

### Blast Wounds 4 in Afghanistan's Kabul

KABUL (Xinhua) – At least four people sustained injuries in a blast near the Ministry of Interior in Afghanistan's capital Kabul on Saturday morning, a police officer said. The blast occurred in front of Shai-kh Zayed Hospital close to the Ministry of Interior in Kabul's Police District 15, leaving four people injured, Khalid Zadran, spokesman of Kabul police chief, told Xinhua. According to Zadran, the injured were shifted to a nearby hospital, and an investigation was being conducted. No group claimed responsibility for the blast.

Often your utterances and expressions of your face leak out the secrets of your hidden thoughts.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

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# UNRWA: Gaza Children Freezing to Death Amid Zionist Blockade



Palestinian children without shoes are seen in front of a tent in the Gaza Strip's Deir al-Balah city on December 27, 2024.

GAZA (Dispatches) – The commissioner-general of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) has warned that children in Gaza are freezing to death due to the cold weather and a severe lack of shelter.

"Gaza babies are freezing to death due to cold weather and a lack of shelter," Philippe Lazzarini wrote in a post on X late Friday.

"Blankets, mattresses, and other winter supplies have been stuck in the region for months waiting for approval to get into Gaza," he said, referring to the Zionist regime's inhumane blockade of the coastal enclave, which launched a genocidal war in the first week of October last year.

The UN official reiterated his call for an

immediate ceasefire, urging "an immediate flow of much-needed basic supplies, including for winter."

On Thursday, Gaza's Health Ministry Director General Munir al-Barsh told Anadolu that three Palestinian children died in makeshift displacement camps over the past week due to freezing temperatures.

Two-week-old Sila Mahmoud al-Faseeh died from exposure to cold in a displacement camp in al-Mawasi, Khan Younis, on Wednesday. She was the second infant to die in the same camp, following the death of Aisha Adnan al-Qassas on Dec. 20.

The Zionist regime has killed more than 45,400 people in Gaza since its aggression on Oct. 7, 2023, reducing the enclave to rubble.

Last month, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former war minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

The occupying regime also faces a genocide case at the International Court of Justice for its war on the enclave.

## Humanitarian Disaster in Yemen Could Get Even Worse, UN Warns



Despite recent economic de-escalation agreements, Yemen remains at risk of a return to full-scale conflict.

NEW YORK CITY (Dispatches) – The humanitarian crisis in Yemen, already one of the most dire in the world, threatens to get even worse should the Zionist regime continue to attack Hudaydah seaport and Sana'a airport and puts them out of action, the UN has warned.

Julien Harneis, the organization's resident and humanitarian coordinator for Yemen, said the number of people in the country in need of aid to survive is expected to reach 19 million in the coming year.

Speaking from Sana'a, he said Yemen, the poorest country in the Arabian Peninsula, has the second-highest number of malnourished children of any nation, and ranks third in terms of food insecurity.

The war there, which has dragged on for nearly a decade, has decimated the economy and left millions of civilians without access to the basic necessities of life, he added. The country is in the throes of a "survival crisis" and the number of people unable to access healthcare services is one of the highest in the world.

On Thursday, Israeli warplanes struck the international airport in Yemen's capital, Sana'a, as well as seaports and power stations on the Red Sea coast, killing at least four people.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres condemned the Zionist regime's airstrikes and said he was "gravely concerned" about the intensified escalation of hostilities. He said the strikes on the airport and seaports were "especially alarming," and warned that they pose "grave risks to humanitarian operations" in the war-torn country.

Harneis, who was in the vicinity of the airport during the strikes, told of the destruction of its air traffic control tower, which left the facility temporarily nonoperational. A member of the UN staff was injured in the strike, and there were significant concerns about the safety of humanitarian workers in the area, he added. The airstrikes took place while a Yemeni civilian airliner was landing, additionally raising fears for the safety of passengers.

## Moscow: U.S., UK Planning Attacks on Russian Bases in Syria

MOSCOW (Dispatches) – Washington and London are planning terrorist attacks on Russian bases in Syria in order to prevent the situation in the war-ravaged country from stabilizing, the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) has claimed.

Since the fall of Syrian President Bashar Assad's government earlier this month, Washington and London have set a goal of "maintaining chaos in the Middle East" in order to achieve a lasting dominance over the region, the agency said in a statement on Saturday.

However, Russia's military pres-

ence on the Mediterranean coast of Syria, which still serves as a significant factor in regional stability, has been hampering the realization of their plans, it stressed.

"In order to remove this 'obstacle,' British intelligence services are developing plans to organize a series of terrorist attacks on Russian military facilities in Syria," the SVR added.

The role of the perpetrators of those assaults will be assigned to Daesh militants, who were released from prisons after toppling the government in the country, it noted.

"According to available infor-

mation, representatives of the British intelligence service MI6 and the America's CIA recently tasked Syria-based Daesh commanders under their control with carrying out a series of attacks on Russian military bases. To do this dirty work, the terrorists received attack UAVs," the statement read.

In order to cover up their involvement in the planned Daesh attacks on Russian bases, the U.S. and UK military commands have instructed their air forces to continue to carry out strikes on Daesh positions in Syria, the SVR claimed.

The terrorists are being warned

about those airstrikes in advance, it added.

"London and Washington hope that such provocations will prompt Russia to evacuate its troops from Syria. At the same time, the new Syrian authorities will be accused of being unable to control the radicals," the statement read.

Russia had been an ally of Assad's government, helping Syria to fight terrorism since 2015. In 2017, Moscow and Damascus signed a deal for a 49-year lease by the Russian military of the Tartus naval base and the Khmeimim airbase in the east of the country.

## UN Security Council Voices 'Deep Concern' About Situation in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (Anadolu) – The UN Security Council has voiced concern about the situation in Afghanistan.

"The members of the Security Council are deeply concerned with the continuing negative impact of the Taliban's policies and practices that restrict the enjoyment by women and girls of their human rights and fundamental freedoms on Afghanistan's peace, stability and development and its people," it said in a statement.

The members gathered for a Security Council meeting on Afghanistan, where they reaffirmed their strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan.

The members emphasized the need to ensure

the "full, equal, meaningful and safe" participation of women and girls in Afghanistan for the country's future and long-term development, and urged the Taliban to "swiftly" reverse these policies and practices.

According to the statement, the members also expressed their "deep concern" for the dire economic and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

Reaffirming that terrorism constitutes "one of the most serious threats" to peace and security in Afghanistan, the members called on the Taliban to take "active measures" to strengthen its efforts to combat terrorism.

They stressed the important role that the UN will continue to play in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan, and expressed appre-

ciation for the UN's long-term commitment to support Afghans.

They emphasized the importance of developing a political roadmap to be discussed with all relevant stakeholders to achieve an Afghanistan at peace with itself and its neighbors, according to the statement.

The Taliban returned to rule Afghanistan in August 2021 after more than two decades of war.

The interim setup continues to impose numerous rules and policies, violating a range of fundamental rights of women and girls,

Afghanistan is also facing hunger and the risk of malnutrition and poverty, a near-collapse of the national public health system and natural disasters.

## Egypt Completes Trial Run of New Suez Canal Channel Extension

CAIRO (Dispatches) – Egypt said on Saturday it had successfully tested a new 10km channel near the southern end of the Suez Canal, even as its revenue from the waterway has plunged since Yemen's Ansarullah resistance movement began attacking vessels in the Red Sea.

The Suez Canal Authority said in a statement that during a trial run two ships passed through a new stretch of the canal's two-way section without incident.

Following the 2021 grounding of the container ship Ever Given that blocked the vital waterway for six days, Egypt accelerated plans to extend the second channel in the southern reaches of the canal and widen the existing channel.

Its revenue from the waterway, the gateway to the shortest route between Europe and Asia, has nevertheless tumbled since Yemeni forces began attacking

ships in the Red Sea in November 2023 in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi said on Thursday that due to "regional challenges," the country had lost approximately \$7 billion in Suez Canal revenue in 2024, marking more than a 60 percent drop from 2023.

According to the Suez Canal Authority, the latest expansion extends the total length of the canal's two-way section to 82 km from a previous 72 km. The canal is 193 km long in total.

"This expansion will boost the canal's capacity by an additional 6 to 8 ships daily and enhance its ability to handle potential emergencies," the Suez Canal Authority said in its statement.

Earlier this year, Egypt said that it was considering an additional expansion project separate to the 10 km channel extension.