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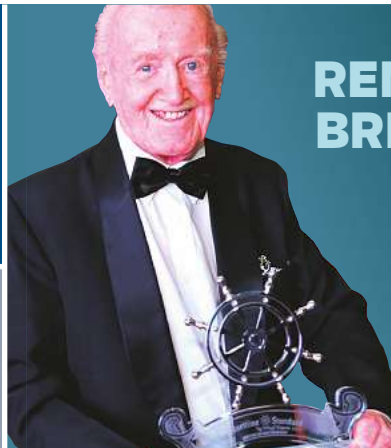
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WAM

PRESIDENT HONOURS JORDAN'S KING WITH ORDER OF ZAYED

President His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan yesterday conferred the Order of Zayed on King Abdullah II of Jordan during his official visit to the UAE. The leaders explored ways to bolster cooperation between the two nations and also addressed regional and international issues and developments, particularly efforts to respond to the worsening humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. **SEE ALSO P4**

IFZA unveils global expansion plans

Free zone authority
to set up offices in
Europe and Asia

DUBAI

Gulf News Report

Dubai-based free zone IFZA is embarking on an ambitious global expansion as part of plans to take the UAE to the world.

With plans to open new offices in Germany, Austria and

China later this year, IFZA aims to bridge entrepreneurs to Dubai. "The coming months will see the opening of our offices across Europe and Asia. These are part of IFZA's mission to present Dubai and the UAE to the world and bridge investors to the country," said Martin G. Pedersen, Chairman of IFZA.

A significant portion of businesses registered at IFZA, about 56 per cent, are driven by entrepreneurs from various

European nations, including France (14 per cent), Russia (12 per cent), and Germany (10 per cent).

"Furthermore we intend to establish offices in pivotal regions, including the UK, France, India, and Pakistan. Our plan is to support investors who seek to leverage the optimal geographical location of the UAE to propel their growth trajectory," said Pedersen.

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GCC countries slam strike on refugee camp

GCC CHIEF CALLS JABALIYA 'MASSACRE'
A WAR CRIME; JORDAN RECALLS ENVOY

DUBAI

BY STEPHEN N.R.

Senior Associate Editor

Israeli airstrikes pounded the Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza for the second straight day yesterday as the Arab world condemned the attacks on the densely populated area.

The attacks on both days killed and wounded hundreds of people, but the exact toll was not yet known.

Several Arab countries, including Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, have denounced the Israeli bombardment of the camp.

While strongly condemning the strikes, the UAE underscored that indiscriminate attacks will result in irreparable ramifications in the region. It reaffirmed the need for an immediate ceasefire.

GCC Secretary-General Jassem Mohammad Al Budaiwi described the 'massacre' at camp as a 'heinous war crime'.

Oman said that the killing and siege of civilians constitute war crimes and a flagrant violation of international law.

Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Qatar,

Yemen and Jordan also condemned the bombing.

Amid relentless airstrikes and rising civilian deaths, Jordan yesterday recalled its ambassador to Israel.

US on wrong side: Haniyah

Hamas leader Esmail Haniyah accused Israel of committing "massacres" to cover its own "defeats". Israel is "committing barbaric massacres against unarmed civilians", he said in a speech broadcast by Al Jazeera.

He also addressed the US saying it should stop support for "this fascist government and to stop obstructing international efforts" to achieve a ceasefire. "You are choosing the wrong side of history," he said.

Foreigners leave Gaza

Yesterday, the first ambulances carrying wounded Palestinians and first group of foreign passport holders reached the Egyptian side from war-torn Gaza after the Rafah Crossing was opened.

Meanwhile as the battles raged with Hamas militants, 15 Israeli soldiers have been killed since Tuesday.

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