

DAMASCUS (Xinhua) – Syrian Transport Minister Zuhair Khazim says that the U.S. sanctions had caused technical challenges in the country's air transport sector, the state news agency SANA reported. During his visit to the international airport of Damascus, the minister stressed that the unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States on Syria have prevented foreign companies from dealing with the aerial sector in Syria, which led to difficulty in fixing the equipment or securing spare parts. He noted that there is a challenge in securing enough funding for the aerial sector amid skyrocketing prices, which, he said, had affected the quality of services provided for the passengers.

Zionist Troops Martyr Three Palestinians in Ambush

Top Official: Zionist Regime Horrified by Hezbollah's Deterrent Power, Strategies



Family and friends bid farewell to 18-year-old Palestinian Mahmoud Abu Sa'an, who was fatally shot by Zionist troops near the city of Tulkarm, the occupied West Bank, August 4, 2023.

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Zionist troops martyred three Palestinians in an ambush after firing at a vehicle they were in near the occupied West Bank city of Jenin on Sunday, according to the military.

The apparent targeted killing took place on a road near Ar-raba town southwest of Jenin.

After firing dozens of bullets at the car and killing the three men inside, Zionist troops pre-

vented medics from reaching them and withheld their bodies and the vehicle, according to Palestinian media reports.

Earlier Zionist settlers in the occupied West Bank raided a Palestinian village, accompanied by regime troops, Anadolu reports.

Dozens of settlers conducted the raid in Et-Tevane, in the Mesafir Yatta area in southern Al-Khalil, according to sources.

Settlers set fire to Palestinian-owned vehicles and attacked Palestinians who protested, leading to fighting with residents.

Zionist troops intervened and used tear gas and rubber-coated bullets against Palestinians.

Some victims faced suffocation due to the tear gas.

Soldiers also assaulted and arrested a 19-year-old Palestinian, according to the Palestinian of-

ficial news agency, Wafa.

In another incident, a group of Zionist settlers gathered at a checkpoint to the entrance to Ramallah and threw stones at Palestinian-owned vehicles, causing damage.

At the entrance to the Turmus Aya district in Ramallah, soldiers opened fire on a vehicle.

The West Bank has witnessed frequent raids and attacks by settlers under the protection of Zionist troops throughout the year.

Also on Sunday, the Zionist troops prepped the family home of a Palestinian fighter for demolition, a day after he allegedly killed a Zionist security guard in an attack.

On Saturday a Palestinian gunman allegedly shot and killed 42-year-old security guard Chen Amir in central Tel Aviv. The attacker, identified by police as 27-year-old Kamel Abu Bakr, was shot at the scene and died later in hospital.

The shooting came a day after two Zionist settlers were arrested on suspicion of killing a Palestinian man in the West Bank on Friday night. Palestinian officials said armed settlers entered the West Bank village of Burqa and shot 19-year-old Qusai Matan.



Hezbollah fighters carry out a military exercise in Aaramta village, southern Lebanon, on May 21, 2023.

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – A high-ranking official with the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah says his group's defensive deterrent power and engagement strategies have struck "horror" in the heart of the Zionist regime, and terrified its military top brass.

Speaking at a ceremony in the Beqaa Valley of eastern Lebanon, Head of Hezbollah Executive Council Sayyed Hashem Safiedine highlighted that the resistance movement has reached a point of deterrence that the Zionist army is recoiling in horror and desperation.

He underscored that Hezbollah's defense might has prevented any adventurist measure by the Israeli military.

Back in late June, the Hebrew-language Maariv daily newspaper reported that the occupying regime's military had expressed concerns about the growing air defense capabilities of Hezbollah in countering the regime's aerial aggression on Lebanese soil.

The newspaper reported on June 30 that the regime's military was following with concern "a major change in the concept of air de-

fense by Hezbollah in Lebanon."

The paper said what worried the regime was Hezbollah's move to have doubled the amount of air defense systems in its possession over the past five years "in an attempt to restrict the freedom of action of the Israeli air force in Lebanon."

"The improvement of these capabilities of Hezbollah continues persistently, and this is manifested, according to Israeli estimates, in the availability of these systems for rapid use and pursuant to Nasrallah's decision," Maariv said referring to the Hezbollah chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah.

The Zionist military, the daily added, is "following the alarming trend, which is reflected both in the quantities and in the improvement of the capacity and in the shift in strategy."

The newspaper also said the Zionist troops believe a drone belonging to the regime attack in August 2019 on a facility at the heart of the southern suburbs of Beirut, the stronghold of Hezbollah, was a turning point in Hezbollah's strategy of starting to shoot down Israeli drones, as promised by Nasrallah at the time.

Russian, Syrian Warplanes Pound Terrorists' Positions in Idlib

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Syrian and Russian warplanes bombed the positions of al-Nusra Front terrorist group in one of the areas of Idlib, Syria in a joint operation on Sunday.

The terrorists had turned the positions into centers for carrying out sabotage and terrorist operations, attacks on Syrian army forces, and civilian residents of the region, according to Russian Reconciliation Center for Syria.

Local sources in Syria reported on Sunday that four of the country's Army servicemen were killed during fierce clashes with terrorists.

The clashes between the Syrian Army forces and the terrorists broke out after the terrorists attacked the northern suburbs of Latakia, according to the local

Syrian media reports.

Several terrorists were also killed in the battle.

Russian Air Force launched an airstrike on the positions of terrorists near Syria's Idlib on Saturday.

This air strike came a few days after the Russian Reconciliation Center in Latakia Rif announced that the al-Nusra Front terrorist group was planning to attack Russian patrols in Syria.

Russia had warned that the militant factions in Idlib recently intensified the production of weapons and drones.

Deputy head of the Russian Reconciliation Center Rear Admiral Vadim Kolet stated that Russia: "Will not allow any acts of incitement against the Russian military."

Kolet claimed that the leadership of the Russian armed forces group in Syria is ready to take the most decisive measures to protect the lives of Syrians from Russian and Syrian civilians and military.

He pointed out that the militants are conducting active recruitment operations, calling on their leaders to: "Reject any acts of incitement and follow the path for a peaceful settlement of the conflict."

On Thursday, Kolet expressed: "Russia is deeply concerned about information indicating the preparation of terrorist attacks against the Russian armed forces' targets and patrols in Syria. Data indicates that the al-Nusra Front group (Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham) is actively preparing

suicide bombers whose mission is to carry out attacks against targets and patrols belonging to the Russian army and regime forces."

Kolet pointed out that the Russian side is concerned, adding that the Russian forces will take the most decisive measures against the planners of the attacks.

Russian Air Force on Saturday launched an airstrike on the positions of terrorists near Syria's Idlib.

A day earlier, Vadim Kulit, deputy chief of the Russian Center for Reconciliation of the Opposing Parties in Syria said that the U.S.-led coalition's fighter jets and drones violated Syria's airspace 28 times during the past day, TASS reported.

Defense Minister: Taliban Chief Warns Members Against Attacks Abroad

KABUL (AFP) – Afghanistan's Taliban chief has warned the members of the group against carrying out attacks abroad, the defense minister said, days after Pakistan said Afghans were involved in a spate of suicide attacks there.

Mohammad Yaqoob Mujahid said in a speech to members of Afghanistan's security forces, broadcast by state television, that fighting outside Afghanistan is not sanctioned, which had been barred by Taliban chief Hibatullah Akhundzada.

If anyone goes outside of Afghanistan for the goal of war, it won't be religiously sanctioned, Akhundzada said, according to Mujahid.

"If the emir prevents the mujahideen (fighters) from going to battle and they still do it", this is war, not allowed, he added.

The remarks come after Islamabad said militants behind a spate of suicide attacks in Pakistan were being helped by "Afghan citizens" across the border, days after a deadly bombing claimed

by the Daesh group near the countries' shared frontier.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif stopped short of accusing Afghanistan's Taliban government of knowingly allowing attacks from its soil, but he did say Pakistan militants were operating from "sanctuaries" in the neighboring country.

Since the Taliban surged back to power in Afghanistan two years ago, Pakistan has witnessed a dramatic uptick in militant attacks focused on its western border regions, claimed by both Afghan Taliban ally Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and rival Daesh.

Formed in 2007 by Pakistani militants who splintered off from the Afghan Taliban to focus their fight on Islamabad for supporting America's invasion of Afghanistan, the TTP has since waged a bloody campaign of bombings and other attacks across Pakistan.

Afghanistan's Taliban authorities insist they do not allow the country's soil to be used by armed groups plotting against other nations.

Iraq Blocks Telegram, Cites Personal Data Violations

BAGHDAD (Reuters) – Iraq's telecoms ministry said it has blocked the Telegram messaging app over national security concerns and in order to preserve the integrity of users' personal data, which it said the app had mishandled.

The app is widely used in Iraq for messaging but also as a source of news and for sharing content.

Some channels contain large amounts of personal data including the names, addresses and family ties of Iraqis.

The ministry said in a statement it had asked the app to close down "platforms that leak the data of the official state institutions and the personal data of citizens... but the company did not respond and did not interact with any of these

requests." "The Ministry of Communications affirms its respect for citizens' rights to freedom of expression and communication, without prejudice to the security of the state and its institutions," the statement said.

Telegram did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment.