

# Tremors from quake in Iran rattle residents in Bahrain

## Manama

Residents yesterday felt mild tremors across the cities of the Kingdom as a magnitude 5.7 earthquake struck Iran's southern province of Bushehr, which is home to a nuclear power plant.

The Bahrain Seismic Station of the Meteorological Directorate said it detected the quake at 9:34 am yesterday. The quake was recorded 243 km northeast of Bahrain, with a magnitude of 5.7 Richter scale and the epicentre was at 41.8 km depth.

The U.S. Geological Survey recorded a magnitude of 5.5, while Iranian state television, citing officials, described it as a magnitude 5.9 quake. Experts say varying magnitudes are common immediately after a quake.

Immediately after the tremor, people in Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia took to Social media to share their experience. Netizens said they felt the quake and evacuated from high-rise buildings. Media reports said people in Kuwait city also felt the tremor.

The UAE's National Centre of Meteorology (NCM) reported as having no effect from the quake in

the country despite residents feeling the tremors.

A *Gulf News* report said that residents in Dubai evacuated from buildings after feeling tremors from the quake in Iran.

According to Iranian Red Crescent society, the quake's epic centre was in a sparsely populated area. No casualties were reported.

Telegram news channel of Iran's state television, quoting Mahmoud Jafari, project manager at the Russian-built Bushehr nuclear plant, said the quake hardly affected the activity of the plant.

Semi-official *Fars news* agency also later reported that the quake did not affect routine operations at the plant.

Bushehr has a 1,000-megawatt reactor built by Russia that became operational in 2011 and reached full capacity the following year.

Iran's semi-official *Tasnim news* agency said: "The quake hit the Kaki area in the province this morning."

Many houses in rural parts of the province are made of mud bricks, which have been known to crumble easily in quake-prone Iran. Iran sits on major fault lines and is

**5.7 quake struck Iran's southern province of Bushehr**

**Bushehr has a 1,000-megawatt reactor built by Russia**

**Quake did not affect routine operations at the plant.**

**Tremors felt in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Kuwait**

**No reports of casualties or damage**



Workers stand in front of the Bushehr nuclear power plant (file picture) Courtesy of Reuters

vulnerable to near-daily earthquake.

In 2003, a 6.6-magnitude

quake flattened the historic city of Bam, killing 26,000 people.

In November, a major 7.3 magnitude quake struck a mountainous region of Iran near the Iraqi border, killing over 530 people and injuring thousands. (Agencies)

## Blast: 3 gets life sentence

### Manama,

The High Criminal Court yesterday sentence three suspects to life in jail for their involvement in an explosion on Budaiya Highway.

Terror Crime Prosecution Chief, Attorney General Ahmed Al-Hammadi said the court convicted them on charges of attempted murder, training on the use of explosives, making, possessing and using explosive devices and causing damages.

The court revoked the citizenship of two of them and confiscated the seized items.

According to court files, the incident that led to the arrest occurred when the public prosecution was notified regarding a strange-looking object placed at Al-Qadam traffic light and an explosion on Budaiya Highway, near the area of Abu Saiba.

The suspects confessed to investigators regarding their role in the incidents. A notice was issued for the third accused.

The Public Prosecution based its charges on the victims' testimonies, the seized items, the accused's confessions and the technical and medical reports.

## Facebook to put 1.5bn users out of new EU privacy law

### San Francisco

If a new European law restricting what companies can do with people's online data went into effect tomorrow, almost 1.9 billion Facebook Inc users around the world would be protected by it. The online social network is making changes that ensure the number will be much smaller.

Facebook members outside the United States and Canada, whether they know it or not, are currently governed by terms of service agreed with the company's international headquarters in Ireland.

Next month, Facebook is planning to make that the case for only European users, meaning 1.5 billion members in Africa, Asia, Australia and Latin America will not fall under the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which takes effect on May 25.

The previously unreported move, which Facebook confirmed to Reuters on Tuesday, shows the world's largest



online social network is keen to reduce its exposure to GDPR, which allows European regulators to fine companies for collecting or using personal data without users' consent.

That removes a huge potential liability for Facebook, as the new EU law allows for fines of up to 4 percent of global annual revenue for infractions, which in Facebook's case could mean billions of dollars. The change comes as Facebook is under scrutiny from regulators and lawmakers around the world.

## Leadership offers condolences to Amir of Kuwait

### Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa sent a cable of condolence to the Amir of Kuwait His Highness Shaikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the death of Shaikh Fadhel Daij Al-Salman Al-Sabah. In the cable, HM the King prayed to Allah the Almighty to rest the soul of the deceased in eternal peace.

Similar cables of condolences were sent by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister and His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

HRH the Crown Prince and HRH the PM prayed to Allah the Almighty to rest the soul of the deceased in eternal peace. Prince Salman sent two other cables of condolences to Crown Prince His Highness Shaikh Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Prime Minister HH Shaikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

HRH the Premier also sent similar cables to the Crown Prince, HH Shaikh Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and to the Prime Minister, HH Shaikh Jabir Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.