

Bahrain drawn in tough Group H for preliminary round of 28th IHF Men's Handball World Championship, taking place January 2023, co-hosted by Poland and Sweden | P12



Palestinians hand bullet that killed journalist to US for examination



Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh

Reuters | Ramallah, West Bank

The Palestinian Authority has handed the bullet that killed prominent Palestinian-American Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh to US authorities for forensic examination, a Palestinian official said yesterday.

Abu Akleh was killed on May 11 while covering an Israeli military raid in the Palestinian city of Jenin in the occupied West Bank. Her death sparked Palestinian outrage and international condemnation.

"The relevant parties in the state of Palestine agreed to allow the U.S. side to conduct ballistic works on the bullet. It was handed over to them," Akram al-Khatib, General Prosecutor for the Palestinian Authority, said in a statement published by the official Palestinian news agency WAFA.

Defence Minister Benny Gantz said in May that Israel was "prepared to conduct an investigation in collaboration with international actors".

After its own investigation, the Palestinian Authority said Abu Akleh had been shot by an Israeli soldier in a "deliberate murder".

Quakes rattle Iran, tremors felt in GCC

TDT | agencies

Several quakes having magnitudes above 6 hit Iran in quick successions earlier yesterday, killing at least five and injuring 49 people.

Rescue efforts started immediately, but aftershocks continued to push local residents onto the streets.

Reports said people in the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and Saudi Arabia also felt the tremors.

The National Centre of Meteorology said residents in the UAE reported experiencing tremors.



People sit next to a destroyed home after an earthquake in Sayeh Khosh village in Hormozgan, Iran

Some 24 tremors, two with a magnitude of 6.3 and 6.1, followed the 2 am local time quake that flattened the village of Sayeh Khosh near Iran's Gulf coast in Hormozgan province.

The most recent tremor occurred around 8 am, officials told state TV.

The first earthquake occurred around 02:00 (21:30 GMT) with a magnitude of 6 at a depth of 16 km, according to the American Seismological Institute (USGS). It was followed by two other aftershocks, two hours later, with a magnitude of 5.7 and 6, at a depth of 10 km, according to the same source.

The tremor occurred in an area 100 kilometers southwest of the port of Bandar Abbas, according to the United States Seismological Institute.

YOU KNOW WHAT

Major geological fault lines crisscross Iran, which has suffered several devastating earthquakes in recent years. In 2003, a magnitude 6.6 quake in Kerman province killed 31,000 people and flattened the ancient city of Bam

United against terror

Bahrain, US join hands to boost terrorism fight, sign three MoUs

The United States is keen to provide the necessary support and enhance the exchange of expertise between the two countries on counter-terrorism, and cybersecurity

US SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS



General Shaikh Rashid and Mayorkas sign the MoUs

Bahrain, like the United States, has always been aware of the need for a comprehensive approach to combating terrorism, including effective measures to cut off sources of funding and support

GENERAL SHAIKH RASHID BIN ABDULLAH AL KHALIFA, MINISTER OF INTERIOR

● Deals are for combating terrorism financing, cybersecurity and drone systems

● US hails Bahrain as a key partner and ally in facing regional and international security threats

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's fight against terrorism and terrorist financing got stronger yesterday, with the Kingdom signing three deals in this direction with the United States of America.

The Memorandum of Understandings with the US focuses on boosting cooperation in combating terrorist financing, cybersecurity and unmanned aircraft systems.

General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the Minister of Interior and Alejandro Mayorkas, the United States Secretary of Homeland Security, signed the deals.

Alejandro Mayorkas termed Bahrain a key partner and ally of the United States in fighting security threats and risks in the regional and international arenas. Mayorkas also expressed the readiness to provide necessary support and exchange experience with the Kingdom.

"It is important to enhance cooperation with friends and

partners around the world against human trafficking," Shaikh Rashid told Mayorkas, praising the efforts of the US in training and information exchange.

"Bahrain, like the United States, has always been aware of the need for a comprehensive approach to combating terrorism, including measures to cut off sources of terrorist funding and support," the minister stressed.

"HM the King's approach focuses on promoting the values of democracy, tolerance, co-existence and openness to the other had a great impact consolidating justice, reform security and stability," said Interior Minister.

The minister further remind-

ed the meeting that continued international cooperation is vital to combat cyber-attacks and building cybersecurity capabilities, citing the rising threat posed by 'unmanned' aircraft systems in recent years.

The Interior Minister also praised the role of the United States in developing the capabilities of the police in the field of combating terrorism.

Shaikh Abdulla bin Rashid Al-Khalifa, the Ambassador of Bahrain to the United States, Shaikh Hesham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, the Interior Ministry's Undersecretary for Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs and the accompanying delegation of the minister were present at the meeting held yesterday.

Iranian-flagged tanker in Greece tugged to Piraeus port

Reuters | Athens

An Iranian-flagged tanker seized by Greece in April, part of whose cargo was confiscated by the United States, was being towed to the port of Piraeus yesterday, Greek coast guard officials said, after Greek authorities approved its release.

For over two months the Iranian-flagged Lana has been anchored off the Greek island of Evia in a diplomatic impasse which strained Athens' relations with Tehran amid growing tensions between Iran and the United States.

"It left Karystos at 06:30 am (0330 GMT) and is expected to reach Piraeus around 10:00 pm," one official said.

Greek authorities in April impounded the Lana and its oil cargo with 19 Russian crew members on board near the coast of Evia, due to sanctions following legal action by the United States.



The Liberian-flagged oil tanker Ice Energy transfers crude oil from the Iranian-flagged oil tanker Lana (former Pegas), off the shore of Karystos, on the Island of Evia, Greece

Attack foiled

Israel says it shot down Hezbollah drones headed for gas rig

Reuters | Jerusalem

Israel said it had shot down three drones headed from Lebanon toward one of its Mediterranean gas rigs yesterday and accused the Iranian-backed



Hezbollah group of launching them.

Screen grab of a video released by the Israeli Defence Forces shows the downing of a drone that entered Israeli airspace (file)

The Israeli military said its forces had intercepted "three hostile UAVs which approached the airspace over Israel's economic waters".

An Israeli security source said the drones had been unarmed,

although this was not immediately confirmed by the military.

Saturday's interceptions were the first time an air defence system mounted on an Israeli naval ship had downed an incoming target, the military said.

