



INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY SUPPLEMENT PAGES 7-11

Bahrain leaders congratulate Indian President



TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to Indian President Ram Nath Kovind on India's Independence Day.

HM, the King wished President Kovind good health and happiness and the friendly Indian people further progress and prosperity.

HRH Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister also sent congratulatory messages to the President.

Bahrain leaders sent similar congratulatory messages to Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India.

US seizes millions of dollars of Iranian fuel

Reuters | Vienna

The US says it has taken control of four Iranian fuel shipments bound for Venezuela in the largest-ever seizure of its kind. About 1.1 million barrels of fuel were confiscated "with the assistance of foreign partners", according to the Justice Department.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

- TOTAL CASES: 46,052
- ACTIVE CASES: 3,415
- DEATHS: 168
- DISCHARGED: 42,469
- NEW CASES: 326
- CRITICAL: 40

210 fils (includes VAT)



Shura council, speaker back UAE's 'historic deal'

TDT | Manama

The "historic deal" reached by the UAE will have a positive impact on consolidating stability and peace in the region, said Bahraini shura and representative council members.

In a statement, the Shura Council congratulated the deal brokered by the United States with Israel as a "historic agreement" which prevents the



The historic Emirati achievement supports the Palestinian cause and opens up wider horizons of international cooperation

FAWZIA BINT ABDULLA ZAINAL

annexation of the Palestinian territories. The Council also stressed the need to intensify work to

reach a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to establish an independent state with East Je-

rusalem as its capital.

Separately, Fawzia bint Abdulla Zainal, the Speaker of the Council of Representatives, affirmed that the historic Emirati achievement supports the Palestinian cause and opens up wider horizons of international cooperation. "It also confirms the UAE's pioneering role in strengthening human fraternity among all," she added.

The speaker expressed her confidence that the deal would

stimulate more steps that would increase the chances of peace in the Middle East.

Also yesterday, the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee congratulated UAE for its historic achievement.

The committee pointed out that the Emirati move is in the interest of the Palestinian people and promotes the values of coexistence, tolerance and humanity.

An incentive for peace

GCC, world nations applaud UAE's peace deal



The accord was a rare triumph for Trump ahead of his Nov. 3 re-election bid. - Reuters

● **Trump's senior adviser, Jared Kushner, and Middle East envoy, Avi Berkowitz, is in touch with numerous countries in the region**

TDT, agencies

The United Arab Emirates's surprise move normalising ties with Israel got more acceptance yesterday with the several countries around the globe as well as the United Nations rallying behind with applause for halting annexation.

Bahrain, Oman, Egypt, Jordan, France, Germany and the United Nations voiced their optimism quickly by welcoming the "historic" deal while a seemingly shocked Iran condemned the agreement saying this will only strengthen the Tehran-backed "axis of resistance."

Meanwhile, a senior White House official said President Donald Trump's senior adviser, Jared Kushner, and the Middle East envoy, Avi Berkowitz, had been in touch with numerous countries in the region trying to see if more agreements would materialize.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, however, re-

The secretary-general welcomes this agreement, hoping it will create an opportunity for Israeli and Palestinian leaders to re-engage in meaningful negotiations that will realise a two state-solution in line with relevant UN resolutions, international law and bilateral agreements

A SPOKESMAN FOR UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL ANTONIO GUTERRES SAID IN A STATEMENT



jected the accord in a statement through his spokesman.

The "historic event" yesterday also dominated social media platforms with the hashtag "Emirates_Salam_Salam" becoming one of the popular on Twitter. Under the accord, which US President Donald Trump helped broker, Israel agreed to suspend its planned annexation of areas of the occupied West Bank. It also firms up opposition to regional power Iran, which the UAE, Israel and the United States view as the main threat to the Middle East.

In a series of tweets yesterday, the UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Anwar Gargash, confirmed that the deal provided more time to realise the two-state solution as it also ended the spectre of the annexation of Palestinian lands.

"While the peace decision remains a Palestinian and Israeli move, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed's bold initiative allowed more time for peace opportunities for the two-state solution and the development of normal relations," he wrote on his Twitter handle.

The positive reaction to the tripartite agreement is "encouraging," Dr Gargash further tweeted calling the decision as a "courageous move" and a "badly needed realism".

"Developing normal ties in return for this is a realistic approach forwarded by the Emirates," Gargash said. "The successful decision is to take and give. This has been achieved."

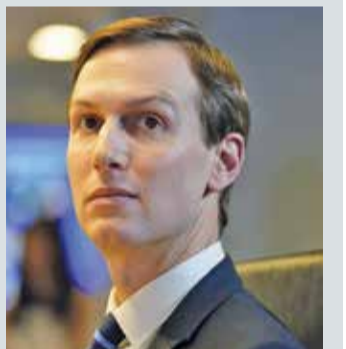
Another Arab country to follow UAE's lead, says Jared Kushner

TDT, Agencies

Another Arab country is likely to establish ties with Israel following its normalisation deal with Israel, several media reports yesterday said quoting Jared Kushner.

Kushner, a senior advisor to US President Donald Trump, told reporters after signing the deal that there is a "good chance that another country could make a deal with Israel in the coming days" without elaborating.

Trump also suggested that more diplomatic breakthroughs may emerge between Israel and countries in the region. "Things are happening that I can't talk about," he said. "Everybody said this would



Jared Kushner

be impossible," Trump said. "Now that the ice has been broken, I expect more Arab and Muslim countries will follow the United Arab Emirates' lead," Trump added.

This was already being discussed with other states, he said.

move the region towards a just peace."

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi welcomed the deal on Twitter saying, "I followed with interest and appreciation the joint statement between the United States, United Arab Emirates and Israel to halt the Israeli annexation of Palestinian lands and taking steps to bring peace in the Middle East."

The official Oman News Agency yesterday quoting unnamed sources said the "Sultanate of Oman supports the deal."

Germany, the United Kingdom and France also welcomed the deal as an important contribution to peace in the region.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said, "It was my profound hope that annexation did not go ahead in the West Bank and the agreement to suspend those plans is a welcome step on the road to a more peaceful Middle East."

In a statement, the United States Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden welcom-

EU welcomes

Reuters | Brussels

The EU's executive yesterday welcomed the agreement between Israel and the United Arab Emirates to normalise diplomatic ties, saying it would benefit both countries and help promote stability in the Middle East.

"It is important for both (countries) and regional stability," a European Commission spokeswoman told a news briefing.

"Both countries are our partners and of course ... we are committed to a two-state solution and we are of course ready to work on a resumption of the negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians."

ing the deal said, "Annexation would be a body blow to the cause of peace, which is why I oppose it now and would oppose it as president."