WASHINGTON (AP) - President Joe Biden, in a letter to congressional Democrats, stood firm against calls for him to drop his candidacy and called for an end to the intraparty drama that has torn apart Democrats since his dismal public debate performance. Biden's efforts to shore up a deeply anxious Democratic Party came Monday as lawmakers returned to Washington confronting a choice: Decide whether to work to revive his campaign or try to edge out the party leader, a make-or-break time for his reelection and their own political futures.

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**VOL NO: LV 12295 TEHRAN / Est.1959** 

## Kayhan International

Tuesday, July 9, 2024, Tir 19, 1403, Muharram 3, 1446, Price 500,000 Rials

Viewpoint

**US Should Face Justice** for Crimes Against Humanity

Spokesman: Iran Will Not Hesitate to Support Lebanon



**Zarei Wins** First-Ever Medal at World Freediving Championship



Hamas: **Thousands of New Fighters Recruited During Gaza War** 



(Continued on Page 7)

**Houthi: Half of Israel-Linked Vessels Disrupted** 

SANAA (Dispatches) -- The leader of Yemen's Ansarul-

lah movement Abdul-Malik al-Houthi said half of Israellinked vessels have had their journeys disrupted by the

group's attacks carried out in solidarity with the Palestin-

ians in Gaza. "Our naval operations have had an impac

on the Israeli, US and British economies," al-Houth

added in a televised speech broadcast by the group's Al-

Masirah channel. "Israeli-linked navigation through the Red Sea was almost paralysed." According to the Houthi

leader, the U.S. and Britain have decided willingly to

President-Elect Supporting Resistance Pezeshkian Will Continue **Vows in Letter** With Strength to Nasrallah:

TEHRAN – Iran's president-elect Massoud Pezeshkian on Monday responded to a congratulatory message from Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah, pledging continued support to the "resistance force". "The Islamic Republic of Iran

has always supported the resistance of the people in the region against the illegitimate Zionist regime. Supporting the resistance is rooted in the fundamental policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the ideals of the late Imam Khomeini, and the guidance of the Supreme Leader, and will continue with strength," Pezeshkian wrote.

"I am confident that the resistance movements in the region will not allow this regime to continue its warmongering and criminal policies against the oppressed people of Palestine and other nations in the region."

Hezbollah and the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas are part of a group of factions in the region known as the Axis of Re-

Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh on Monday congratulated Pezeshkian "on behalf of the Hamas movement and the Palestinian people on the successful holding of the elections in Iran and the nation's trust in your Excellency and your election as president".

"We are sending this congratulatory message while the Palestinian nation and its resistance are fighting one of its most proud historical battles," he said.

"The Palestinian nation appreciates your capabilities in serving Iran and overcoming all challenges and difficulties and taking steps towards the unity of the Islamic Ummah against its enemy and also helping the Palestinian issue as the main issue. The Islamic world is confident," he added.

Pezeshkian also received separate phone calls from the presidents of Turkey and Russia.

In his phone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Pezeshkian highlighted the significance of ties with Russia and pledged to further expand mutual relations.

He said the new administration will pursue and implement the agreements signed with Russia under the late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

He said it is important for Tehran and Moscow to strengthen cooperation in regional and international organizations and treaties, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the

BRICS group of emerging economies and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

ments related to Iran-Russia comment have been finalized and are ready to be signed soon.

The Russian president, for his vice said after the phone call.

Both sides agreed to establish

They hailed high-level mutual relations based on good neighborliness and reiterated their readiness to strengthen cooperation in different sectors.

Pezeshkian emerged victorious in the second round of the presidential vote on July 5. He garnered more than 16 million votes against ex-nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili, who secured upwards of 13 million out of over 30 million votes cast, with the voter turnout standing at almost 50 percent.

tion, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey and Iran have

wished him success.

gional and international develop-

Pezeshkian noted that docuprehensive cooperation agree-

part, congratulated Pezeshkian on being elected Iranian president and wished him every success in his work, the Kremlin press ser-

"personal contact" this year.

In a separate phone conversamaintained deep-rooted relations.

He said the two countries will further promote ties in various fields during Pezeshkian's tenure.

The Turkish leader congratulated Pezeshkian over his election as the new president of Iran and

Erdogan and Pezeshkian discussed mutual relations and re-



Israel's war on Gaza has destroyed at least 35 percent of all buildings in the enclave.

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) -Heavy fighting raged in the besieged north of the Gaza Strip on Monday, forcing thousands of Palestinians to pick up their belongings and flee from Gaza City. Israeli tanks and troops moved into the city even as ceasefire mediators Egypt and Qatar prepared to host new truce talks this week.

Thousands of Palestinians fled heavy battles in Gaza City on Monday, as Israel's military expanded an evacuation order nine months into its war with Hamas militants.

Israeli troops and tanks pushed into parts of Gaza north, and were confronted by Palestinian fighters.

Thousands were on the move again, according to the Civil Defense agency in the territory. Witnesses said messages on loudspeakers urged civilians to leave Gaza City's Al-Daraj and Al-Tuffah neighborhoods.

AFP photographers saw Palestinians leave on foot, bikes and on donkey carts, carrying their belongings through rubble-strewn streets.

Muhammad Bisan said he had been through "an indescribable night" in Gaza City.

"Planes and artillery are bombing and drones are firing not know where to run, right or left," he told AFP.

Elsewhere in Gaza, AFPTV images showed Palestine Red Crescent members removing a body from the rubble after a strike in Jabalia, another Gaza City district.

Israel's military reported strikes on targets in the Rafah and Khan Yunis areas of southern Gaza.

The occupying regime's war on Gaza has martyred at least 38,193 people in Gaza, also mostly civilians, according to data from the territory's health ministry.

The toll includes at least 40

hours, it said.

Diplomatic efforts to halt the fighting aim for an initial sixweek ceasefire that would see some captives in Gaza freed in exchange for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, but talks would continue for a comprehensive deal to end the war.

Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office insisted in a statement that "any deal will allow Israel to return and fight until all the goals of the war are achieved".

The military said Israeli forces were carrying out attacks against Hamas and Islamic Jihad fighters in the area of the (Continued on Page 7

## Three Israeli Bases Hit by Over 100 Hezbollah Rockets

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -Lebanon's Hezbollah on Monday released a video of striking three Israeli military bases lying in the northern part of the occupied Palestinian territories amid reports that thousands of illegal settlers had fled into shel-

The resistance group released the footage, saying the operations had been conducted a day earlier.

Hezbollah identified the targeted bases as Ayelet, Meron, and Nimra, saying the outposts had been hit with more than a hundred Katyusha rockets.

The American news website Axios reported that a U.S. citizen was wounded in the attacks, citing American offi-

The Zionist regime's Channel 12 identified the wounded person as an American, not an Israeli settler with dual U.S., nationality, saying the Hezbollah operation had also injured several others.

Other Israeli outlets said he had received extensive and serious injury.

The reason for the American's presence in the closed military barracks remains unknown, Axios added.

The development came amid close intelligence cooperation between the United States and the Zionist regime that has been ramped up amid Tel Aviv's ongoing incursions on several regional fronts.

Lebanon's Al-Mayadeen television network, mean-

while, reported that Hezollah's operations had prompted around 250,000 illegal settlers into shelters.

The regime began carrying out sporadic attacks against Lebanon following the onset of a genocidal war that it has been staging against the Gaza Strip on October 7, 2023. The attacks have prompted a firefight with Hezbollah.

The movement has retaliated against the aggression by firing hundreds of rockets into the northern parts of the occupied territories.

Tel Aviv has also been issuing recurrent threats of turning Lebanon into another Gaza.

Last month, the Israeli military said it had approved plans for an attack on the country,

raising concerns that the regime might try to realize the threats.

Hezbollah fought off two Israeli wars against Lebanon in 2000 and 2006, forcing a humiliating retreat upon the Tel Aviv regime's military in both

The movement has wowed to defend Lebanon robustly in case of another one.

On Sunday, a senior Lebanese lawmaker said Hezbollah's damage to Israel as a result of its pro-Palestinian retaliatory operations cannot be repaired for the next few

"As a result of these attacks, we have dealt major blows to the Zionist enemy, which it cannot recover from within the

next few decades," Muhammad Raad, head of Loyalty to the Resistance Bloc, the political wing of Hezbollah, in the Lebanese parliament, said.

"The Israeli society is collapsing, and we are seeing the last stages of a purported unified society," Raad stated.

He said Hezbollah's operations are aimed at protecting Lebanon's national dignity and territorial integrity, and that the group's attempts in the path of confronting the Israeli regime are not in vain.

Raad stressed that the Lebanese resistance movement did not enter the struggle for futile interests and purposes.

Hezbollah's anti-Israeli strikes will make Lebanon immune (Continued on Page 7)