

Israel Continues Building Cement Wall along Borders with Lebanon

BEIRUT - The Israeli army Tuesday continued construction of a cement wall along its borders with Lebanon near Kafr Kila and Adaiseh, local media reported.

The construction was implemented by Israeli engineering teams under the supervision of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

(UNIFIL) and the Lebanese army, according to a statement published by the online independent newspaper Elnashra.

The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) unveiled the construction of the wall in earlier September, as part of the preparations Israel is making ahead of a possible conflict. (Xinhua)

(1) US ENVOY ON...

He has even said the United States should declare Pakistan a terrorist state.

Washington and Kabul have both repeatedly accused Pakistan of providing safe havens for Taliban insurgents, a claim Islamabad has denied and countered with charges that its own insurgents have found sanctuary in Afghanistan.

Both neighboring countries have been brutally targeted by militants. In Pakistan the perpetrators have most often been the region's Islamic State affiliate, as well as the Pakistani Taliban. In neighboring Afghanistan, the IS has been relentless in attacks, mostly targeting minority Shiites. The Afghan Taliban say they restrict their attacks to Afghan security forces but thousands of civilians have been killed in their attack.

Pakistan's new Prime Minister Imran Khan has been a strident critic of Islamabad's previous participation in Washington's so-called war on terror. However, he promised after winning the polls in July that his government would be "partners in peace." It is not clear what that would entail but Pakistan has supported Afghan President Ghani's peace overtures to the Taliban.

It wasn't clear with whom Khalilzad would meet in Pakistan but the list likely includes Foreign Minister Mahmood Quereshi and also possibly the country's powerful army chief. Pakistan's Afghan policy is largely seen as navigated by the military and its intelligence agency, known by its acronym, ISI.

Khalilzad's tour of the region, which was first announced by the State Department as a mission to coordinate and lead U.S. efforts to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table, has been shrouded in secrecy.

One of his stops is Qatar, where the Taliban maintain a political office. In July, the Taliban said they met there with Alice Wells, Washington's then-top diplomat in the region. Washington has neither denied nor confirmed the meeting though Wells was in Qatar at the time. It is not known whether there would be a similar meeting with Khalilzad on his visit.

Direct talks with the U.S. have been a persistent demand of the Taliban, who accuse Ghani's government of being America's "puppets." The Taliban have refused so far to comment on Khalilzad's appointment.

The Afghan Taliban have condemned Afghanistan's parliamentary elections later this month and threatened more attacks on Afghan security forces.

In a statement on Monday, which was also released in English, the Taliban also urged Afghan candidates to withdraw their names from the ballot lists. They denounced the polls as an America-designed ploy to further U.S. interests in Afghanistan and warned Afghan security forces that they would be targeted.

The statement also repeated the long-standing Taliban demand for a complete withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. (Fox News)

(2) MoI Reacts at...

up efforts to ensure security of the elections so that the Afghan people could cast their votes in a peaceful

environment.

In response to the threats of the Taliban group for targeting the elections, MoI slammed the group for spreading rumors that the elections process is a foreign project and has no links with the people of Afghanistan.

The Ministry also slammed the group for killing the innocent Afghans for the past 18 years to appease their foreign supporters, emphasizing that the group once again attempts to carry out a psychological and war of propaganda against the people.

The statement also added that the Taliban group has announced issued a repetitive statement which has been given by the foreign supporters, insisting that there is nothing new in the statement of the group issued regarding the elections.

The Taliban militants group in Afghanistan has threatened to carry out attacks against the election targets during the upcoming parliamentary and district council elections.

Claiming that the elections are conspiracies of the West and the United States, the group in a statement said "The Islamic Emirate instructs all its Mujahidin to halt this American led process throughout the country by creating severe obstacles for it, while taking extensive and intensive care of civilian Afghan lives and their properties."

"Those people who are trying to help in holding this process successfully by providing security should be targeted and no stone should be left unturned for the prevention and failure of this malicious American conspiracy," the statement added. (KP)

(3) EU Reiterates...

no established deterrent effect and it makes judicial errors irreversible.

All EU and Council of Europe member states have abolished the death penalty. Abolition in law or practice is a pre-condition of Council of Europe membership and the absolute ban on the death penalty in all circumstances is entrenched in both Protocols No 6 and No 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. We call on those European states that have not yet done so to ratify them.

"We also reiterate our call to the authorities in Belarus, the only country on the European continent still using the death penalty, to introduce a moratorium as a decisive step towards aligning the country with pan-European standards.

On a global level, the Council of Europe and the EU will continue to work towards the abolition of the death penalty. We will support the upcoming Resolution of the UN General Assembly on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty and the EU and Belgium will host the 7th World Congress against the Death Penalty in Brussels at the end of February 2019.

Pending the introduction of a moratorium, the Council of Europe and the EU urge those countries still applying the death penalty to commute any remaining death sentences to prison terms and, in any case, to ensure that conditions of detention respect human dignity. In line with international law, those coun-

Xi Congratulates Salih on Election as Iraqi President

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday sent a congratulatory message to Barham Salih on his election as Iraqi president.

In the message, Xi said he is pleased to see that in recent years China and Iraq, sharing a tradition of friendship, have deepened their political mutual trust, rapidly developed their prag-

matic cooperation and forged closer people-to-people exchanges.

Xi expressed his hope that under Salih's leadership, Iraq can progress in its political reconciliation and economic rebuilding, and will make strides in pursuing a development path suited to its own national conditions. "I attach great importance to

China-Iraq relations, and I am willing to work with you by taking the opportunity of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Iraq to promote greater development in our strategic partnership and bring benefits to the two nations and peoples," Xi said. (Xinhua)

tries shall not carry out executions on minors, on pregnant women, or on people with mental illness or intellectual disabilities. Furthermore, using the death penalty on people convicted of economic crimes, on people who are themselves victims of serious crimes such as marital rape and whose acts -motivated by genuine self-defence -result in the incidental death of another person cannot be justified. Member states should refrain from supporting, through mutual legal assistance or other forms of co-operation, the drug policies of countries where drug offences may be sanctioned with the death penalty.

Member states should continue taking effective measures to prevent their involvement, however indirect, in the use of the death penalty by third countries, such as by adopting measures that prevent the trade in goods that could subsequently be used to carry out executions. In this context, the Council of Europe and the EU will continue promoting the "Global Alliance to end trade in goods used for capital punishment and torture". (Pajhwok)

(4) Afghanistan Made...

Representative of United Kingdom expressed optimism over the future of Afghanistan in comparison of the past challenges.

"When I was there last in 2006, it was really a very embryonic thing. Now you have very recognizable government institutions going about their businesses increasingly capable ministers and ministries. Judicial system had a lot of problems and challenges but there are bits of it now that are beginning to function in a very robust way. For example the Anti-Corruption Justice Center (ACJC) which is vital because it is a real problem in Afghanistan," Ambassador Kay asserted.

The Britain special envoy emphasized on continuation of UK's assistance and cooperation with Afghanistan.

"The widespread corruption with UK's help, there is now this justice center that takes cases, investigates them, tries them, sentences people, increasingly senior people; deputy ministers, 3 star generals have gone through this. As I say institutions beginning to work and I think the UK focus is absolutely correctly now placed the politics of the place that is institution building," he added.

Meanwhile, the Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah at the Ministerial Council session on Monday called the International Community's assistance very effective for addressing the biggest challenges in the country.

Abdullah further added that the world is ready to continue cooperation with Afghanistan in condition of good governance, reforms and fight against corruption.

This comes as Afghanistan has always been affiliated to the assistance of the International Community in terms of security and economic growth. (ATN)

(5) UNAMA Reminds...

watchdog institution in northern Balkh province said around 40 polling centers won't open in the province on election day. The watchdog institutions said during the voter

registration process only 12 centers were open in Balkh.

IEC provincial chiefs in the north also said 66 polling centers in Sar-e-Pul, 76 centers in Jawzjan and 29 centers in Faryab will remain closed due to security threats.

But security officials in Balkh said they are ready to maintain security of elections in the north and north-eastern parts of the country.

"All Afghan security forces have made complete preparations for maintaining security during the elections. We assure security at (polling stations) in all Balkh districts and in general we have our security plans for the north and north-east of the country," Wali Mohammad Ahmadzai, commander of 209 Shaheen Military Corps in Balkh said.

Watchdog institutions in Paktia province meanwhile added a number of polling centers will remain closed in their province.

Initially, the IEC said there would be 7,350 polling centers nationwide, but due to security threats this number has dropped by more than 2,000. (Tolo news)

(6) Tashkent, Berlin...

two sides exchanged views on the current situation in Afghanistan and prospects for the peace process.

The two sides focused interaction on implementation of recommendations of the Tashkent Declaration, which was adopted on March 27 at an international conference on Afghanistan.

Uzbekistan stressed Germany's participation in the educational projects it has initiated in Afghanistan, particularly in the creation of the International Fund for Education Support. (Pajhwok)

(7) As Prices Dip...

from the government is to help us find a market and establish cold storage facilities."

Farid Ahmad, another grower, said: "The quality of our apple is very high this year. But its price is equal to that of grass. We have worked hard to grow the fruit, but the government has failed to find any market for it."

Apple traders also suffered losses. One of them, Fazal Rabi, purchased per seven kilograms of apple for 80 afghanis but sold it for 70 afghanis in the market. He grumbled the price had never been that low.

"Previously, a huge quantity of apples was exported to Pakistan, but the country banned it for unknown reason," he explained.

Mursalina Pacha, head of fruit and vegetable merchants union, linked the low price to the ban on exports to Pakistan. "Currently, gapes, potato, onion and tomato are being exported to Pakistan but the apple export has been banned for unknown reason."

About the absence of a gainful market and other facilities, the union leader said he had shared the issue with the minister of agriculture and livestock.

"The minister told me they have sent a formal letter to national procurement commission that the security forces should purchase local apple in compliance with a presidential order," he explained.

Maidan Wardak's apple yield stands at 250,000 tonnes, which can meet the need of security forces for four

to five months.

"We have three demands. First, our apple should be transported to international markets; second, exports to Pakistan should be resumed; and third, Iranian apple imports be stopped," he continued.

Agriculture Director Habibullah Habibi said he had shared the issue with the authorities concerned and the NPC would accelerate the process of buying apple for the security forces.

Pajhwok tried to contact the Ministry of Commerce and Industry but failed.

Mir Zaman Popal, an official of the export wing of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries, said Pakistan had banned apple imports for unknown reasons.

He said Afghanistan's foreign ministry had sent several official letters to the Pakistan embassy in Kabul, but they were yet to be answered. (Pajhwok)

(8) Afghanistan...

all formats of the game," Stanikzai remarked.

The ongoing APL is part of the plan to facilitate Afghanistan's journey towards the big stage in 2019 when the ICC Cricket World Cup would played in England.

He said the main objective behind APL was to provide Afghan cricketers with an ideal platform for displaying their talent on the global stage.

Concurrently, Stanikzai added, the players would also get financial stability while rubbing shoulders with some of the world's renowned cricketers. (Pajhwok)

(9) 3000-Years-Old...

reconstruction surgery was first introduced by the "Father of Plastic Surgery" Sushruta, some 3000 years ago. However, considering the complications which usually involves in such cases, the procedure requires great precision and expertise.

Explaining about the complications and challenges he faced in the surgery Dr Kashyap said, "As in this case, the challenge was to reconstruct a major part of the nose without creating further scars. To avoid this, we had to take tissues from inside of the cheeks to reconstruct flaps for nasal septum and nasal passage, which is a tedious procedure."

Shamsa, who only speaks her native language, shares her experience taking help of a translator, "I cannot express in words how blessed I feel today to be able to talk, smell and breathe normally."

Breathless Shamsa, was shot four years ago. Though she was fortunate to have survived the attack, she lost most part of her nose and the ability to breathe and smell. (Agencies)

(10) NPC Approves...

Livestock (MoAIL).

The meeting also approved a contract for purchasing nine bathroom items belonging to the Ministry of Defense (MoD).

The meeting okayed a procurement contract of 15 equipment for the workshop of the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MoIA).

A contract about construction of a 500-meter retaining wall was approved for the Balkh customs land and healthcare projects of BPHS and EPHS in eight provinces. (Pajhwok)