

## [5 of 10 least peaceful countries are in Arab world: Global Peace Index](#)

LONDON: Five of the 10 least peaceful countries globally are in the Arab world, according to the Global Peace Index 2023, which nonetheless said the Middle East and North Africa recorded some of the largest improvements in security and peace.

Yemen, Syria, Somalia, Sudan and Iraq were ranked 162, 161, 156, 155 and 154 respectively out of 163 countries.

But Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Jordan scored “high” in terms of peace, ranking 21, 35, 48 and 62 respectively. The top three spots were held by Iceland, Denmark and Ireland respectively.

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## [Report exposes extravagant lifestyle of Hezbollah financier's family](#)

LONDON: The family of Hezbollah financier Mohammed Ja'far Qasir has been living in extravagance amid a severe and prolonged economic crisis in Lebanon, a report exposed on Thursday.

The prominent Hezbollah leader, who reportedly helps fund Hezbollah's terrorist activities by selling Iranian oil, has been using the wealth he accumulated through access to the huge funds of the Iran-backed party to finance the indulgent lifestyle of his wife and daughters, Hezbollah defectors told Sawt Beirut International.

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## [Lebanon central bank deputies' threat to quit 'unpatriotic,' says minister](#)

BEIRUT: Lebanon's caretaker Minister of Economy Amin Salam has criticized four deputy governors of the central bank over their threat to resign if a new governor is not appointed, calling it “an escape from responsibility and an unpatriotic act.”

Salam warned that any mass resignation would leave a dangerous vacuum in Lebanon's highest monetary authority.

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## **Israeli forces kill 3 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, days after major offensive**

NABLUS, West Bank: Israeli forces killed three Palestinians, including two militants, in the occupied West Bank Friday, days after Israel concluded a major two-day offensive meant to crack down on militants.

The persistent violence raised questions about the effectiveness of the raid earlier this week in the Jenin refugee camp, which saw Israel launch rare airstrikes on militant targets, deploy hundreds of troops and cause widespread damage to roads, homes and businesses. Twelve Palestinians and one Israeli soldier were killed in the operation.

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## **At least one dead, 5 wounded after shooting inside Lebanon mosque**

BEIRUT: A shooting inside a mosque during prayers left at least one person dead and five wounded Friday, a Lebanese security official said. The reason behind the shooting in the eastern town of Bar Elias was not immediately clear.

The state-run National News Agency said more gunfire broke out later between Lebanese troops and the shooting suspect, who was wounded in that exchange.