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## KUWAIT REQUESTS URGENT SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

# Israeli forces kill dozens in Gaza

### US opens embassy

**GAZA/JERUSALEM, May 14, (Agencies):** Israeli troops killed dozens of Palestinians taking part in mass protests on the Gaza border on Monday as the United States opened its embassy to Israel in Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, Kuwait, a non-permanent member of the Security Council, requested a meeting of the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday to discuss continuing violence along the Gaza-Israel border, diplomats said on Monday.

"We condemned what has happened," the Kuwaiti ambassador to the United Nations, Mansour Al-Otaibi, told journalists. "We will see what the council will do."

He said he had consulted with the Arab Group at the UN and with the Palestinian ambassador to the world body.

The US relocation of its embassy from Tel Aviv fulfilled a pledge by US President Donald Trump, who has recognised the holy city as the Israeli capital, but it has fired Palestinian anger and drawn criticism from many foreign governments as a setback to peace efforts.

At the embassy inauguration ceremony, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu thanked Trump for "having the courage to keep your promises".

"What a glorious day for Israel," Netanyahu said in a speech. "We are in Jerusalem and we are here to stay."

Trump, in a recorded message, said he remained committed to peace between Israel and the Palestinians. He was represented at the ceremony by his daughter Ivanka and his son-in-law Jared Kushner, US envoy to the Middle East.

Kushner said it was possible for both sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to gain more than give in any peace deal.

"Jerusalem must remain a city that brings people of all faiths together," he said in a speech.

As the ceremony took place in Jerusalem, Palestinian protests on the Gaza border quickly turned into bloodshed.

Israeli gunfire killed at least 52 Palestinians, the highest toll in a single day since a series of protests demanding the right to return to ancestral homes in Israel began on March 30.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said the dead included six children under the age of 18. Ministry officials said about 2,200 Palestinians were wounded, half of them by live bullets.

France and Britain called on Israel to show restraint and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was "deeply concerned" by the events in Gaza.

Other responses to the violence were stronger. Regional power Turkey accused Israeli security forces of carrying out a massacre and said the US Embassy move had encouraged them.

The non-government international organisation Human Rights Watch said: "The policy of Israeli authorities to fire irrespective of whether there is an immediate threat to life on Palestinian demonstrators in Gaza, caged in for a decade and under occupation for a half century, has resulted in a bloodbath that anyone could have foreseen."

Tens of thousands of Palestinians had streamed to the coastal enclave's land border, some approaching the Israeli fence — a line Israeli leaders said Palestinians would not be allowed to breach.

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US\$/KD 0.30140/50
Euro/KD 0.3608
Yen/KD 0.0027
British £/KD 0.4098
KSE -15.26 pts at closing May 14 See Page 29
DOW +100.15 pts at 21:40 May 14 See Page 31
Nasdaq +32.77 pts at 21:40 May 14
FTSE -13.57 pts at closing May 14
Nikkei +107.38 pts at closing May 14
Gold \$1,324.8 per oz (London)
NYMEX crude \$71.03 per barrel
Brent crude \$78.12 per barrel
3-month \$ LIBOR rate 2.34250%



Palestinians run for cover from tear-gas during clashes with Israeli security forces near the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip, east of Jabalia on May 14, as Palestinians protest over the inauguration of the US embassy following its controversial move to Jerusalem. (AFP)

### Expat cuts public, governmental demand, says MP

## VAT seen finalized in next Assembly term

By Abubakar A. Ibrahim  
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: Reducing the number of expatriates in the country has become a public and governmental demand due to the lack of jobs for Kuwaitis, says Chairman of the parliamentary Job Replacement and Employment Crisis Committee MP Khalil Al-Saleh.

While pointing out that the number of expatriates has exceeded three million, Al-Saleh affirmed his support for the termination of unqualified expatriate workers who are considered a burden for the State, especially those working in governmental institutions. "At the same time, we do not support calls for the termination of all expatriate workers, especially those specialized in fields needed by the local labor market," he added.

Al-Saleh pointed out that the meeting between Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) and some business owners needs further study. He also stressed the need to exclude expatriates with rare fields of specialization from the decision, adding that any decision concerning the labor market should be implemented.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Budgets and Final Accounts Committee MP Adnan AbdulSamad said they discussed Monday a bill linking the budgets of ministries and government departments for fiscal 2018/2019.

During the meeting, the representatives of Kuwait Petroleum



KUNA photo  
A portrait of the 'Esteemed Sabah' measuring 937 sqm decorates the main entrance of Al-Safat Investment Company.

### Record set

Kuwait's Al-Safat Investment Company has entered Guinness World Records for designing and producing the world's largest poster of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The poster, in which the company decorates the frontage of its headquarters' building in Hawally area, covers 937 square meters, which is 107 meters more than the 830 square meters world record, the company said in a press statement Monday.

Over the past months, Al-Safat Investment has been in contact with Guinness' representatives to induct the poster in the famed world records book, Al-Safat's Chairman Abdullah Al-Terkait said.

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## Exit of over-65's studied

KUWAIT CITY, May 14: The proposal to dispense with expatriates who are 65 years old and above which was discussed at a meeting between representatives of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) and representatives of business owners associations is just a study, reports Al-Rai daily quoting government sources.

Minister of State of Social Affairs and

Labor and State Minister of Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh told the daily, "The outcome of the meeting with the concerned parties on the proposal to prevent the issuance of a work permit, renewal and transfer of expatriate workers, who have reached the age of 65 has been referred to the Policy Center of the Secretariat General for Planning to study the subject and give its opinion."

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I'll work with winner: Abadi

## Cleric, pro-Iran bloc surge in Iraq election

BAGHDAD, May 14, (RTRS): Nationalist cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, a long-time adversary of the United States, led in Iraq's parliamentary election with more than half the votes counted on Monday, the electoral commission said, in a surprise turn of fortune for the Shi'ite leader.

In the first election since Islamic State was defeated in the country, Shi'ite militia chief Hadi al-Amiri's bloc, which is backed by Iran, was in second place, while Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, once seen as the front-runner, trailed in third position.

The preliminary results were based on a count of more than 95 percent of the votes cast in 10 of Iraq's 18 provinces.

Unlike Abadi, a rare ally of both the United States and Iran, Sadr is an opponent of both of the countries which have wielded influence in Iraq since a US-led invasion toppled Sunni dictator Saddam Hussein in 2003 and ushered the Shi'ite majority to power.

Sadr has led two uprisings against US forces in Iraq and is one of the few Shi'ite leaders to distance himself from Iran.

Despite the election setback, Abadi might still be granted a second term in office by parliament and on Monday he called on all political blocs to respect the results, suggesting he was willing to work with Sadr to form a government.

"We are ready to work and cooperate in forming the strongest government for Iraq, free of corruption," Abadi said in a live televised address. Corruption has been the top of Sadr's agenda for several years.

Projecting himself as a Iraqi nationalist, Sadr has a zealous following among the young, poor and dispossessed, but he had been sidelined by influential Iranian-backed figures.

He cannot become prime minister as he did not run in the election, though his apparent victory puts

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### News watch

**AMMAN:** A Jordanian military court on Monday sentenced a man to death and six others to lengthy prison sentences for belonging to the Islamic State group, judicial sources said.

The man sentenced to death by hanging had been found guilty of "planning and executing terrorist acts in 2016 inside Jordanian territory targeting alcohol shops", the sources told AFP.

The court sentenced five other men to 15 years' hard labour and another to 10 years' hard labour. (AFP)

**ADEN:** Forces backed by a Saudi-led coalition are advancing

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Iraqi men celebrate during the general election in Baghdad on May 14. (AFP)

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