

Sophie Turner 'humbled' to be nominated for Emmy

Sophie Turner is 'beyond humbled' to be nominated for Emmy's 'Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series' category for her performance in HBO drama series 'Game of Thrones'. **P14**

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Turkey blocked from F-35 programme
 Washington

The White House confirmed yesterday that Turkey would no longer be permitted to take part in NATO's F-35 stealth fighter jet program after it purchased a Russian missile defence system.

"Unfortunately, Turkey's decision to purchase Russian S-400 air defence systems renders its continued involvement with the F-35 impossible," White House spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham said in a statement.

The US-made F-35 Joint Strike Fighter "cannot co-exist with a Russian intelligence collection platform that will be used to learn about its advanced capabilities," she said.

She said Washington had made "multiple" offers of its own Patriot missile defence system to Turkey, but Ankara went ahead and acquired the Russian system, running counter to a NATO pledge to avoid adopting Russian systems.

Saudi Arabia 'main pillar of regional security, stability'

Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister, emphasised the importance and the value of Saudi Arabia in all hearts and souls in the Arab and Muslim worlds, being the cornerstone upon which the Ummah relies to confront the various challenges.

HRH the Premier stressed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia constitutes the strategic depth and the main pillar of security and stability in the region.

His Royal Highness praised the pivotal role of Saudi Arabia



HRH the Premier receives Dr Abdullah bin Abdul Malik Al Shaikh.

under the leadership of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and HRH Crown Prince

Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Saudi Arabia, in supporting the cause of Arab and Muslim nations.

HRH the Prime Minister stressed the deep-rooted brotherly relations of amity and compassion, which charts a model of unique historic relationships established by the fathers and forefathers.

This came as HRH the Premier received Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Bahrain Dr Abdullah bin Abdul Malik Al Shaikh, in Riffa Palace, yesterday on the occasion of the conclusion of his term as his country's ambassador to Bahrain.

During the meeting, HRH the Prime Minister praised the ambassador's efforts in developing and bolstering the existing fraternal ties that mirror the directives of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in advancing the level of co-operation to highest levels, wishing the outgoing ambassador success in the duties of his future assignment.

The Saudi ambassador expressed his deep gratitude and appreciation to HRH the Prime Minister for all the co-operation and support he received throughout his ambassadorial term that contributed to boosting the genuinely amicable brotherly ties.

Forum on Iran threat

Kingdom to host global maritime security conference to address threats from Tehran

● The conference will aim to reach a common understanding on addressing the challenge posed by Iran.

● Mr Hook did not specify which countries would attend the meeting.

New York

Bahrain will host a global maritime security conference to address the Iranian threat to navigation security in the Arabian Gulf.

The country's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, announced the summit alongside the US special representative for Iran, Brian Hook, yesterday.

Shaikh Khalid said the conference would probably take place this autumn and would follow up



The Amphibious assault ship USS Boxer and amphibious dock landing ship USS Harpers Ferry conducting drills in the Arabian Sea.

a February meeting in Warsaw.

In Poland, 65 countries took part in the conference on Iran, including the UAE and other GCC and Middle East countries, and European representatives.

Mr Hook said that the same countries would be asked to attend in Bahrain "but the invitations have not been sent out yet".

The conference will aim to reach a common understanding on addressing the challenge posed by Iran, Shaikh Khalid said at the Atlantic Council in Washington.

Mr Hook highlighted the grow-

"If Iran takes a step forward, we will take two."

SHAIKH KHALID

ing maritime threat in the Gulf. At least seven tankers have been attacked in the Gulf since May.

On Friday, Mr Hook will meet ambassadors to promote the US plan to build a maritime coalition to deter further attacks.

He said the Sentinel Programme would "make it harder for Iran to disrupt freedom of

commerce and navigation".

Mr Hook did not specify which countries would attend the meeting at the State Department and it is unclear which states have agreed to join the programme.

"We need more assets in the theatre," he said.

Mr Hook said at least 17 countries were affected by the May 12 attack on four tankers off the coast of Fujairah, which he attributed to Iran.

The US plans to install surveillance and protection for ships travelling through the Gulf.

It has already sent an aircraft

carrier and B-52 bombers to the region, which Mr Hook said had "disrupted and deterred much of what we feared" with Iranian plots in the area.

Shaikh Khalid said US intelligence shared with Bahrain helped to prevent Iranian-sponsored attacks in the country.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps "has plotted to overthrow the government of Bahrain since 1981", he said.

"You see them in Syria, in Iraq, in Yemen, in eastern Saudi Arabia, and in Kuwait a Hezbollah cell was arrested," Shaikh Khalid said.

"The US has always been with us to stop malign Iranian activities but these efforts intensified under the current administration."

But he stressed that Bahrain was not seeking regime change in Iran and Manama would take steps to improve relations if Tehran showed interest.

"What we are concerned with is the regime's behaviour," Shaikh Khalid said. "If the Iran takes a step forward, we will take two."

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LORD OF DRUGS

Life sentence for El Chapo

Brooklyn

A US judge has sentenced Mexican drug kingpin Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán to life in prison plus 30 years.

Guzmán, 62, was found guilty of 10 charges, including drug trafficking and money laundering, by a federal court in New York in February.

He escaped a Mexican jail through a tunnel in 2015, but was later arrested. He was extradited to the US in 2017.

He is a former head of the Sinaloa cartel, which officials say was the biggest supplier of drugs to the US.

The life sentence was the minimum Guzmán faced. The additional 30 years were for



El Chapo

unlawful uses of firearms.

He was also ordered to pay \$12.6 billion in forfeiture.

Prosecutors said Guzmán would be serving

his sentence behind "tonnes of steel", referring to a high-security prison in Colorado.

Guzmán's lawyer Jeffrey Lichtman announced plans to appeal against the verdict.

He argued that the trial had not been conducted fairly and claimed that jurors were influenced by media coverage.

"It was a show trial," he said.

El Chapo ran the cartel in northern Mexico.

In 2009, Guzmán entered Forbes' list of the world's richest men at number 701, with an estimated worth of \$1bn.

He was accused of helping bring hundreds of tonnes of cocaine into the US and of conspiring to make and distribute heroin, methamphetamine and marijuana.