



Bahrain fully supports UAE candidature for Non-Permanent UNSC Seat - 2022-2023

UAE's vital role praised, in maintaining security and peace in the region and the world at large

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's permanent representative to the United Nations, confirmed the Kingdom's full support to the sisterly United Arab Emirates' presence at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Bahrain's representative, Ambassador Jamal Faris Al-Rowaie, stated this yesterday regarding UAE's candidature for the non-permanent membership in the UNSC for the period 2022-2023.

He praised UAE's vital role in maintaining security and peace in the region and the world at large. He also highlighted their balanced policy and interest in supporting global development programmes in many countries to enhance the stability and prosperity of their peoples.

Ambassador Jamal Al-Ruwaie affirmed that the Kingdom of Bahrain, represented by its permanent mission to the United Nations, would spare no effort to support the candidacy of the United Arab Emirates, and use all its capabilities to sustain the UAE Permanent Mission in this regard.

Houthis crossed 'red line'

Saudi-led coalition gives ultimatum to Iranian-backed Houthi leaders

Reports claim 57 coalition air strikes on Yemen

Iran denies arming the rebels

Agencies | Riyadh

The terrorist leaders of the Houthi militia will be held accountable for targeting civilians and civilian facilities, which is a red line to cross, warned Saudi-led military coalition yesterday.

Coalition spokesman Turki al-Maliki told reporters in Riyadh that the "leaders of the Houthi militia... will be pursued and held accountable."

He also confirmed launching a major operation against Yemen's Houthis. "The operation came in response to the threat of the Houthi militia after they launched ballistic missiles as well as drones from the occupied capital Sanaa, as well as Saada."

The Iranian-backed Houthi



Smoke billows following a reported airstrike by the Saudi-led coalition in the Yemeni capital Sanaa, on Wednesday

rebels said on their Al-Masirah television that the coalition had launched 57 air strikes on Sanaa and their northern stronghold of Saada.

Residents of Sanaa said they heard loud explosions and saw plumes of smoke Wednesday after at least a dozen strikes on the international airport, which is close to an air force base.

There were no official reports of casualties, but the rebels said

a woman and a girl were killed in Saada while a number of children were wounded.

The coalition strike effectively ends a unilateral ceasefire it declared in April, announced as part of efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

Last month, the coalition said it had intercepted and destroyed drones and ballistic missiles launched into the kingdom by the Houthis, including one fired towards Riyadh.

At the venue of Maliki's press conference, Saudi officials displayed remnants of intercepted missiles and drones they said were supplied by Iran to Yemen's Houthi rebels.

Iran denies arming the rebels. Yemen has been locked in conflict since the Houthis took control of Sanaa in 2014 and went on to seize much of the north.

The crisis escalated when the Saudi-led coalition intervened the following year to support Yemen's internationally recognised government.



HM the King HRH the Prime Minister HRH the Crown Prince

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HRH Premier, HRH CP backs HM King's vision to progress, prosperity

HRH the Crown Prince chairs committee meeting



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, chaired the 330th Government Executive Committee meeting, held remotely yesterday. The coordination committee discussed the latest developments in dealing with the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Fire at Iran nuke site!

Accident site is inactive, says Iran

Report claims no radioactive pollution

Agencies | Tehran

Iran's nuclear body reported an accident yesterday at an 'inactive' warehouse in a nuclear complex without causing casualties or radioactive pollution. The accident site, Natanz facility is one of Iran's main uranium enrichment plants.

There was "no nuclear material (in the warehouse) and no potential of pollution," Iranian Atomic Energy Organisation (IAEO) spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi told state television.

However, Natanz governor Ramezan-Ali Ferdowsi told the Tasnim news agency that a fire had broken out at the warehouse.

The IAEO spokesperson did not specify the nature of the accident but said it had caused

"some structural damage." "Expert teams are currently on site and investigating the cause of the accident," he added.

Last Friday an explosion occurred east of Tehran near a sensitive military complex which the authorities said was caused by a tank leak in a gas storage facility in a public area.

The warehouse at the Natanz site, Iran claims, was 'inactive' and did not have radioactive material or personnel on site.

Their official statement said that the warehouse was under construction and reported no casualties.

There was "no interruption to the work of the enrichment site itself", which "is working at the pace it used to," Kamalvandi said.

The UN nuclear watchdog reported last month that Tehran was continuing to produce enriched uranium in Natanz using "no more than 5,060 (so called first-generation) centrifuges installed in 30 cascades".

Tehran, however, has always denied any military dimension to its nuclear programme.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL CASES 27,837

ACTIVE CASES 5,160

DEATHS 94

DISCHARGED 22,583

NEW CASES 423

CRITICAL 51

CHURCH, MUSEUM OR MOSQUE?

Top Turkey court to rule on the future of Hagia Sophia

AFP | Istanbul

Turkey's top court considered yesterday whether Istanbul's famous landmark and former church, Hagia Sophia can be turned into a mosque, and will announce its verdict within 15 days, state broadcaster TRT reported.

This new ruling could inflame tensions with the West. The UNESCO World Heritage site -- a magnet for tourists worldwide with its stunning architecture -- has been a museum since 1935, open to believers of all faiths.

But calls for it to serve again as a mosque have sparked anger among Christians and tensions between historic foes and uneasy NATO allies Turkey and Greece.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and



Istanbul's famous landmark and former church, Hagia Sophia

Greece have strongly urged Turkey to maintain the building as a museum.

During the hearing yesterday, the prosecutor called for the latest case to be dismissed, arguing the decision to alter the Hagia Sophia's status "is a matter for the Council of Ministers and the Presidency," the official Anadolu news agency said.

