

## **US embassy in Lebanon ‘not intimidated’ by shots fired toward it – ambassador**

BEIRUT: US ambassador to Lebanon Dorothy Shea on Friday said the embassy was “not intimidated” by a gunman’s shots toward its entrance earlier this week and that Lebanese authorities were investigating the incident. Late Wednesday, shots were fired near the US embassy north of Beirut. Embassy spokesperson Jake Nelson said no one had been hurt and normal business operations were ongoing.

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## **Mideast ‘on cusp of historic peace’: Israeli PM**

NEW YORK: The Middle East is “on the cusp of a historic peace,” Israel’s prime minister said on Friday, referring to US-brokered efforts to normalize relations with Saudi Arabia. Addressing the 78th session of the UN General Assembly, Benjamin Netanyahu said he believes Israel and Saudi Arabia are close to a “dramatic breakthrough” that would not only secure peace between the two states but “transform” the entire region and create “a new Middle East.”

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## **Libya flood disaster displaced over 43,000 people: IOM**

Derna: Libya’s flood disaster, which killed thousands in the city of Derna, also displaced more than 43,000 people, the International Organization for Migration said Thursday. A tsunami-sized flash flood broke through two aging river dams upstream from the coastal city after the Mediterranean Storm Daniel lashed the area on September 10. It razed entire neighborhoods, sweeping untold thousands of people into the sea.

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## Mideast peace only possible when Palestinians get full rights: Abbas

LONDON: Those who think peace can prevail in the Middle East without the Palestinian people enjoying their full rights are mistaken, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said on Thursday.

Addressing the UN General Assembly, he said Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory "violates the principles of international law and legitimacy while it races against time to change the historical, geographical and demographic reality on the ground, aimed at perpetuating the occupation and entrenching apartheid."

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## Morocco sets aside nearly \$12 bn for quake recovery

RABAT: Quake-hit Morocco's government announced on Wednesday a budget of more than \$11 billion for reconstruction, rehousing and socio-economic development of areas hit by the deadly disaster.

The 6.8-magnitude earthquake hit Al-Haouz province south of Marrakech on September 8, killing nearly 3,000 people and injuring thousands more.

The government said in a statement it was setting aside 120 billion dirhams (\$11.7 billion) to help 4.2 million inhabitants affected by the quake over a period of five years.