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Labour's Sadiq wins record 3rd term as London mayor

LONDON

Sadiq Khan was re-elected as London's mayor, final results showed on Saturday, helping to cement the Labour Party's commanding lead over the governing Conservatives in local elections ahead of Britain's national vote later this year.

Khan's victory, his third in a row, was widely expected despite some public anger over knife crime and the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), which charges drivers of older, more polluting vehicles a daily fee.

London is the latest of dozens of English councils and mayoralities that Labour has won in the local elections that took place on Thursday, inflicting heavy losses on Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservatives.

"It's been a difficult few months, we faced a campaign of non-stop negativity," Khan said in a speech after the results showed he had won 43.8 per cent of the vote against 33 per cent for the Conservatives' candidate, Susan Hall.

Khan, 53, who became the first Muslim mayor of the British capital in 2016, has pledged to build more social housing and work with a future national Labour government to boost police capacity. —Reuters

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GRAND DESERT PROJECT | NATION



MALIHA NATIONAL PARK TO BE A BEACON OF SUSTAINABILITY

Plans to turn Maliha desert into a national park reinforce Sharjah's commitment to sustainability and preserving UAE's rich heritage.



Park protects 200,000-year history

The emirate also seeks to inscribe the Faya site on Unesco's heritage list. SEE ALSO P4





Israel, Hamas dash hopes for ceasefire

HEZBOLLAH LAUNCHES ROCKETS AFTER ISRAELI STRIKE

DOHA

Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh yesterday accused Israel's prime minister of sabotaging efforts by mediators involved in ongoing talks aimed at a truce and hostage exchange in Gaza.

Haniyeh said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wanted to "invent constant justifications for the continuation of aggression, expanding the circle of conflict, and sabotaging efforts made through various mediators and parties".

Qatari, Egyptian and US mediators met a Hamas delegation in Cairo on Saturday in the latest bid to halt the devastating almost seven-month-old war that has triggered worldwide protests.

Haniyeh said Hamas had approached the talks with "seriousness and positivity" but questioned "the meaning of an agreement if a ceasefire is not its first result".

However, Netanyahu yesterday rejected Hamas's demand to end the war in Gaza in order to reach a ceasefire deal.

"The State of Israel cannot accept this," he said. "We are not ready to accept a situation in which the Hamas battalions come out of their bunkers, take control of Gaza again, rebuild their military infrastruc-



Reuters

A soldier looks at a burning car struck by a rocket fired from Lebanon, in Kiryat Shmona, northern Israel, yesterday.

34,683

people have been killed in Gaza since the start of the war

ture, and return to threaten the citizens of Israel," Netanyahu told the cabinet, according to a statement by his office.

Cross-border violence

Official media in Lebanon said an Israeli strike yesterday on a southern village killed four family members, with Hezbollah announcing re-

taliatory attacks, in the latest cross-border violence since the Gaza war erupted.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA) said yesterday's strike in Mais Al Jabal killed "four people from a single family", reporting that the raid was carried out by Israeli aircraft.

Hezbollah said it fired "dozens of Katyusha and Falaq rockets" at Kiryat Shmona in northern Israel "in response to the horrific crime that the Israeli enemy committed in Mais Al Jabal". It later said it fired dozens more rockets "as part of the response" to the Mais Al Jabal strike. —Agencies

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