

Bahrain FM slams Iran's aggression



Manama

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, yesterday criticised Iran for making aggressive statements against Arab League.

"Those who claim that the Arab league is useless are the same ones who are targeting to destabilise and overthrow Arab countries," Shaikh Khalid wrote on *Twitter* in response to the statements made by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.

Rouhani, in a statement to state TV earlier, called the regional organisation of Arab countries as "old, worn-out, exhausted and ineffective."

"Only Iran and Iran's agents are screaming and cursing the

Arab Leagues decision," the Minister responded on his *twitter* handle.

The Minister also warned that such acts would not have any effect on the Arab countries that are determined to defend their sovereignty.

Earlier, during an emergency session of the Arab League in Cairo, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia have called on all to unite and confront Iran over its role in the regional conflicts.

In a statement, Adel al-Jubeir, Saudi Foreign Minister, said Iran was aiming "to destabilise and fuel sectarian rift" in the region.

He also warned that Saudi will not stand idly by in the face

of the Iranian "aggression".

Saudi Arabia "will not hesitate to defend its national security to keep its people safe," Jubeir said in opening remarks at the meeting.

During the meeting, Shaikh Khalid said that Hezbollah movement in Lebanon was "in total control" of the country.

"Iran's biggest arm in the region at the moment is the terrorist Hezbollah arm," he said.

He added that Hezbollah "does not just carry out operations inside the borders of (Lebanon), it also crosses its borders to all of our nations," making it "a threat to Arab national security."

The Minister also criticised officials in Lebanon for making irresponsible statements and urged to show more dignity in their statements.

"Lebanon's officials must come up with facts or honour themselves with silence. Their words are offensive to Lebanon and to the history of Lebanon," he posted on his *Twitter* account.

Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates supported the Saudi request for the extraordinary meeting, which was also approved by Djibouti, the current chair of the pan-Arab bloc, according to a memorandum. *(With input from agencies)*

Putin briefs Trump, Saudi King on Syria

Sochi

Russia's Vladimir Putin discussed Syria yesterday with his US counterpart Donald Trump and Saudi Arabia's King Salman after a surprise summit with Bashar al-Assad.

The surprise talks were part of Moscow's effort to reboot the Syrian peace process, following military successes on the ground.

Putin informed Trump of "the main results" of his summit with Assad "at which the Syrian leader confirmed his commitment to the political process, (and) conducting constitutional reform and presidential and parliamentary elections," the Kremlin said.

Separately, Putin discussed Syria with the Saudi king, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, touting Moscow's recent initiative to bring Assad's regime and its opponents together for a "congress." *(AFP)*

Hariri visits Egypt



Hariri shakes hands with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi

Cairo

Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Hariri held talks yesterday on the political crisis triggered by his resignation with the Egyptian president who, together with France's leader, is reportedly trying to mediate a solution that would involve rolling back Hariri's resignation.

Hariri, who flew to Cairo from Paris earlier in the day, resigned in a televised message on Nov. 4 from Saudi Arabia. "Inshallah (God willing), tomorrow's Independence Day in Lebanon will be a feast for all Lebanese," he told reporters after talks and dinner with the Egyptian leader.

The celebrations are traditionally attended by the president, the prime minister and also the parliament speaker — three pillars of Lebanon's political system, with the president traditionally a Maronite Christian, the speaker a Shiite and the prime minister a Sunni.

Hariri met with el-Sissi at the presidential palace in Cairo's upscale Heliopolis district and a cryptic statement by the Lebanese leader's press office later said the two discussed the "latest developments in Lebanon and the region." *(AP)*

US sanctions thirteen Chinese, North firms

Washington

The United States yesterday imposed sanctions against 13 Chinese and North Korean organizations Washington accused of helping evade nuclear restrictions against Pyongyang and supporting the country through trade.

The action, coming one day after President Donald Trump put North Korea back on a list of state sponsors of terrorism, was announced by the U.S. Treasury in a statement on its website.

The sanctions included blacklisting three Chinese companies, Dandong Kehua Economy & Trade Co., Dandong Xianghe Trading Co., and Dandong Hongda Trade Co., which the Treasury Department said have done more than \$750 million in combined trade with North Korea. The new sanctions also hit several North Korean companies that send workers to countries such as Russia, Poland, Cambodia and China. United States authorities said they are seeking to cut off the money North Korea makes from the export of labor. *(Reuters)*

BAHRAIN LIGHT FESTIVAL
 23 Nov – 2 Dec 2017
 6 pm – 11 pm
 Bahrain Bay

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Bahrain Light Festival