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FIRST U.S. SERVICEMAN KILLED IN COMBAT WITH DAESH

Operation rescues 70 IS hostages

Five Islamic State members held, 10 killed



Prime Minister Diwan photo

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and his accompanying delegation, arrived in the country on Thursday after being in France for an official visit. His Highness the Premier was received at Kuwait International Airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, a number of ministers, senior officials from the army, police and national guards. He was also received by His Highness the Premier's diwan and the French charge d'affaires. (KUNA)

WASHINGTON/ERBIL, Iraq, Oct 22, (Agencies): One member of a US special operations team was killed during an operation to rescue hostages held by Islamic State militants in northern Iraq, the first American killed in ground combat with the militant group, US officials said on Thursday.

Around 70 hostages were successfully rescued during the operation, Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook said in a statement.

US special operations forces were assisting Iraqi Kurdish peshmerga forces in rescuing hostages held at an Islamic State prison near Hawija, in northern Iraq, in a mission requested by the Kurdistan Regional Government, Cook said.

"Dozens" of US troops were involved in the mission, a US defense official said, declining to give further specifics on the number involved.

"It was a deliberately planned operation but it was also done with the knowledge that imminent action was needed to save the lives of these people," the US defense official said.

The US serviceman was shot during the mission and

taken back to Erbil, where he died, the US defense official said.

He was the first US serviceman killed in ground combat operations against Islamic State, which has been the target of daily air strikes in Iraq and Syria by a US-led coalition for more than a year.

Five US helicopters launched from Erbil were involved in the mission, and the United States was providing helicopter lift, intelligence support, air strike support, and advisory support to the peshmerga, the US defense official said. Air strikes were launched both before and after the mission to block approaches to the prison and destroy it afterward, the US defense official said.

Those rescued included 20 members of Iraqi security forces, Cook said in his statement.

Five Islamic State members were detained and are in Kurdish custody, and more than 10 were killed, the US defense official said.

A Reuters source in the Hawija area said the special forces raided a house where Islamic State commanders were gathering, triggering gun battles and blasts that lasted several hours.

Sheikh Jaafar Mustafa, a senior commander of the Kurdish peshmerga forces, confirmed an operation had

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Equate to buy Dow unit ME Global for \$3.2bn

DUBAI, Oct 22, (Agencies): Kuwait's Boubyan Petrochemical Co said on Thursday its affiliate Equate had signed a \$3.2 billion deal to buy ME Global from Dow Chemical of the United States and a subsidiary of state-run Kuwait Petroleum Corp.

Under the non-binding agreement, about \$200 million of the total value would go towards paying down loans and commitments of ME Global, Boubyan said in a statement to the Kuwaiti bourse.

ME Global is a 50-50 ethylene glycol producing joint venture between Dow and Petrochemical Industries Co, a unit of Kuwait Petroleum. Boubyan owns 9 percent of Equate.

Once the deal is finalised, Boubyan is not expected to provide any financing to or inject any funds into Equate, the statement said.

Last November, Dow said that as part of a \$7-8.5 billion divestment plan, it would reduce its equity positions in all of its Kuwaiti ventures in order to release capital for other strategic purposes.

In other news, the Six Sigma methodology has saved up

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Agents set traps

FBI undercover in hunt for IS recruits

WASHINGTON, Oct 22, (AFP): In April, John Booker was arrested for allegedly planning to carry out a suicide bombing at a military base in Kansas on behalf of the Islamic State group.

It turns out that undercover FBI operatives had been manipulating the 20-year-old for six months — helping him make a "martyrdom" video, providing him with a list of bomb-making materials and even building an explosive device for him, albeit an inert one.

Critics say the Federal Bureau of Investigation's growing army of undercover agents tasked with hunting down terror recruits on US soil sometimes unduly pressures young, impressionable people to plan and move forward with acts they may otherwise not have conceived on their own.

The FBI "may have created terrorists out of law-abiding citizens," Human Rights Watch has alleged.

In total, the FBI employs at least 15,000 undercover informants who are spread out over a wide span of probes, ranging from pedophilia to drugs to terror.

Often well paid and operating with immunity, an informant can sometimes go so far as to suggest targets or provide weapons to convince a suspected recruit he or she is for real.

"They need to be convinced that you are just like them," said Mubin Shaikh, a former Canadian counterterrorism operative who has worked undercover, including in an operation that saw the so-called Toronto 18 prosecuted.

"You have to play along, you have to do what they tell you to do. Otherwise your whole operation is compromised."

Shaikh, who recounted his experiences in the memoir "Underground Jihadi: Inside the Toronto 18," said there are a number of tactics to find out whether someone is an extremist or potential extremist.

In one approach, Shaikh would ask the suspect whether he would be interested in attending a "(terror) training camp," with the phrasing kept vague.

"If I say the exact same thing to somebody else and he says 'yeah, I do wanna go and train them,' that's you getting caught, that's not entrapment," Shaikh said.

"If that suggestion is well within the operational doctrine of that group, that's not entrapment, it's like a dangle. You're hooking somebody — it's like fishing."

Undercover agents are now heavily focused on identifying sympathizers of the self-proclaimed Islamic State group that has overtaken large swathes of Syria and Iraq.

Earlier this month, FBI Director James Comey said counterterrorism investigators had followed "dozens and dozens" of suspected militants around the United States this summer and disrupted "many" of them.

Shaikh, a Muslim himself, acknowledged that with the

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Former US secretary of state and Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton testifies before the House Select Committee on Benghazi on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, on Oct 22. (AFP)

Clinton defends actions on Benghazi

WASHINGTON, Oct 22, (AP): Hillary Rodham Clinton firmly defended her actions on Benghazi as she came face-to-face Thursday with the Republican-led special investigation of the 2012 attacks on a US diplomatic mission in the Libyan city, hoping to put to rest the worst episode of her tenure as secretary of state and clear an obstacle to her presidential campaign.

Democrats have assailed the investigation as a ploy to derail Clinton's White House bid.

The hearing comes at a moment of political strength for Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic nomination. On Wednesday, a potential rival for the nomination, Vice-President Joe Biden, announced he would not join the race. Clinton also is riding the momentum of a solid debate performance last week.

Clinton kicked off a long day of questioning with a plea that the United States maintain its global leadership role despite the threat posed to US diplomats. She hailed the efforts of the four Americans who died in the Sept 11, 2012, attacks, including the first ambassador in more than three decades, but told the House Benghazi Committee that the deadly events have already been exhaustively scrutinized.

"We need leadership at home to match our leadership abroad, leadership that puts national security ahead of politics and ideology," Clinton said in her opening remarks, the closest she came to directly rebuking her Republican investigators.

Rep. Trey Gowdy of South Carolina started the hearing with a series of questions that he said remained unanswered: Why was the US in Libya, why were security requests denied, why was the military not ready to respond quickly on the 11th anniversary of 9/11 and why did the Obama administration change its story about the nature of the attacks in the weeks afterward?

"These questions linger because previous investigations were not thorough," Gowdy said.

Clinton addressed some of these matters early on. She stressed a need for diplomats to advance US interests in the world, even in dangerous places, and said perfect security can never be achieved. She noted the various attacks on US diplomatic and military installations overseas during the presidencies of her husband, Bill Clinton, in the 1990s and Ronald Reagan a decade earlier.

The US military campaign against Moammar Gaddafi in 2011 helped prevent "genocide," Clinton asserted, noting the Libyan dictator's threat to hunt down opponents like "cockroaches." The American-led intervention came after requests for assistance from allies in Europe and the Arab world, and extensive study and discussion by the US government, she said.

The Republican criticism has included contentions by some lawmakers that Clinton personally denied security requests and ordered the US military to "stand down" during the attacks, or that her agency was engaged in an elaborate gun-running scheme in eastern Libya. None of these were substantiated in the independent Accountability Review Board investigation ordered by Clinton after the deadly incident, and seven subsequent congressional investigations.

Gowdy is engaged in his own balancing act, portraying the panel as focused on the facts after comments by fellow Republicans describing the inquiry as an effort designed to hurt Clinton's presidential bid.

On Thursday, Democrats on the panel immediately

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NewsWatch

▲ **US\$/KD 0.30170/80**

▼ **Euro/KD 0.3363**

■ **Yen/KD 0.0025**

▼ **British £/KD 0.4653**

▼ **KSE -12.65 pts** at closing, Oct 22
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▲ **Dow +278.23 pts** at 20:50, Oct 22
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▼ **Nasdaq +30.20 pts** at 20:50, Oct 22

▲ **FTSE +27.86 pts** closing, Oct 22

▼ **Nikkei -118.41 pts** closing, Oct 22

▼ **Gold \$1,167.10** per oz (London)

▼ **NYMEX crude \$47.09 pb**

▼ **Brent crude \$47.79 pb**

3-month \$ LIBOR rate 0.31640%

RIYADH: Prosecutors in Saudi Arabia are seeking the death penalty for 16 people for alleged "terrorist" offences in a Shiite community in the kingdom's east, reports said on Thursday.

A total of two dozen people are accused in the case, including three who were on a list of 23 suspects wanted after pro-reform protests that began in early 2011 in eastern Saudi Arabia.

Saudi media said the "terrorist cell" was based in the Shiite community of Awamiya. (AFP)

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia on Thursday carried out its 137th execution this year, putting to death another of its citizens for murder.

Mohammed al-Qahtani had been convicted of gunning down a fellow Saudi

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Road users warned over 'bad weather'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22, (KUNA): The Interior Ministry issued a statement here Thursday warning road users on the current bad weather conditions experienced in Kuwait.

The Interior Ministry's public relations department called on the public to use the 112 hotline in case of emergency.

The weather in Kuwait was dusty early in the morning, resulting in low visibility on several roads.

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Photo by lehab Qurtal

A dusty early morning and brief rain showers in the afternoon were experienced in Kuwait on Oct 22.

Oil min urged to clarify termination issue

Dow report to Prosecution gets nod

By Abubakar A. Ibrahim
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 22: Head of Public Funds Protection Committee MP Abdullah Al-Turajji revealed that the committee has agreed to refer the report on the Dow Chemical Company and Advantage Company cases to the Public Prosecutor, and postpone discussions on the report concerning the Kuwait Investment Authority office in London until the concerned investigation committee of the parliament completes its work.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting on Thursday, Al-Turajji indicated that the committee has reached a decision to convict some officials of Dow Chemical Company, saying, "After reviewing all the documents and information during the previous investigation, the committee has decided to refer some officials of this company to the Public Prosecution".

He said the committee also decided to refer the Advantage Company file to the Public Prosecution, clarifying that

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