

US accused of failing to act decisively

Iraqi Shiite militants welcome Russian action against IS

BAGHDAD, Oct. 5. (Agencies): Iraq's most powerful Iranian-backed Shiite militias said on Monday they would welcome Russian air strikes on Islamic State in the country and accused the United States of failing to act decisively against the ultra-hardline group.

The comments are likely to fuel US concerns over Moscow's growing influence in the Middle East as Russia bombs Islamic State targets in neighbouring Syria and shares intelligence with Iraq under a new regional security agreement.

"We are looking forward to seeing Russian war planes bomb the positions and headquarters of DAESH (Islamic State) in Iraq and all its joint supply routes with Syria," Muen al-Kadhimi, a senior aide to the leader of the Badr

Brigade, told Reuters.

"We will strongly welcome such intervention by the Russians to take out DAESH in Iraq."

The United States has led air strikes against Islamic State in Iraq for more than a year, but Baghdad has repeatedly called for greater engagement and air support for Iraqi forces trying to regain territory against the militant group.

Earlier on Monday, the Shi'ite Asaib Ahl al-Haq force also said it fully supported Russia's intervention against Islamic State in the Middle East. Spokesman Naim al-Uboudi said Russia's air strikes in Syria had already produced results.

"We know that the United States, during the past year and a half, was not seri-

ous about putting an end to DAESH ... they attempt to manage the crisis rather than put an end to it."

Support for Russian action against Islamic State in Iraq from the country's Shiite militias is seen as critical before any airstrikes are possible.

Firmly backed by Tehran, the militias are far more influential than the Iraqi army or security forces, who have proven ineffective against Islamic State, which controls about one third of Iraq and large swathes of neighbouring Syria.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has also said Baghdad would welcome Russian air strikes against Islamic State in his country on Iraqi soil.

Last month, Iraq said its military officials were engaged in intelligence and

security cooperation in Baghdad with Russia, Iran and Syria to counter the threat from Islamic State.

Iraq announced last week it had agreed to set up a cell in Baghdad aimed at increasing intelligence cooperation with Russia, Syria and Iran in the fight against IS.

The government in Baghdad has since said it might consider allowing Russia to bomb IS targets in Iraq as well.

Ameri said IS's ability to recruit internationally was unprecedented in the history of terrorism.

"They are currently recruiting fighters from 108 countries in the world and all of them are going through Turkey, with the coalition's knowledge," he said.

"We told America" "if you are serious about fighting DAESH, you have to stop

those arrivals, which are wreaking carnage and destruction on Syria and Iraq," he said.

The US-led coalition — which also includes France and Britain — has carried out more than 7,000 strikes on Iraq and Syria since August 2014.

Those have helped Iraqi forces roll back some of the territorial gains IS made last year but the jihadist group has proved resilient and the security forces slow to reform.

Ameri and other Iraqi politicians have criticised the West's commitment as conditional and arms deliveries as too slow.

Iraq has not officially asked Russia to conduct air strikes on its territory to fight Islamic State, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was quoted as saying on Monday by Russian news agencies.

He added that Russia was ready to establish contacts with opposition grouping the Free Syrian Army.

The US-led coalition targeted Islamic State with 13 airstrikes in Iraq and eight in Syria on Sunday, the Combined Joint Task Force leading the operation said in a statement released on Monday.

In Syria, the strikes hit eight units centered near three cities - Al Hasaka, Al Hawl and Palmyra - and hit several Islamic State tactical units, according to the statement. The single strike near Palmyra "produced inconclusive results," it said.

In Iraq, the 13 strikes hit near 10 cities, including Mosul, Ramadi and Falluja, and struck several tactical units, fighting positions and other targets.

No compromises

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judiciary since he is regarded as an accomplice by all standards and he's liable to the same level of punishment meted out to offenders.

Parliament 'will'

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its sports laws in line with the international sports laws.

They affirmed that MPs Al-Mayouf and Al-Turajji will be informed about the decision concerning their authorization on Tuesday, Oct 6 so that they can be prepared for the meeting in Lausanne City to reject FIFA's message which threatened to suspend the sports activities in the country. The MPs will be expected to convince FIFA that Kuwaiti sports laws do not oppose the international laws or the Olympic pact and that the government does not interfere in the activities of the sports unions.

Indicating that the government indeed rejects FIFA instructions, the sources said, "Kuwait's representatives will inform FIFA that its message is based on incorrect information obtained from the adversaries of the government".

They revealed that pressures were imposed on the government to reject FIFA's message and expose those who support it, clarifying that the parliament will take every constitutional step in case the Kuwaiti sports activities are suspended, which will in turn bring mess into the country of institutions.

Meanwhile, MP Abdullah Al-Turajji submitted a letter to Parliament Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim, in which he asked the Speaker to stop directly or indirectly supporting the clubs which are supporting the call to suspend the Kuwaiti sports activities and refusing to participate in competitions, before issuing a decision to dismiss the boards of these clubs and appoint other boards temporarily.

He also recommended discussing to suspend supporting the Asian Olympic Council and reviewing the draft laws to privatize sports clubs as part of the agenda of a special session, adding that the draft law for modifying the voting mechanism in the sports elections to make it one-vote system should also be discussed during that session.

In his message, Al-Turajji said, "It is sad that the ones who support FIFA's threat against Kuwait are the Chairman of Asian Olympic Council Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad and the Chairman of Olympic Committee Sheikh Talal Al-Fahad. They urged sports clubs to not participate in sports competitions as a way of supporting the stance against the government for achieving personal and political interests".

In addition, MP Rakan Al-Nesf affirmed that the sports crisis does not have any link to the current laws but is related to the conflicts among the members of the ruling family, due to which the sports file has become a tool of negotiation for settling their conflicts.

He insisted that the country should not be involved in the conflicts among the members of the ruling family.

Crackdown on

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were taken against the two suspects and they were referred to the concerned authorities.

The crackdown was organized based on instructions from Assistant Undersecretary for Citizenship and Passport Affairs Major General Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah. The latter stressed the need to continuously monitor the activities of the domestic personnel recruitment offices to ensure they do not commit any violations.

The Department of Citizenship and Passport Affairs affirmed that such campaigns will continue to be held in all governorates and the concerned authorities will continue monitoring the offices and advertisements related to domestic personnel.

Tax from

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IMF resulted in a conclusion that it would be senseless to impose taxes on individuals while collecting annual taxes of 10 percent, after it was 15 percent, on companies operating in the country, while the percentage could be adjusted according to the country's interests.

The issue of borrowing to tackle the budget deficit "is not determined yet," he said, noting that the Ministry had discussed with both the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) and Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) their capability in issuing annual bonds at the value of three to KD 4 billion.

The Ministry is awaiting the response from PIFSS and KPC during the current week, he said.

This is considered the "first borrowing stage, while the second stage is not deter-

Arab forces 'wrest' Yemen island from Houthi fighters

Iran denied symbolic foothold

PERIM ISLAND, Yemen, Oct 5, (RTRS): Perim Island may be a small lump of windswept volcanic rock at the entrance to the Red Sea but its capture by Gulf Arab forces from Houthi fighters was a welcome victory for Yemen's government and its allies.

Gulf Arab troops swooped in from air and sea last week to take back Perim, which sits on one of the world's most important sea lanes.

The successful action denied Iran, the Houthis' main ally, a symbolic foothold astride trade routes as the Saudi-led Gulf Arab states and Tehran vie for influence across the Arab world.

"The island has now been completely secured by the coalition and the resistance forces from among its people," Rami Fahmy Mayuni, a tribal chief of the island's original inhabitants and commander of its militia fighters, told reporters flown to Perim by United Arab Emirates forces for a tour.

In 2013, more than 3.4 million barrels of oil per day passed through the 20-km (12-mile) wide Bab al-Mandab Strait linking the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden, according to the US Energy Information Administration, a big reason why Egypt and the United States vowed to defend the security of shipping there as the Houthis descended upon it in March.

The warring parties appeared to receive the message and oil tankers and cargo ships continue to heave along, untroubled by the ground combat grinding slowly up Yemen's western coast.

The white-washed British colonial buildings of the island known in Arabic as Mayun, now looking like an abandoned movie set crumpling in the blazing sun, have witnessed more than one historic upheaval over the last century.

When the Red Sea linked British ports to the riches of India via the Suez Canal, its lighthouse kept vigilant watch on Yemen's mainland for raids by the Ottoman Turkish empire until it collapsed after World War One.

When southern Yemen split from the British as a Soviet-satellite state, the authorities banished most of Perim's 4,500 people to turn the site into a military base, a modest outpost of socialism set amid Africa and Arabia.

But some of the sons of these shark fishermen and shrimp netters have come back with their Kalashnikovs alongside high-tech Gulf forces to "liberate" the home turf whose strategic value has long captivated foreign powers more than its people.

"A return to normal life still faces huge obstacles," Mayuni, the local leader, said. "The Houthis planted dozens of land-mines to hinder our ability to take it back. The battle was violent and took a couple hours, but the power plant is destroyed, and there's no way to pump water," Mayuni said.

A Yemeni gunman wearing a sarong held the Emirati flag stood behind him and Gulf troops prepared to fly out again by Blackhawk helicopter.

As combat raged throughout Yemen and daily air strikes have killed over 5,400 people throughout its war, hunger and disease have spread through the already impoverished nation.

The Houthis have condemned the coalition for alleged war crimes and say their seizure of the capital Sanaa in September and spread throughout the country was part of a revolution against a corrupt Yemeni government beholden to Gulf monarchies and the imperialist West.

In an interview with pro-Iranian al-Mayadeen TV channel, a leader in the group Mohammed al-Houthi denounced the Gulf forces as "invaders" and "an evil that's spreading."

mined yet, cost wise neither time wise, as the picture will be clear by the end of October," he added.

The Ministry signed a contract two months ago with Ernst Young (EY) multinational professional services firm, in order to prepare a study about rationalization of subsidies, to be ready before next November.

The current income taxes law was approved in 2008. It was later modified, particularly with respect of foreign companies operating in Kuwait. One of the amendments included abandoning progressive taxes that ranged between five



In this picture released by the Rasad News Network, a Facebook account affiliated with Islamic State militants, which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, people gather around the rubble of buildings and destroyed vehicles after an airstrike in Al-Bab on the outskirts of Aleppo, Syria on Oct 5. The Britain-

based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said warplanes believed to be Russian have targeted the northern town of Al-Bab that is a stronghold of the Islamic State group. The Arabic at the bottom reads, 'The destruction that was caused by airstrikes of the Crusader-Alawite coalition on the town of Al-Bab.' (AP)

and 55 percent and uniting the fees at 15 percent to all companies.

Dashti bids

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works or furnishing assumed after the end of the renovation works and has it been canceled or is still going on?

Is it true that approvals were actually taken from the concerned authorities to launch a tender for the demolition of the building which is being renovated and rebuilding a new building? If yes, please provide me copies of all documents and correspondences in this regard.

Is the Secretariat for Planning and Development currently taking approvals to rent a building for temporarily work from the date of demolition and rebuilding it? If yes, please provide me copies of approvals and correspondences in this regard, and provide me the value of the temporary lease of the building or the estimated value expected to hire a temporary building and expected duration until the completion of the demolition of the existing building and construction of a new one.

How much is the estimated value projected for demolition and reconstruction including engineering, construction, furniture and decorations costs?

Are these procedures consistent with state policy and with the planning and development studies which are supposed to reduce waste of public money and reduce spending and rationalization as sought by the Council of Ministers?

Who is responsible for the approval of the current renovation work of the building? Who is responsible for approving the demolition and reconstruction works? What is the purpose and benefit of continuing to implement the renovation work project when there is an approval for demolishing and reconstruction and renting a building for the staff for temporary use?

Gulf-plated

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The statement on Saturday did not identify the driver, but reminded drivers they have a month's grace period to change their license plates to Kuwaiti ones for foreign-bought cars.

Countries throughout the Gulf use traffic cameras to enforce speed limits and traffic laws.

NATO, Turkey

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had risked provoking a serious escalation.

"We're greatly concerned about it because it is precisely the kind of thing that had Turkey responded under its rights could have resulted in a shoot-down," he said.

At an emergency meeting, NATO warned of the "extreme danger" of such violations and condemned the incursions.

The alliance also expressed "deep concern" over Russia's military build-up in Syria, urging Moscow to "immediately cease its attacks on the Syrian opposition and civilians".

Turkey and Russia remain on opposing sides of the Syrian conflict, with Moscow one of the few allies of President Bashar al-Assad while Ankara backs a solution excluding the embattled leader.

Russian warplanes have been flying over Syrian territory since Wednesday, conducting air strikes on what Moscow says are IS group targets in the country's northern and central provinces.

The strikes have been criticised by opposition backers like the United States, which leads a coalition already carrying out raids against IS in Syria.

On Monday, Russia said its warplanes had carried out strikes on nine IS targets including command centres and communications posts in three provinces in the past 24 hours.

The West has accused Moscow of mainly targeting moderate opponents of the regime.

More than 40 of Syria's most powerful rebel factions said Monday that Russia's air campaign had "cut the road to any political solution" and urged a regional coalition to fight the regime and its allies Russia and Iran.

Some of the statement's signatories, like the Islamist Ahrar al-Sham and moderate Jaish al-Izzah, have been targeted by Russia.

IS has seized large parts of Syria and neighbouring Iraq, committing atrocities including beheadings, rape and mass killings, and destroying archaeological and cultural heritage.

On Sunday the jihadists blew up the Arch of Triumph in Syria's ancient city of Palmyra, the country's antiquities director Maamun Abdulkarim said.

"This is a systematic destruction of the city. They want to raze it completely," Abdulkarim told AFP.

UNESCO chief Irina Bokova slammed the latest demolition, which comes after the group razed other parts of the site, including the 2,000-year-old Temple of Bel.

Strategy

US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter said Monday that Moscow is pursuing a "losing strategy" in Syria amid rising tensions after a Russian fighter jet violated Turkey's air space.

Moscow last week began bombing in Syria, claiming it was hitting Islamic State jihadists. But the Pentagon says Russian jets have targeted other rebel groups in order to support the regime of President Bashar al-Assad.

"Russia has escalated the civil war, putting further at risk the very political resolution and preservation of Syria's structure of future governance it says that it wants," Carter said in Madrid at the start of a five-day trip to Europe.

"It remains my hope that Vladimir Putin will see that tethering Russia to a sinking ship is a losing strategy."

Carter's trip is aimed at thanking allies from the US-led coalition that is carrying out daily drone and plane strikes against IS in Iraq and Syria.

Newswatch

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Final court rulings for KIA have amounted to USD 3.9 billion, he pointed out, stressing the importance of exerting legal efforts to protect Kuwait's public funding anywhere.

Al-Masad lauded Kuwaiti legal team efforts in following up on legal cases related to investment in Spain. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health Affairs at Ministry of Health Dr Majda Al-Qattan says the number of victims suffering from cholera in Kuwait has increased to five (three Kuwaiti citizens, an Iraqi national and a Filipina woman). All of them had come from Iraq and are currently being treated in different hospitals in Kuwait.

During a press conference held in the presence of Assistant Secretary at the Office of Global Health Dr Mitchell Wolfe on Monday, October 5, Dr Al-Qattan revealed that three of the victims have left the hospitals after being healed of cholera. One victim is still admitted in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital while the other is in Sabah Hospital.

She affirmed that all necessary steps to deal with the disease including implementation of precautionary measures at border checkpoints and customs areas have been taken.

PARIS: French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, who will chair December's UN-led climate talks in Paris, on Sunday urged countries which have yet to publish greenhouse gas emissions data to do so as soon as possible.

But several major oil producers such as Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia (the only G20 member yet to submit its data), Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela have not. (AFP)

RIYADH: Dozens of Islamist Saudi Arabian clerics have called on Arab and Muslim countries to "give all moral, material, political and military" support to what they term a jihad, or holy war, against Syria's government and its Iranian and Russian backers.

Although the clerics who signed the online statement are not affiliated with the government, their strong sectarian and anti-Christian language reflects mounting anger among many Saudis over Russian and Iranian involvement in Syria's civil war. (RTRS)

AMMAN, Jordan: A Jordanian parliament member said he learned from Islamic State-linked media that his son Mohammed Dalaee carried out a suicide attack in Iraq, three months after dropping out of medical school and joining the extremist group.

The case highlights the continued grassroots appeal of IS ideas in the region, including in staunchly pro-Western Jordan, a partner in the US-led military campaign against the group. IS militants have seized large parts of Syria and Iraq, both neighbors of Jordan.

"My son had everything, a family, money, and studying medicine, but he was controlled by terrible thoughts," the legislator, Mazen Dalaee told The Associated Press. "He was deceived and tricked by Islamic State. Islamic State is in every home through TVs and the Internet." (AP)

DUBAI: The number of pilgrims killed in the Saudi hajj disaster near the holy city of Makkah rose on Monday to over 1,100 dead, according to an Associated Press count.

Saudi officials have said their official figure of 769 killed and 934 injured in Mina remains accurate, though an investigation into the Sept 24 stampede is ongoing. (AP)

SEOUL: North Korea repatriated a South Korean college student who holds a US green card on Monday, six months after capturing him crossing into the country from China, South Korea's Unification Ministry said.

The release of Joo Won-moon, who had been a student at New York University, came days before the North celebrates the 70th anniversary of the ruling Workers' Party on Saturday. (RTRS)

BAGHDAD: At least 57 people were killed on Monday in car bomb attacks in Baghdad and the north and south of Iraq, police and medical sources said.

One attack took place near a crowded market in the town of Khalis, about 80 km (50 miles) northeast of Baghdad, killing 35 people, police said.

"The driver begged police to be allowed to park his vehicle in order to buy medication from a nearby pharmacy and five minutes later it (the bomb) went off and caused huge destruction," police captain Mohammed al-Tamimi said. (RTRS)