



Bahrain denies news on Israeli import

Statement taken out of context: official source

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism yesterday denied reports that the Kingdom will import products and goods manufactured in the West-Bank and the Golan Heights.

An official source at the ministry said the statements attributed by Israeli journalist to the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism during his visit to Israel were "misinterpreted" and were taken "out of context". The official underlined the ministry's commitment to the firm position of the Government of Bahrain in adhering to the decisions of the United Nations, the League of the Arab States and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, regarding Israeli settlements in the West Bank and the Syrian Golan Heights.

Aerial survey to update Bahrain's maps

TDT | Manama

The Survey and Land Registration Bureau said it would conduct an aerial survey to update Bahrain's national maps from December 5 to December 15.

Outer track sets stage for desert thriller

Mercedes 'Super Sub' George Russell tops both F1 practices to kick off Rolex Sakhir Grand Prix

TDT | Manama



George Russell drives Lewis Hamilton's Mercedes during the first F1 practice yesterday

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) showcased its 3.543-kilometre Outer Track to the world for the first time yesterday, as the Formula 1 Rolex Sakhir Grand Prix got underway in thrilling fashion.

George Russell was the star of the night as he set the pace in both of F1's

90-minute practices, held under BIC's bright floodlights.

Russell stunned the field on his debut drive for Mercedes and had blistering sub-55 second laps in both sessions.

Russell is competing in place of Lewis Hamilton this weekend, and was quick to adapt to his championship-winning car while also getting immediately familiarised with the new track layout.

The sport's star drivers delivered

yesterday as expected, with ultra-fast practice laps and even quicker times expected in today's qualifying, aside from some traffic along the way due to the Outer Circuit's short length.

A third F1 practice will kick off today's F1 action, to be held over 60 minutes and starting at 5pm.

Qualifying will then take place at 8pm to set the grid for tomorrow's penultimate race of the F1 season.



George Russell in the BIC Paddock yesterday

China never wanted to "behave normal"

IISS Manama Dialogue 2020 opens with virtual address of Pompeo

Pompeo warns Mideastern nations against allowing access to China

TDT | agencies

The IISS Manama Dialogue, the region's premier security summit, opened yesterday with the US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo giving the opening address virtually.

In his opening remarks, Pompeo discussed regional issues, including but not limited to the Iranian nuclear deal, Abraham accords, Saudi-Qatari relations, and China's growing influence in the area.

Pompeo said the US had killed Qassem Soleimani to show Iran the red line. He added that the maximum pressure campaign has isolated Iran diplomatically, militarily, and economically with the help of Gulf allies.

Pompeo said he considered that the signing of the Abraham Accords at the White House in September would not have been possible without the full pressure campaign against Iran. "The Chinese Communist Party never wanted to behave like a normal regime because as its core, it's not one. Like Iran, the party is a revolutionary relic,"



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

Pompeo has seriously warned Middle Eastern countries about allowing China's access to areas such as telecommunication.

"Our deep commercial ties have blinded us to China's malign activities," Pompeo added.

WHO failed

"The World Health Organisation has failed miserably in every country represented by today's audience in IISS Manama Dialogue 2020. It has become a political tool, not a scientific platform," Pompeo added.

Pompeo's closing message focused on not letting the Chinese Communist Party treat Middle Eastern countries like a vassal state.

Hopeful to resolve row

Moving on, he said the United States was 'very hopeful' that a Gulf row that has seen Saudi Arabia and its allies boycott Qatar for over three years would be resolved, adding that was the 'right thing' for the people of those countries.

"The Iranian regime is terrorizing its people and promoting terrorism around the world. Iran has reached a rate of 20% enrichment, which means a violation of the nuclear agreement. Iran's support for the Assad re-

Chinese envoy rejects Pompeo's allegations



Pompeo has been always viciously attacking the CPC, hype up ideological confrontation based on a groundless lie.

gime has deserted many of the Syrian people. Iran should act like a normal country away from its malignant behaviour," Pompeo added.

Pompeo emphasized that the US stands with Iraqi Prime Minister al-Kahdimi in his campaign against the Iranian-backed militias and the Lebanese people who reject Hezbollah's corrupt rule.

"[Bahrain] agreed to combat all forms of antisemitism, including anti-Zionism and the delegitimization of the State of Israel. The descendants of Ismael are standing with the descendants of Isaac," added Pompeo.

"We do not want ISIS to return to Iraq or Iran's domination of it either; we want to have a balanced military presence in Iraq," he added.

The secretary of state also said that Violence in Afghanistan is "unacceptably high" adding that Washington has asked the warring parties to "stand back and indeed stand down."

"I made clear to them that the violence levels can't continue while these negotiations go on and it won't work," Pompeo said.

"We've asked all of them to stand back and indeed stand down in that respect," he said, adding that he hoped that the sides can begin to address some of the "front end" issues, including a nationwide ceasefire.

Iran to accelerate uranium enrichment

Reuters | Vienna

Iran plans to install hundreds more advanced uranium-enriching centrifuges at an underground plant in breach of its deal with major powers, a UN nuclear watchdog report showed yesterday.

The confidential International Atomic Energy Agency report said Iran plans to install three more cascades, or clusters, of advanced IR-2m centrifuges in the underground plant at Natanz, which was apparently built to withstand aerial bombardment.

Iran's nuclear deal with major powers says Tehran can only use first-generation IR-1 centrifuges, which are less efficient, at the underground plant and that those are the only machines with which Iran may accumulate enriched uranium.

Iran recently moved one cascade of 174 IR-2m machines underground at Natanz and is enriching with it.

Bahrain second in world to authorise Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine use



BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL CASES **87,600**

ACTIVE CASES **1,549**

DEATHS **341**

DISCHARGED **85,710**

NEW CASES **167**

CRITICAL **12**

210 fils (includes VAT)

