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Page 27

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Brotherhood 8 handed back to Egypt

NewsWatch

Amir offers condolences over Ershad's demise

KUWAIT CITY, July 15, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Monday a cable of condolences to President of Bangladesh Mohammad Abdul-Hamid over the passing of the late president of Bangladesh General Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

KUWAIT CITY: The Operations Committee of Al-Khafji Joint Operation Zone has issued a circular about the nomination of **Nouri bin Salama** as the representative of Gulf Oil Company of Kuwait in the committee, reports Al-Anba daily.

The decision was issued by the Head of the Operations Committee of Al-Khafji Joint Operation Zone Eng **Azeb Al-Qahtani** and will come into effect from July 19.

DUBAI: Private equity firm Actis has acquired the rights to manage two private equity funds previously managed by collapsed buyout firm Abraaj, in a deal aimed at strengthening its position in **Middle East and Africa**, the company said on Monday.

Actis will take over the management rights to Abraaj Private Equity Fund IV and Abraaj Africa fund III, it said in a statement. (RTRS)

ANKARA: Turkish fighter jets have killed eight militants of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) during an operation in northern Iraq, Turkey's Defense Ministry said.

The operation, which was launched in Iraq's northern **Metina** region, is part of the Turkish army's Operation Claw, the ministry said in a press statement, carried by Anadolu news agency.

Weapon caches were also destroyed in the Turkish army's airstrikes, according to the statement. (KUNA)

SANAA, Yemen: Yemen's warring sides have met for the first time in five months to discuss redeployment of forces from the flashpoint port city of **Hodeida**.

Wadah Dabish, a spokesman for the forces loyal to the internationally recognized government, says the meeting took place late on Sunday abroad a UN vessel.

Lt Gen **Michael Lollsgaard**, head of the UN mission in **Hodeida**, led the meeting, Al-Masrah TV, run by rebel Houthi who are fighting government forces, also reported the meeting. (AP)

ADEN: The Redeployment Coordination Commission (RCC) in the city of **Hodeida** and its ports resumed its joint meetings on Sunday as part of a new international effort to implement the stalled **Hodeida** agreement, signed some seven months ago.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of the committee **Head**, Lieutenant General **Michael Lawlessard**, aboard a UN ship in the Red Sea in western Yemen, with the participation of the government team led by Major General **Saghir bin Aziz** as well as representatives of the Houthi militias, Yemeni news agency (SABA) said. (KUNA)

BEIRUT: A leaked police report says a Lebanese lawmaker from the Hezbollah group and a dozen gunmen attempted to storm a police station following a family dispute involving a high-speed car chase.

Nawaf Musawi's daughter and her ex-husband were inside the police station Sunday south of Beirut, following the previous night's car chase and verbal abuse from the ex-husband, all of which she filmed with her phone. (AP)

ALGIERS: A car wreck amid raucous celebrations across **Algeria**, after the national side secured a berth in Africa Cup of Nations final (AFCON), left at least five people dead and 13 others injured, authorities said.

"A collision between two semi-trucks, one of which was carrying national team supporters, occurred in the eastern town of **Sidi Abdelaziz**," read a statement by the Algerian Civil Protection. (KUNA)

BEIRUT: A local official in **Syria's** Raqqa says workers have so far unearthed 313 bodies from a mass grave discovered last month near the northern city.

Yasser al-Khamees who leads a team of first responders says among the bodies found are those belonging to civilians, including women and children, as well as people believed to have been shot dead by IS militants. (AP)



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Monday at Bayan Palace Minister of Oil, Electricity and Water Dr Khaled Al-Fadhel and Ethiopian Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation Ahmed Shide. Shide presented a letter from the Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to His Highness the Amir. The letter focused on bilateral relations and ways to enhance them as well as an invitation for His Highness the Amir to visit Ethiopia. Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah attended the meeting.

Amend 'freedom laws': MP

By Ahmed Al-Naqeeb
Arab Times Staff

Small window seen to save N-deal: UK

BRUSSELS, July 15, (RTRS): Britain said on Monday there was a "small window" of time to save the Iran nuclear deal, as Tehran signalled it would ramp up its nuclear programme - seen by the West as a cover for making atomic bombs - if Europe failed to do more to salvage the pact.

US-Iranian tensions have worsened since US President Donald Trump decided last year to abandon the nuclear deal under which Iran agreed to curtail its atomic programme in return for relief from economic sanctions crippling its economy.

"Iran is still a good year away from developing a nuclear bomb. There is still some closing, but small window to keep the deal alive," Foreign Secretary **Jeremy Hunt** told reporters on arrival for a foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels.

The Brussels gathering will seek to flesh out how to convince Iran and the United States to reduce tensions and start a dialogue amid fears that the 2015 deal is close to collapse.

In reaction to the re-imposition of tough US sanctions, which have notably targeted Iran's main oil revenue stream, Tehran has cut some of its nuclear commitments under the deal, leading the European parties to the pact, France, Britain and Germany, to warn it about not fully complying with the terms.

Speaking before leaving Brussels, Swedish Foreign Minister **Margot Wallstrom** suggested the Europeans would still leave the door open for diplomacy, but that Tehran should not taking further measures that could breach the accord.

"It improves their chances of having a good discussion with the EU and other partners in the JCPOA (Iran deal)," she told reporters. "We encourage them to use all diplomatic means and create new diplomatic channels ... to de-escalate the tense situation. We have to use every opportunity to keep the deal."

When asked whether European powers would seek to penalise Iran for breaking parts of its nuclear commitments, Hunt had earlier said there would soon be a meeting of the joint commission, the mechanism set up to handle potential breaches. It could ultimately lead to the reimposition of UN sanctions.

The International Atomic Energy Agency last week confirmed Iran is now enriching uranium to 4.5 percent fissile purity, above the 3.67 percent limit set by its deal, the second breach of the deal in as many weeks after exceeding low enriched uranium stock limits.

However, that is all still far below the 20 percent to which Iran refined uranium before the deal, and the roughly 90 percent needed to yield bomb-grade nuclear fuel. Low-enriched uranium provides fuel for civilian power plants.

Iran denies ever having sought a nuclear weapon.

In Tehran, Iran's nuclear agency said Tehran would return to the situation before the nuclear deal unless European

countries fulfilled their obligations.

"These actions are not taken out of stubbornness but to give diplomacy a chance," agency spokesman **Behrouz Kamalvandi** said.

"And if the Europeans and America don't want to fulfil their commitments we will create a balance in this deal by reducing commitments and return the situation to four years ago."

Iran says the European countries must do more to guarantee it the economic benefits it was due to receive in return for curbs to its nuclear programme under the deal.

France's Foreign Minister **Jean-Yves Le Drian** said Europe had to stay united in trying to save the deal, and Tehran should reverse its decision not to comply with parts of it.

France, Germany and Britain have sought to defuse the tensions, which culminated in a plan for US air strikes on Iran last month that Trump called off at the last minute.

But highlighting just how difficult defusing the crisis is, Paris said on Monday a Franco-Iranian researcher had been detained in Iran and the local authorities were not giving consular access or details of her condition.

The Europeans are also trying to set up Instex, a barter-based trade conduit with Iran, but an equivalent Iranian mechanism has yet to start. Should the mechanism go ahead it would initially only deal in products such as pharmaceuticals and foods, which are not subject to US sanctions.

Diplomats have that in any case they fear US blowback, while Iran has said Instex must include oil sales or provide substantial credit facilities for it to be beneficial.



Britain's Foreign Secretary **Jeremy Hunt** arrives for a European Foreign Affairs meeting at the European Council headquarters in Brussels on July 15. European Union nations were looking to de-escalate tensions in the Gulf area on Monday and call on Iran to stick to the 2015 nuclear deal, despite the pullout of the United States from the accord and the re-imposition of US sanctions on Tehran. (AP)

Walk talk: EU

'Bilateral pact'

'Deliver your Iraq pledges'

BRUSSELS, July 15, (KUNA): The European Union Foreign Affairs Council Monday called on the EU's international partners to deliver on the pledges they made in Kuwait conference on Iraq "in a timely fashion".

The Council in a statement on Iraq called for "improving the business environment, and creating the basis for a more sustainable, diversified, and green Iraqi economy in line with the commitments made at the Kuwait International Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq in February 2018".

The EU reiterated its steadfast support for Iraq's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the importance of Iraqi ownership of the country's internal political and reform processes.

The Council, meeting in Brussels Monday, discussed the situation in Iraq and noted that economic and financial reforms are necessary to attract further investments and support.

"The EU and its Member States will maintain their efforts, including in the framework of the Global Coalition against DAESH, to support the Iraqi authorities in addressing the continued DAESH terrorist threat, strengthening the justice sector and reforming the police," it said.

The EU expressed full support to the work being carried out by the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by DAESH/ISIL (UNITAD), and cooperation with the Iraqi authorities on the collection and analysis of evidence in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2379.

The EU will also continue to provide support to Iraq on civilian security sector reform through the EU Advisory Mission (EUAM Iraq), it said.

The EU welcomed the recent dialogue on migration based and stressed the importance of working with the Iraqi authorities on strengthening cooperation and putting into practice their obligation on the return and readmission of own nationals in full respect of the rights.

Deliveries for S-400 ongoing

ANKARA, Turkey, July 15, (Agencies): The Turkish defense ministry says two more Russian cargo planes have landed at an airfield near the capital, Ankara, as Russia continues to deliver parts of its S-400 missile defense system to Turkey in defiance of US objections.

The ministry said on Twitter the two more planes arrived at Murted Air Base on Monday, bringing the Russian-made systems' components for the fourth day running. They were the eighth and ninth planes to land at Murted since Friday.

The United States has repeatedly warned Turkey that it will impose sanctions on the NATO-member country and exclude it from the F-35 stealth fighter jet program if Ankara does not drop its S-400 purchase.

Turkey has refused to bow to US pressure, saying its defense purchase is a matter of national sovereignty.

US President Donald Trump has the authority to waive sanctions on Turkey for its purchase of Russian air defence systems and should find a "middle ground" in the dispute, President **Tayyip Erdogan** said on Sunday.

Erdogan's comments came two days after NATO member Turkey took delivery of the first consignment of advanced Russian S-400 missile defence system parts, despite warnings from Washington that the move would trigger US sanctions.

Broadcaster **Haberturk** quoted Erdogan as telling Turkish journalists that Trump "has the authority to waive or postpone CAATSA", referring to US sanctions designed to prevent countries buying military equipment from Russia.

"Since this is the case, it is Trump who needs to find the middle ground," Erdogan said, according to **Haberturk**.

DUBAI, July 15, (Agencies): Kuwait has handed over to Egyptian authorities eight members of a militant cell arrested on its territory and who it said were linked to the Muslim Brotherhood group, state news agency KUNA reported.

Kuwait's interior ministry said on Friday the Egyptians belonged to a "terrorist" cell linked to the Brotherhood. They had fled to Kuwait after being sentenced by Egyptian authorities to jail terms of up to 15 years, it said.

Kuwait has not specified the circumstances of their sentencing, and there has been no official comment on the case from Egyptian judicial authorities either.

The men were returned under the terms of bilateral agreements, KUNA quoted a senior foreign ministry official as saying late on Sunday. The interior ministry said investigations were ongoing to discover other cell members.

Egypt banned the group in 2013 after late Muslim Brotherhood President **Mohamed Morsi**, the first democratically elected head of state in Egypt's modern history, was toppled by the military following widespread unrest.

Since then, Egyptian authorities have arrested tens of thousands of political opponents, many of them Islamists, according to human rights organisations.

The Brotherhood says it publicly renounced violence decades ago and pursues an Islamist political vision using peaceful means.

Kuwait Deputy Foreign Minister **Khaled Al-Jarallah** Sunday regretted there were persons residing in Kuwait and wanted by Egypt's judiciary authority, confirming they were extradited to Cairo.

Al-Jarallah was referring to security authorities' clamping down on a terrorist cell of the Muslim Brotherhood Organization's Egyptian members who had been convicted of terrorism.

Asked by reporters on sidelines of a reception by France Embassy on country's national day about branding the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist group, Al-Jarallah said Kuwait did not declare the Brotherhood was a terrorist organization.

"This position has already been made public," he said.

Kuwait extradited those arrested to Egypt in line with an extradition agreement, he said.

Al-Jarallah said security coordination with Egypt "is very high. We are satisfied with this cooperation ... because we realize the security of Egypt and Kuwait were linked."

Kuwait Ministry of Interior said members of the cells had been handed down verdicts by the Egyptian judiciary, indicating some of the detainees had been sentenced to 15 years behind bars in their home country.

The MoI personnel located whereabouts of the fugitives, who had escaped from the Egyptian authorities to Kuwait, and arrested them. During interrogations, they admitted to carrying out terrorist operations in Egypt.

Sources pointed the 'Brotherhood cell' was detected in Kuwait following investigations conducted by the Egyptian and Libyan authorities with the terrorist **Hisham Ashmawi**, who was handed over to Egypt recently.

The security sources pointed out the Egyptian security delegation which arrived in Kuwait also has a list of the sleeper cells inside Kuwait associated with the Muslim Brotherhood, stressing that the State Security police will conduct an investigation and review the extent of involvement of the names in the file.

The sources stressed if anyone proves involvement in any terrorist operations inside Egypt or participation and support for the Muslim Brotherhood organization will be arrested and referred for investigation and then deported to Egypt.

US\$/KD 0.30345/55
Euro/KD 0.3426
Yen/KD 0.0028
British £/KD 0.3809
KSE -26.1 pts at closing July 15 See Page 21
Dow -34.99 pts at 20:50 July 15 See Page 22
Nasdaq -2.55 pts at 20:50 July 15
FTSE +25.75 pts at closing July 15
Nikkei +42.37 pts at closing July 15
Gold \$1,405.60 per oz (London)
NYMEX crude \$59.64 per barrel
Brent crude \$66.50 per barrel
3-month \$ LIBOR rate 2.32225%