

# UN Security Council Urges Israel to Withdraw from Southern Lebanon

Most members back call for de-escalation as violence forces mass displacement



An emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council saw near-unanimous support — with the exception of the United States — for calls urging Israel to withdraw its forces from southern Lebanon and avoid further military escalation. The session, requested by France, came amid growing unrest in Lebanon, where tens of thousands of residents have

reportedly fled their homes. Shelters have become overcrowded as panic spread following Israeli warnings of a possible imminent strike on Beirut's southern suburbs. During the meeting, some of the strongest criticism of Israel came from France, Britain, Russia and China, all permanent members of the Security Council. The United States, however, focused its remarks

on holding Iran and Hezbollah responsible for the escalation. Martha Pobe, the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Peace Operations and Political Affairs, told the council that the increase in hostilities since 2 March had resulted in a "devastating human toll". Citing figures from Lebanon's Ministry of Public Health, she said Israeli attacks had killed at least 3,412 people and in-

jured more than 10,000 others in Lebanon. Pobe also stressed that "Israel's presence north of the Blue Line constitutes a clear violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as a violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701". "These hostilities are reverberating across the region," she added.

# Qatar urges stronger preventive diplomacy

Call for greater global support for peaceful dispute resolution

The State of Qatar has reaffirmed its commitment to mediation, dialogue and preventive diplomacy, saying such efforts are essential to de-escalating conflicts and maintaining international peace and security. The position was outlined in a statement to the United Nations General Assembly in New York by Sheikha Alia Ahmed bin Saif Al Thani, Qatar's Permanent Representative to the United Nations. Speaking during a meeting focused on enhancing the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, she said mediation remains one of the most effective tools for pre-

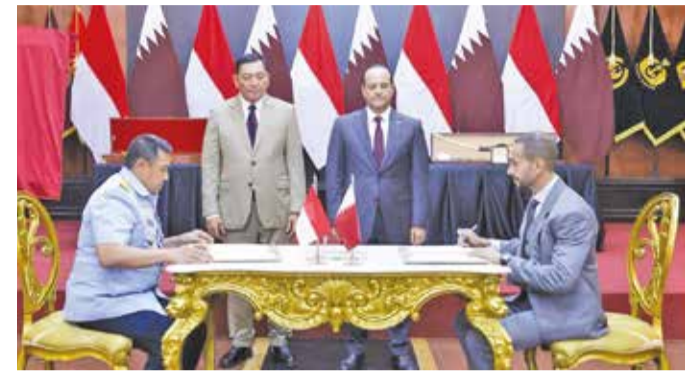


venting conflict and building sustainable peace. She warned that growing global instability, including an increase in armed conflicts, has made strengthening diplomatic tools more urgent than ever. She added that mediation

and preventive diplomacy are central pillars of Qatar's foreign policy, rooted in constitutional principles and aligned with United Nations resolutions. Qatar also highlighted its involvement in several international mediation efforts. These include joint work with Egypt, the United States and Türkiye that contributed to a ceasefire agreement in Gaza signed in October last year. The statement called on all parties to fully honour their commitments, implement the agreement, and ensure continued humanitarian access through border crossings. The country also referred to its ongoing engagement in east-

ern Congo through the Doha framework for a comprehensive peace agreement signed in November 2025. It further pointed to its earlier mediation role in Afghanistan, which led to the 2020 agreement between the United States and the Taliban in Doha. In addition, Qatar expressed support for Pakistan's mediation efforts between the United States and Iran, saying it backs all initiatives aimed at reducing tensions and strengthening regional stability. The statement concluded with a call for renewed international commitment to mediation as global conflicts become increasingly complex.

# Qatar, Indonesia Boost Defence Ties



His Excellency Shaikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan Al Thani, Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs, met Indonesia's Defence Minister, Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin, during an official visit to the Republic of Indonesia. An official reception ceremony was held for Sheikh Saud upon his arrival at the headquarters of Indonesia's Ministry of Defence in Jakarta. During the talks, both sides reviewed the latest regional security developments and

discussed ways to strengthen military cooperation and coordination amid current regional challenges. The meeting also saw the signing of a contract between Barzan Holding Group and Indonesia's Ministry of Defence. In addition, Barzan Holding Group signed a partnership agreement with Replek Corp. The discussions were attended by Qatar's Ambassador to Indonesia, Dr Sultan Mubarak Al-Dosari, along with senior military officers and officials from both countries.

# Prophet's Mosque sees smooth flow of post-Hajj pilgrims

TDT | Manama  
Hasan Barakat

Thousands of pilgrims arriving in Madinah after completing this year's Hajj have been welcomed at the Prophet's Mosque, where crowd movement has remained smooth under a comprehensive service system. According to the Saudi Press Agency, the mosque's courtyards and corridors witnessed a steady flow, supported by field and organisational plans designed to manage entry and exit points and regulate visitor movement, particularly in the Rawdah area. Authorities deployed guidance and support services, including wayfinding assistance, information centres, and multilingual support to assist visitors. Digital platforms and electronic guidance boards were also activated to enhance awareness and improve the



overall experience. Field teams continue to operate around the clock, providing Zamzam water and assisting elderly visitors and people with disabilities as part of ongoing post-Hajj services.

# Middle East war strains global logistics

Aid routes under pressure, UNICEF says

The United Nations children's agency has warned that escalating disruption to global transport networks, driven in part by conflict in the Middle East, is threatening the delivery of life-saving supplies to vulnerable children. UNICEF said rising shipping costs, insecurity along key Gulf maritime routes, and severe congestion at alternative ports are combining to slow humanitarian operations and sharply increase logistics expenses. Nearly 100 days into the conflict in the Middle East, the agency said heightened risks to shipping in the region had driven up fuel prices and insurance premiums. At the same time, diversion of cargo to alternative ports has created bottlenecks, further delaying deliveries.

UNICEF warned that it is increasingly forced to rely on air transport to move essential supplies, as sea freight becomes slower and less predictable. In the first quarter of the year alone, the agency said it had almost exhausted the annual contributions from logistics partners that typically provide donated charter flights. It said it had been airlifting aid to Lebanon and Gaza, with delays in the supply chain now stretching between four and six weeks — a disruption it described as unprecedented. The agency also said it had been relying on air freight to support its response to an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as congestion continues at major ports including Mombasa in Kenya and Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. UNICEF estimates that some



shipments are now taking up to six months to reach their destinations, raising concern over the impact on emergency response efforts in multiple regions.

## Dubai Economy



HH Shaikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum visits the Department of Economy and Tourism in Dubai to review progress and plans aimed at accelerating economic growth and strengthening the emirate's position as a global hub for trade, tourism, and investment.