

BAGHDAD (Xinhua) – The Iraqi judicial authorities have issued a decision to confiscate the properties of former Oil Minister Ihsan Abdul-Jabbar Ismail on charges of abuse of office and fraud, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. The decision came after an investigative court accused Ismail of abusing his position and accepting bribes from some investors that had contracts with the Oil Ministry, the agency quoted a judicial source as saying. Ismail served as Minister of Oil in 2020. Before that, he was the Director General of the state-owned Basra Oil Company.

He who is greedy is disgraced; he who discloses his hardship will always be humiliated; he who has no control over his tongue will often have to face discomfort.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Yemen: Saudi War Killed Over 8,000 Children Since 2015

SANA'A (Dispatches) – Yemen's human rights minister says the Saudi-led war of aggression on the impoverished country has left at least 8,000 children dead since 2015.

In a statement, Ali al-Dailami said that Yemeni children are falling victim either directly or indirectly to the continuing Saudi-led aggression, whether as a result of mines, cluster bombs, explosive remnants of the war or the tight blockade.

He once again denounced the 2018 Saudi-led coalition airstrike in Yemen's northwestern province of Sa'ada that killed at least 51 children and wounded at least 76 more near a school bus in the busy market of Dhahyan.

Dailami expressed deep regret over the decline in human values and the absence of fairness in the so-called international humanitarian institutions.

He condemned the attempts to



Yemeni children fill jerrycans with water from a donated source amid widespread disruption of water supplies in Sana'a.

whitewash crimes being perpetrated against Yemeni children, saying the bids come at the same time as hollow claims about measures to protect the children's lives and rights.

"Such behavior is a major scandal

for the international community, as it shows that deals have been concluded at the expense of the blood of Yemeni children," he said.

Saudi Arabia initiated a brutal war of aggression against Yemen in March 2015, enlisting the assis-

tance of some of its regional allies, including the United Arab Emirates, as well as massive shipments of advanced weaponry from the U.S. and Western Europe.

The Western governments further extended their political and logistical support to Riyadh in their failed bid to restore power in Yemen to the country's former Saudi-installed 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.

The war further led to the killing of tens of thousands of Yemenis and turned the entire nation into the scene of the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

'U.S. Seeking to Seal Off Iraqi-Syrian Border' Monitor: Syria Beefs Up Forces in Dayr al-Zawr



Iraqi security forces prepare to open the crossing between the western Iraqi town of Qa'im and Syria's eastern city of al-Bukamal in Dayr al-Zawr province.

DAMASCUS (Xinhua) – Syria is beefing up its forces in the eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr, where its troops were recently ambushed by Daesh terrorists, a war monitor reported.

The Syrian army brought in reinforcements for its 17th and 18th divisions stationed in al-Mayadeen City in the eastern countryside of Dayr al-Zawr after the Daesh terrorists attacked its bus there and killed 35 Syrian soldiers early on Friday, said the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

In a statement, the Syrian Foreign Ministry viewed the attack as a part of the ongoing American campaign against Syria's sovereignty and independence, accusing the United States of supporting Daesh to destabilize Syria.

The UK-based watchdog group also noted that the military reinforcement is a response to the increasing tension between the U.S. forces and resistance fighters in the area, as several reports suggested an impending military confrontation between the two sides.

On Aug. 10, a powerful explosion hit an arms depot of the U.S.-backed Kurdish militias in the Shaddadi area in Hasakah province, home to main U.S. military bases in northeastern Syria, according to a report by Russia's Sputnik TV.

In addition, unidentified warplanes reportedly hovered over al-Mayadeen for a span of two hours on Sunday, according to the obser-

vatory.

On the same day, powerful explosions were heard near the capital Damascus, which the observatory said attacked an arms depot.

It believed the explosions were the results of an aggression by the Zionist regime, while local media reported that investigations have been initiated to determine the nature of the incident.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which has long been monitoring tensions between the U.S. forces and resistance fighters, said the U.S. is planning a military operation to close a vast swath of the Syrian-Iraqi border.

Syria's al-Watan daily newspaper also, citing an unnamed Syrian security source, reported that American troops at Ain al-Asad Air Base are planning to close the border.

So far, the report said, they have provided no specific reason for their schemes.

It added that the move comes as the U.S. military is dispatching fresh convoys of trucks carrying arms and logistic supplies to Syria's oil-rich northeastern province of Hasakah from northern and western Iraq.

Despite the stable security situation along the border and the absence of possible terrorist threats, it remains unknown why American forces are beefing up their presence and expanding reconnaissance activities both in the western regions of Iraq and areas deep inside Syria, according to the report.

Palestinian Prisoners Launch Hunger Strike Against Repressive Zionist Measures

WEST BANK (Dispatches) Thirteen Palestinian prisoners detained in prisons run by the Zionist regime initiated an open-ended hunger strike to protest against their so-called administrative detention and the repressive measures of the regime.

The Palestinian Prisoners' Society (PPS) issued a statement, disclosing that six detainees in "Rimon" prison began their hunger strike. The participants include Hadi Nazzal, Mohammed Zakarnah, Anas Kumeil, Abdu-Rahman Barraqah, Mohammed Ikhmeis, and Zuhdi Ibeido – all from Qabatiya, located in the Jenin Governorate. They have been held since May of the previous year.

The prisoners Saif Hamdan,

Saleh Rabayaa, Qusai Khudair, and Osama Khalil continue their hunger strike for 14 days. Kayed al-Fasfous and Sultan Khalouf have been on strike for ten days, and Osama Dqroq has been on strike for six days.

The occupying regime currently holds hundreds of Palestinian prisoners under its 'administrative detention' policy, which involves imprisonment without trial or charge. The detainees can be held without charge for up to six months, with the possibility of indefinite extensions.

Concurrently, the Palestinian Commission of Detainees' and Ex-Detainees' Affairs has urged the international community to address the Zionist

regime's practice of administrative detention.

This hunger strike coincides with similar actions taken by 'administrative detainees' in "Ofar" and other prisons. Palestinian prisoners have been protesting against the restrictions imposed by Zionist regime authorities, with over 500 inmates refusing to attend their military court hearings this year. The boycott encompasses hearings for the renewal of administrative detention orders, appeal hearings, and later sessions at the regime's supreme court.

The occupying regime holds thousands of Palestinians in its jails, prompting criticism from human rights organizations

that say it violates the rights and freedoms guaranteed to prisoners by the Geneva Convention. Detainees' right to due process is breached by administrative detention, as evidence is withheld, and individuals are held for extended periods without charges, trials, or convictions.

Palestinian detainees have continuously resorted to open-ended hunger strikes in an attempt to express outrage at the detentions. Israeli jail authorities keep Palestinian prisoners under deplorable conditions without proper hygienic standards. Palestinian inmates have also been subject to systematic torture, harassment, and repression.

'No More Water'

Iraq Drought Claims Lakeside Resort

HABBANIYAH (AFP) – Iraqi merchant Mohamed has never seen such a grim tourist season: years of drought have shrunken the majestic Lake Habbaniyah, keeping away the holidaymakers who once flocked there during summer.

"The last two years, there was some activity, but now there's no more water," said 35-year-old Mohamed, asking to be identified by his first name only.

He laid out inflatable water floats, nets and shirts in front of his lakeside shop, but expected few if any customers.

"This year, it's dry, dry!" Mohamed told AFP, his shirt soaked in sweat in the inhospitable heat of nearly 50 degrees Celsius (120 Fahrenheit).

Shorelines at Habbaniyah, about 70 kilometers (45 miles) west of the capital Baghdad, have receded by several dozen meters after four consecutive years of

drought ravaged parts of the country.

The United Nations ranks water-stressed Iraq as one of five countries most impacted by some effects of climate change.

When full, as it last was in 2020, the lake can hold up to 3.3 billion cubic meters of water, said Jamal Odeh Samir, director of water resources in Anbar province, where Habbaniyah is located.

But now "the lake contains no more than 500 million cubic meters of water," he told AFP.

Shops like Mohamed's and holiday homes by the lake now sit empty in the height of summer. On the beach, stray dogs wander between unused umbrellas.

To get to the water, visitors must walk through foul-smelling mud that was once submerged under the lake surface.

The resort was created around the arti-

ficial lake in 1979, becoming a popular destination for tourists from across the Middle East in the following years.

Declining rainfall over the past four years and rising temperatures have hit Habbaniyah — alongside much of the rest of the country — hard.

Baghdad blames upstream dam construction on a staggering low water level in the Euphrates river, which feeds the lake and also runs through Syria.

"The strategic water reserves in Iraq are at their lowest point" in nearly a century, Khaled Shamal, spokesman for the water resources ministry, has warned.

Last week during a visit to Baghdad, United Nations human rights chief Volker Turk warned that "rising temperatures plus the drought, and the fact that the loss of diversity is a reality, is a wake-up call for Iraq and for the world."

Blast at Hotel in Afghanistan Leaves Fatalities

KABUL (Reuters) – At least three people were killed and seven wounded on Monday in an explosion at a hotel in southeast Afghanistan's Khost province, the province's media office said.

The cause of the blast was not immediately clear though the region, near the border with Pakistan, has long been plagued by violence between militants and their enemies.

The Khost media office said people originally from Pakistan's Waziristan region, which is just over the border and where for years various militant groups have operated, were among the casualties.

Pakistan's foreign office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Afghanistan's Taliban-run administration has faced an insur-

gency by Daesh terrorists, who have claimed a series of deadly attacks targeting civilians, foreigners and Taliban security forces in recent months.

Pakistan, meanwhile, has seen an increase in violence by Pakistani Taliban militants fighting the state, and it has complained that Afghanistan's Taliban are not doing enough to suppress the militants based on their soil.

The Taliban have said they are focused on securing Afghanistan and have carried out several raids against Daesh cells in recent months.

More than 1,000 Afghan civilians have been killed in bombings and other violence since foreign forces left Afghanistan in 2021 and the Taliban took over, according to the United Nations.