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HM King visits BDF General Command

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, visited the General Command of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF). Upon arrival, HM the King was received by Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Commander-in-Chief of BDF, Lieutenant General His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the National Security Advisor and Royal Guard Commander, Colonel His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Commander of the Royal Guard's Special Force, Lieutenant-General Abdullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi, Minister of Defence Affairs and senior BDF staff. HM the King praised the continuous development of the BDF in various disciplines and the high efficiency of its staff. He expressed his confidence and appreciation to BDF's staff, wishing them further success in performing their duties.

Kuwait finance minister steps down in latest political turmoil
AFP | Kuwait City

The finance minister of Kuwait has resigned only three months after his appointment by the prime minister, state media said yesterday.

Manaf Al Hajeri's resignation comes against a backdrop of perpetual political turmoil in the only Gulf Arab state with a fully elected parliament.

The official KUNA news agency did not specify a reason for the resignation, and Al Hajeri was not immediately available to comment.

"A decree was issued in Kuwait accepting the resignation of Minister of Finance," the official Kuna news agency said.

Zelensky praises 'security victory'

Declaration of support as G7 vows long-term arms supplies to help Ukraine defeat Russia

AFP | Vilnius, Lithuania

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday welcomed a commitment by G7 nations to support Ukraine for as long it takes to defeat Russia, insisting it was a step on the road to Kyiv eventually joining NATO.

"We will not waver," US President Joe Biden said in a speech in Vilnius aimed at showing resolve to Russia's President Vladimir Putin after meeting Zelensky at a NATO summit.

"Putin still doubts our staying power. He's still making a bad bet that the conviction and the unity among the United States and our allies and partners will break down."

Zelensky insisted that the promises from the Western leaders amounted to a "significant security victory" that he could take home to Kyiv.

But he did not disguise the fact that he would have preferred the 31-member Atlantic alliance to have agreed a firm timetable for Ukraine to join its ranks once the 16-month old Russian invasion has been de-



Ukrainian President Zelensky, third, with US President Joe Biden, left, Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, and Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, right, at the event yesterday. (AFP)

feated and peace restored.

"The best guarantee for Ukraine is to be in NATO," Zelensky said, expressing confidence that once the war is over Ukraine would be welcomed, but warning that the G7 commitments should be seen "not instead of NATO, but as security guarantees

on our way to integration."

On Tuesday, the NATO leaders agreed that Ukraine could join the alliance once certain conditions are met, and US and German officials in Vilnius made it clear that these would include Kyiv carrying out reforms to protect democracy and the rule

of law.

"No country is exempt from them," Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz told reporters referring to the reforms.

This could frustrate Zelensky, who insisted Ukraine's understanding was that the tests that Kyiv must still pass were simply

"security conditions", that peace must be restored and the Russian aggression ended.

"We understand that Ukraine cannot become a member of NATO while the war is ongoing. But then it will be for our common strength when Ukraine joins the alliance," he tweeted.

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