

Attieh extends advantage

Saudi golfer stretches advantage to five shots heading into final round of play in fifth Bahrain Amateur Open golf championship | P12



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Kingdom holds diplomatic talks on Gaza crisis



Dr. Al Zayani
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Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani made phone calls with a number of foreign ministers to discuss developments in Gaza.

Dr. Al Zayani made contact with His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, His Excellency Dr. Ayman Al Safadi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriate Affairs in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and His Excellency Mr. Nasser Bou Rita, Minister of Foreign Affairs and African Cooperation, His Excellency Dr. Riad Al Maliki, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine, and His Excellency Mr. Eli Cohen, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel.

During the contacts, views were exchanged on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the ongoing fighting between Palestinian and the Israeli forces, and the efforts being made regionally and internationally to achieve calm, stop the escalation of hostilities, protect civilians, deliver humanitarian aid to the Palestinians in Gaza, and the repercussions of the current situation on regional security and stability.

N. Korea has sent 'arms' to Russia for use in Ukraine

AFP | Washington

North Korea has delivered more than 1,000 containers of military equipment and munitions to Russia in recent weeks for use in Ukraine, the White House said yesterday.

The statement comes a month after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un traveled to Russia's far east and met President Vladimir Putin, sparking concern among Kyiv's allies.

Bahrain supports regional peace, security and stability

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The Deputy King, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, emphasised the Kingdom of Bahrain's support for de-escalation and peace efforts to promote regional security and stability.

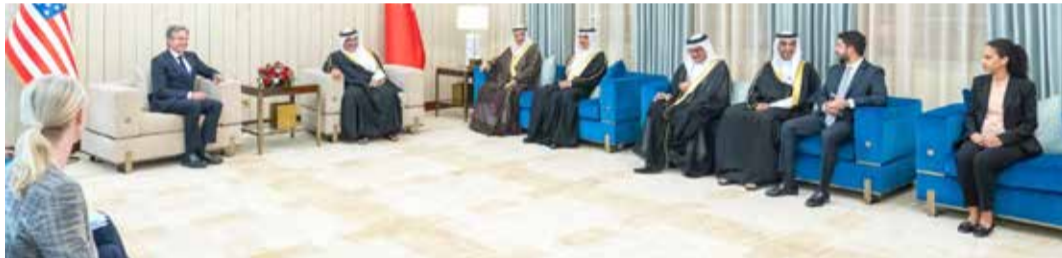
HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister made the statement as he met yesterday with the US Secretary of State, Antony J. Blinken.

HRH Prince Salman affirmed that Bahrain supports all regional and global efforts to achieve security and stability, which serves as a foundation for continued regional and global development, with the US and its allied countries playing a crucial role in consolidating the foundations of international peace and security.

During the meeting, regional and global developments, including providing humanitarian relief, food, water, electricity, medical aid, and civilian protection in the Gaza Strip, were discussed.



HRH Prince Salman holds talks with US Secretary of State Blinken



The Deputy King affirmed the strength of bilateral relations between Bahrain and the US, which further bolster strategic partnerships at various levels. The Comprehensive Security

Integration and Prosperity Agreement (C-SIPA) was highlighted as a cornerstone for joint Bahrain-US cooperation across various sectors, notably security, defence, advanced technology,

trade, and investment, as well as its contributions to strengthening regional security and economic development. A number of senior officials also attended the meeting.

“Bahrain supports all regional and global efforts to achieve security and stability, which serves as a foundation for continued regional and global development.”

- THE DEPUTY KING, HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRIME MINISTER

From air strikes to ground raids

Israel presses incursion into Gaza as death toll rises to over 1,800; world leaders express outrage

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After fiercely bombarding Gaza, home to over 2.3 million Palestinians, through air strikes for over a week, and backed by an equally frenzied media propaganda that compared Hamas activists fighting for their homeland to ISIS terrorists, Israel yesterday morning took the offensive to the ground level by conducting raids into the densely populated Palestinian territory.

Encouraged on by the leaders of the Western world and decried by leaders of the Muslim world, Israel backed the ground incursion with air strikes, taking the death toll in Gaza since last week to over 1,800.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh said the people in Gaza are going through a genocide.

A news report quoted Human Rights Watch as saying that white phosphorous, which burns even metal and causes deaths due to internal-organ failure, is being used by Israel in air strikes.

Yesterday morning, Israel,



Israeli army battle tanks move along the border with the Gaza Strip in southern Israel yesterday. (AFP)

amid massive bombardments, also asked over a million residents of northern Gaza to flee to the southern side of the Palestinian exclave, within 24 hours.

Yesterday morning itself, the United Nations urged Israel to call off the evacuation order and said such movement is impossible without devastating humanitarian consequences and would transform what is already a tragedy to a calamity.

Red Cross said Hamas' attack on Israel does not justify Gaza's destruction. World Health Organization termed the evacua-

tion order a death sentence for those already hospitalized.

Israeli evacuation order a 'crime'

The Arab League termed the Israeli evacuation order a crime and said Israel is carrying out an atrocious act of revenge that is punishing the helpless civilians in Gaza.

Iran asked the US to control Israel to avert a regional war and said the American intention to give a chance for Israel to destroy Gaza is a grave mistake,

adding that it is seeking to safeguard Lebanon's security.

Egypt's President urged Gazans to stay steadfast and remain on their land.

“Israel is carrying out an atrocious act of revenge that is punishing the helpless civilians in Gaza.”

- ARAB LEAGUE STATEMENT

Turkey called the evacuation order unacceptable and inhumane. Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a televised statement on Friday that Gaza ground operation would lead to unacceptable civilian toll and called to stop the bloodshed.

Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas warned of a second Nakba catastrophe in Gaza, referring to the 1948 incident in which 760,000 Palestinians had to flee from their homes during the war that coincided with Israel's creation.

The Israeli bombardment and the evacuation order caused outrage in the Muslim world, with thousands taking to the streets to show support to Palestine on Friday noon. Rallies that saw people participating in thousands were witnessed from Baghdad and Amman to Jakarta and Islamabad.

News reports about protests poured in from around the world. In Bahrain, a protest is scheduled at 3.30pm today in Al-Saya, and in front of the UN headquarters in Geneva in Switzerland.

(Detailed coverage on World page)

