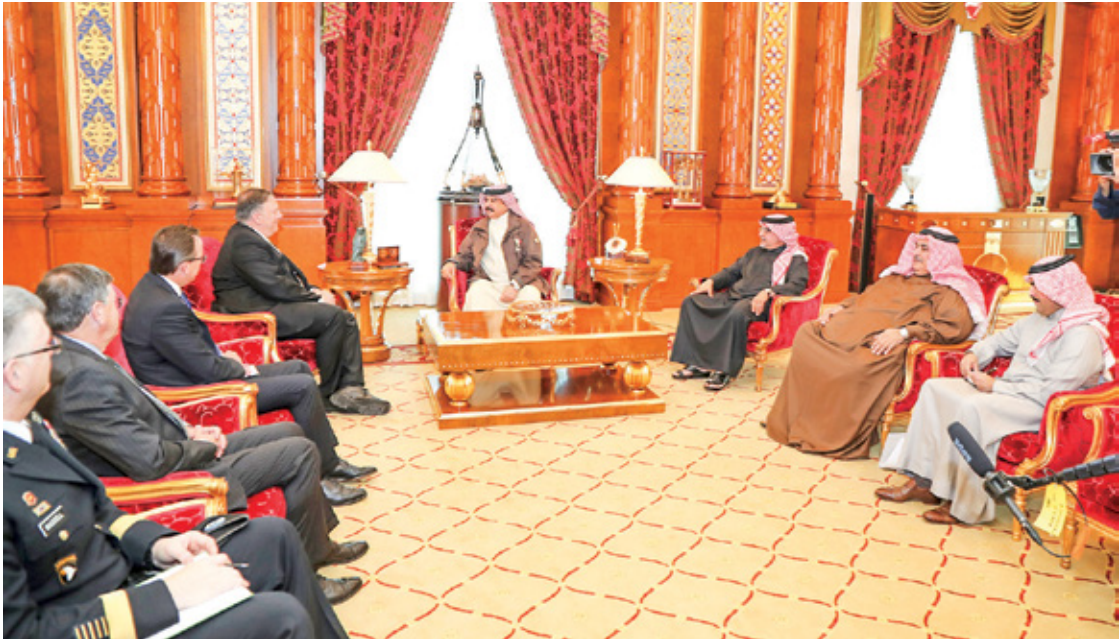


His Majesty receives Pompeo



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday received, in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo who is on a visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain. His Majesty welcomed his visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain and stressed the importance of exchanging such visits to develop co-operation at all levels, especially in the political, economic and defence areas.

# Lahaj attack condemned

Six people were killed when the Houthis exploded a drone above a military parade

Jeddah

A Houthi communications centre controlling drones has been destroyed, the Arab coalition supporting the legitimate government in Yemen said yesterday.

The location of the drone control centre was formerly occupied by a Yemeni communications company but was then taken over by Houthi militia who turned it into an operations centre.

On Thursday, six people were killed when the Houthis exploded a drone above a military parade in Lahaj province.

The United States on Friday “strongly condemned” the at-

tack at Al Anad Air Base, which jeopardises a ceasefire for the port of Hodeidah agreed at talks in Sweden last month.

“This attack contravenes the spirit of the Hodeidah ceasefire and the progress made last month at the UN-led talks in Sweden,” the State Department said.

“We urge all sides to honour the commitments they made in Sweden to their fellow Yemenis by refraining from violence and provocative acts.”

The escalation came after the UN envoy to Yemen, Martin Griffiths this week warned “substantial progress” was needed on the ground before full-blown negotiations could be launched



Soldiers carry out probe at the site of attack.

“  
This attack contravenes the spirit of the Hodeidah ceasefire and the progress made last month at the UN-led talks in Sweden.  
STATE DEPARTMENT

fire and allow humanitarian aid to reach millions.

The council is expected to vote on the measure next week, diplomats said.

The mission would provide for the deployment of up to 75 monitors in the rebel-held city of Hodeida and its port along with the ports of Saleef and Ras Issa for an initial period of six months, AFP reported.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to “expeditiously” deploy the full mission, led by retired Dutch General Patrick Cammaert.

Meanwhile, a large explosion took place at an oil refinery in Aden on Friday evening, Al Arabiya reported. The cause of the blast was unclear.

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on ending the civil war. a UN Security Council draft resolution that would expand the international observer mission monitoring the Hodeidah cease-

## Egypt, GCC views on pan-Arab security stressed

Cairo

The relationship between Egypt and the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries illustrates the convergent views of their leaders on maintaining Arab national security, Egypt’s foreign minister has said.

In remarks to local television carried by MENA, Sameh Shukry said Cairo rejects plans to expand into the Arab region adopted by Gulf neighbours, Iran in particular.

Egypt sees the need for relations to be built on the principles of mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of one another, he added.

He reiterated Cairo’s resolve

that a political solution is the only way forward in regards to the region’s crises in Yemen, Syria and Libya.

On Libya, he said Egypt plays a vital role in ending the conflict through attempts to unify the country’s military institution - the only side capable of putting an end to terrorism and enabling pre-election stability in the country.

In regards to Syria, Shukry described the situation as “extremely complicated,” explaining that the international community has not yet been able to come up with a solution to the challenges and terrorist elements at large amidst the over seven-year conflict.

It is for this reason Cairo

hopes warring sides, including the government and opposition, reach consensus over a peaceful solution, he said.

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