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IRAN HAS NOT BEEN, WILL NOT BE IN WAR: IRANIAN ENVOY

No intention to launch war: US envoy

DGCA has no plans to change flight routes; GCC begins enhanced maritime patrols

KUWAIT CITY, May 19, (Agencies): The US ambassador to Kuwait, Lawrence Silverman, said his country does not intend to launch a war in the region, which officials in Washington have confirmed, but the presence of its troops in the region is to protect its interests, reports Annahar daily.

The ambassador told the daily, "His country is very serious about protecting its interests and any Iranian attack on these interests will receive a harsh response."

"The United States has warned Iran of its actions, as well as its intention to develop its nuclear weapons, which is a

matter of concern and destabilization of the region," Silverman said.

"If President Donald Trump has denied rumors of sending 120,000 troops to the region, we do not want war but we are serious about responding to the Iranian regime if our interests are attacked here," he said.

"There is no warning to our citizens in Kuwait because there is nothing to warn about, but the reason for the reduc-

tion of our staff at our embassy in Baghdad is based on information," he said. Intelligence says that an attack will occur on the embassy or its surroundings and therefore the US is taking proactive measures for fear of reprisals from some loyalists of the Tehran regime. As for Kuwait, there is no intimidation and rumors. Our embassies operate normally and there is nothing and no warnings for our citizens.

Opinion

Geography hasn't separated Morocco from the Gulf

Tamim bin Hamad bin Khalifa

Al-Thani and his accompany-

ing delegation have arrived in

Kuwait in a fraternal visit to

congratulate His Highness the

Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah

Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

on the Holy Month of Rama-

The Qatari Amir was received at the airport by His

Highness the Amir Sheikh

Al-Sabah, His Highness the

Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf

Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah,

National Assembly Speaker

Marzouq Al-Ghanim, His

Highness the Prime Minister

Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-

Hamad Al-Sabah, and senior

Sheikh Tamim was accom-

panied by a delegation includ-

ing Qatari Amir's personal

representative Sheikh Jassem

bin Hamad Al-Thani, Deputy

Prime Minister and Foreign

Minister Sheikh Mohammad

bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani,

Sheikh Khaled bin Khalifa

Al-Thani, Sheikh Jowaan bin

Hamad Al-Thani, Sheikh Mo-

hammad bin Hamad Al-Thani

and Sheikh Thani bin Hamad

Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-

Jaber Al-Sabah, in the pres-

ence of His Highness the

Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf

Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah,

received on Sunday at Dasman

Palace Qatar's Amir Sheikh

Tamim bin Hamad bin Khalifa

Al-Thani and his accompany-

ing delegation who are in fra-

KIA Pakistan

ternal visit to Kuwait.

His Highness the Amir

State officials.

Al-Thani.

Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

A MODEL of Arab-Arab relations is worth emulating. This model can be built and worked on to cement it among Arab League nations. This model is the Morocco-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) relationship which is based on continuous cooperation in a bid to interpret the unit of national security within a strategic perspective.

Based on this firm rule, it is possible to look into all the events the Arab region has gone through and the role of Morocco which led to suggestions to incorporate it into the GCC despite its geographical distance that is overshadowed by its political and economic coherence. This coherence is greater than the distance and it is the bridge between the two sides.

In the Gulf, we view Morocco as the Arab gate to Africa. This huge continent promises vast investment projects, in addition to the stability it enjoys and its ability to overcome the challenges it encountered during the wave of

the so-called 'Arab Spring'. The royal awareness of people's needs in Morocco has reneign investors because it forms a link between Arabs, Africans and Europeans. It possesses enough capabilities for intellectual and cultural conveyance - an investment prelude desired by any country.

This fact has existed and continues to exist from the minds of Gulf elites and leaders of the GCC. This is the basis of the context of the letter of King Muhammad IV to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz about the terrorist attacks that Saudi Arabia encountered recently.

The Moroccan King affirmed absolute solidarity of the Kingdom of Morocco with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and that it constantly supports the course to counter all threats and assaults on the latter irrespective of the forms or justifications.

At some point, terrorists targeted Morocco; thus, it realizes very well the level of strength in solidarity and condemnation of any criminal act, especially those targeting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which has weight in the Arab and Muslim world in terms of the economy and politics.

It is not a secret that Saudi Arabia is considered the thermostat of stability in the Arab world. Its fortification against the terrorism plague means fortification of Arab national security from East to West.

This position taken by Morocco is not strange. It has always been present in confronting any threats to GCC countries. This sparked the vision of the late King Al-Hussein II on unity of course and fate between these countries which are still stable during the reign of King Muhammad IV.

This excellent relationship has prompted adversaries to launch a shameful and misleading campaign through claims about differences between the GCC countries and Morocco. Certain events crushed such claims and this solidarity letter is one of the crystal clear pieces of evidence.

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BAGHDAD: A blast was heard in central Baghdad on Sunday night, with its cause and precise location still unclear, Reuters witnesses said. There was no immediate response from Iraqi officials.

Two Baghdad-based diplomatic sources also said they heard the blast close to the Iraqi capital's fortified Green Zone which houses government buildings and foreign embassies. (RTRS)

the bus was carrying 25 South African tourists from the airport to the pyramids area, and that four Egyptians in a

"The first phase will be introduced in November 2019 for restaurants with more than 5 branches (The) second phase in 2020 for all restaurants, catering establishments and hotels," it quoted a municipality circular as saying.

Colonel Abdo Al-Saghir, chief operations of Brigade 17, told KUNA a special unit ambushed Belal Al-Wafi, also known as Abu Al-Waleed, in the western suburbs of Taez governorate.

Ramadan Timings

Iftar Monday 18:36 Imsak...... Tuesday 03:12

- U\$\$/KD 0.30370/80 Euro/KD 0.3403
- Yen/KD 0.0027 British £/KD 0.3879
- ▼ KSE -73.18 pts at closing May 19 See Page 23
- ▼ DOW -98.66 pts at closing May 17
- ▼ Nasdaq -81.76 pts at closing May 17
- FTSE -4.89 pts at closing May 17
- ▲ Nikkei +187.11 pts at closing May 17 **▼ Gold \$1,295.55** per oz (London)
- NYMEX crude \$62.76 pb
- Brent crude \$72.21 pb 3-month \$ LIBOR rate 2.52188%

Qatar's Amir in Kuwait in fraternal visit KUWAIT CITY, May 19, (KUNA): Qatar's Amir Sheikh

Newswatch

CAIRO: An explosion targeting a tourist bus injured at least 12 people on Sunday, mostly South African tourists, near a new museum being built close to the Giza pyramids in Egypt, two security

A third security source said by broken glass. (RTRS)

DUBAI: Dubai has issued a circular requiring food organisations to give details on calories on all menus, the government media office tweeted on Sunday.

(RTRS)

ADEN: Yemeni army forces arrested a person wanted by the US and Arab Gulf countries, and listed in their sanctions list, a senior officer said Saturday.

spend denied

KUWAIT CITY, May 19: Several media outlets in Kuwait and Pakistan have recently published false press stories claiming that the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) is pursuing a USD 20 billion investment program in Pakistan. The KIA would like to emphasize that the story is false and unfounded, and does not have a relationship with the person cited by the media outlets as the source of this reporting, Mr Ahmed Idrees.

Photo by Mai Al-Nakib An LED billboard is seen along the Gulf Road. Flashing LED

billboards cause disturbance to residents and danger to drivers

blinded at pivotal turns on the Gulf Road as well as to pedes-

trians. - See Page 13



KUNA photo His Highness the Amir receives Qatar's Amir upon his arrival in Kuwait for a visit.

MP push to pass 4 bills

By Ahmed Al-Nageeb Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 19: The National Assembly has triumphed over the power struggle which hindered parliamentary progress; thereby, pushing for important legislation in the service of the nation and its people, says MP

Khaleel Abul. Abul is hoping for approval of four more important bills before the end of the current legislative term. He said the chairpersons of several parliamentary committees are currently coordinating with the State Priorities Committee to determine bills and proposals which should be approved immediately. He added that two or three sessions out of those dedicated for the discussion of budgets and final accounts will be al-

The bills, which are expected to be prioritized, include the proposed amendment of the Legal Profession Law. MPs are currently debating whether students majoring in Sharia

lotted for deliberation on priority bills.

should be allowed to join the legal pro-

MP Majed Al-Mutairi argued that Sharia graduates should not be excluded as they studied the foundations of jurisprudence, Sharia laws and philosophy. "They have always been able to join the legal profession with some of them becoming judges and public prosecutors. Therefore, any proposal that will strip Sharia graduates of the right to be registered at Kuwait Lawyers Association will be outrightly rejected,"

On the other hand, Chairman of Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee MP Khaled Al-Shatti stressed that accepting Sharia graduates as public prosecutors is a flaw which must be corrected. He urged the minister of justice to issue a decree limiting employment in the legislation, fatwa and criminal investigation departments at the Ministry of Interior to law graduates only. "If we accept Sharia graduates in legal positions, we might as well

Continued on Page 2

Deal close: Iraq

"The withdrawal of multiple employees – despite their small number - temporarily has nothing to do with the security situation or threats in the oilfields in of southern Iraq, but it's for political reasons," Ghadhban said in a statement.

said on Sunday.

"Had we concluded we would have signed a heads of agreement," he said, referring to a preliminary document that would set out terms of cooperation on the South Integrated Project. "But now they are out of the country, why should I run after them?" he said at an oil meeting in Jeddah.

Exxon evacuation faulted

BAGHDAD, May 19, (RTRS): Exxon Mobil's decision to evacuate its foreign staff from the West Qurna 1 oilfield in southern Iraq on Saturday was "unacceptable and unjustified", Iraq's Oil Minister Thamer Ghadhban said on Sunday.

A major oil deal between Iraq and Exxon Mobil was "very close" but had been slowed by Exxon's decision to evacuate its international staff from the West Qurna oil field, Ghadhban

trade relations between the two countries and the development of the border port of Safwan is a good thing that will revive the economy of the two countries and develop trade exchange and thus cooperation between the two countries is very important. On the number of Diwaniyas he

He added that the development of

visited in the first 10 days of the Holy Month, he said that he visited more than 65 Diwaniyas during the first ten days of Ramadan.

The Iranian ambassador to Kuwait, Mohammad Irani, said his country was not and will not be in the war, and its history over the past two centuries attests to the fact that it did not infringe on any country, but in the event of any aggression it will undoubtedly mobilize all its available resources to defend its people and its territorial sovereignty, reports Al-Anba daily.

In an interview with the daily, the

Iranian ambassador revealed that the current signs on the ground do not indicate that the region is heading towards

He pointed out that there are some parties or individuals, who either deliberately or due to ignorance, are beating the drums of war, but surely this is not a realistic vision. Iran urged to avoid any provocation, saying in the event of war none of the parties will be safe.

Agreement

In response to a question about the future of the nuclear agreement and whether Iran is really seeking to develop its nuclear program, the ambassador said that the statement issued by the Supreme National Security Council in Iran confirms that Iran has not withdrawn from the nuclear agreement signed in 2015 and that is what Iran has told the parties to the agreement that they must abide by what they have agreed upon after the withdrawal of the United States and make clear efforts to prevent any new sanctions from being imposed on Iran.

The Directorate-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has no plans to change the flight routes to and from Kuwait since the DGCA does not see any need for that, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting sources familiar with the issue.

The source said that generalizations to change the route of flights occur in the event of wars and actual crises, where the control towers take command in less than half an hour, said the sources.

The sources explained that the routes of civil air flights in Kuwait and abroad follow a security policy, which is internationally protected, and cannot be exceeded in any way, because the changes and circulars are official and international agreement, which sees the situation as The sources added, Kuwait depends

on the entry of aircraft into the airspace on two tracks, the first across the sea above Failaka Island and the south of the country from above Sulaibiya and the part connected to entry from Iraqi airspace is limited operation or can be termed as almost non-existent. The source stressed the DGCA had

changed some civilian routes when the DAESH or the so-called Islamic State fighters were active to ensure the safety of the aircraft and passengers. Saudi Arabia does not want war but

will not hesitate to defend itself against Iran, a top Saudi diplomat said Sunday, after the kingdom's energy sector was targeted this past week amid heightened tensions in the Arabian Gulf. Adel al-Jubeir, the minister of state

for foreign affairs, spoke a week after four oil tankers - two of them Saudi were targeted in an alleged act of sabotage off the coast of the United Arab Emirates and days after Iran-allied Yemeni rebels claimed a drone attack on a Saudi oil pipeline. "The kingdom of Saudi Arabia does

not want war in the region and does not strive for that ... but at the same time, if the other side chooses war, the kingdom will fight this with all force and determination and it will defend itself, its citizens and its interests," al-Jubeir told reporters.

A senior Iranian military commander was similarly quoted as saying his country is not looking for war, in comments published in Iranian media on Sunday.

Fears of armed conflict were already running high after the White House ordered warships and bombers to the region earlier this month to counter an alleged, unexplained threat from Iran. The US also has ordered non-essential staff out of its diplomatic posts in Iraq.

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