

WORLD

Hezbollah hits back after Israeli attacks

Violence shows no sign of abating, as UN official decries 'daily cruelty' in Gaza

BEIRUT/SANAA — The Israeli military pounded Beirut's southern suburbs with airstrikes on Tuesday, mounting one of its heaviest daytime attacks yet on the Hezbollah-controlled area, and struck the middle of the country, where more than 20 people were killed.

Smoke billowed over Beirut as about a dozen strikes hit the southern suburbs starting in mid-morning. After posting warnings to civilians on social media, the Israeli military said it struck Hezbollah targets in Beirut's Dahiyeh area and later claimed it dismantled most of the group's weapons and missile facilities.

Israel said it had taken steps to reduce harm to civilians and repeated its standing accusation that Hezbollah deliberately embeds itself into civilian areas to use residents as human shields, a charge Hezbollah rejects.

In northern Israel, two people were killed in the city of Nahariya when a residential building was struck, Israeli police said. Hezbollah later claimed responsibility for a drone attack that it said was aimed at a military base east of Nahariya.

In Mount Lebanon Province, in the middle of Lebanon, Israeli strikes killed eight people in the village of Baalchmay, southeast of Beirut, and 15 people in Joun village in the Chouf district, Lebanon's Health Ministry said.

In the south, five people were killed in an Israeli strike on Tefahata, two in a raid on Nabatieh and one in the coastal city of Tyre. Another person was killed in a strike in Hermel in the northeast, the ministry said.

Ignited by the Palestine-Israel conflict in Gaza, the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah had been rumbling on for nearly a year before Israel went on the offensive in September, pounding Lebanon with airstrikes and sending troops into the south.

In the besieged Gaza Strip, Israeli military strikes killed at least 14 Palestinians across the enclave on Wednesday, as its forces deepened their incursion into Beit Hanoun town in the north, forcing most remaining residents to leave.

Late on Monday, an Israeli strike hit a makeshift cafeteria used by displaced people in Muwasi, the center of an Israeli-declared "humanitarian zone".

At least 11 people were killed, including two children, according to officials at Nasser Hospital, where the casualties were taken.

The latest bombardment came as the United States said it would not reduce its military support for Israel after a deadline passed for allowing more humanitarian aid into Gaza.

On Tuesday, Palestinian militant group Hamas condemned the US for complicity in the "war of genocide" in the Gaza Strip after



Lebanese civil defense teams begin search and rescue operations on Tuesday following an Israeli attack on the town of Abadiyeh, south of the capital Beirut. HOUSSAM SHBARO VIA GETTY IMAGES

Washington said Israel was not violating US law on the level of aid entering the territory.

Hamas condemned Washington's "claims" that Israel is "taking measures to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza" and said it was a "confirmation of the full partnership of President (Joe) Biden's administration in the brutal war of genocide against our people".

Joyce Msuya, interim chief of the UN humanitarian agency, OCHA, on Tuesday condemned "daily cruelty" in Gaza.

She described civilians driven from their homes and "forced to witness their family members killed, burned and buried alive" in Gaza, which she called "a wasteland of rubble".

"The daily cruelty we see in Gaza seems to have no limits," Msuya told the United Nations Security Council. "As I brief you, Israeli authorities are blocking humanitarian assistance

from entering North Gaza, where fighting continues, and around 75,000 people remain with dwindling water and food supplies."

Ahmed Bayram, a media adviser for the Middle East at the Norwegian Refugee Council, told China Daily that the evidence on the ground "is hard to dispute".

Famine catastrophe

"Northern Gaza is closer than ever to a famine catastrophe," Bayram said, adding Israel "has imposed a strict blockade on the north, leaving close to 100,000 people fighting for their very survival."

"Civilians are besieged, starved and continue to be killed," he said. "Israel must stop weaponizing aid."

Elsewhere in Yemen, the Houthi group said they launched rocket and drone attacks on Tuesday targeting US aircraft carrier *Abraham Lincoln* in the Arabian Sea and two US destroyers in the Red Sea.

The attacks were carried out "in response to the British-American aggression on our country (Yemen), and in support to the Palestinian and Lebanese people", Houthi military spokesman Yahya Sarea said.

However, Pentagon spokesman Major General Pat Ryder said the *Abraham Lincoln* "was not attacked, contrary to some of the allegations ... by the Houthis".

Also on Tuesday, at least 10 Houthi operatives were killed in two separate US drone strikes in Yemen's central Al-Bayda Province, a Yemeni government military source told Xinhua news Agency.

The strikes targeted mobile rocket launchers in the As-Sawma'ah and Dhi-Na'im districts, the source said on condition of anonymity.

Jan Yumul in Hong Kong contributed to this story.

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Fair a showcase for high-tech from around world

By HAO NAN
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Shenzhen in South China's Guangdong province is capturing the attention of the global sci-tech community as it is hosting the 26th China Hi-Tech Fair running from Thursday to Saturday.

This grand event focuses on showcasing cutting-edge technologies from around the world.

The three-day gathering has attracted over 5,000 renowned enterprises and international organizations from more than 100 countries and regions. Among them are over 180 Fortune Global 500 companies and State-owned enterprises, more than 1,000 listed companies, and 2,000-plus gazelle and unicorn firms.

This year's fair emphasizes six innovations: a new model, new function, new highlights, new brands, new empowerment, and new patterns. For instance, the new model signifies a shift from government-led to market-driven organization, with government departments providing guidance and coordination, while market-based institutions leverage their experience to drive the attraction of exhibitions and other activities.

The new function aims to enhance transactions by promoting more high-tech products that are technologically advanced, easy to trade, and have broad prospects.

An international buyer invitation plan is being implemented, encouraging greater participation from countries and regions involved in the Belt and Road Initiative.

This year's event seeks to enhance the long-term intellectual property influence of its brand through innovative promotion methods and formats, positioning the fair as a global launch site for new products and cutting-edge technologies, as well as the initial release venue for new policies.

A professional digital trading platform is being introduced to facilitate the digital transformation of the fair. By constructing a data trading platform, the fair will manage the entire life cycle of its data, including exhibitors, visitors, buyers, and transactions. Utilizing large



An autonomous aerial vehicle developed by EHang is displayed at the China Hi-Tech Fair held in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, in 2023. MAO SIQIAN / XINHUA

data models for analysis, it will track industry trends and market dynamics, releasing authoritative industry reports in a timely manner.

With the theme "Technology Leads Development, Industry Integrates Fusion", the 26th session highlights significant upcoming changes in areas such as national critical equipment, electronic information, artificial intelligence, green energy, and life sciences, featuring concentrated displays of new products and technologies in these fields.

It has exhibition areas for 17 major industries and 22 specialized categories, covering international technologies, major national equipment, electronic information and big data, innovation and entrepreneurship, financial services, smart agriculture and the digital countryside, future technology and smart cities, and industry-education integration.

These areas are expected to comprehensively showcase major achievements of China's new quality productive forces across various segments.

More than 4,300 new technologies, products, and achievements will be unveiled during the fair, alongside over 160 supporting activities to provide extensive opportunities for exchange and cooperation for exhibitors and visitors.

These activities include the release of national major achievements, global buyers' matchmaking conferences, the Chinese Academy of Sciences academicians' conference, the world entrepreneurs' annual conference, and international investment and financing matchmaking events.

Shenzhen's Baoan district, where the fair is located, has organized over 120 companies to attend. It has set up a 270-square-meter exhibition area in Hall 15 and planned three supporting activities.

The district's exhibition area, themed around creating an AI application and innovation cluster in Baoan, showcases the AI industry chain from foundational science to technology and application.

It highlights AI applications in Baoan, featuring products and innovation platforms from over 20 local companies, covering basic computing power and technical services.

One of the district's supporting activities is the AI applications and innovative achievements release conference held on Friday.

This event, mainly hosted by the management committee of Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone and the Baoan district government, will promote the industry environment, policy framework, and service systems for AI development in the Qianhai cooperation zone and the district.

The Qianhai cooperation zone has developed a series of AI innovation and application demonstration scenarios in fields such as finance, manufacturing, logistics, and cultural creation.

Meanwhile, Baoan, with its rich industry chain and advanced manufacturing capabilities, has also become an innovation cluster for AI industrial applications and an accelerator for industrialization in the sector.

AI and aerospace leading Baoan's seven key sectors

By HAO NAN

Baoan district in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, has been strategically focusing on the development of seven key industries: artificial intelligence, aerospace technology, new materials, robotics, intelligent sensors, high-end medical devices and biopharmaceuticals.

Among these, AI stands out, driving significant industrial growth with a comprehensive industry chain already in place.

In the first half of this year, Baoan's AI industry achieved an output value of 22 billion yuan (\$3.06 billion), marking a year-on-year increase of 7.6 percent, accounting for 28 percent of Shenzhen's total AI output.

The district is home to 424 AI companies, including 267 that are above designated size. Notably, Eagle Soul's AI data center has been recognized as a national major project within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and the Baoan cloud computing and data center has been designated as a national new-type data center.

Baoan has established a solid foundation in industrial machine vision and smart city algorithms. Companies such as HQVT Technology and Julong Video have been acknowledged as national specialized and innovative "little giant" businesses due to their strengths in intelligent vision technologies.

Approximately 80 percent of AI companies in Baoan operate in the technology application sector, contributing about 70 percent of the district's total AI output value. Several application demonstration scenarios have been successfully initiated in the district.

Baoan has gathered leading companies in large model technology, such as Tencent and Vivo, which are expected to deeply empower the local AI industry. Tencent, for example, offers a comprehensive range of products, including model bases, algo-

22 billion yuan

Output value generated by the artificial intelligence industry of Baoan district of Shenzhen in the first half of this year

rithm frameworks, development platforms, and industry applications. Vivo has developed its own BlueOS operating system, enabling interconnectivity across smart home, smart wearable, and smart transportation fields.

Moreover, Baoan has formed a supportive AI industry ecosystem, featuring an "internet plus" future technology city and several innovation and demonstration parks.

The future technology city, set to become Tencent's global headquarters, will cover an area of 809,000 square meters with a total development scale of 2 million sq m.

Upon completion, it will host seven major industrial clusters and attract upstream and downstream enterprises within Tencent's industry chains and business ecosystems.

The aerospace industry is another highlight in Baoan, with a well-established industry chain that includes product research and development, manufacturing, system integration, and application services.

The district has nurtured nearly 100 key enterprises in satellite operations, aerospace materials, aircraft and component manufacturing, satellite terminals and chips, and satellite applications.

A notable achievement in Baoan's aerospace sector is the communication satellite APSTAR-6D, operated by APT Mobile SatCom Limited.

This satellite is a part of China's first global high-throughput broadband satellite communication system, boasting the largest communication capacity, highest output power, and most complex design in the sector.