

DT NEWS

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News of Bahrain

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news of bahrain

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Gadget ban
will not affect
Gulf Air: CEO



► P 05

Tweet of
the Day



Our prayers with the officers from @MiamiDadePD ambushed last night by thugs. Need public help to find the attackers.

@marcorubio

Today's Weather

	Max	Min
	26°C	18°C

#SayWOW

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11th Hour

Bahrain condemns missile attacks on Saudi cities

Manama

Bahrain condemned in the strongest terms the ongoing ballistic missile attacks on Saudi cities by putschists in Yemen. "The attack is clear evidence of arms smuggling in Yemen to undermine efforts to reach a settlement to Yemen crisis," said Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Egypt's Sisi to visit US on April 3

Washington

The White House announced Abdel Fattah al-Sisi will make an "official visit" to Washington on April 3, ending years in which the Egyptian president had been kept at arm's length amid rights concerns.

Coalition 'probably' had role in Mosul casualties

Mosul

The US-led anti-jihadist coalition said yesterday it "probably" played a role in civilian casualties in west Mosul, as the UN and Amnesty International called for greater efforts to protect civilians. Hundreds of thousands of civilians are still trapped in west Mosul.

Arab leaders oppose US policy shift

Sweimeh, Jordan

A draft statement to be presented before the Arab summit being held here opposes plans by President Donald Trump to move Washington's embassy in Israel to Jerusalem and alternatives to a Palestinian state.

The draft, which was drawn up by the Palestinian delegation, was approved by Arab foreign ministers on the eve of the summit meeting in the Jordanian Dead Sea resort

of Sweimeh. Arab League member states "reaffirm their commitment to the two-state solution and to the right of the State of Palestine to restore its sovereignty over the territories occupied in 1967, including east Jerusalem," the draft says.

It calls on "all countries to respect UN Security Council resolutions that reject Israel's annexation of occupied east Jerusalem" and "not to move their embassies" from Tel Aviv to the Holy City. Since taking

office in January, Trump has indicated he is willing to break with decades of US policy by moving the embassy and being open to a one-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict if both sides agree it. Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas is to join other Arab leaders at the summit. He will meet Trump next month.

Bigger turnout

The Arab Summit is expected to have a bigger turnout

than recent Arab summits, Jordanian officials say, and security forces cast a high profile in the capital Amman with armoured vehicles standing at traffic junctions as leaders flew in.

While they are highly unlikely to bridge rifts over the regional role of Iran or wars in Syria and Yemen, Arab leaders remain united in supporting a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"We are concerned that

there should be an Arab consensus on the Palestinian file so that this reflects clearly in the discussions of Arab states and their leaders with the new US administration," Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki told Reuters.

The Palestinians want Arab East Jerusalem - which Israel captured in a 1967 war - as the capital of a future state encompassing the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

-Agencies

Heated debate over proposed 5pc tax

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Manama

The House of Representatives yesterday witnessed heated debate over a proposal to impose an additional five per cent tax on companies making an annual net profit of BD0.5 million.

The MPs disagreed on the report of the Council's Financial and Economic Affairs Committee, which recently passed the proposal submitted by Public Utilities and Services Committee chief Hamad Al Dossary and a group of MPs last month.

The proposal adds an article to Law 21 of 2001 with regards to commercial companies, instructing to impose a 5 per cent tax on the annual net profit of companies making more than BD0.5 million a year.

According to the presenters of the proposal, 40pc of the private establishments operating in Bahrain annually achieve this figure.

The first opposing voice



Abdulhalim Murad to the proposal came from the council's Second Deputy Speaker Abdulhalim Murad, who suspected that the proposal is not compliant with the Islamic Sharia and suggested to refer the matter to a religious panel to approve it before voting on it.

Murad's statements created an argument between him and MP Jalal Kadhim, who was one of the MPs who moved the proposal.

Kadhim criticised several MPs' rejection of the proposal including Murad.

The Council's Speaker Ahmed Al Mulla intervened to break the deadlock, which ended with Murad and Kadhim exchanging heated



arguments with accusations of disrespecting one another.

When given the mic again to speak about the proposal, Kadhim said that imposing taxes on commercial establishments is similar to procedures followed in fellow GCC countries.

"Bahrain has always been a tax free zone, while all types of taxes are imposed on us in other countries.

"In Oman, Kuwait and Qatar, similar taxes are imposed on companies making annual net profit of BD5,000 to BD375,000 with percentages ranging between 5pc to 55pc.

"We only suggested 5pc on companies making



BD500,000," Kadhim said.

"Net profits of private companies and banks in Bahrain cross BD500 million a year, and deducting only 5pc wouldn't affect them much, but would benefit the State budget," he commented.

Kadhim condemned how some MPs rejected the proposal, but agreed imposing fees and taxes on citizens in the past.

Demanding MPs to pass the proposal, Al Dossary insisted that the proposed 5pc is trifle in comparison with the huge profits annually achieved by private banks and companies operating in Bahrain.

After showing a couple of



Isa Al Kooheji reports proving that some banks made annual net profits of BD570 million last year, Al Dossary asked: "Can't they support the country which provided them with all sorts of facilities to operate with only 5pc of their net profits?"

"They are all aware of the tough economic situations in the Kingdom and they should assist the state in overcoming the crisis.

"Everyone in this council is seeking creating new revenues to the state budget during these tough conditions. Why do they reject when we submit proposals to support the state," Al Dossary said.

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