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KHAMENEI SAYS WAR UNLIKELY BUT URGES DEFENSE BOOST

Concern, denial Iran missiles in Iraq

Tehran wants Europe to act on N-deal

WASHINGTON, Sept 2, (Agencies): US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo voiced Saturday deep concern over reports of Iran transferring ballistic missiles into Iraq.

Pompeo said in a tweet "deeply concerned about reports of Iran transferring

ballistic missiles into Iraq."

He added "if true, this would be a gross violation of Iraqi sovereignty and of UNSCR 2231.

"Baghdad should determine what happens in Iraq, not Tehran," he stressed.

But Iran denied sending ballistic missiles to Iraq "fabrication and lies."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi was quoted by Fars news agency as saying these reports were "fake and ridiculous," and aimed at undermining Iran's relations with neighboring countries.

"Such false and ridiculous news have no purpose other than affecting Iran's foreign relations, especially with its neighbours," Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said, according to IRNA.

Iranian, Iraqi and Western sources told Reuters that Iran has given ballistic missiles to Shi'ite proxies in Iraq and is developing the capacity to build more.

"This news is solely aimed at creating fears in the countries of the region," Qassemi added.

Pompeo, in his tweet on the reports of the transfer of the missiles, said, "If true, this would be a gross violation of Iraqi sovereignty and of UNSCR 2231."

He was referring to UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which underpinned the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iraq and six world powers. President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the deal earlier this year and his administration is currently reimposing sanctions against Tehran.

Earlier, Pompeo spoke by phone with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi "to reaffirm US support for Iraq's efforts to form

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President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah (center) smiles next to a representative of the Hangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee (left) as Jakarta Governor Anies Baswedan (right) kisses the torch during the closing ceremony of the 2018 Asian Games at the Gelora Bung Karno main stadium in Jakarta on Sept 2. (AFP) — See Page 32

Jordan leads UNRWA funding campaign

AMMAN, Sept 2, (KUNA): Jordan started a diplomatic movement to gather international support aimed at sustaining the operations of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) after the US decision to discontinue funding the agency.

UNRWA provides aid, education and health services to nearly five million Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and occupied Palestine.

In January 2018, the Trump administration announced that the US will cut its funding to UNRWA by approximately \$300 million, and provided \$60 million only.

This action had huge reactions by contributing countries because the Palestinian refugee issue was a final status issue that must be resolved based on international legitimacy resolutions, foremost of which is Resolution 194

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Opinion

Toxic Persian wind poisons Iraq seditiously

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

IT IS unusual for a geographic and historic curse to coincide in one place in this world. This makes Iraq a rare place as it cannot dissociate from such curse, except by transforming the geographical curse into a blessing which can be done by cutting off the sedition wind that comes through its borders.

Since Persia has known the concept of a State, it has been embarking on the expansionism scheme towards Iraq in order to cross the strategic pathway of the old world and control the movement in Levant between Asia, Europe and Africa due to the importance of this area.

It is no wonder that Babylon was the first destination of Cyrus 'the great' (founder of Achaemenid Empire) in his scheme to establish the Persian Empire in the year Six BC. Since then, Iraq has entered the tunnel of sedition, wars and distribution of loyalties; up to a point where Persian Khosrow had the audacity to ask Lakhmids King Al-Mundhir to send his daughters to him to become slaves in his castle.

Arabs have reestablished themselves in Iraq since then, until they defeated the Persians in the battle of Dhi Qar in the early seventh century. However, the Persian attempts to destabilize Iraq continued until the beginning of the Umayyad Dynasty. The trail of major sedition continues up to this day, igniting civil wars.

Revolutions backed by Persians continued throughout the Umayyad Dynasty, up to Abbasid Dynasty when the Persians established a troop of mercenary Arabs who were known as Barmakids.

These Arabs revolted against Abbasid ruler Haroun Al-Rashid.

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Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com



An Iraqi man walks past burning tires as protesters block the main road between the centre of the southern city of Basra leading towards Karmat Ali on its northern outskirts on Sept 2. (AFP)

Police disperse Basra protests

BASRA, Iraq, Sept 2, (Agencies): Police used tear gas to disperse around 150 protesters at the main entrance to Iraq's giant Nahr Bin Omar oilfield on Sunday, police sources said, amid growing unrest in southern cities over poor public services and corruption.

Officials at the field in the southern oil hub of Basra said operations were running normally.

Production from Nahr Bin Omar, which is operated by the state-run Basra Oil Co., now stands at around 44,000 barrels per day, oilfield officials said.

On Friday, hundreds of Iraqi protesters stoned and tried to break into the provincial government headquarters in the southern oil hub of Basra demanding better public services and an end to pervasive corruption. Around 3,000 people gathered there again on Sunday and set fire to tyres outside.

Protesters threatened to break into the field if the government did not respond to their demands to improve basic services and address their complaints over Basra's drinking water, which residents say is undrinkable due to high salt levels.

"We will not allow the oilfield to operate unless we get clean water. No services, no jobs and now no clean water. We are fed up," said Hassan Ali, a protest organiser.

Iraqi political blocs are attempting to form a coalition government after a May 12 parliamentary election tainted by allegations of fraud.

Oil exports from Basra account for more than 95 percent of OPEC producer Iraq's state revenues. Any potential disruptions to production could severely impact Iraq's limping economy.

Police also dispersed protesters who tried to prevent trucks moving on a main road to the east of Basra which leads to a border crossing

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Fresh call for 'bachelor cities'

Lawmaker fumes over cadet deaths

By Ahmed Al-Naqeeb
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Prompted by recent news about cadets being tortured at the military training camp that resulted in the death of two young cadets and injuries of several others, MP Mohammed Hayef demanded for the arrest of those responsible for what he called "the officers college massacre."

In a press conference at the National Assembly Media Center on Sunday, the MP revealed that he heard stories about these young cadets at the hospital and the parents of those who died. He said all of them confirmed that drill sergeants treat cadets brutally; such as standing under the direct heat of the sun for long hours, whipping, degrading and inhumane labor while being deprived of water or

medical attention despite their desperate pleas.

He asserted the drill sergeants and their commanding officers, including the chief of staff, are answerable to the law; especially since this "vicious crime" is not the first of its kind as many similar incidents had earlier been reported.

He then urged the government and the investigative committees to look into the matter and quickly finalize their reports for submission to the Public Prosecution in order to commence legal action as swiftly as possible. He said those who will be prosecuted will face multiple charges which could warrant capital punishment, indicating the minister of defense should hold the chief of staff mainly responsible as this is not the only crime that occurred during his tenure.

"We should not be forgiving when it comes to this issue," asserted the MP. He said this is one of

the most dangerous incidents that have ever happened in Kuwait's history and this kind of brutality is unacceptable at any level - "not publicly, religiously or legally."

Furthermore, the MP called on those who have been harmed and the parents of those who died to submit reports, grievances and complaints to the parliamentary Human Rights Committee, police stations and other concerned authorities while disregarding any justification given by those in charge of the military training camp.

He also urged the authorities to arrest the erring drill sergeants and everyone in charge of these drills, indicating they should remain in custody until the completion of investigations. He believes these individuals should not be free after

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NewsWatch

CAIRO: Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has ratified a law granting authorities the right to monitor social media users in the country as part of tightening internet controls, the official gazette said Saturday.

Approved by parliament in July, the state's Supreme Council for Media Regulations will have the power to place people with more than 5,000 followers — on social media or with a personal blog or website — under supervision.

The council will be authorized to suspend or block any personal account which "publishes or broadcasts fake news or anything (information) inciting violating the law, violence or hatred".

The new law is one of a series of measures that rights

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Strike on Yemen bus unjustified: Coalition

RIYADH, Sept 2, (RTRS): A Saudi-led coalition in Yemen said on Saturday it accepted that an air attack last month that killed dozens of people, including children travelling on a bus, was unjustified and pledged to hold accountable anyone who contributed to the error.

The rare concession follows mounting international pressure, including from allies, to do more to limit civilian casualties in a 3-1/2 year civil war that has killed more than 10,000 people and pushed the already impoverished country to the brink of famine.

The Western-backed alliance fighting the Iranian-aligned Houthi group in Yemen said at the time that the Aug 9 air strikes at a market in Saada province had targeted missile launchers used to attack southern Saudi Arabia a day earlier and accused the Houthis of using children as human shields.

The Joint Incident Assessment Team (JIAT), an investigative body set up by the coalition, said on Saturday that the strikes had been based on intelligence indicating the bus was carrying Houthi leaders, a legitimate military target, but delays in

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Photo shows Alison Shan Price receiving her MBE from the Duke of Cambridge Prince William at the Buckingham Palace. One of Kuwait's most prolific theatre personalities, Alison Shan Price, Founder and Director of One World Actors Centre has made significant contributions to the field of theatrical arts in Kuwait.

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US\$/KD 0.30255/65
Euro/KD 0.3523
Yen/KD 0.0027
British £/KD 0.3934
KSE +5.87 pts at closing September 2 See Page 25
DOW -22.10 pts at closing August 31
Nasdaq +21.17 pts at closing August 31
FTSE -83.61 pts at closing August 31
Nikkei -4.35 pts at closing August 31
Gold \$1,206.85 per oz (London)
NYMEX crude \$69.80 per barrel
Brent crude \$77.64 per barrel
3-month \$ LIBOR rate 2.32075%