

Kingdom wins UNEA top post
 Manama

The Kingdom has won the Deputy Executive Director post at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) representing the Asia-Pacific Group, said Personal Representative of HM the King and President of the Supreme Council for Environment, HH Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa, yesterday.



As Bahrain would represent the Asian-Pacific region, it would have the opportunity to serve Arab countries' environmental interests.

HH SHAIKH ABDULLA

He said that the achievement is an important milestone that reflects the Kingdom's interest in environmental issues at the local and international levels.

HH Shaikh Abdulla said this was another achievement that adds to Bahrain's international successes made in various fields.

"As Bahrain would represent the Asian-Pacific region, it would have the opportunity to serve Arab countries' environmental interests," he pointed out.

He added that Bahrain would participate in the UNEA regular meetings to discuss international environmental projects and other environment-related issues.

Ajman ruler hosted a dinner banquet in honour of HM the King. He also presented HM the King with a golden sword marking his visit to the Emirate of Ajman.

Ajman

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa lauded deep-rooted historic and fraternal relations binding the Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates, stressing mutual

keenness on further strengthening joint ties and bolstering shared interests.

HM the King made the statement as he met UAE Supreme Ruling Council member and Ajman Ruler His Highness Shaikh Humaid bin Rashid Al Nuaimi, in the presence of Ajman Crown Prince Shaikh Ammar bin Humaid Al Nuaimi.

HM the King lauded the advanced level attained by joint co-operation between the two brotherly countries, hailing steadily-growing ties.

Ajman ruler welcomed the visit of HM the King, accompanied by HH Shaikh Nasser



His Majesty in conversation with HH Shaikh Humaid.

Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation.

They exchanged cordial talks that reflect strong fraternal relations binding the two brotherly countries and peoples and mutual keenness on bolstering joint ties to serve shared interests and meet future aspirations.

Poet Said Khalfan Al Kaabi recited a poem welcoming HM the King and the accompanying delegation.

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bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HM the King's Representative for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS) President and Honorary Chairman of the

The biggest loser

US says Iran has lost \$10bn in oil revenue due to sanctions

US envoy on Iran, Brian Hook, said Washington the United States is accelerating its plan of bringing Iranian crude exports to zero.

Washington wants to ensure a stable and well-supplied oil market.

Houston

Iran has lost \$10 billion in revenue since US sanctions in November have removed about 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) of Iranian crude from global markets, a US State Department official said yesterday.

Brian Hook, the State Department's special representative on Iran, said in remarks at the CERAWEEK energy con-

ference that due to a global oil surplus — in part due to record US production — the United States is accelerating its plan of bringing Iranian crude exports to zero.

US sanctions on Iran and Venezuela, two of the largest oil producers in the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, and production cuts by OPEC and Russia have boosted global oil prices to near four-month highs.

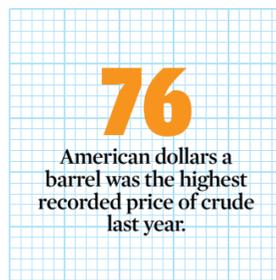
Iran reached an agreement with world powers in 2015 over its nuclear program which led to the lifting of sanctions in 2016 but US President Donald Trump pulled out of the deal in May last year and reimposed restrictions in November.

Trump "has made it very clear that we need to have a campaign of maximum economic pressure" on Iran, Hook said, "but he also doesn't want to shock oil markets, he wants to ensure



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HOOK



a stable and well-supplied oil market. That policy has not

changed."

The global oil market is looking for signs that Washington may extend sanctions waivers for Iran's key customers in early May. The United States surprised the market in November last year by allowing eight countries to keep importing Iranian oil — in part causing Brent crude futures, the international benchmark, to fall to near \$50 a barrel in late December after surpassing \$86 a barrel in October.

The US Energy Information Administration (EIA) has projected that world supply will exceed demand in 2019 by 440,000 bpd, Hook said.

"When you have a better supplied oil market it enables us to accelerate our path to zero. But we also know that there are a lot of variables that go into a well-supplied and stable oil market," said Hook, a senior policy adviser to US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Washington sanctioned Venezuelan oil exports in January in an effort to oust President Nicolas Maduro and a massive power outage since last week halted crude exports from its primary port, essentially crippling the South American country's principal industry.

"We are aware that our diplomatic and economic pressure, the timing and the pace of that affects Venezuela's oil industry," Hook said.

GREAT ESCAPE

Yachtsman inflates trousers to survive 3 hours in sea

Wellington

Knocked overboard in rough seas off New Zealand, a German yachtsman credited his jeans with saving his life after fashioning



A screenshot of German yachtsman Arne Murke being rescued by Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter Service.

them into a make-shift life jacket that kept him afloat for over three hours before his rescue by coast guards.

Arne Murke, 30, was sailing with his brother in Tolaga Bay, on the east coast of New Zealand's north island, on March 6, when the yacht's boom swung unexpectedly, whacking him into the water.

Unable to reach the life jacket thrown by his brother, Murke was soon carried far off by the swell. "Luckily, I knew the trick with the jeans," Murke told the New Zealand Herald newspaper.

"Without the jeans I wouldn't be here today. They were really the thing that saved me."

He made knots at the end of the legs and pulled them over water to get air inside and then forced them under to trap the air and create an improvised life vest.



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04 'I Love Mom' campaign set

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