to battle terrorism soon after taking office early this month. "Our fight against terrorism, organized crime, cybercrime, drugs, irregular migration, and all other crimes and criminals will continue with great determination," he said.

## Syrian Air Defenses Repel Missiles in Latest Zionist Aggression

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – An air attack by the Zionist regime on Syria's capital Damascus has left one Syrian soldier with "serious injuries and caused some material damage", the state news agency SANA has reported.

Syrian air defenses engaged the Zionist regime missiles that were launched at 1:05 am on Wednesday (22:05 GMT) morning from the Golan Heights and "shot down some of them", according to a military source cited by SANA.

"The Israeli enemy carried out an aerial aggression from the direction of the occupied Golan Heights targeting several positions southwest of Da-

mascus," SANA reported.

The airstrikes left one Syrian soldier with "serious injuries and caused some material damage," the report said, citing a Syrian military source.

The Golan Heights has been under Zionist occupation since 1967, when the regime launched a large-scale war against the regional Arab states, including Syria.

The occupying regime has been using the territory as a launch pad for its acts of military aggression against the Arab nation ever since.

The attacks intensified in 2011, when Syria found itself in the grip of rampant foreign-

backed militancy and terrorism.

The regime's missile strikes regularly target the positions of the Syrian army or those of its allies.

Damascus has repeatedly complained to the United Nations over the Israeli assaults, urging the world body's Security Council to take action against Tel Aviv's crimes.

The occupying regime has even been using the territory to provide safe passage and medical treatment for the anti-Syria Takfiri terrorists, who would flee there from the Syrian military's counter-terrorism operations.