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SUNDAY, September 22, 2024
Rabi Al-Awwal 19, 1446
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ARAB NEWS

The Voice of a Changing Region

SINCE 1975

FAST FACT

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said he was worried about escalation between Israel and Lebanon but that the Israeli killing of a top Hezbollah leader brought justice to the group.



Rescuers on Saturday sift through the rubble at the scene of an Israeli strike that targeted Beirut's southern suburbs on Friday. AFP

RELENTLESS BLITZ

Israel pounds Lebanon's south

- Death toll in Friday's airstrike that targeted Hezbollah's top commanders reaches 37
- Six women, one of whom was pregnant, 13 children among 21 killed in Gaza school

Najia Houssari Beirut

Israel pounded southern Lebanon on Saturday, a day after an Israeli strike on Beirut left senior Hezbollah commanders among the 37 people killed.

The Israeli military said dozens of warplanes were striking Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon late on Saturday, as cross-border exchanges intensify amid growing fears of all-out war.

Israeli reconnaissance planes flew at low altitudes over Beirut, its suburbs, and various other regions of Lebanon, reaching Hermel in the far north.

Seventy airstrikes were carried out in the south and western Bekaa within one hour.

For the third consecutive day, Hezbollah's response was limited to the use of Katyusha rockets.

Rescuers were still searching on Saturday for people missing in the rubble following Friday's strike whose victims included three children and seven women.

Hezbollah revealed the names of the 17 senior members it lost on Friday.

One resident of the neighborhood, Faisal, told Arab News: "I have rented a house in the mountains and my family and I have decided to relocate there until the situation becomes clearer. What happened is horrific; the Israeli assault did not spare civilians or children."

The attack occurred two days after the deadly bombings targeting communication channels of Hezbollah members, and which raised numerous questions among residents of the area.

These inquiries focus on the "rationale behind choosing a residential building for an important leadership meeting rather than utilizing the tunnels that Hezbollah boasted about."

Separately, an Israeli strike on Saturday on a school-turned-shelter in Gaza killed 21 people.

"Civil Defense crews recovered 21 people, including 13 children and six women," one of whom was pregnant, said a spokesman.

There were around 30 injured, including nine children needing limb amputations, he added.

NUMBER

41,391

Palestinians have been killed in Israel's Gaza onslaught.

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EXCLUSIVE

UN chief says Israel-Hezbollah war must be avoided 'at all costs'

Ephrem Kossaify New York City

With hostilities between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah militia on the brink of all-out war, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told Arab News in an exclusive interview that the world cannot allow Lebanon to become another Gaza.

The pager and walkie-talkie attacks across Lebanon, which left 37 dead and more than 3,000 injured, and which were followed by further exchanges of fire across the Lebanese border, have raised regional tensions to breaking point.

Guterres said an all-out war between Israel and Hezbollah "is something we need to avoid at all costs." Yet, against this backdrop, he says there is "a growing conscience that we must stop. We must stop this war in general. We must stop the war in Gaza."

Guterres stressed that Oct. 7 attack 'can never justify the collective punishment of the Palestinian people.'

Speaking to Arab News ahead of the high-level week of the UN's 79th General Assembly, which takes place as the war in Gaza nears its grim one-year anniversary, Guterres acknowledged that the conflict had exceeded his expectations in terms of its duration and the "unprecedented level of destruction and suffering."

As he reiterated his "vigorous" condemnation of the Oct. 7 Hamas-led attack on southern Israel, he again stressed "that can never justify the collective punishment of the Palestinian people."

When asked about the UN's responsibility for the failure to end the war, Guterres made it clear that the responsibility lay with those who initiated the conflict.

Full interview Pages 6 & 7

The Brief

RIYADH GALLERY

To mark the 94th Saudi National Day, Naila Gallery in Riyadh is inviting visitors on a visual and sensory journey. **P5**

BENGAL DOCTORS

Protesting junior doctors in the eastern Indian state of Bengal returned to duty, as they partially withdrew from a month-long strike. **P9**

WATER PARKS

Investments in water parks are set to bolster Saudi Arabia's tourism sector, experts say. **P12**

MILITIA MENACE

Journalist among dozens seized by Houthis

Abduction sparks condemnation from Yemenis across the political spectrum

Saeed Al-Batati Al-Mukalla

The Houthi militia has reportedly abducted a Yemeni journalist who criticized them on social media, as well as dozens of Yemenis for "celebrating or inciting the public to celebrate a revolution anniversary on Sept. 26."

The Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate said that armed Houthis abducted Mohammed Dabwan Al-Mayahi from his home in Sanaa on Friday and seized his belongings.

"The Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate strongly condemns this incident and demands his immediate release and the return of his belongings. It also reiterates its opposition to the arrest campaign targeting Al-Mayahi and other activists because of their opinions and writing," the syndicate said in a statement.

Al-Mayahi criticized the Houthi militia last week after attending a large religious gathering in Sanaa's Al-Sabeen Square. He described the militia's leader as a "shallow" person and urged Yemenis to oppose the Houthis. The abduction of Al-Mayahi has sparked condemnation from Yemenis across the political spectrum.

The Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate said that armed Houthis abducted Mohammed Dabwan Al-Mayahi from his home in Sanaa on Friday and seized his belongings.

Yemeni Information Minister Muammar Al-Eryani said on X that Al-Mayahi is one of many Yemeni activists, journalists, and politicians to have been abducted by the Houthis after publicly criticizing them, and accused the Houthis of suppressing dissidents and limiting freedom of expression.

"This detention is just a new episode in the series of systematic violations carried out by the Houthi militia against political and civil leaders, journalists, media professionals, human rights activists and unionists," Al-Eryani said.

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No. 291• 16 pages