

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – Nearly 500 reserve pilots consider refraining from showing up for duty in protest of the Zionist regime's plan for judicial overhaul, according to local media on Wednesday.

The move came one day after the Knesset (the occupying regime's parliament) voted to pass a bill in its first reading to curb the powers of the supreme court. The bill, however, would require second and third readings in order to be an effective law. Reservists, who are a key part of the occupying regime's army routine activities, have threatened not to serve if the regime's plan to overhaul the judiciary is realized. The Times of Israel newspaper reported.

If you overpower your enemy, then pardon him by way of thankfulness to Allah, for being able to subdue him.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

## Deadly Malnutrition Haunting Afghan Kids Amid Lingered U.S. Sanctions

KABUL (Xinhua) – With hands trembling and tears streaming down her face, a grief-stricken mother reluctantly bid farewell to her infant, lost to the cruel grip of acute malnutrition, a devastating affliction that ravages countless children in Afghanistan.

Such a scene is not rare at the malnutrition ward of the Kabul-based Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, a major pediatric hospital in the war-ridden country.

Samiullah, a trainee doctor, told Xinhua that the hospital receives some 50 sick children diagnosed with malnutrition across the nation each day. Among them, 10 endure severe cases necessitating hospitalization or intensified medical intervention.

"Sometimes, there can be three deaths at the ward within one day," he said.

Malnutrition comes with symptoms involving weight loss, reduced appetite, and tiredness. According to the latest analysis by the Integrated



Afghan kids are facing a humanitarian crisis as the U.S. government's brutal sanctions are exacerbating the country's financial paralysis, and consequently, hindering almost every support that Afghan kids need.

Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) on the malnutrition situation in Afghanistan, an estimated 4 million children and women are likely suffering from acute malnutrition through April 2023 and need urgent malnutrition intervention.

Eight doctors at the hospital's malnutrition ward are offering their utmost help and treatment to the malnourished kids.

Following body checks and weighing for the patients, the medics provide the kids with the necessary milk prescribed over the next 24 hours. If the situation of any kid gets worse, the doctor would provide medicine.

Aqa Mohammad Shirzad, the head of the malnutrition ward, told Xinhua that the number of malnourished kids surges in

summer.

Muzhda, a mother of a two-and-a-half-month-old child, took a seven-hour ride on sections of bombed bumpy road from the northern Baghlan Province, all the distress worthwhile for her just to see her skeletal baby in a stable condition after five days of treatment.

Some of the malnourished kids were born after the withdrawal of the U.S.-led forces in August 2021, seemingly luckier than those "war babies." But these kids are facing an even graver humanitarian crisis as the U.S. government's brutal sanctions are exacerbating the country's financial paralysis, and consequently, hindering almost every support that Afghan kids need.

According to Shirzad, prior to the imposition of sanctions, the hospital used to admit around 600 malnourished children. However, since the freezing of approximately 7 billion U.S. dollars in assets of Afghanistan's central bank by the Biden administration, that number has nearly doubled.

## China Urges Respect for Syria's Sovereignty While Delivering Aid



Syrians build a temporary camp, to house families made homeless by a deadly earthquake, in the town of Harim in Syria's militant-held northwest Idlib province on the border with Turkey, on Feb. 8, 2023.

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) – Humanitarian assistance to Syria should be delivered in a way that respects the country's sovereignty, China's envoy to the United States says.

The authorization of cross-border aid deliveries into Syria expired on Monday, and the UN Security Council failed on Tuesday to adopt either of two draft resolutions that would have renewed the mechanism.

Russia vetoed a draft resolution tabled by Brazil and Switzerland that called for a nine-month re-authorization. A Russian draft resolution, which would have renewed the mechanism for six months, failed to obtain the required number of votes for approval.

In an explanation of vote, Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the United Nations, said that China regrets the failure of the Security Council to reach consensus on this important matter.

"China's position on the humanitarian issue in Syria has been consistent and clear," he said. "We have all along maintained that humanitarian assistance to Syria should be provided in a way that respects the sovereignty of Syria and the Syrian government's ownership."

Cross-line relief should become the primary modality for humanitarian assistance to Syria. The cross-border relief mechanism was a temporary arrangement made under specific circumstances, and there is a need to speed up the transition to cross-line assistance and to phase out the cross-border mechanism

over time until its eventual destination, he said.

In view of the current humanitarian situation in Syria, China is supportive of continuing to keep the cross-border arrangement, Zhang noted.

"China maintains in the same breath that the Security Council must take seriously the problems and inadequacies of the existing humanitarian relief mechanism and make efforts to address these problems and inadequacies," he added.

The envoy stressed that practical measures should be taken to prevent the parties in de-facto control of northwestern Syria from once again obstructing cross-line relief efforts and to ensure that the frequency and scale of cross-line relief efforts are significantly higher than those at the same time last year.

The scope of humanitarian activities should be further expanded, he said, adding that humanitarian demining should be integrated into early recovery.

Adequate humanitarian funding for Syria is also an important measure of how well the resolution is implemented, said Zhang.

"We must face squarely the negative impact of unilateral sanctions on humanitarian assistance and take practical measures to eliminate such negative effects," he said.

Syria says Western countries are using illegal cross-border humanitarian operations in the Arab country's northwestern regions to blackmail Damascus.

## Palestinian President Visits Jenin Refugee Camp After Devastating Zionist Raid

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) – Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas visited the occupied West Bank's Jenin refugee camp Wednesday in the wake of a devastating Zionist offensive last week, marking his first visit to the camp since 2005.

The Palestinian leader's visit to the Jenin refugee camp came a week after the Zionist regime launched a massive two-day military operation there, the largest in the West Bank in nearly two decades, that killed at least 12 Palestinians, forced thousands to flee their homes and left large swaths of the camp in ruins.

Abbas arrived in Jenin aboard a Jordanian helicopter on Wednesday afternoon.

Thousands clustered around his heavy security detail, and children chased his motorcade as it moved along the streets. He visited a freshly-dug cemetery, where he laid a wreath at the graves of those killed in last week's operation, before speaking to a tightly-packed crowd.

Over the last year, the Zionist regime has conducted stepped-up raids into Palestinian areas.

More than 150 Palestinians have been killed by the Zionist troops' fire since the start of the year.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) says some 900 Pal-

estinian houses have been damaged and many of them have become uninhabitable in the wake of the Israeli military's two-day raid on the Jenin refugee camp.

Adnan Abu Hasna, the spokesman for the UN agency, said on Tuesday that his fellow colleagues are still documenting the damage caused inside the camp during the Israeli onslaught.

The UNRWA's priority is to help restore some sense of normality by resuming its services like education, healthcare and sanitation, he added.

"The other urgent priority is to provide cash assistance to families who were displaced from their homes, and help them pay for rent and rehabilitate their

residences," Abu Hasna noted.

"Israeli forces' operations in the occupied West Bank, killing and seriously injuring the occupied population, destroying their homes and infrastructure, and arbitrarily displacing thousands, amount to egregious violations of international law and standards on the use of force and may constitute a war crime," the experts said in a statement.

UN chief Antonio Guterres also said that "there was an excessive force used by Israeli forces" during the Jenin raid.

Guterres also said Israeli forces had prevented the injured from receiving medical care and stopped humanitarian workers from reaching those in need.

## Turkey Seeks to Build New Nuclear Plants for Energy Independence

ANKARA (Xinhua) – Turkey is seeking foreign investment and assistance for the construction of its second and third nuclear power plant amid efforts to wean itself from costly energy imports, officials said.

Since the re-election of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for a third term in late May, several high-ranking officials have made statements about Ankara's efforts toward energy independence.

Turkey is in contact with Russia and the Republic of Korea for its planned second plant and China for a third one, Salih Sari, the head of nuclear infrastructure at the energy ministry, told a local nuclear industry conference in late June in Istanbul, semi-official Anadolu Agency reported.

The country plans to build a second nuclear power plant in the northern province of

Sinop and a third one in the northwestern province of Kırklareli, according to Sari.

"We are even pressing ahead with site surveys for a fourth nuclear plant project ... Turkey needs 20 gigawatts of nuclear power generation capacity for its 2053 climate goals," the Turkish energy official said.

Turkey's first nuclear power plant, built by Russia's Rosatom in the southern Mediterranean region of Mersin, will become operational next year. It is expected to provide about 10 percent of the country's electricity needs when fully operational.

Mithat Rende, an Ankara-based energy analyst, warned of Turkey's dependence on Russia in the field of energy despite the volume had started to decline in the past years, during which Turkey has seen important discoveries of natural gas reserves.

"Everyone is now more careful. Nobody wants to be solely dependent on a single source or a single country. This is why domestic energy sources have become all the more important," Rende said.

For Arif Akturk, another energy expert based in Ankara, Turkey's economic woes are posing serious obstacles to its further investments in the offshore gas fields.

"In order to be more independent on energy, considerable amounts of investments have to be made, but considering Turkey's finances, this is a challenge," he said.

On Sunday, Turkey's new Energy and Natural Resources Minister Alparslan Bayraktar told reporters that Ankara is also negotiating with the United States and Britain on installing modular nuclear facilities in the country.

## Scholz: Germany Won't Deliver Eurofighters to Saudi Arabia in Near Future

VILNIUS (Reuters) – Germany will not deliver Eurofighter combat aircraft to Saudi Arabia in the near future, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Wednesday, after a newspaper quoted a government document as linking any such move to an end of the war in Yemen.

Saudi Arabia leads a coalition that waged a war in the country in 2015. The war has killed tens of thousands of people and left millions hungry.

"There will be no decision on the delivery of Eurofighter jets to Saudi Arabia any time soon," Scholz told reporters on the second day of a NATO summit in Vilnius, Lithuania.

A government source told Reuters that Germany would not decide the issue during this legislative term, which ends in 2025.

Earlier on Wednesday, Germany's SZ newspaper cited an internal government document as saying that "applications for export licenses for Saudi Arabia will be

postponed until the end of the war in Yemen."

Germany halted arms sales to Saudi Arabia following the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in 2018, taking a far tougher approach than major allies such as the United States, France and Britain.

But since the rapprochement of Saudi Arabia and Iran earlier this year, Britain has argued that Germany can no longer block the export of Eurofighter jets to third parties.

Britain's BAE Systems struck a deal five years ago for the arms maker to supply 48 of the jets in question, but a third of the components for the jets come from Germany.

According to reports earlier this month, Germany's governing coalition was at odds over whether to cede to British pressure, with the Greens strongly opposed to the move.