

DT NEWS

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Take firm stance against Iran, Saudi asks Arab League

Cairo Saudi Arabia yesterday asked fellow Arab nations to take a "serious and honest" stand against Iran, saying that showing leniency toward Tehran would only encourage it to press on with its "aggression" and "meddling" in the internal affairs of Arab countries, the Associate Press reported yesterday.

Addressing a meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir said the pan-Arab organization needed to

take a decision to be "non-compromising" in dealing with Iran.

He cited a ballistic missile fired by Iranian-backed rebels in Yemen earlier this month that was intercepted near the Saudi capital, Riyadh, as an example of how far Iran has gone with its aggressive policy in the region.

"Showing leniency toward Iran will not leave any Arab capital safe from those ballistic missiles," he said.

"We are obliged today to take a serious and honest

stand... to counter these belligerent policies so that we can protect our security," said Al-Jubeir.

The Saudi Foreign Minister said his country was targeted by a total of 80 ballistic missiles fired by Yemen's Iranian-backed Shiite militia since the Kingdom in 2015 led a coalition to fight them alongside the internationally recognized government there.

Saudi Arabia, he added, will not stand idly by in the face of Iran's "blatant aggression."

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Hezbollah controlling Lebanon: FM

Cairo

Foreign Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa yesterday said that Lebanon is under the "total control" of the Iran-backed Hezbollah.

"The Lebanese Republic, in spite of our relations with it as a brotherly Arab nation... is under the total control of this terrorist party," said Sheikh Khalid at the Arab League meeting called by Riyadh,



Shaikh Khalid

referring to Hezbollah. "Iran's biggest arm in the region at the moment is the terrorist Hezbollah arm," he said. (See also Page 5)

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11th Hour

GCC sociology forum

Manama

The 11th forum of GCC societies and leagues of sociologists will open here on Tuesday. Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan will patronize the event. The three-day forum will be held under the theme "Confronting Family Violence in the GCC states."

UN body to open office in Bahrain

Manama

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law will open a regional office in Bahrain as a gateway to cover the Middle East and North Africa region. "The regional office will be the second of its kind as the first was opened in Seoul", said Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution Chief Executive Officer Professor Nassib G. Ziadé.

MP Jamal Dawood



Fee on foreign remittances proposed

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Manama

An MP has proposed imposition of a new fee on foreign remittances "as part of the ongoing efforts to save the Bahraini economy".

MP Jamal Dawood submitted the proposal to the House of Representatives' Speaker's office recently, instructing to impose BD1 fees on remittances below BD300 and BD10 for all

money transfers exceeding the amount of BD300.

"Because of the continually deteriorating economic conditions in the past few years, such as the drop in the international crude oil prices, Bahrain's economy has been impacted hard. This law, if implemented, would pump at least BD90 million into the state exchequer, helping it to recover from the effects of the oil price fall," Dawood told DT News yesterday, justifying his proposal.

"BD1 isn't a big burden on any expat's personal budget. The number of expatriates in Bahrain is close to one million now. This small amount taken from each one of them while remitting money abroad would surely contribute to the revival of the national economy," Dawood said.

When asked about the growing general feel of "being over-burdened by fees" among expatriates in Bahrain, the legislator said, "Citizens and residents should stick together

during these hard times to maintain the Kingdom's economic pain. All should support the economy and work to protect. These trifling amounts will not impact them much, but would greatly serve the national economy."

MP Dawood explained that the bill, as per the council's bylaws, would be referred to the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee and the Financial and Economic Committees in the council before the House could vote on it.

A similar proposal was passed by the council last year, despite several reservations from some MPs and the Central Bank of Bahrain. The previous proposal stipulated charging 0.5 to one per cent of each remittance made from Bahrain. However, it reached nowhere as the second branch of the Legislative Authority, Shura Council, rejected it. Recent data have showed that around BD2.5 billion is annually transferred from Bahrain by expatriate workers abroad.



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Won't launch nuke if Trump's order illegal: Nuclear General



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Retailers hoarding cigarettes ahead of duty hike



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Defiant Mugabe vows to stay on