

BEIRUT (Xinhua) – The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on Monday announced the financing of 100,000 U.S. dollars to support cultural and creative industries in Lebanon. “This funding allows UNESCO to provide emergency support to artists and cultural entities in Beirut through grants, so they can continue producing cultural productions,” said the director of UNESCO’s Culture and Emergencies Entity Krista Pikkat, who is paying a visit to Beirut almost 3 years after the deadly port explosions. A statement released by UNESCO stated that “the investment in the vital sector is made through the Heritage Emergency Fund, a multi-donor mechanism established by UNESCO in 2015 to enable rapid response to protect culture in an emergency.”

Generosity is to help a deserving person without his request, and if you help him after his request, then it is either out of self-respect or to avoid rebuke.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

### '170 Detained Palestinian Children Tortured'

# Palestinian Officer Martyred by Zionist Troops in Jenin

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) – Zionist troops have killed a Palestinian man and injured others during an overnight raid on the Jenin refugee camp in the northern occupied West Bank.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health said on Monday that 37-year-old Ashraf Mohammad Ameen Ibrahim had died from gunshot wounds to his chest and stomach.

Ibrahim was an officer in the Palestinian Authority’s intelligence services, according to the authority’s news agency, Wafa.

Hundreds of residents attended a funeral procession held for him hours after he was pronounced dead, and local officials in Jenin announced a daylong general strike.

The Zionist regime’s raid began at 1:30am on Monday (22:30 GMT on Sunday) and lasted until 6am (03:00 GMT), during which fighting between soldiers and Palestinian armed resistance fighters broke out. It is unclear whether or how Ibrahim was involved in the fighting.

At least eight other Palestinian men were injured with live ammunition and six were arrested dur-



Mother of Ashraf Mohammad Ameen Ibrahim, a Palestinian who was killed during an Israeli raid, attends his funeral in Jenin in the Israeli-occupied West Bank on May 29, 2023.

ing the raid, during which Zionist snipers were stationed on rooftops, Wafa reported. The homes of those arrested were ransacked, local media images and videos showed.

Zionist troops carry out nightly raids on Palestinians in the occupied territories, often arresting multiple people.

Over the past months, the regime has ramped up attacks on Palestinian towns and cities throughout the

occupied territories. As a result of these attacks, dozens of Palestinians have lost their lives and many others have been arrested.

Most of the raids have focused on Nablus and Jenin, where Zionist troops have been trying to stifle a growing Palestinian resistance in the occupied cities.

In another development, the Undersecretary of the Palestinian Ministry of Social Development, Assem

Khamis, said all 170 Palestinian children who are currently imprisoned by the Zionist regime have been subjected to various forms of abuse and torture.

Speaking before the regional conference on preventing grave violations against children in armed conflicts held in the Qatari capital, Doha, on Sunday, Khamis said since 2005 until 2022, the regime has detained 7,500 Palestinian children, adding that the State of Palestine is keen to protect all children from any activity that leads to their involvement in armed conflicts, especially children who have previously been arrested by the occupying regime.

“The Israeli occupation seeks, in a permanent and continuous attempt, to obstruct the lives of the Palestinian children, and targets them with arrests, harassment, and expose them to violence and threats,” he said.

He called to hold the occupying regime, accountable for violations related to children’s rights before international courts, in addition to supporting the Ministry of Development to be able to protect, care and rehabilitate Palestinian children.

## Saudi Arabia Executes 2 Bahrainis, Stirs Outcry



People take part in a demonstration in Sanabis, Bahrain, on May 22, 2023 to condemn the arrest of prominent Shia Muslim cleric Sheikh Muhammad Sanqour.

DUBAI (Dispatches) – Saudi Arabia said it executed two Bahraini men on Monday after being convicted of belonging to a militant group wanting to destabilize the two Mideast kingdoms.

Amnesty International had criticized their trial as being “grossly unfair.”

The Saudi Interior Ministry’s announcement, carried by the state-run Saudi Press Agency, identified the men as Jaafar Sultan and Sadeq Thamer.

Last year, Amnesty said the men were detained in May 2015 and held incommunicado for three-and-a-half months.

The Saudi statement said that the Specialized Criminal Court convicted the two men of belonging to a militant group — headed by a man wanted by the Bahraini authorities. The statement did not identify the group or their leader.

Amnesty, however, had criticized their October 2021 trial and conviction, adding they also had faced charges for “participation in anti-government protests in Bahrain.”

“Jaafar and Sadeq had no access to legal representation throughout their pre-trial detention and interrogations,” the rights group said in a statement in May 2022. “According to court documents, they told the court that they were tortured and that their so-called confessions were extracted under duress.”

The execution took place in Saudi Arabia’s predominantly Shia Eastern Province.

Saudi Arabia’s oil-rich and predominantly Shia Eastern Province has been the scene of peaceful

demonstrations since February 2011. Protesters have been demanding reforms, freedom of expression, the release of political prisoners, and an end to economic and religious discrimination against the region.

The protests have faced a heavy-handed crackdown, with regime forces increasing security measures across the province.

Ever since Mohammed bin Salman became Saudi Arabia’s de facto leader in 2017, the kingdom has ramped up arrests of activists, bloggers, intellectuals, and others perceived as political opponents, showing almost zero tolerance for dissent even in the face of international condemnations of the crackdown.

As a result, Muslim scholars have been executed and women’s rights campaigners have been put behind bars and tortured as freedoms of expression, association, and belief continue to be denied.

Bahrain, an island nation in the Persian Gulf just across from Saudi Arabia, did not immediately acknowledge the executions.

Anti-monarchy demonstrations in Bahrain began on February 14, 2011, and have been held on a regular basis ever since the popular uprising started.

Demonstrators demand that the Al Khalifah regime relinquish power, and a democratic, just system representing all Bahrainis be established.

The Manama regime, however, has responded to demands for social equality with an iron fist, clamping down on voices of dissent.

## Turkey’s Lira Hits Record Low, Stocks Rise

ISTANBUL (Al Jazeera) – The Turkish lira has plunged to record lows after the re-election of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, a sign that currency markets are not confident in the country’s economic future after the longtime leader’s victory.

The Turkish currency weakened to 20.01 to the United States dollar on Monday after the high-stakes run-off a day earlier.

But Turkish stocks, on the other hand, rose as Erdogan entered a third decade in power with the benchmark BIST-100 index up 3.5 percent and the banking index rising more than 1 percent.

The lira fell to a record low as the country battles a cost of living crisis and depleted foreign reserves.

On the campaign trail, Erdogan pledged to slash inflation to single digits and boost economic growth, a message he reiterated in his victory speech late on Sunday. But some analysts said his economic policies are unorthodox and predicted a negative economic outlook.

Interest rate cuts sought by Erdogan sparked a devaluation of the Turkish lira in late 2021 and sent inflation to a 24-year peak of 85.5 percent last year. The president had argued that higher interest rates cause inflation while central banks around the world were raising rates to reduce price rises.

Turkey’s struggling economy, also reeling after the country’s devastating double earthquakes in February, was a major thorn in Er-

dogan’s prospect for re-election.

The leader has defended his economic policies, reassuring Turks that investment, production, exports and an eventual current account surplus will drive up Turkey’s gross domestic product.

Some financial markets analysts link the currency’s decline to Ankara’s continuation of low-interest rates, restrictive foreign currency regulations, and high inflation.

“We have a pretty pessimistic outlook on the Turkish lira as a result of Erdogan retaining office after the election,” Wells Fargo’s Emerging Markets Economist and FX Strategist Brendan McKenna told CNBC’s “Squawk Box Asia.”

The markets economist and FX

strategist predicts that the lira will reach a new record low of 23 against the dollar by the end of the second quarter, and then 25 as early as next year.

McKenna forecasts Turkey’s lira to continue to lose value as long as Erdogan’s government continues to implement the same monetary and economic policies of past years.

Over the last five years, the Turkish lira has lost some 77 percent of its value against the dollar as Ankara pursued economic growth and export competition rather than controlling inflation.

At the same time, Erdogan opposes any increase in interest rates, pushing the view that raising interest rates increases inflation.

## 2 Yemenis Killed in Artillery Attack Amid Peace Talks

SANA’A (Dispatches) – Local media in Yemen said on Monday that two civilians were killed in Saada province in the north of the country in an artillery attack.

A report by the Yemeni al-Masirah TV website said that two Yemeni civilians were martyred in artillery attacks on Monday morning in Shada’a district in Saada province, located in the north of the impoverished country.

The incident comes a day after two other Yemenis were injured in a similar attack by the aggressing coalition on the Shada’a District.

These attacks were carried out while the political efforts to resolve the crisis in Yemen are still ongoing in light of the developments in the region.

The leader of Yemen’s popular resistance Ansarullah movement said last week that Saudi Arabia can only secure peace for itself by stopping its hostilities against Yemen and lifting a blockade that it has been exercising alongside its allies against the impoverished country.

“The Saudi regime can only achieve peace, security, and stability through implementing peace for Yemeni people, and lifting the blockade on them,” Abdul-Malik al-Houthi said in a televised address.

“It is possible for the Saudi and Emirati regimes to stop their aggression against Yemen in a fair and correct manner,” he added.

Saudi Arabia started a brutal war

of aggression against Yemen in March 2015, enlisting the assistance of some of its allies, including the United Arab Emirates.

The war, which has enjoyed generous arms, logistical, and political support from the United States and several other Western governments, has been seeking to restore power in Yemen to the country’s former Riyadh- and Washington-friendly government.

The former Yemeni government’s president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi resigned from the presidency in late 2014 and later fled to Riyadh amid a political conflict with Ansarullah. The movement has been running Yemen’s affairs in the absence of a functioning administration.

## Syrian Air Defenses Shoot Down Zionist Missiles

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Syrian air defenses have shot down Zionist missiles, as the regime launched another airstrike against areas near the country’s capital city of Damascus.

Speaking to the official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA), a military source said the attack took place at about 23:45 p.m. local time on Sunday.

The source added that the missile strike was carried out from the direction of the occupied Golan Heights, targeting some areas in the vicinity of Damascus.

“Our air defenses intercepted the aggression’s missiles and shot down some of them,” the source said, adding that the attack only led to some material damage.

The Zionist regime has been occupying the Golan Heights since

1967, when it waged a full-scale war against Syria and several other regional countries. The regime has built dozens of settlements there ever since, although, the international community has never recognized its self-proclaimed control over the mountainous territory.

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

The regime’s missile strikes regularly target the positions of the Syrian army or its allies, which have been helping the country defend itself in the face of foreign-backed militants and terrorists.

The new missile strike came after the regime conducted an air raid on the northwestern Syrian city of Aleppo on May 2, which killed one Syrian soldier and injured seven

others, including two civilians, while causing some material damage.

Back then, SANA reported that the attack took place with bursts of missiles fired from the direction of southeast of Aleppo. The attack also knocked the city’s international airport out of service.

As well as using Golan to launch attacks against Syria, the Zionist regime has, on numerous occasions in the past, turned the territory into a safe haven for the Takfiri terrorists, who flee there when they are targeted by military operations carried out by the Syrian army and its allies.

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.