

Historic International Combat Week

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER, 2023
220 FILS
ISSUE NO.9740

BRAVE CF announces major details of Combat Week in December at Khalifa Sports City Arena | **P12**



Exiled from Gaza

Palestinians flee fighting and intense bombardment as Israel tightens 'stranglehold'

Alba reports third-quarter and nine-months profits



P5

Zain Bahrain Q3 profit rises 1.8% to BD 1.61 m



P5

Somalia floods kill 29 and displace 300,000 people

AFP | Mogadishu

Flash flooding in southwestern Somalia has claimed the lives of more than two dozen people and displaced hundreds of thousands from their homes, an official said, as El Nino downpours lash East Africa. At least 29 people have died and about 850,000 others have been affected, including over 300,000 who have been uprooted from their homes.

220 fils (includes VAT)



Three-day truce discussed in efforts to secure freedom for 12 hostages

AFP | Gaza City

Thousands of Palestinians were fleeing on foot yesterday in a surge away from the fighting and intense bombardment in Gaza as Israel said it was tightening the "stranglehold" around Gaza City.

But as people escaped south from Gaza City, many with nothing but the clothes they wore, details began to emerge of a potential three-day halt in fighting in negotiations to secure the release of 12 hostages.

Calls for a ceasefire to protect civilians have built over a month into the war sparked when Hamas attacked Israel and, according to Israeli officials, killed 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and took more than 240 hostages.

The health ministry in Gaza says more than 10,500 people have been killed in Gaza, many of them children, during Israel's retaliatory military campaign to destroy the Palestinian fighters.

A source told AFP that talks were underway for the release of a dozen of the hostages, including six Americans, in return



Palestinians fleeing Gaza City and other parts of northern Gaza towards the southern areas, walk on a road yesterday amid the ongoing fighting. (AFP)

for a pause in hostilities that would also allow time to deliver humanitarian aid.

Negotiations

Earlier yesterday, a source briefed on the process told AFP that Qatar was mediating negoti-

ations between Israel and Hamas for the release of up to 15 hostages.

As the talks proceeded, the pace of Palestinian civilians fleeing south from northern Gaza accelerated as Israel's air and ground campaign intensified, according to UN observers.

About 15,000 people had fled

on Tuesday, compared with 5,000 on Monday and 2,000 on Sunday, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said, as another surge was underway yesterday.

"We've lost our homes, we've lost our children. Where is the global community? Where are

our fellow Muslims? Look at us!" said Nuh Hammouda, who was among those fleeing.

"We left our homes due to the relentless bombardment. Where can we go now?" he said as people streamed southward on the road.

Troops advancing

Israel has set an aim of destroying Hamas and said its ground forces were advancing in pursuit of the Hamas fighters who have a deep network of tunnels and underground bases. "Israeli troops are tightening the stranglehold around the city of Gaza," Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said.

Israel has air-dropped leaflets and sent texts ordering civilians in northern Gaza to flee south, but potentially hundreds of thousands remained in the worst-hit areas.

Hamas accused the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) of "colluding" with Israel in the "forced displacement" of Gazans, after residents followed instructions to flee.

An UNRWA spokeswoman did not immediately respond when contacted by AFP about the Hamas accusation.

G7 foreign ministers said they supported "humanitarian pauses and corridors" in the Israel-Hamas war, but stopped short of calling for a ceasefire.

Climate crisis intensifies

October hottest month ever as 2023 will be 'warmest' year

AFP | Paris

Last month was the hottest October on record globally, Europe's climate monitor said yesterday, as months of exceptional heat are likely to make 2023 the warmest year in history.

With temperatures soaring beyond previous averages by exceptional margins, scientists say the pressure on world leaders to curb planet-heating greenhouse gas pollution has never been more urgent as they prepare to

meet in Dubai for the UN COP28 climate conference this month.

Drought parched parts of the United States and Mexico during October, while huge swathes of the planet saw wetter than normal conditions often linked to storms and cyclones, said the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S).

Sea surface temperatures were the highest ever recorded for the month, a phenomenon driven by global warming that scientists say plays a key role in driving storms to be more fero-



A man cools himself down from a water fountain during one of the hottest days in Guadalajara, Mexico. (AFP)

cious and destructive.

"October 2023 has seen exceptional temperature anomalies, following on from four months of global temperature records being obliterated," said Samantha Burgess, C3S deputy director.

"We can say with near certainty that 2023 will be the warmest year on record, and is currently 1.43 degrees Celsius above the preindustrial average.

"The sense of urgency for ambitious climate action going into COP28 has never been higher."

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