

TEHRAN — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei on Monday visited Grand Ayatollah Nasser Makarem Shirazi, who has been hospitalized in Tehran.

Ayatollah Khamenei was briefed on the process of treatment of the hospitalized cleric, and prayed for his recovery and health. The Leader lauded Ayatollah Makarem Shirazi for his valuable efforts to promote religious sciences, guide people, and broaden knowledge.

Kayhan International



TEHRAN — Iran's acting President Muhammad Mokhber and Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid have stressed the need to strengthen cooperation and interaction in all areas.

In a telephone conversation, Rashid said the Iraqi government is making efforts to enhance cooperation with Iran in all areas. Mokhber said strengthening trade and economic cooperation between the two countries will lead to further promotion of bilateral relations in the political field. He also praised Iraq's effective and "dignified" stance on regional and international issues, especially Gaza.

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Leader Pardons, Commutes Sentences of 2,654 Inmates



NIOC Signs \$2bn Deal With Local Companies



Mobina Fallah Secures Archery Spot for Olympic Berth



Activists Break Into UK-Based Israeli-Owned Arms Firm



TEL AVIV (Dispatches) — Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu dissolved the war cabinet tasked with steering the genocide in Gaza, Zionist officials said Monday, a move that comes days after a key member of the body bolted the regime over frustrations surrounding the Israeli leader's handling of the war.

The move was widely expected following the departure of Benny Gantz, a centrist former military chief, earlier this month. Gantz's absence from the cabinet increases Netanyahu's dependence on his extremist allies, who oppose a ceasefire.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that going forward Netanyahu would hold smaller forums with some of his cabinet members for sensitive issues surrounding the war. That includes his security cabinet, where far-right governing partners who oppose ceasefire deals and have voiced support for reoccupying Gaza, are members.

The war cabinet was formed in the early days of the war, when Gantz, then an opposition party leader and Netanyahu rival, joined the coalition following the Oct. 7 Hamas operation. He had demanded that a small decision-making body steer the war, in a bid to sideline far-right members of Netanyahu's cabinet.

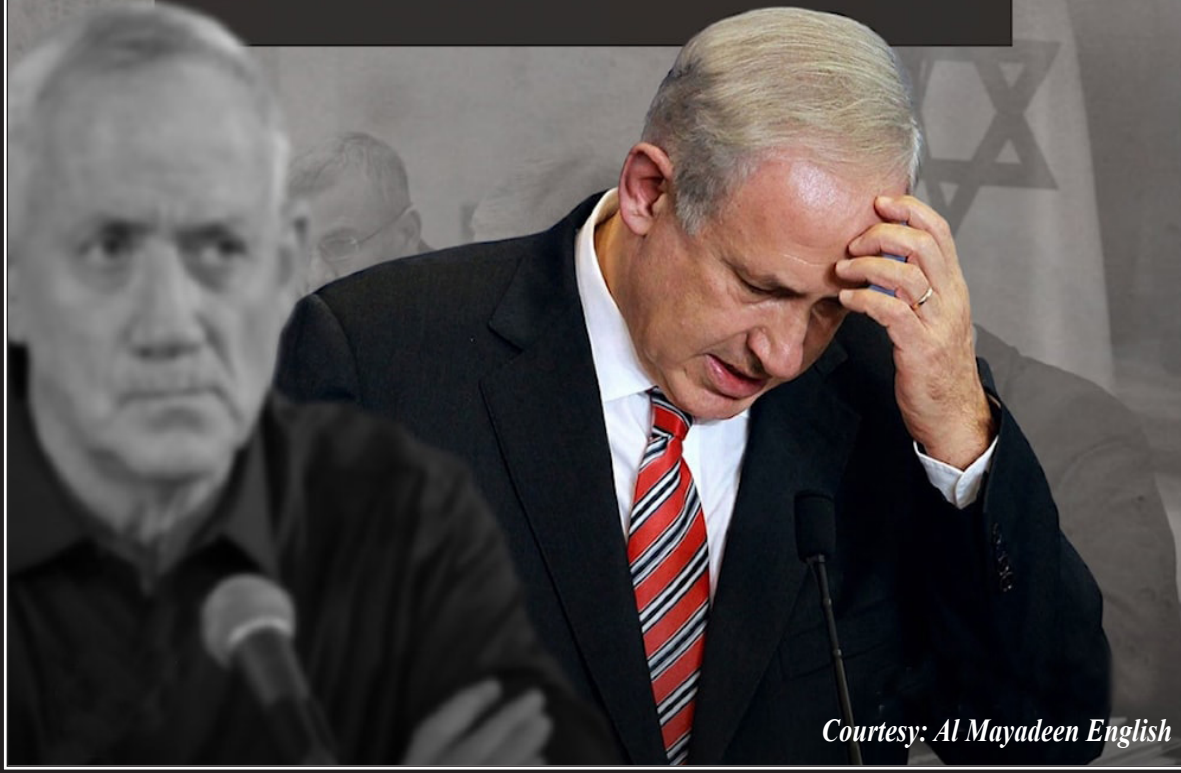
It was made up of three members — Gantz, Netanyahu and war minister Yoav Gallant — and together they made important decisions throughout the course of the war.

The move to scrap the war cabinet comes as Israel faces fierce resistance from Palestinian fighters.

On Monday, seven more Zionist soldiers were injured in either skirmishes with Palestinian resistance groups in Gaza or Lebanon's Hezbollah group in the last 24 hours.

The Israeli military, in a statement, did not specify where the soldiers were injured, which is most likely in Gaza or during clashes with the Lebanese Hezbollah group.

ISRAELI WAR CABINET COLLAPSES



Courtesy: Al Mayadeen English

nese Hezbollah group.

The casualties came after 12 soldiers were killed in three separate, with 10 additional soldiers named on Sunday after two had been named already on Saturday.

According to Israeli military figures, at least 662 soldiers have been killed since October 7 of last year, with 311 killed following the launch of Israel's ground invasion of Gaza on October 27.

Israel has faced international condemnation amid its continued brutal carnage in Gaza, despite a UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire.

More than 37,300 Palestinians have since been martyred in Gaza, most of them women and children, and more than 85,000 others injured, according to local health authorities.

Over eight months into the Israeli war, vast tracts of Gaza lay in ruins amid a crippling blockade of food, clean water and medicine.

Israel stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which in its latest ruling has ordered Tel Aviv to immediately halt its operation in the southern city of Rafah, where over a million Palestinians had sought refuge from the war before it was invaded on 6 May.

Israel and Hamas are weighing the latest proposal for a ceasefire in exchange for the release of captives taken by Hamas during its attack. Zionist troops are still bogged down in the Gaza Strip, fighting in the southern city of Rafah and against pockets of Hamas resurgence elsewhere. And clashes continue unabated between Israel and the Lebanese Hezbollah group.

Critics say Netanyahu's wartime decision-making has been influenced by the ultranationalists in his regime and by his desire to remain in power.

Gantz's departure, while not posing a direct threat to Netanyahu's rule, rocked Israeli politics at a sensitive time. He is now an opposition party leader in parliament.

Yemeni Forces Target U.S. Destroyer, Two Other Ships

SANAA (Dispatches) — Yemen's armed forces say they conducted new anti-Israeli and anti-U.S. operations, targeting three vessels in nearby waters, including an American destroyer, with missiles and drones.

Brigadier General Yahya Saree, the spokesman for the country's army, said the new operations were carried out in response to Israel's crimes against Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, and also in retaliation for acts of aggression against Yemen by the United States and the UK.

The first operation targeted an American destroyer with a number of ballistic missiles, Saree said. The second operation targeted the ship Captain Paris with a number of suitable naval missiles.

The targeted ship, he said, was trying to violate the Yemeni army's decision to ban access to ports in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Both operations were carried out in the Red Sea.

Saree said the third operation was conducted by the Yemeni army's "unmanned air force" unit, targeting the Happy Condor ship

in the Arabian Sea using a number of drones.

The spokesman said the company owning Happy Condor was also trying to violate the ban on entry into ports in the occupied Palestine.

He emphasized that the Yemeni armed forces will continue their operations in solidarity with Palestinian people in Gaza and also in response to the aggression against Yemen by the U.S. and UK, and will only stop when the Israeli onslaught on Gaza comes to an end and the siege of the territory is lifted.

Yemen's armed forces have been carrying out countless operations against Israel-linked ships or those heading towards ports in the occupied Palestinian territories since October 7, when the Tel Aviv regime began its genocidal war on Gaza.

The Yemeni forces have also conducted many operations against American and British vessels in response to deadly attacks by the United States and the UK against their country, which have been seeking to stop the forces' pro-Palestinian operations.

Their Thoughts With Gaza, Muslims Celebrate Eid al-Adha

JAKARTA, Indonesia (Dispatches) — Muslims on Monday celebrated Eid al-Adha, or the Feast of Sacrifice, with food and prayers for people in Gaza suffering from the Israeli war on Gaza.

One of the biggest Islamic holidays, the occasion commemorates Prophet Ibrahim's test of faith through slaughtering livestock and animals and distributing the meat to the poor. It's a joyous occasion for which food is a hallmark where devout Muslims buy and slaughter animals and share two-thirds of the meat with the poor and it's a revered observance that coincides with the final rites of the Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia.

Iran and much of Asia, including Indonesia, Malaysia, India and Bangladesh, observed Eid al-Adha on Monday, while Muslims in other parts of the globe, including Saudi Arabia, Libya, Egypt, and Yemen celebrated the holiday on Sunday.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei extended his congratulations to Muslim nations across the world over the occasion.

In a message on his X account, Ayatollah Khamenei said he congratulates all Muslims and followers of Abrahamic religions on

the blessed Eid al-Adha.

"I ask Almighty God to hurry the coming of the day of victory for Palestine, and that day will definitely come," the Leader stated.

On Monday, worshippers shoulder-to-shoulder joined in communal prayers in Indonesia's capital, Jakarta. Preachers in their sermons called on people to pray for Muslims in Gaza and Rafah.

"Our prayers and thoughts are with our brother and sisters who are now suffering in Palestine," worshipper Adi Prasetya said after praying at a field in southern Jakarta. "There are many opportunities for us now to channel our help through charities."

"May Allah give strength to those ravaged by war... may those who are divided can live in peace again," said another devotee, Berlina Yustiza.

Eid al-Adha commemorates the Qur'anic tale of Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice Ismail as an act of obedience to God. Before he could carry out the sacrifice, God provided a ram as an offering.

In Malaysia, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim joined thousands of congregants, including foreign tourists, and offered morning prayers at a mosque near his

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U.S. Spends More Than All Other Nuke Powers Put Together

GENEVA (AFP) -- Nuclear-armed countries hiked spending on atomic weapons arsenals by a third in the past five years as they modernised their stockpiles amid growing geopolitical tensions, two reports showed on Monday.

The world's nine nuclear-armed states jointly spent \$91 billion on their arsenals last year, according to a new report from the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

That report, and a separate one from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), indicated that nuclear weapons states are dramatically scaling up spending as they modernize and even deploy new nuclear-armed weapons.

"I think it is fair to say there is a nuclear arms race under way," ICAN chief Melissa Parke told AFP.

Wilfred Wan, head of SIPRI's weapons of mass destruction program, meanwhile warned in a statement that "we have not seen nuclear weapons playing such a prominent role in international relations since the Cold War".

SIPRI's report showed that the total estimated number of nuclear warheads in the world actually declined somewhat to 12,121 at

the start of this year, from 12,512 a year earlier.

But while some of that included older warheads scheduled to be dismantled, it said 9,585 were in stockpiles for potential use -- nine more than a year earlier.

And 2,100 were kept in a state of "high operational alert" on ballistic missiles.

Nearly all of those were held by the United States and Russia, but China was for the first time believed to also have some warheads on high operational alert, SIPRI said.

"While the global total of nuclear warheads continues to fall as Cold War-era weapons are gradually dismantled, regrettably we continue to see year-on-year increases in the number of operational nuclear warheads," SIPRI director Dan Smith said.

Nuclear Weapons Spending Jump

The spending surge reported by ICAN appeared to back that up.

The report showed that in 2023 alone, nuclear weapons spending worldwide jumped by \$10.8 billion from a year earlier, with the United States accounting for 80 percent of that increase.

The U.S. share of total spending, (Continued on Page 7)