

Pizzi calls up full-strength Bahrain

Kingdom's senior men's national football team features 26-player line-up named for Asian qualifiers of 2026 FIFA World Cup | P12

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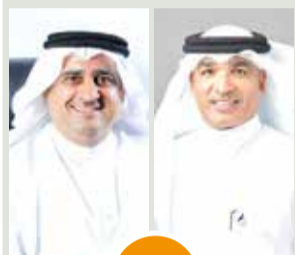
BUSINESS 5 **Stocks retreat as weak growth concerns weigh**

Key development projects' progress reviewed



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, chairs the 469th Government Executive Committee meeting. Developments on the distinguished government employees in customer service programme, development projects in the real estate sector, updates on priority competitiveness indicators, and a project to establish a College of Engineering at the University of Bahrain were reviewed.

Takaful International's profit rises 15% to BD1.149 million



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Portuguese prime minister resigns over corruption claims probe

AFP | Lisbon

Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa announced his resignation yesterday after he was embroiled in a corruption investigation into the awarding of energy-related contracts.

The probe involving Costa and others covers alleged "misuse of funds, active and passive corruption by political figures, and influence peddling," according to a statement from public prosecutors.

Costa will also be investigated independently for allegedly intervening personally to speed up the awarding of licences for lithium exploration and hydrogen production, the statement said.

US base in Iraq hit by drones

AFP | Arbil, Iraq

Three drones yesterday targeted a military base at Arbil airport in Iraqi Kurdistan that plays host to troops from the US-led anti-jihadist coalition, local officials said.

On Tuesday morning, "at two different points, three drones attacked the international coalition", the anti-terrorism service of the autonomous region of Kurdistan said in a statement.

In the first attack "on the military base at Arbil airport, two drones were shot down", the service said.

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Fuel for freedom

No ceasefire, no gasoline delivered to Gaza until hostages are freed: Netanyahu

● **Death toll rises to 10,328: Palestine health ministry**

● **Israeli troops are 'in the heart of Gaza City': Gallant**

● **US opposes Israel plan to eventually reoccupy Gaza**

AFP | Gaza, Tel Aviv

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday there will be no fuel delivered to Gaza and no ceasefire with Hamas unless hostages seized by the Palestinian fighters are freed.

Yesterday, the Palestine health ministry said that 10,328 people, adding more than 300 to the figure from Monday, have been killed by Israel's offensive in the month-long war.

The toll includes more than 4,200 children, according to the ministry.

Israeli troops are "in the heart of Gaza City", Defence Minister Yoav Gallant told a news conference yesterday.

The announcement comes as the US State Department spokesman Vedant Patel declared Washington's opposition to a new long-term occupation of the Gaza Strip by Israel, which



A Palestinian man carries a victim of an Israeli bombardment in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. (AFP)

vowed "overall security" of the territory following the war.

"We do not support the reoccupation of Gaza," Patel said.

Hezbollah warned

In a televised statement marking the first month of Israel's war with Hamas, Netanyahu also warned Iran-backed Hezbollah "it will be making the mistake of its life" if it opens a new front in the war from its base in Lebanon.

The Israel-Hamas war started on October 7 when fighters from Palestine burst out of the Gaza Strip and into southern Israel.

According to Israel, Hamas killed some 1,400 people - mostly civilians - and seized more than 240 hostages, in the worst attack on the nation since its founding in 1948.

In response Israel has launched a withering assault on Hamas in the Palestinian enclave it rules, home to some 2.4 million people.

'Overall responsibility'

In a television interview with ABC News broadcast on Monday, Netanyahu said that his country will take "overall responsibility" of Gaza's security for an indefinite period after its war with Hamas ends.

"Israel will, for an indefinite period, will have the overall security responsibility," he said.

"When we don't have that security responsibility, what we have is the eruption of conflict with Hamas on a scale that we couldn't imagine."

Ignoring support

Despite growing international calls for a ceasefire from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and other world leaders, Netanyahu said he did not support one.

"There will be no ceasefire - general ceasefire - in Gaza without the release of our hostages," he said.

"As far as tactical, little pauses - an hour here, an hour there - we've had them before."

Israel may agree to pauses to let humanitarian goods into Gaza, or to allow for hostages to leave the besieged Palestinian territory, he added.

But Netanyahu said there would be "no entry of gasoline... no ceasefire without the release of our hostages".

'Thousands' of casualties

Washington acknowledged on Monday there had been "thousands" of civilian casualties in Gaza, after President Joe Biden previously called into question the validity of numbers published by Hamas.

"As it relates to civilian casualties in Gaza... we know the numbers are in the thousands," Pentagon spokesman Brigadier General Pat Ryder told journalists.

160 children killed each day

The World Health Organization (WHO) said an average of 160 children are killed each day in Gaza as a result of the Israel-Hamas war.

"The level of death and suffering is hard to fathom," WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier told reporters in Geneva.