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36 PAGES

150 FILS

Ex-foster children grilled over London bomb

US, Iran confrontation over N-deal inspection

Iraqi, Syrian held under Terror Act

Trump would 'walk'

VIENNA, Sept 18, (Agencies): The United States and Iran quarreled over how Tehran's nuclear activities should be policed at a meeting of the UN nuclear watchdog on Monday, in a row sparked last month by Washington's call for wider inspections.

Key US allies are worried by the possibility of Washington pulling out of a 2015 landmark nuclear deal under which Iran agreed to curb its nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions against it being lifted.

US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley last month called for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect a wider range of sites in Iran, including military ones, to verify it is not breaching its nuclear deal with world powers. Her remarks were rejected by a furious Tehran.

"We will not accept a weakly enforced or inadequately monitored deal," US Energy Secretary Rick Perry told the IAEA General Conference, an annual meeting of the agency's member states that began on Monday.

He did not say whether he thought the deal was currently weakly enforced.

"The United States ... strongly encourages the IAEA to exercise its full authorities to verify Iran's adherence to each and every nuclear-related commitment under the JCPOA," Perry added, referring to the deal by its official name — the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Perry was speaking shortly after the General Conference formally approved the appointment of Yukiyama Amano, a 70-year-old career diplomat from Japan, to a third term as IAEA director general.

US President Donald Trump has called the accord "the worst deal ever negotiated" and has until mid-October to make a decision that could lead to Washington reimposing sanctions on Iran.

Iran's nuclear chief, Ali Akbar Salehi, told the meeting in Vienna that Washington had made "a host of unjustifiable peculiar demands with regard to the verification of our strictly peaceful nuclear programme".

"We remain confident that the (IAEA) will resist such unacceptable demands and continue to execute the agency's ... role with strict objectivity, fairness and impartiality," he said. Salehi also criticised what he called "the American administration's overtly hostile attitude".

The IAEA has the authority to request access to facilities in Iran, including military ones, if there are new and credible indications of banned nuclear activities there, but diplomats say Washington has yet to provide such indications.

Amano often describes his agency's work as technical rather than political and has declined to

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Kuwait complies with UN on Pyongyang

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18, (KUNA): Kuwait's decision to cut North Korean diplomatic presence in the country follows a UN Security Council plan to stiffen sanctions on Pyongyang over its missile and nuclear tests, said a source at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry on Monday. Among the measures taken by Kuwait include a ban on visas for

North Korean citizens, halting flights to and from Pyongyang, in addition to severing trade with the isolated country and slashing its diplomatic staff, the source added.

"Amid escalating tensions in the Korean peninsula and North Korea's continued defiance of UN resolutions, Kuwait has taken

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LONDON, Sept 18, (Agencies): The two suspects detained over last week's London subway bombing are an 18-year-old refugee from Iraq and a 21-year old from Syria, both of whom were fostered by a British couple, according to a local official and media reports.

The 18-year-old was detained Saturday at the southeast England port of Dover, a departure point for ferries to France. The 21-year-old was held later the same day in Hounslow in west London. Photos published by the Sun newspaper showed a man being detained outside a fast-food restaurant in Hounslow, which was searched by police.

Both men are being held under the Terrorism Act and are being questioned at a London police station about Friday's attack. Neither has been charged.

Thirty people were injured when an improvised explosive device partly exploded aboard a crowded London Underground train at Parsons Green station during the

morning rush hour. None of the injuries was life-threatening, and experts said it appears the main charge of the bomb didn't detonate.

After the rush-hour bombing, British officials raised the country's terror threat level to the highest level, "critical", meaning an attack may be imminent. They lowered it Sunday to "severe", and police said the investigation was making rapid progress.

Police searched three addresses, including the house in suburban Sunbury, outside London, of Penelope and Ronald Jones. The couple has been honored by Queen Elizabeth II for fostering more than 200 children, including refugees from Middle Eastern conflicts.

Ian Harvey, who heads local Spelthorne Borough Council, said he believed the 18-year-old was an Iraqi orphan who moved to the UK when he was 15 after his parents died and had lived in the Sunbury house.

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Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre all set for massive six-month cultural season.

KUNA photo

Jaber Al-Ahmad Centre kicks off massive six-month cultural festival

Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre chose the late Amir's quote "From Kuwait We Start" as the theme of its first festival season, which kicks off on Tuesday.

The centre intends to showcase the Kuwaiti cultural scene's cream of the crop to suit the venue, which won several international awards for its architectural beauty, the centre's director-general for events Faisal Khaja told KUNA

on Monday.

The festival, which will continue until April 2018, will include theatrical, musical and debate-related activities.

The event will host local, Arab and international performers, Khaja said, including the centre's proud achievement — an over 50-strong orchestra with a 70 percent Kuwaiti majority led by maestro Mohammad Baqer.

The activities will not be limited to the building's indoor theatres, but will stretch to its surrounding courtyards.

Exhibitions at the event will focus on local heritage, with a touch of modernity, he said.

These include 'Exhibition 1927', which celebrates 90 years since the release of the first Kuwaiti music single on vinyl. Several original recordings, produced

that year, will be on display by singers Abdallah Al-Fedhala, Abdullatif Al-Kuwaiti, Saleh, Dawood Ezra Al-Kuwaiti and Saleh Abdulrazzaq.

Baqer also revealed a special exhibition dedicated to the late iconic Kuwaiti actor Abdulhussain Abdelredha, including several rare works of the Gulf legend.

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Baghdad to deport 500 DAESH wives

BAGHDAD, Sept 18, (AFP): Iraq moved 500 wives of Islamic State group jihadists to a detention centre in preparation to deport them after they were captured along with 800 children, a councillor said Monday.

The women and children were detained in Iraq's second city Mosul, capital of Nineveh province and IS's main stronghold in the country until Iraqi forces retook it in July.

"They are in a holding centre in Tal Kayf under the control of Iraqi security forces, so their cases can be examined before they are eventually expelled from the country," the Nineveh province councillor told AFP.

The spouses and their children were moved Sunday from a camp run by international aid agencies 60 kms (40 miles) south of Mosul, said the official, who asked to remain anonymous.

A senior Iraqi security official said the 509 women and 813 children held 13 different nationalities from Europe, Asia and the Americas.

A government official said around 300 of them were Turkish.

"They are foreigners who entered the country illegally," a minister told AFP.

"Legal measures must be taken against them because, when they were detained, they were in an area controlled by terrorists."

The Norwegian Refugee Council said they group were mostly from Turkey, Azerbaijan, Russia and Tajikistan.

The Nineveh councillor said Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi had ordered their transfer to the detention centre and "could be part of preparations for their departure to their countries of origin".

Some of the families were among a group transferred to the Iraqi authorities a week after they surrendered to Kurdish forces deployed in the north of the country.

"Humanitarian organisations must have free access" to the centre in order "to provide assistance and monitor their living conditions," said Melany Markham, spokesperson in Iraq for the Norwegian Refugee Council.

Iraqi forces in late August ousted IS from the jihadists' one-time stronghold of Tal Afar, near Iraqi Kurdistan, after facing fierce resistance in the town of Al-Ayadih.

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Kuwait tackles new oil spill

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18, (Agencies): Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) announced on Monday that it was seeking to contain the oil slick floating off Al-Zour power station in Ras Al-Zour.

All necessary and emergency procedures have been effected to contain the oil spill, the source of which was unknown, and protect vital installations in the region, KPC affirmed.

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Syrians gain near US-backed force

BEIRUT, Sept 18, (Agencies): Syrian troops battling the Islamic State group crossed to the eastern bank of the Euphrates River in Deir Ezzor on Monday, securing their hold on the eastern city but threatening a potential standoff with US-backed forces operating nearby.

The pro-government forces meanwhile announced that they had secured the airport in Deir Ezzor, allowing two military transport aircraft to land. Al-Manar TV, the media arm of Lebanon's Hezbollah, quoted an unnamed general who said the airport is "90 percent secured." Hezbollah is fighting alongside President Bashar Assad's forces.

Syrian government forces broke a three-year Islamic State siege of parts of Deir Ezzor earlier this month and are fighting to drive the militants from the city, their last major urban stronghold in Syria. The city is home to nearly 100,000 residents.

Russia, which has provided crucial air support to Assad's forces, announced the crossing of the river, saying in a statement that the troops used a pontoon bridge.

"The Syrian army storm units have pushed the IS

militants out of several villages on the eastern bank of the Euphrates River and are continuing their offensive toward the east, extending their gains."

US-backed and Kurdish-led forces have also been advancing on the eastern side of the river, as both sides seek to expand their control of the oil-rich province bordering Iraq. Many oil fields, including al-Omar, Syria's largest, are on the eastern bank.

Over the weekend, the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces said its fighters were hit by Russian airstrikes on the eastern bank of the river, in an industrial area they recently liberated from IS. Russia denied it was behind the airstrikes.

Rami Abdurrahman, the head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, confirmed the crossing, which he said was preceded by intense aerial bombing on the eastern bank.

"Even if the pro-government (forces) keep up their advance in the city, it will mean nothing if they don't control the eastern bank," Abdurrahman said.

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▼	US\$/KD 0.30125/35
■	Euro/KD 0.3598
■	Yen/KD 0.0027
▼	British £/KD 0.4065
▼	KSE -21.33 pts at closing Sept 18 See Page 29
▲	DOW +75.61 pts at 21:15 Sept 18 See Page 30
▲	Nasdaq +25.66 pts at 21:15 Sept 18
▲	FTSE +37.81 pts at closing Sept 18
▲	Nikkei +102.06 pts at closing Sept 18
▼	Gold \$1,312.10 per oz (London)
▲	NYMEX crude \$49.96 pb
▲	Brent crude \$55.57 pb
▲	3-month \$ LIBOR rate 1.32389%

News watch

DOHA: Qatar's defence minister has signed a letter of intent to purchase 24 Typhoon jets from British defence group BAE Systems, in a move that could anger other Gulf countries boycotting Doha.

Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt and Bahrain cut diplomatic and trade links with Qatar on June 5, suspending air and shipping routes with the world's biggest exporter of liquefied natural gas, which is home to the region's biggest US military base.

"The letter of intent includes the ministry's intention to purchase 24 modern Typhoon aircraft with all their equipment," state news agency QNA reported on Sunday.

The agreement was
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Rescued Catholic priest Father Teresito Suganob waves to journalists as he is presented during a press conference at the military headquarters in Manila on Sept 18, following his Sept 16 rescue by the military. (AFP)

Philippines rescues priest

MANILA, Sept 18, (AFP): A Catholic priest kidnapped by Islamic State supporters when they seized parts of a southern Philippine city nearly four months ago smiled and declared himself "strong" Monday after escaping.

Father Teresito Suganob called for prayers at a press conference at military headquarters in Manila after he was

rescued late on Saturday when the military said it overran the militants' control centre inside a mosque in Marawi city.

"Thank you and I pray for you, God bless you all. Pray for me, for my recovery," said Suganob, 51, as he smiled and waved to reporters.

In a jocular mood despite his ordeal, the heavily bearded but

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