

# Qatar 'playing a negative role' to obstruct solution in Yemen

Qatar rapped for playing destructive game in Yemen, Libya, Tunisia and Iraq

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● **The minister said he considers the recent visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin to Saudi Arabia and the UAE as very important.**

TDT | Manama

Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa has said that the signing of a final agreement between the Yemeni government and the Southern Transitional Council (STC) under the auspices of Saudi Arabia would be a "major leap forward concerning the future stability of Yemen, particularly following the important meetings held in this regard

in Jeddah".

In an interview with Asharq Al Awsat, Al Khalifa said, "Qatar is trying to prevent a solution in Yemen. We can see it through Doha's positions announced in the media, broadcast by Al Jazeera channel."

He explained that Qatar has always failed to enforce this role in Yemen facing the people's will to stop all foreign interference, including Iran's attempt to incite strife.

The Bahrain FM said that Qatar is not only playing a negative role in Yemen, but also in Libya, Tunisia, Gulf States and Iraq.

"Everyone knows what we mean," he said.

Commenting on weapons and explosive materials shipments from Tehran to Manama, Shaikh Khalid said, "The quantity of arms that Bahrain confiscated was sufficient to destroy half of the capital."

He explained that Iran should send a message of peace and good neighbourliness or else, Tehran should be held responsible for its



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SHAIKH KHALID

actions in the region.

Shaikh Khalid said he considers the recent visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin to Saudi Arabia and the UAE as very important.

"The visit shows that Riyadh and Abu Dhabi do not build relations with other countries governed by circumstances and that both states extend continuous bridges of friendship worldwide," he said.

Shaikh Khalid condemned the Turkish cross-border infiltration in north Syria, and he asked Ankara to respect the Syrian sovereignty and territories.

"The comeback of Syria to the arms of the Arab League is left to Syria and AL states," he said, adding that the Bahraini diplomatic presence in Damascus had not stopped during the past years.

Separately, Shaikh Khalid attended a reception ceremony held by the Bahraini-British Parliamentary Friendship Group in co-operation with the Embassy of Bahrain to the United Kingdom.

The reception ceremony took place in the House of Commons to mark the minister's visit and the 12th Meeting of Bahrain-UK Joint Working Group in the presence of ministers, diplomats,

MPS and media professionals, led by Secretary of State for the Middle East and North Africa at the UK Foreign Office, Dr Andrew Morrison, UK Minister of State for International Trade Connor Burns and UK Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief Rehman Chishti.

In his welcoming statement, the minister expressed his delight to attend the ceremony and meet with a large group Bahrain's friends and took pride in the good ties that date back over 200 years, affirming the depth of relations between the two Kingdoms, based on joint work in all political, cultural and economic areas and on common interests to promote security and development in the region and the world at large.

For his part, the Chair of the Bahrain-UK Parliamentary Group Bob Stewart expressed appreciation to the Minister of Foreign Affairs for his presence, stressing the importance of the strategic relationship between the two countries.

## Kuwaiti envoy praises Bahrain ties

● **The envoy recalled with pride Bahrain's honourable supportive stances towards Kuwait under various circumstances.**

Manama

Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain, Shaikh Thamer Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, has lauded the deep-rooted solid relations, common destiny, fraternity, love and fruitful cooperation across various fields between Bahrain and Kuwait.

"I was graced by meeting His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa while submitting my credentials as ambassador of my country to the Kingdom of Bahrain. I was honoured by conveyed greetings and good wishes to HM King Hamad from his brother, the Amir of Kuwait, HH Shaikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah," the envoy said.

The ambassador added that he had listened to HM the King's valuable directives, highlighting HM King Hamad's love for Kuwait and keenness on ensuring the interests of the two countries and their brotherly peoples.

In a statement to the Bahrain News Agency (BNA), Ambassador Shaikh Thamer Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah said that he had been instructed by the Kuwaiti Amir to spare no effort in order to enhance bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The envoy recalled with pride Bahrain's honourable supportive stances towards Kuwait under various circumstances.

He also valued highly the care enjoyed by Kuwaiti students, private sector representatives and tourists in the Kingdom of Bahrain, prayed to Allah the Almighty to protect the two brotherly countries, and to bless them with ever-lasting security, stability and prosperity.

## GCC ministers discuss security co-operation

Muscat

At the end of their 36th meeting, GCC countries' Interior Ministers yesterday took some decisions aiming to bolster security co-operation.

GCC Secretary-General Dr Abdulatif Al Zayani said in a press statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the resolutions seek to unify the Gulf efforts to combat crimes and terrorist acts.

He stressed that the ministers lauded strenuous and sincere efforts made by GCC security apparatuses.

He also extolled the Gulf security centres like the Criminal Information Centre to Combat



GCC ministers at the meeting.

Drugs in Doha, the GCC Emergency Management Centre in Kuwait and the Gulf police in Abu Dhabi.

The one-day meeting discussed GCC security cooperation to counter terrorism, cybercrimes, common training of security apparatuses and the Gulf security network project.

The gathering focused on establishing the Gulf Academy for Security and Strategic Studies, the recommendations on meetings of border and coast guards, airport security and others.

The ministers dealt with recommendations of secretaries general of GCC security training institutions, anti-drug bodies, traffic committees and others.

## GCC countries warn citizens after protests erupt in Lebanon

Riyadh

Saudi Arabia's embassy in Beirut yesterday warned its citizens not to travel to Lebanon, and called on Saudi nationals already in the country to avoid protest areas.

The Kingdom's embassy in Beirut advised its nationals to be extremely cautious and to "stay away from places of protest," Al Ekhabariya news channel reported.

It also announced that the Lancaster Plaza Beirut hotel in the capital's Raouche neighbourhood is a gathering point from which Saudi nationals can be transported to Beirut airport.

Egypt's embassy in the Lebanese capital Beirut also called on its nationals in the country to avoid protest areas, Egyptian state news agency MENA said.

"The embassy calls on all

Egyptian citizens in Lebanon to avoid the areas of gatherings and protests, to be careful in their movements and to abide by the instructions of the Lebanese authorities in this regard," MENA said.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's embassy in Lebanon asked citizens wishing to travel to Lebanon to wait because of the current protests and unrest.

"The embassy also calls on citizens currently in Lebanon to take utmost care and stay away from crowds and demonstrations," the embassy said in its tweet.

Bahrain warned against travel to Lebanon and called on its citizens in the country to leave immediately.

Protesters across Lebanon blocked roads with burning tires on Friday and thousands marched in Beirut, calling on



A group of Lebanese protesters hold a rally in Beirut.

the government to resign over an economic crisis.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's prime minister gave his partners in government a 72-hour ultimatum to come up with "convincing" solutions for a rapidly worsening economic crisis, as nationwide protests against the country's entire ruling political class continued to escalate.

In an address to the nation and with hundreds of rowdy protesters camped outside his office, Saad Hariri blamed politicians in his national unity government, which includes the Iran-backed Hizbollah group and rival political parties, for blocking his reform agenda at every turn.

Following his speech, groups of rioters broke away from the protesters, clashing with police, setting cars ablaze and smashing store windows in the streets of Beirut.