

TEHRAN -- Saeed Jalili, a candidate in the upcoming June 28 presidential election, stated Saturday that Iran should not be put on hold over negotiations with a small number of countries.

Jalili made the remarks he made a campaign stop at Sharif University of Technology, referring to the negotiations to revive the 2015 US-abandoned nuclear agreement -- officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Jalili, a former nuclear negotiator, said when all were cheering the conclusion of the JCPOA, he was a serious critic of the nuclear deal.

TEHRAN -- Fighters from Iraqi anti-terror resistance groups have expressed their full solidarity with Hezbollah, stressing they will fight alongside their comrades in the Lebanese group in case the Tel Aviv regime decides to wage a new war on Lebanon.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq -- an umbrella group of anti-terror fighters, reported that Kata'ib Hezbollah, Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada and Harakat Hezbollah al-Nujaba groups have announced their readiness to fight alongside Hezbollah to confront any possible Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

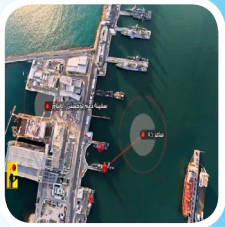
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**U-18 Women Volleyballers Defeat Kazakhstan in Asian Championship**



**UN Chief: World Cannot Afford Lebanon Becoming Another Gaza**



**Over 100 Gazans Martyred in New Israeli Massacres**

GAZA CITY (Dispatches) -- At least 42 people were martyred in Israeli attacks on districts of Gaza City in the north of the Palestinian enclave on Saturday, the director of the government media office said.

One Israeli strike on houses in Al-Shati, one of the Gaza Strip's eight historic refugee camps, martyred 24 people, Ismail Al-Thawabta said. Another 18 Palestinians were martyred in a strike on houses in the Al-Tuffah neighborhood.

Hamas said in a statement the attacks targeted the civilian population and vowed in a statement "the occupation and its Nazi leaders will pay the price for their violations against our people."

Footage showed dozens of Palestinians rushing out to search for victims amid the destroyed houses. The footage showed wrecked homes, blasted walls, and debris and dust filling the street in Shati refugee camp.

Residents said Israeli tanks deepened their incursion into western and northern Rafah areas in recent days. On Saturday Zionist forces bombed several areas from air and the ground, forcing many families living in areas described as humanitarian-designated zones to leave northwards.

On Friday, the Gaza health ministry said at least 25 Palestinians were martyred in Mawasi in western Rafah and 50 wounded. Palestinians said a tank shell hit a tent housing displaced families.

It was the latest Israeli atrocity in the Gaza Strip, where hundreds of thousands have fled the occupying regime's invasion. It comes less than a month after an Israeli bombing triggered a deadly fire that tore through a camp for displaced Palestinians in southern Gaza, drawing widespread international outrage -- including from some of Israel's closest allies -- over the military's expanding offensive into Rafah.

The health ministry in Gaza said at least 101 Palestinians were killed in the past 24 hours and 169 others wounded.

"A number of victims are still under the rubble and on the roads, and ambulance and civil defense crews cannot reach them." Witnesses whose relatives died

in one of the bombardments near a Red Cross field hospital north of Rafah said Zionist forces fired a second volley that killed people who came out of their tents.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said the hospital was flooded with casualties, including 22 dead and 45 wounded, and condemned the firing of "high-caliber projectiles" a few meters (yards) from the facility. Hundreds of people live in tents nearby, including many of the hospital staff, the ICRC said.

According to Ahmed Radwan, a spokesperson for Civil Defense first responders in Rafah, witnesses told rescue workers about Friday's shelling at two locations in a coastal area that has become filled with makeshift tents. The Health Ministry in Gaza reported the number of people killed and wounded in the attacks.

The occupying regime of Israel has previously bombed locations in the vicinity of the "humanitarian zone" in Muwasi, a rural area with no water or sewage systems where displaced Palestinians have built tent camps in recent months.

With Israel's ruthless killing campaign now in its ninth month, international criticism is growing over the campaign of systematic destruction in Gaza, at a huge cost in civilian lives. The top United Nations court has concluded there is a "plausible risk of genocide" in Gaza -- a charge Israel strongly denies.

Hasan al-Najjar said his sons were killed helping people who panicked after the first strike.

"My two sons went after they heard the women and children screaming," he said at the hospital. "They went to save the women, and they struck with the second projectile, and my sons were martyred. They struck the place twice."

The hospital's location is known to all parties in the conflict and marked with the Red Cross emblem, the ICRC noted. The 60-bed field hospital was opened in mid-May to provide emergency surgeries, obstetric, pediatric and outpatient care, according to a news release at the time, which shows white tents covering an

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**Leader's Election Advice Ahead of Vote**



Ayatollah Khamenei meets with a group of judicial officials ahead of the Judiciary Day in Tehran.

TEHRAN -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei here Saturday hailed televised debates among presidential candidates ahead of Iran's June 28 election, saying they give people familiarity with the opinions of the six contenders.

The Leader made the remarks in a meeting with the country's

judicial officials, after Iranians watched the third of five debates planned in the days before the vote to replace President Ebrahim Raisi who lost his life in a helicopter crash.

Ayatollah Khamenei, however, cautioned the candidates against making statements that could delight Iran's enemies.

"My advice is that these dis-

cussions that the candidates have together on TV or the statements they make either in public or individually in order to overcome the rival should not contain anything that makes our enemies happy," he said.

"The words that are uttered should not please the enemy of the country, the nation and the system. This is not permis-

sible," he said.

"The assumption is that all the candidates love Iran and the Islamic Republic, since they want to become president in this system and to serve the people. Therefore, they should not speak in such a way that pleases the enemy."

In their third debate, the candidates presented their blueprints on the country's cultural and social issues. It followed the first held on Monday and the second staged on Thursday, which centered on economic and socio-economic issues respectively.

The Leader met the country's judicial officials ahead of the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Seyyed Muhammad Beheshti and his 72 companions, which has been designated as Judiciary Day in Iran.

Ayatollah Khamenei stated that the Judiciary must work in a way that the public would see it as the house of justice and the place where rights are preserved.

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**Yemen Undeterred: USS Eisenhower Returns Home**

SANAA (Dispatches) -- An attack by Yemen's armed forces targeted an Israeli-linked ship traveling through the Gulf of Aden, authorities said Saturday, in the latest strike in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The operation comes after the sinking this week of the ship Tutor. On Saturday, the Yemeni armed forces released footage of a drone boat and its strike for the first time.

The video published by the media bureau of Yemen's Operations Command Center showed "Tempest 1" with a warhead weighing 150 kilograms and a speed of 35 nautical miles per hour.

Boasting high speed and ability in maneuvering and stealth, the Yemeni drone boat is designed for fixed and mobile near targets.

Yemen's military released on Wednesday the video of its attack on the Tutor. The footage showed the vessel being struck by two drone boats while sailing in the Red Sea, which resulted in

its sinking.

Meanwhile, U.S. officials reportedly ordered the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, the aircraft carrier leading America's response to Yemen's operations, to return home after a twice-extended tour.

The captain of the ship targeted late Friday saw "explosions in the vicinity of the vessel," the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said. A later briefing by the U.S.-overseen Joint Maritime Information Center said the vessel initially reported two explosions off its port side and a third one later.

Yemen's military claimed the attack Saturday night. Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, a military spokesman, identified the vessel targeted as the bulk carrier Transworld Navigator.

The Yemenis have launched more than 60 operations targeting Israeli-linked vessels and fired off other missiles and drones in their campaign. They have seized one vessel and sunk two since

November.

The U.S. Naval Institute's news service reported, citing an anonymous official, that the Eisenhower would be returning home to Norfolk, Virginia, after an over eight-month deployment in combat that the Navy says is its most intense since World War II.

The Eisenhower had repeatedly been targeted by the Yemeni forces during its time in the Red Sea. Saree on Saturday night claimed another attack on the carrier.

Despite months of U.S.-led airstrikes, Yemeni forces have continued their operations, drawing from an arsenal of increasingly advanced weapons to attack Israeli, U.S. and UK vessels in and around the Red Sea.

Just this month, they sank one ship and set another ablaze. The Yemeni forces, operating on land and in the water, have launched swarms of drones at U.S. warships and deployed a remote-controlled boat packed with explosives.

The recent uptick in Yemeni operations has underscored the ability of the country's forces to carry out major military tasks.

"Their ability to replace what ever we destroy is unimpeded and our ability to interdict materiel coming into the country negligible," said Gerald Feierstein, a former U.S. ambassador to Yemen who is now a senior fellow at the Middle East Institute in Washington.

Yemen's forces have learned how to modify old weapons and manufacture new ones, becoming the first army to use anti-ship ballistic missiles to strike naval targets, according to senior U.S. military commanders.

"Their capability has definitely increased" since they started their campaign, Feierstein said. "So as long as they have the incentive to continue these attacks, they've demonstrated they have the ability to do it."

Yemen's resistance movement first

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