









### Venezuela says 8 soldiers captured in combat with Colombia

Venezuelan Minister of Defense said that eight troops were captured during the fighting with irregular Colombian armed groups. The diplomatic relations between Venezuela and Colombia have been strained for decades, with the two countries accusing one another of providing funding and support to insurgents or terrorists seeking to topple one another's government. Eight Venezuelan soldiers have been captured during fighting with irregular Colombian armed groups in the border state of Apure, Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino announced on Saturday. "Eight of our military professionals were captured during combat operations. We received evidence that they are alive. In response to this situation, we denounce the criminal kidnapping of these soldiers before the international community, unilateral bodies, human rights organizations, and demand that their captors, who are holding them illegally, preserve their lives and bodily integrity," Padrino said in a television address. Sputnik news agency reported. The defense minister accused the insurgents of using "murderous and cowardly methods," including the planting of antipersonnel mines and the use of remotely detonated explosives, which he said has killed numerous Venezuelan soldiers and seriously injured others. Padrino indicated that Caracas has made contact with the insurgents to ensure the captured troops' prompt release, and said that the authorities were coordinating with the Red Cross to serve as an intermediary. He promised the soldiers' families that the military would "spare no effort and exhaust all possible means to recover [the troops] safely."

**After US withdrawal UN can ensure Afghanistan peace**  
Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi believes that after the withdrawal of US troops, the United Nations Organization can ensure peace and stability in Afghanistan. Foreign Ministry said Sunday that Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi believes that the United Nations Organization is capable of ensuring peace and stability in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of US troops. "The hastiness of the US troops withdrawal has caused significant harm to the process of peaceful settlement in this country. We believe that the UN can play a proper role in this situation," the Minister said during the phone call with his Pakistani counterpart Mehmood Qureshi, TASS reported. The Chinese top diplomat noted that the SCO member states should pay special attention to settlement in Afghanistan, and praised Pakistan's efforts in this field. "Beijing and Islamabad must strengthen their strategic dialogue and play a more active role in the restoration of peace in Afghanistan," Wang Yi said.

**Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement unveiled 'Qassem' Missile**  
Spokesman for Saraya al-Quds Brigades, the armed wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) resistance movement on Sunday revealed the unveiling of a new missile named after "Qassem" on the memory of martyr Qassem Soleimani. Abu Hamza said that this new and advanced missile has been used during the "Sword of Quds" battle with the Zionist regime, Palestine Al-Youm reported. According to the report, this sophisticated missile was used in yesterday's attack of Islamic Jihad Resistance Movement against Zionist regime's aggression on the Palestinian lands and territories. The range of 'Qassem' Missile reach Tel Aviv, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Sderot and also other cities of the Palestinian lands and territories, he emphasized. Social media users welcomed the use of the "Qassem" missile, which is named after former Iran's IRGC Quds Force Commander Martyr Lt. Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

## The sufferings of the Zionist regime

Coinciding with the Zionist regime's atrocities in Jerusalem and the cross-defense of jihadist forces in Palestine, racial discrimination by extremist Jews against Arabs in the occupied territories has confirmed the existence of apartheid in the regime.



By: Mohsen Pakaein  
The world media and even the news agencies of the occupying regime have

Israeli Arab citizens say the government is involved in the expropriation of their lands and accuse government officials of repeatedly discriminating against them in allocating government funds.

acknowledged the violent attacks of the Jewish extremists on the Arabs in the cities of Lad, Acre and Haifa and the outbreak of street riots against racism. Clashes between far-right Israeli supporters and the Arab minority in the Occupied Palestinian Territories prompted regime leader Reuven Rivlin to warn of the danger of a "civil war." According to Israeli police, in addition to the violent incidents in several cities of Lad, Acre and Haifa, the incident that became a symbol of this racist violence took place near Tel Aviv. In images broadcast on one of the official Israeli television channels, a group of far-right supporters attacked an Arab man. In these images, dozens of far-right supporters force the man out of the car and beat him until he faints. Tel Aviv hospital officials, without identifying the man, said he was "severely injured but in stable condition." The Times of Israel and Euro news, which have received the most coverage, admit that Israel is witnessing the worst internal unrest in recent years between Jews and Arabs, with unrest, riots and racist marches, and a loss of control. According to the media, right-wing Jews and villains who have taken to the streets against the Arab minority are beating Arabs, burning houses, breaking into shops

and shooting like crazy. Netanyahu says he may send troops to the streets. Perhaps the most terrifying scene to the disbelief and horror of Israeli leaders was a video of hundreds of Jewish extremists in the Bethlehem area destroying Arab property and attacking an Arab driver in his car. They pulled him out, and beat him brutally. As a result of the violence, the Arabs reacted and the synagogue and Jewish shops were set on fire and an Arab was shot dead. According to media reports, more than 400 people have been arrested so far, and a state of emergency has been declared in the city of Lad, where Arabs and Jews live. Without condemning the violence of extremist Jews, Israeli officials have called on Arab religious and social leaders to raise their voices and urge the Arabs to continue to coexist with the Jews. Of course, they have admitted that despite the regime's costs to raise the living standards of the Arabs living in the occupied territories have not yet reached the level of the Jews. The minority of Israeli Arabs are racially and culturally Palestinian and are Israeli citizens. The occupying regime in Jerusalem has a population of about nine million, of which about one-fifth - nearly two million - are of Arab descent. In fact, they are Palestinians who did not leave the occupied territories after the creation of the fake Israeli regime in 1948 and became citizens of this regime. This population calls itself Israeli Palestinians or just Palestinians. Israeli Arabs are mostly Muslim and have been discriminated against for decades. Several human rights organizations have also acknowledged discrimination against this group of citizens. Amnesty International believes that the Israeli regime has committed "institutional discrimination" against Palestinians living in the country. According to a report released by Human Rights Watch in April 2021, Israeli authorities have committed apartheid against Palestinians inside Israel and the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories in the West Bank and Gaza, which is an example of a crime against humanity. Israeli Arab citizens say the government is involved in the expropriation of their lands and accuse government officials of repeatedly discriminating against them in allocating government funds. Among the discriminations is that the citizenship laws of the Zionist regime give Jews the right to obtain citizenship and passports, but Palestinians who have emigrated or deported from this land and their children do not have this right if they return. In 2018, the Israeli parliament passed the controversial Nation-State Act. Under the law, Arabic lost its status as an official language alongside Hebrew, and it was declared that the right to self-determination was "exclusive to the Jews." Ayman Odeh, an Arab member of parliament from the occupying regime, said the parliament had effectively passed a law on "Jewish supremacy" and that Arabs would henceforth be "second-class citizens". Today, the Israeli media has called the "Jewish-Arab street war" a more dangerous crisis than their country's war with Palestinian organizations. These media widely use the word "lynch" to kill Arabs, which means "execution in public and deliberate beatings with intent to kill." After a long period of silence, Benjamin Netanyahu likened the planned attacks of Jewish youth on Arabs to a dangerous poison for the coexistence of Jews and Arabs. Defense Minister Benny Gantz also said on social media that there was a danger of retaliation for the spread of the incidents, saying that the danger of these street attacks on Israeli society was greater than the Hamas rocket attacks on Israel. Reuven Rivlin the head of Israel's fake regime, condemned the atrocities as Jewish attacks on Arab men intensified.

NEWS

**Iran strongly supports Palestinian cause: Qalibaf**  
Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf slammed the Zionist usurper regime's crimes in attacking Al Aqsa Mosque and killing Palestinians and underlined Iran's strong support for the Palestinian cause. Addressing parliament's open session on Sunday, Qalibaf referred to the Zionist regime's crimes and said that this regime aims to continue the genocide of the Palestinians, continues its crimes in " Sheikh Jarrah" and attacks defenseless people in this region. Pointing out that Zionist regime does not respect human rights, Qalibaf added that the point is that, why the international community is silent in this time. Iranian Parliament Speaker warned Zionists that the Islamic Ummah is standing against these genocides, adding that the resistance and unity among Palestinian groups are the only options for the Palestinians in the fight against the child-killer and the Zionist usurper. Elsewhere in his remarks, Qalibaf said that it is essential that all leaders in the region, help the resistance forces as soon as possible and prevent the genocide of oppressed Palestinians. **Biden makes first call to Abbas amid Israel-Gaza fighting**  
U.S. President Joe Biden on Saturday held his first phone call with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas since taking office, amid heavy fighting between Israel and Palestinian militant groups in the Gaza Strip. Biden has dispatched an envoy to try to quell the violence that has killed dozens in Gaza and at least 10 in Israel, but U.S., regional and international efforts have yet to show any signs of progress. read more Biden "stressed the need for Hamas to cease firing rockets into Israel", and the two men "expressed their shared concern that innocent civilians, including children, have tragically lost their lives amidst the ongoing violence," a summary of the call released by the White House said. Biden also conveyed the "U.S. commitment to strengthening the U.S.-Palestinian partnership" and highlighted his administration's recent decision to restore aid to the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza that had been cut under former President Donald Trump. A summary of the call released by the official Palestinian news agency Wafa said Biden said he opposes the eviction of Palestinians from East Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah, though the White House account of the conversation did not mention the case. A long-running legal case over the evictions helped ignite tension in the holy city and spark fighting between Israel and Gaza militants. Abbas's Palestinian Authority (PA) has limited-self rule in the occupied West Bank, part of territory Israel captured, along with Gaza and East Jerusalem, in the 1967 Middle East war.

News

**Dock Workers in Italy Unwilling to Contribute to Arming Israeli Regime**  
Dock workers in western Italy reportedly plan to withhold their cooperation with a weapon shipment process aimed at further arming of the Israeli regime amid its atrocities in the Gaza Strip. The longshoremen in the port city of Livorno took the decision after finding out that they could be unwittingly aiding one such shipment operation, Italian online newspaper Contropiano reported on Friday. The workers were tipped off that some of the containers they were supposed to load onto a vessel destined for the port city of Ashdod in the occupied territories, contained "weapons and explosives." They, therefore, decided to snub the process that involves a container carrier, dubbed Asiatic Island. The "weapons and explosives... will be used to kill the Palestinian population already hit by a severe attack this very night that has caused [the deaths of] hundreds of victims among the civilian population, including many children," the newspaper wrote. It was referring to the recent serious escalation in the Israeli regime's military assaults against Tel Aviv-blockaded Gaza. Since Monday, when the escalation began, Israeli warplanes and later artillery units began laying into the coastal sliver, killing more than a 100 people there. Most recently, the attacks butchered an entire Gaza family, including eight children. According to the daily, the Italian shoreline is regularly used for stopovers by vessels that are headed towards the occupied territories. No earlier than on Thursday, dozens of armored vehicles were taken to the coastal city of Genoa in northwestern Italy in order to be likewise shipped to the occupied territories. The workers, who planned to snub the shipping operation, also cited legitimate security concerns about the hazards involving handling of the weapon-laden containers. An Italian workers' union that first reported their refusal also said that the dockers were also to hold a pro-Palestinian protest on Livorno's streets on Saturday. The protest was to be held "in solidarity with the Palestinian population and to ask for an immediate stop to the bombing of Gaza." The rally was also to urge "a stop to the expropriation of Palestinian homes, in which they have been living under military occupation for years." The latter refers to the Israeli military's efforts earlier this month to force Palestinian families out of the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of the holy city of al-Quds in the Tel Aviv-occupied West Bank. The expulsion campaign came amid the Israeli military and illegal settlers' incessant attacks on Palestinian worshippers during the holy month of Ramadan. Scores more have died during the violence targeting the Palestinians in the West Bank. The regime's atrocities in both the Palestinian territories have been met with sweeping international rage and condemnation.

# ISFAHAN NEWS

The First Bilingual Economic Newspaper In Isfahan Province

20000 Rials

Monday, May 17, 2021  
No. 780

## Argentinian businessman converts to Islam

An Argentinian businessman converted to Islam in the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza in Mashad, northeastern Iran, after becoming familiar with the Islamic culture through three years of activity in Iran. Fabian Garcia, who changed his name to Reza after he became a Muslim, said that he gravitated to the Iranian culture and the faith of Islam when he became familiar with Iran's culture during his stay in the country for business purposes and doing research and talking to Iranian friends. The Christian-turned-Muslim Reza continued that he had traveled to Mashad in the company of a friend of his who is in charge of an Islamic center in Argentina, adding that the first moment he saw the golden dome of Imam Reza Holy Shrine and its courtyard, he felt an indescribable tranquility and became more serious to convert to Islam. Garcia said that he found that he can find happiness in Islam, adding that when he uttered the Shahadah, he was overwhelmed by a spiritual feeling never experienced before and he hoped that at that moment peace and security would reign in the world.

### Headlines

Iran strongly supports Palestinian cause: Qalibaf

The sufferings of the Zionist regime

Efforts Underway for Launching Iran-Singapore trade office

CALL TO PRAYER TIME IN ISFAHAN

Morning call to prayer:

04:29:39

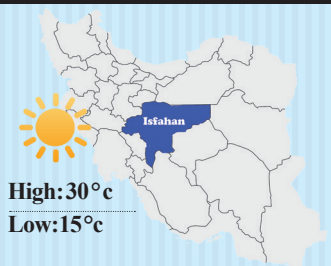
Noon call to prayer:

12:59:45

Evening call to prayer:

20:15:36

### WEATHER



## Iran's FM Zarif attends OIC emergency meeting on Palestine

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif attended an emergency virtual meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to discuss Zionist regime's crimes and the latest developments in Palestine. The Open-Ended Extraordinary Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee at the level of foreign ministers was held on Sunday. During the virtual meeting chaired by Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, foreign ministers of OIC member states will exchange views on bloody events and the recent attacks by Israel in the Palestinian territories, especially Jerusalem.



## President Urges Attracting Foreign Investment in Iran Free Trade Zones

## Saudi Arabia, Iran moving towards de-escalation

After five years of disputes between Saudi Arabia and Iran, both countries have started de-escalating relationship step-by-step, and the recent change of attitudes from the two sides is promising that bilateral and regional issues can be resolved.

Riyadh and Tehran severed ties in 2016, when then-US President Donald Trump entered the White House and certain regional issues such as war on Yemen and disagreements on Syria and Lebanon escalated tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

\*\* Brilliant outlook of Riyadh-Tehran negotiations

The Financial Times newspaper reported Saudi and Iranian high-ranking officials hold direct talks to improve relations.

The Biden administration's willingness to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal has prompted the Saudi authorities to change tone concerning ties with the Islamic Republic.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman expressed hope that good relationship will be established between the two neighboring states, stipulating that the two countries enjoy common interests to improve ties and regional situation.

The remarks have been welcomed by Iranian officials, including Saeed Khatibzadeh, Foreign Ministry spokesman, who underlined that Riyadh and Tehran can leave behind disagreements and enter a new chapter of interaction in order to bolster regional peace and security.

Iran's Government Spokesman Ali Rabiee has evaluated bilateral negotiations as positive, noting that the two sides have conducted two rounds of talks.

\*\* Root causes of Saudis' change of mind  
Observers opine that certain issues have pushed the Saudi authorities to change their attitude towards Iran, which include Riyadh's involvement in regional conflicts especially Yemen War, the United States' change of approach towards regional developments, and progress in Vienna talks on the revival of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The Trump administration's withdrawal from the JCPOA in May 2018 paved the way for Arab and Hebrew players to establish an alliance in a bid to isolate the Islamic Republic, but the change of power at the White House and President Joe Biden's emphasis on ending the erosive war in Yemen have altered the regional condition; so, Riyadh came to the conclusion that it would be better to amend ties with Tehran.

Rabiee said in the statement that the project is a continuation of developing the waterway that began with the opening of the new Suez Canal in 2015, adding that dredging works will take place in several stages. The project, Rabiee said, is expected to raise the efficiency of the canal and reduce the transit time for ships, in addition to increasing the safety of navigation in the southern section. Last week, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi approved the

SCA's plan to expand and deepen the southern stretch of the Suez Canal. The project, to be completed in two years, will widen and deepen 40 km of the waterway, including the part where a container ship Ever Given became jammed and blocked traffic for six days in March. The SCA will also widen the 30 km southern stretch of the waterway between the city of Suez and the Bitter Lakes area by 40 meters, and deepen that section from 20 to 21 meters.

## Israel brings brutality to climax: Islamic leader

Head of Islamic Human Rights Commission in the UK said on Sunday that the Israeli regime brought brutality and criminal acts to its climax by striking Gaza and destroying the building housing media offices.

"We are shocked and horrified that the Israeli military would target and destroy the building housing AP's bureau and other news organizations in Gaza."

Masoud Shajareh, the head of Islamic Human Rights Commission based in London, said in an interview with IRNA that one should not be shocked by the brutality of the Israeli regime because it's nothing new.

But why people are sometimes surprised by what Israel does is because they have propagated in a way that it seems they are faced with terrorism. But the truth is that Israel is an apartheid regime and the occupying power that has brought brutality to its climax, Shajareh added.

The Israeli regime has been striking the Gaza Strip in recent days, killing hundreds of civilians, most of them women and children. In the latest developments, in order to prevent media coverage on its

crimes in Gaza, the Israeli regime targeted and flattened al-Jalla building that was home to several media offices.

Shajareh stated that the international community must understand the evil essence of the Israeli regime; otherwise, they would be watching Israeli crimes for another 70 years.

The Israeli regime cannot stand hearing the truth. They use all their power, including air strikes, to stop everyone who disclosed the truth, the Islamic leader said, referring to the destruction of media building in Gaza.

"The world will know less about what is happening in Gaza because of what happened today," CEO of Associated Press Gary Pruitt said. "We are shocked and horrified that the Israeli military would target and destroy the building housing AP's bureau and other news organizations in Gaza."

The office of Associated Press and several other media, including AFP and al-Jazeera, was in the building flattened by Israel.

## Palestinians urge resistance movement to fight occupiers: Islamic Jihad

The resistance movement has kicked off fighting the Israeli occupiers on requests of the Palestinian people and the conflict will continue until their rightful demands will be met, the Islamic Jihad movement says. The Secretary-General of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement Ziyad al-Nakhalah made the remarks in a phone call with the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Qods Force Commander Major General Esmail Ghaani.

Nakhalah underlined that the Palestinian people will continue resistance and steadfastness in order to defend their sanctities.

The Palestinian nation will not stop the conflict until the enemy halts raids on the al-Aqsa Mosque and attempts to dominate Sheikh Jarrah and Sheikh Bostan neighborhoods in al-Quds, the secretary general noted. The Secretary-General of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement also praised the Islamic Republic's support for Palestine. Major General Ghaani replied that the Islamic Republic will spare no effort to support the Palestinian nation in dealing with occupation and crimes of the Zionist enemies. Ghaani also lauded the Palestinian people for defending their homeland, sanctities, and rights in the face of the occupying regime, adding that the measures taken by the Zionist

regime are in contradiction to all international norms and regulations. The commander of the Qods Force also had a separate phone call with Chairman of the Hamas Political Bureau Ismail Haniyeh emphasizing that the Islamic Republic will stand by the Palestinian nation to stop the Zionist regime's occupation and atrocities in al-Quds and the Gaza Strip. For his part, Haniyeh elaborated on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the occupiers' crimes against the Palestinian children and women.

Lauding the stance taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the issue of Palestine, the Hamas official said that the al-Quds conflict is the issue of all Muslim nations.

## Egypt starts expanding Suez Canal's southern stretch

Egypt started dredging works for expanding the Suez Canal's southern section to allow two-way traffic in the international man-made waterway, the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) announced Saturday. The dredging is part of a project to develop the southern entrance of the Suez Canal, the SCA said in a statement, Xinhua reported. SCA's chairman Osama

Iran's Government Spokesman Ali Rabiee has evaluated bilateral negotiations as positive, noting that the two sides have conducted two rounds of talks.



