



golf
Page 26



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'STAND UP AGAINST ANYONE WHO STIRS STRIFE'

Amir calls for vigilance, unity

Sheikh Sabah affirms need to abide by the democratic approach



KUNA photo
HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receiving the invitation to attend the urgent GCC Summit next Thursday.

SUMMIT INVITE TO AMIR

Qatar invited to two emergency summits

Letter from Saudi King

KUWAIT CITY, May 27, (Agencies): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has received on Monday an invitation from Saudi Arabia's King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud to attend the urgent Gulf Cooperation Council summit next Thursday.

GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Al-Zayani delivered the invitation for the event, scheduled to be held in Makkah, to His Highness the Amir. Al-Zayani was escorted by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Qatar has been invited by Saudi Arabia to attend two emergency Arab summits being convened in the Saudi city of Makkah on May 30, Qatar's foreign ministry said on Sunday, after previously saying it had not been.

Last week Qatar said it had not been invited to the two summits Saudi is planning in Islam's holiest site to discuss the implications of drone strikes on oil installations in the Kingdom and attacks on four vessels, including two Saudi oil tankers, off the UAE coast earlier this month.

Saudi, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt have imposed an economic and diplomatic boycott on Qatar since June 2017 over allegations that Doha supports terrorism and is cosying up to regional foe Iran. Qatar denies the charges.

Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani received an invitation from Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to attend the summit of Gulf Arab rulers and a wider meeting of Arab leaders, the Qatari Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The invitation and a letter was passed to Qatar by the head of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the statement said, without saying whether Qatar would accept it.

Saudi Arabia has accused Iran of ordering the drone strikes, for which Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis claimed responsibility.

The Kingdom said that while it did not want war in the region, it was ready to respond strongly. The UAE has not blamed anyone for the sabotage of the tankers pending an investigation, and said it was committed to de-escalation.

Iran has denied it carried out either attack.

The UAE has said that the current "critical circumstances" in the region required a "unified Arab and Gulf stance".

Ramadan Timings

Iftar	Tuesday	18:40
Imssak	Wednesday	03:07

NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait and Qatar are looking to use the Iraqi pipelines as an alternate route for oil and gas shipments north through Kurdistan to a Turkish port for export, but nothing has been finalized, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily quoting oilandgas360.com said "Disrupting the oil trade could send oil prices upward, making it more expensive for Americans to fill up their gas tanks as part of Iran's plan to make the US and its allies feel economic pain."

The Trump administration imposed economic sanctions on Iran in 2018 that the Obama administration had previously removed. Those sanctions are hitting Iranian oil exports hard and squeezing the country's economy.

Iran wants to make the US and its allies feel economic pain in an effort to divide the international community over sanctions. Iran sees hampering crude oil shipments in the Straits of Hormuz as part of that strategy.

More than 18.5 million barrels of oil and petroleum liquids per day moved through the Straits of Hormuz from the Arabian Gulf in 2016, according to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), making it the world's largest maritime oil choke point and vulnerable to bad actors.

RIYADH: The Saudi Royal Air Defense Forces intercepted Sunday a Houthi drone loaded with explosives that was heading towards King Abdullah Airport in the Saudi southern city of Jizan.

In a press statement, Spokesman of the Saudi-led coalition to support legitimate Yemeni government Colonel Turki Al-Maliki said that the Houthi drone was shot down at 7:14 am local time on Sunday over Jizan. (KUNA)

DUBAI: Saudi Arabian Mining Co (Ma'aden) is working with HSBC on a possible rights issue, two sources familiar with the plan said, while a media report said the company was looking to raise up to \$5 billion. Bloomberg, citing people with knowledge of the matter, earlier reported that Ma'aden would use the proceeds to help it finance potential acquisitions. (RTRS)

DUBAI/RIYADH: Saudi Arabia-based home disposables manufacturer Napco National is planning a potential public share sale and has hired the investment banking arm of Banque Saudi Fransi to advise on the deal, sources told Reuters.

Based in Dammam, Napco National produces paper and hygiene products like facial tissues, feminine napkins and adult and child diapers. (RTRS)

KUWAIT CITY, May 27, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah underlined Monday that the delicate situation in the region requires cautiousness and social unity to retain the state's security and people's safety.

"The bitter reality of the region, it's dangerous dimensions and consequences, and the developments taking place in the region calls upon us to realize the current situations and circumstances, be cautious and ready to confront them in order to protect the safety and security of our dear country," His Highness the Amir said in a speech on the occasion of the last ten days of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

His Highness the Amir emphasized the importance of national unity in protecting the country in this turbulent time.

"This will not be achieved but through cohesion and adherence to our national unity, which we will never allow to prejudice. It is the protective wall after God for the homeland, that protects it from the woes that plague other countries," he stated.

His Highness the Amir stressed the need to strengthen the internal front and stand up against anyone who tries to stir up strife, or tamper social coherence.

He pointed to the pivotal role of the GCC in countering dangers and overcoming regional challenges.

"We assure that sticking to our Gulf community and keeping the privileges we have achieved within the frame of the GCC is the security that enable us to face such dangers and challenges."

His Highness the Amir reminded all Kuwaitis that "Our homeland is entrusted to us all, and this requires everyone to be faithful and loyal, and to work diligently, earnestly and sincerely to advance it and push its development process towards its desired goals".

He stated every Kuwaiti have to be proud of Kuwait's internationally-appreciated stances and efforts to enhance international peace and security.

"You should be proud, brothers and sons, with the elite position of Kuwait - thanks God - in the International Community, with its achievements in Humanitarian, relief and community work, and its active participation in the efforts aiming at keeping international peace and security, and spreading the culture of tolerance and peace."

"These achievements were, and still are, subject of praise and well acceptance, and even honor, which I consider as an honor to the entire people of Kuwait," he said.

His Highness the Amir affirmed the need to abide by the democratic approach to guarantee the state stability and security.

"We have to adhere to our national achievements, our firm democratic approach, which we have chosen and which is inherited by the people of Kuwait, and to our comprehensive and complementary Constitution, which we always affirm and protect, and shall not allow its prejudice as it is the real guarantee of the stability of our system and the main pillar of the security of our country, and the source of pride of our just and fair judiciary system," he said.

His Highness the Amir called for constructive cooperation between the State's legislative and executive powers.

"I avail this opportunity to reassure the importance of fruitful and constructive cooperation between the legislative and the executive powers to strengthen the state of institutions, rule of law, continuing the desired course of development and reform, completing the consideration of the submitted draft laws, and implement the economic programs aiming at the diversification of national sources of income, and creating productive job opportunities for the young people to participate in pushing forward the wheel of development, and enhancing the Non-oil revenues," he said.

His Highness the also called on all those in charge of the media to play their role consciously and responsibly.

"We do not want our media to divert from its national message to what threatens the unity of the homeland and its social security, especially under the critical circumstances in the region,

"We look forward that our media be the light of civilization, a tool to advance construction and development efforts, a platform for responsible freedom, and informed public opinion," he stated.

His Highness the Amir, however, lamented that some misuse social media to spread rumors and hatred.

Continued on Page 2



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah delivering his speech.

Trump backs Japan efforts for talks

'Iran ready for dialogue'

GENEVA, May 27, (Agencies): Washington's sanctions policy threatens the security of the Middle East, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Monday, according to a statement on the ministry's website.

Araqchi, while on a visit to Kuwait, also said Iran was ready for dialogue with other countries in the region.

US President Donald Trump on Monday backed the Japanese prime minister's interest in using his country's good relations with Iran to help broker a possible dialogue between the US and its nemesis in the Middle East.

Trump, who has said he's open to having a dialogue with Iran, has sought to downplay fears of military conflict, but the Iranians have said they have no interest in communicating with the White House.

Trump commented during a day that opened with the high pageantry of his meeting with Japan's emperor but quickly gave way to deliberations over thorny global issues, including North Korea, trade tensions with his Japanese host and the escalating friction between the US and Iran.

"I know that the prime minister and Japan have a very good relationship with Iran so we'll see what happens," he said while meeting with Abe in Tokyo.

"The prime minister's already spoken to me about that and I do believe that Iran would like to talk. And if they'd like to talk, we'd like to talk also. We'll see what happens ... nobody wants to see terrible things happen, especially me."

Trump has imposed tough new sanctions on Iran, which are crippling its economy. Late last week, he announced the deployment of 1,500 US troops to the region amid the tensions. The US earlier deployed an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers to the Arabian Gulf in response to intelligence of Iranian threats to US interests in the region.

Trump said a deal with Iran on its nuclear programme was possible, crediting economic sanctions for curbing activities Washington has said are behind a spate of attacks in the Middle East.

"I really believe that Iran would like to make a deal, and I think that's very smart of them, and I think that's a possibility to happen," Trump said during a news conference with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo.

"It has a chance to be a great country with the same leadership," Trump said. "We aren't looking for regime change - I just want to make that clear. We are looking for no nuclear weapons."

Tensions have risen between Iran and the United States after this month's attack on oil tankers in the

Gulf region. Washington, a firm backer of Tehran's regional rival Saudi Arabia, has blamed the attacks on Iran, which denies the accusations.

The United States has deployed a carrier strike group and bombers to the Mideast region and an extra 1,500 troops to the Gulf, prompting fears of a conflict.

Trump's comments came after his national security adviser John Bolton said on Saturday that the United States had "deep and serious" intelligence on threats posed by Iran, without providing details.

"They were fighting in many locations," he said of Iran. "Now they are pulling back because they have serious economic problems."

Bolton, who has spearheaded an increasingly hawkish US policy on Iran, described recent bomb attacks on tankers off the United Arab Emirates and a pipeline pumping station in Saudi Arabia, as well as a rocket attack in Baghdad's Green Zone as "manifestations of concern" about Iran.

Iran has distanced itself from the bombings and on Sunday, its foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, said his country will defend itself against any military or economic aggression.

Washington's decision to increase the level of troops in the Middle East will lead to increasing tension in the region, said Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov Monday.

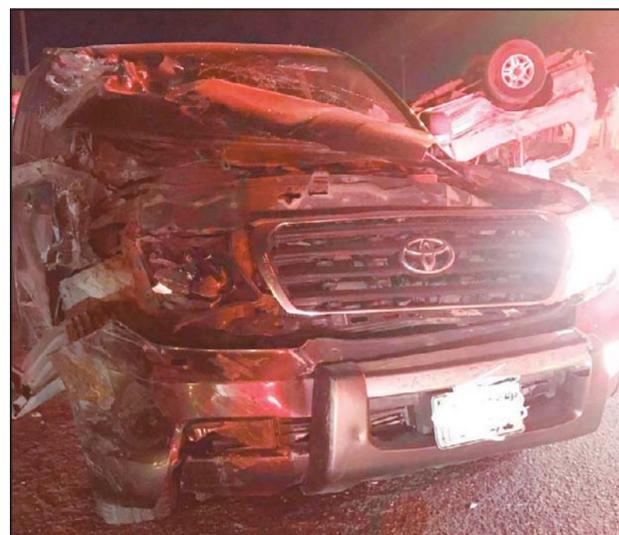
In a press conference with Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez, Lavrov said that the increase of military presence in the Middle East would only complicate the situation, hoping that Washington would heed the calls for de-escalating tension with Tehran.

The Russian Foreign Minister deemed the Iranian proposal for an accord preventing aggression among the countries in the region was the right policy, revealing that this proposal was in line with Moscow's initiative for the region, which involves the GCC states and Iran.

He indicated that the Russian initiative to establish an overseeing security entity in the Gulf region was discussed in detail with foreign ministers of the GCC and Iran, expressing his view that the establishment of a security accord will help provide a more transparency within the military domain regionally.

Lavrov called on the Arab League, the EU, and the UNSC permanent members to be part of this Russian-led initiative for the Middle East region.

For his part, the Japanese premier said, "Japan will try to ease tension while working closely with the US." Abe, who is considering visiting Iran next month, vowed to fulfill Japan's responsibility to contribute to peace and stability in the Middle East.



The vehicles involved in the deadly accident.

Road accident in Kuwait claims 8

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: A deadly collision Monday morning involving three vehicles in Kabad left eight people dead and several of them injured, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to security sources a minor accident happened near a roundabout in Kabad between two vehicles and a speeding motorist could not avoid the crowd of people which had gathered around the damaged vehicles leaving behind a trail of eight dead people and one injured.

Public Relations and Media Information Department of the Directorate General of Fire Department said the area fire department dealt with the accident.

According to a security source five Kuwaitis, a Saudi and three unknown persons were the victims of the incident.

Employer charged in Filipina murder

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: The Kuwaiti authorities have filed murder charges against a suspect in the death of a Filipina domestic worker Constancia Dayag, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting GMA News TV Live.

Citing information from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the report said the Public Prosecution has charged the Kuwaiti employer identified only as B.M.I.H. for the alleged murder of the Filipina.

As Dayag's loved ones paid their last respects at her wake in her hometown of Angadanan, Isabela, the DFA broke the news about the filing of charges against the employer. The remains of the 47-year-old mother arrived from Kuwait on

Continued on Page 2