

First day of Eid Al Adha on June 16

DUBAI
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The Supreme Court of Saudi Arabia yesterday announced that Friday, June 7 will mark the first day of Dhu Al Hijjah, as the crescent moon of Dhu Al Hijjah was sighted in the kingdom last evening.

"Arafat Day falls on Saturday, June 15, while Sunday, June 16 will be the first day of Eid Al Adha," according to a Saudi Supreme Court statement.

Pilgrimage season

Accordingly, today is the first day of Dhu Al Hijjah, marking the start of the Haj pilgrimage season this year. The first day of Eid Al Adha falls on the 10th day of Dhu Al Hijjah.

Arafat Day falls on the ninth day of Dhu Al Hijjah, which is on June 15.

The sighting of the moon marks the beginning of the Dhu Al Hijjah Islamic month in which the Haj pilgrimage is performed followed by Eid Al Adha.

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40 killed as Israel strikes Gaza school

BUILDING WAS HOUSING DISPLACED PALESTINIANS

GAZA STRIP

A Gaza hospital said at least 40 people were killed in an Israeli strike yesterday on a UN-run school that the Israeli military alleged housed a " Hamas compound".

The Al Aqsa Martyrs hospital in Deir Al Balah, near Nuseirat, said it had received the bodies of at least "37 martyrs" from the strike.

An AFP photographer saw Palestinians removing blood-stained mattresses and examining damage to the school where displaced Gazans had been sheltering, parts of it littered with broken concrete slabs.

Hamas in a statement decried a "new crime... against our people", urging international pressure on Israel to stop "these brutal massacres".

A medic at the hospital said another Israeli pre-dawn strike killed six people in a house in Nuseirat refugee camp, while witnesses reported intense shelling in the Bureij and Al Maghazi camps in the same area.

Rafah struck

Israeli warplanes also carried out strikes in parts of Rafah, a source in Gaza's southernmost city told AFP.

The Israeli military said troops killed three suspects

'POSITIVE SIGNS' FROM HAMAS ON TRUCE

Egypt has received encouraging signals from Hamas over a potential Gaza truce and hostage-prisoner swap with Israel, state-linked Al Qahera News said yesterday, citing a high-level source.

Cairo has been engaged along with fellow mediators Doha and Washington in months of negotiations for a ceasefire aimed at ending the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

"Hamas leaders have informed us that they are studying the truce proposal seriously and positively," Al Qahera quoted the source as saying. Egypt, which invited Hamas leaders to negotiations in Cairo, had "received positive signs from the Palestinian movement signalling its aspiration for a ceasefire", the source added.



Reuters

■ Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a UN-run school.

36,654

Palestinians killed in Gaza by Israeli offensive since October 7

who had tried to breach the Gaza border fence in the Rafah area, adding no militants had crossed into Israel.

It also said a soldier was killed in Gaza yesterday, bringing to 295 the overall death toll since the start of its ground offensive in the Palestinian territory on October 27.

Israel's retaliatory military offensive has killed at least 36,654 people in Gaza, mostly civilians, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry.

Sixty-eight of them were killed in the past 24 hours, the ministry said.

As the fighting has raged on, Israel has faced growing diplomatic isolation, with international court cases accusing it of war crimes and several European countries recognising a Palestinian state.

— AFP

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