

BAGHDAD (Reuters) – Iraq's federal supreme court ruled on Tuesday that a one-year extension of the term of the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region parliament in 2022 was unconstitutional and undermined democracy in the country, its top judge Jassim Mohammed said. All decisions issued by the regional parliament from the date of its term extension on Oct. 9, 2022 were therefore considered null and void, Mohammed said. With its capital in Erbil, Kurdistan is home to more than 5 million people out of Iraq's 43 million population and produces about 450,000 barrels of oil per day, though exports were halted in March. Baghdad-Erbil relations have been fractious for years with disagreements over energy resources and disputed territories.

Success is the result of foresight and resolution, foresight depends upon deep thinking and planning and the most important factor of planning is to keep your secrets to yourself.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Resistance Launches Fresh Missile Test

Zionist Killed in Resistance Forces' Operation in West Bank



Palestinian resistance forces claim responsibility for drive-by shooting in northern occupied West Bank.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – A Zionist settler was killed following a successful operation carried out by Palestinian resistance forces in West Bank, on Tuesday.

The settler was transferred to the hospital after being shot in the shoulder but died due to severe injuries.

Eyewitnesses reported that the shot was fired from a car that had high speed.

The perpetrator of the shooting managed to quickly leave the scene, according to the reports.

Issuing a statement, the Palestinian resistance movement Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades claimed respon-

sibility for the operation.

Meanwhile, Palestinian Resistance forces carried out a new missile test on the coast of Gaza on Tuesday.

During the test, several missiles were fired from the coast of Gaza toward the sea.

In recent years, the Palestinian resistance groups in the Gaza Strip have been conducting missile tests from the Gaza coast in order to increase their military forces and maintain their readiness.

Recently, the resistance has been able to target most of the occupied territories with its missiles, surprising the Zionist regime in Op-

eration Saif Al-Quds.

The conflict between the Palestinians and the occupiers has escalated recently since the start of the holy month of Ramadan following the Zionist regime's assaults on worshippers in the Al-Aqsa Mosque in the holy Al-Quds city.

Earlier on Tuesday, Zionist troops stormed a refugee camp on the outskirts of the West Bank city of Nablus, injuring more than 40 Palestinians, Palestinian media reported.

Some 46 Palestinians were treated for wounds during the raid on the Askar refugee camp which took place in the predawn hours

of Tuesday morning, Ahmad Jibril, the head of the Emergency and Ambulance Department at the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, said.

The report added that 44 of the injured Palestinians suffered tear gas inhalation.

Palestinian security sources said a large unit of Zionist troops broke into the family house of Hasan Qatanani and mapped it out before a planned demolition.

Palestinian youth Qatanani was killed by Zionist troops earlier this month.

Also on Tuesday, the occupation forces raided the Nur Shams refugee camp, near the West Bank city of Tulkarm, sparking clashes with Palestinian resistance fighters.

The raid was conducted for making preparation to demolish the home of a Hamas resistance fighter who was allegedly behind a shooting attack in February in the town of Huwara, south of Nablus.

The Zionist military said one of its soldiers was moderately hurt by shrapnel after an explosive device was detonated.

Tensions have been running high in the occupied West Bank over the past year, with the Israeli military conducting violent raids under the pretext of detaining what it calls "wanted" Palestinians.

As a result of these attacks, at least 112 Palestinians have lost their lives and many others have been arrested.

Russia: U.S. Preparing Terrorist Attacks in Syria



The Russian Foreign Intelligence Service says the United States is preparing terrorist attacks on crowded places and government institutions in Syria.

MOSCOW (Sputnik) – The United States is preparing terrorist attacks on crowded places and government institutions in Syria, the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) said on Tuesday.

"As a habitual tool for the implementation of their subversive plans [in Syria], the U.S. intelligence services again intend to use extremists," the SVR said in a statement, adding that "crowded places, shops and government agencies are among the priority targets."

The SVR also said that direct control of such operations is conducted from the U.S. at-Tanf military base located on the territory controlled by the foreign-backed militants, where "dozens of Daesh militants being trained".

U.S. special services coordinate

attacks primarily in the southern provinces of Suwayda and Daraa, the intelligence service said. U.S.-controlled militants also target a strategically important highway between the cities of Palmyra and Dary al-Zawr.

In another development on Tuesday, the sound of three explosions was heard on Tuesday near a U.S. base in eastern Syria.

The explosions were heard near the U.S. base in the al-Omar field in the east of Dary al-Zawr.

The cause of the explosions is not clear yet and no further details were released so far.

Al-Omar field is the largest oil field in Syria, where the American base is located in the east of Dary al-Zawr. The Syrian government has repeatedly warned that the presence of the U.S. forces is illegal.

Protests Erupt After Saudi Execution of Bahraini Youths

MANAMA (Dispatches) – Angry demonstrations erupted in Bahrain condemning the execution by Saudi authorities of two Bahraini youths who were wrongfully found guilty of "joining a terrorist cell."

On Monday, Riyadh announced the execution of two Bahrainis, charged with "joining a terrorist cell," aimed at "destabilizing the security" of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, bringing the total number of executions in the kingdom to nine this month, Arabi21 reported.

The Saudi Press Agency

(SPA) reported that Jaafar Muhammad Sultan and Sadiq Majeed Thamer were the names of the two persons who had been executed.

The executions took place on Monday morning in Saudi Arabia's Shia-majority Eastern region.

Protesters in Bahrain denounced the Saudi and Bahraini governments.

The Shia opposition group Al-Wefaq Society also condemned the execution of the two Bahraini men, who had been arrested in Saudi Arabia in 2015.

On its Facebook page, the society accused the Saudi regime of committing a crime.

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.

In October 2021, Amnesty International reported discretionary death sentences issued by Saudi authorities against Bahrainis, accusing them of smuggling explosives, receiving military training, and participating in protests in Bahrain. The organization said the confessions were extracted through torture.

UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial or arbitrary executions, Maurice Tidbal-Benz, called on Saudi authorities in June to halt any steps toward executing the two men.

Lebanon's Army Frees Kidnapped Saudi Citizen

BEIRUT (Xinhua/Al Jazeera) – The Lebanese army on Tuesday announced that a Saudi Arabi citizen who had been kidnapped in Lebanon's capital Beirut was already freed.

A statement released by the army said the man was freed by an Intelligence Directorate's patrol which launched an operation on the Lebanese-Syrian border to rescue him, while a number of those involved in the crime were arrested.

The Saudi man was kidnapped from a neighborhood close to the airport road in Beirut, the al-Jadeed TV reported.

Unidentified assailants dressed as security

personnel in a four-wheel drive vehicle on the Beirut seafont kidnapped the Saudi, who had been in a restaurant, according to a senior Lebanese security source.

The man works for Saudi Airlines in Beirut, and the kidnapers demanded a ransom of 400,000 U.S. dollars for his release in a phone call from the suburbs of Beirut.

On Tuesday, Lebanese caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati reaffirmed his insistence on controlling the security situation and not allowing any threat to the security of the Lebanese and nationals residing in Lebanon.

"The kidnapping of a Saudi citizen is con-

demned by all standards, and we congratulate the army for the great effort it made to release him and arrest those involved," he said.

"We are keen to see the return of all Arab brothers to Lebanon and prevent any threat against them, in addition to avoiding the use of Lebanese territory as a starting point for any action that threatens the security and safety of Arab countries," the prime minister added.

The Lebanese Interior Minister Bassam Mawlawi said at a news conference that nine people had been taken into custody over the kidnapping.

Egyptian, Turkish Presidents Agree on Reinstating Ambassadors

CAIRO (Reuters/Arab News) – Egypt President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan have agreed on "the immediate start of upgrading diplomatic relations, exchanging ambassadors," Egypt's presidency said in a statement.

El-Sisi spoke with Erdogan in a phone call to congratulate him on his presidential win.

Egypt's foreign minister Sameh Shoukry visited Turkey in April and met his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu, the two parties agreed then on specific time frame to raise the level of diplomatic relations and to prepare for a summit between the two presidents.

The presidents may meet in person again after Turkey's May 14 election, Cavusoglu said in April.

In another development, the Egyptian president met with Ammar al-Hakim, head of the Iraqi Wisdom Movement, in Cairo. The two leaders discussed the latest political developments in Iraq and prominent regional issues of mutual interest.

During the meeting, el-Sisi affirmed his pride in the fraternal relations between Cairo and

Baghdad and his government's support of Iraq's efforts to achieve progress.

El-Sisi also acknowledged al-Hakim's constructive role in maintaining stability in Iraq.

The Egyptian minister of foreign affairs also met with al-Hakim.

Ahmed Abu Zeid, spokesman for the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, said the two discussed a number of regional issues of common concern and affirmed their interest in continued cooperation to improve security in the region.

Shoukry expressed Egypt's full support of Iraq in its war against terrorism and highlighted the importance that Egypt attributes to the tripartite cooperation mechanism between Egypt, Iraq, and Jordan, a reflection of the countries' common political will.

Separately, during a discussion with experts of the Egyptian Center for Strategic Studies, al-Hakim said there are many areas in which Egypt and Iraq can coordinate, citing the importance of regional cooperation as a reason why "Iraq hosted five rounds of talks between Saudi Arabia and Iran, in addition to discussions between other countries."