

Gulf EU Alliance

Iran attacks strongly condemned



A delegation of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) reaffirmed strong support for Gulf states following visits to Riyadh and Manama on May 3 and 4, underscoring the growing importance of ties between the European Union and the Gulf region.

The seven-member delegation held high-level talks in Saudi Arabia with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel Bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir and Shura Council Vice Speaker Mishaal Al-Sulami. In Bahrain, the delegation held meetings with Foreign Minister Abdulatif Al Zayani, Shura Council Chairman Ali Bin Saleh Al Saleh, and Council of Repre-

sentatives Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al-Musallam. The delegation also met Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary-General Jassem Al Budaiwi.

During the visit, MEPs strongly condemned what they described as indiscriminate attacks by Iran against Gulf Cooperation Council states, stressing that stability in the region requires a comprehensive approach beyond any ceasefire. They said a lasting resolution must address Iran's nuclear programme, as well as its ballistic missile and drone capabilities and its role in regional conflicts through proxy groups.

The delegation also highlighted the urgent need to ensure safe and uninterrupted

navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, calling it vital for global energy security and trade.

In both capitals, MEPs reiterated the European Union's commitment to strengthening its strategic partnership with Gulf countries. Key areas of cooperation include energy transition, digital transformation, transport connectivity, security, and clean technologies.

"This visit sends an unambiguous message: the European Union stands unreservedly in solidarity with the people of the Gulf," said delegation head Reinhold Lopatka, adding that parliamentary diplomacy plays a crucial role in reinforcing ties during times of crisis.

"Impregnable Fortress"

UAE military lauded for 50 years of service and sacrifice

The UAE marked the 50th anniversary of the unification of its Armed Forces. Leaders praised five decades of military service and expressed solidarity amid regional tensions, according to official statements.

His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, said the decision to unify the Armed Forces marked the beginning of building "the nation's shield and decisive sword" and a foundation for security and stability.

In a speech marking the occasion, Shaikh Mohammed praised the Armed Forces' "honourable national roles" and the sacrifices of its personnel over five decades, saying they had "raised the name of the UAE high" and formed "an impregnable fortress" protecting the country's pride and dignity.

He reflected on his early involvement in the formation of the forces, recalling "memories of preparation" for the unification decision and the subsequent development of the military over the past 50 years.

Separately, UAE President Shaikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan received a phone call from Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. During the call, El-Sisi condemned what he



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described as Iranian "terrorist attacks" targeting civilians and civilian sites in the UAE.

El-Sisi said the attacks constituted a violation of sovereignty, international law and the UN Charter, and posed a threat to regional security and stability, according to the statement.

He also affirmed Egypt's solidarity with the UAE and support for all measures Abu Dhabi takes to protect its sovereignty, security and the safety of its population.

Khartoum Airport Attack Condemned

The Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, strongly condemned a drone attack that targeted at least three strategic sites in Sudan's Khartoum State, including Khartoum International Airport, describing it as a serious escalation threatening regional stability.

In a statement on Monday, Aboul Gheit said the use of unmanned aerial vehicles against civilian facilities and critical infrastructure—reportedly launched from outside Sudanese territory—represents a "dangerous escalation" that further worsens the country's humanitarian and security crisis.



conflict and undermining Arab, African, and international efforts aimed at de-escalation and a Sudanese-led political process.

The statement also urged all parties to avoid actions that could obstruct ongoing diplomatic efforts, including attempts to secure a comprehensive ceasefire, revive the Jeddah peace process, and advance an inclusive civilian dialogue.

Sudan has been gripped by conflict since April 2023, with repeated warnings from regional and international actors over the war's expanding impact across the region.

His spokesperson, Gamal Roshdy, said the Secretary-General reaffirmed the League's full support for Sudan in preserving its security, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity, as well as protecting its national institutions and infrastructure.

The Arab League warned that such attacks risk widening the

Gulf cooperation talks held in Kuwait

Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Jassem Mohammed Al-Budaiwi, at Bayan Palace on Tuesday.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed issues related to joint Gulf cooperation and ongoing efforts to advance the work of the six-member bloc, according to a statement.

The discussions focused on initiatives aimed at strengthening the GCC's progress in line with the directives of the leaders of member states, with an emphasis on achieving greater prosperity, stability, and development across the region.

The meeting comes amid



continued coordination among Gulf states on political, economic, and security cooperation frameworks under the

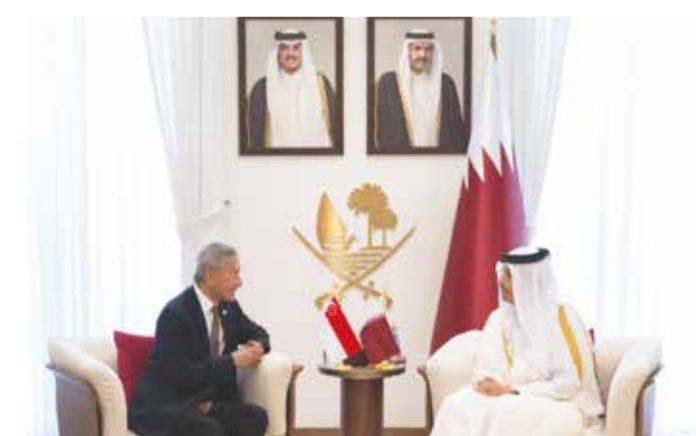
GCC, which includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Doha, Singapore discuss US-Iran ceasefire

Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani held talks on Monday with Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, focusing on strengthening bilateral ties and regional developments, according to an official statement.

During the meeting in Doha, the two sides reviewed "strategic cooperation relations" between Qatar and Singapore and discussed ways to expand collaboration across various sectors, including diplomacy and economic engagement.

The discussions also touched on regional security, focusing particularly on the ceasefire



between the United States and Iran. Both ministers underscored the importance of continued efforts to reduce tensions and support stability in the Middle East.

Singapore's foreign minister is currently visiting Qatar officially as part of broader diplomatic engagements aimed at enhancing ties between the two countries.

Palestine Talks Intensify

Senior Arab League officials met on Tuesday to discuss developments in the Arab region, focusing particularly on the Palestinian issue amid ongoing tensions.

Assistant Secretary-General and head of the Palestine and Occupied Arab Territories sector, Ambassador Dr. Faid Mustafa, received Palestine's Permanent Representative to the Arab League, Ambassador Muhannad Al-Aklouk, at the League's headquarters.

Talks centered on the latest political developments and the humanitarian situation facing Palestinians, as Israeli attacks continue in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including occu-



piated East Jerusalem. The two sides also reviewed ways to strengthen coordination and consultation between Palestine's delegation and the

Arab League's relevant sector, aiming to enhance cooperation on key issues of mutual concern, foremost among them the Palestinian cause.