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Mohammad calls on G20 to work for peace in region

ABU DHABI

President His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan yesterday said the international community, particularly the G20, bears a significant responsibility in working towards peace, stability, development, and coexistence in the region.

His statement came at the virtual G20 Leaders' Summit hosted by Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, under the Indian G20 Presidency. Shaikh Mohammad noted the summit was taking place at a time when the Palestinian territories were experiencing a severe and escalating situation at all levels. He stressed that the continuation of the current situation means more human tragedies and increased tension threatening regional and international peace.

Focus on COP28

Shaikh Mohammad underscored that the climate initiatives by G20 would bolster joint efforts at the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) aimed at realising substantial and balanced outcomes in addressing the threat of climate change, particularly as the conference will witness the first stocktake of progress in implementing Paris Agreement commitments. —WAM



Israeli soldiers rest next to a tank near the Gaza Strip yesterday. AFP

Guns go quiet on Gazan front

ISRAEL, HAMAS AGREE ON FOUR-DAY CEASEFIRE; 50 HOSTAGES TO GO FREE

JERUSALEM

Israel and Hamas said yesterday they had agreed on a four-day truce in the Gaza war during which the Palestinian militant group would free at least 50 of the hostages they took in their October 7 attack.

In turn, Israel would release at least 150 Palestinian prisoners and allow more humanitarian aid into the territory after over six weeks of bombardment, heavy fighting and crippling siege.

The hostages to be freed are women and children, and the

Palestinian prisoners are women and detainees aged 18 and younger. The process will begin today at 9.30am (11.30am UAE time), according to regional media reports.

The deal, negotiated with Qatar, the US and Egypt, is the first major breakthrough in Gaza's bloodiest ever war that has killed thousands and left much of the territory in ruins.

"We are very happy that a partial release is pending," Israel's Hostages and Missing Families Forum group said in a statement.

—AFP

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KEY TERMS OF THE DEAL

- Israel will halt all military actions in Gaza for four days, and allow trucks carrying humanitarian and medical aid and fuel into the territory.
- At least 50 hostages — women and children — captured by Hamas militants will be released in exchange for 150 Palestinians — women and children — jailed in Israel.
- Every additional 10 hostages released will result in one additional day in the pause and the release of additional Palestinian prisoners.
- The youngest in the detainee list in Israel is 14, and it also includes around 40 women. The detainees are to be released to their homes in the West Bank, east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.
- The first hostages to go free today.

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