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Katyusha rocket crashes into Baghdad Green Zone

Baghdad, Iraq

A Katyusha rocket crashed yesterday into Baghdad's Green Zone which houses government offices and embassies including the US mission, Iraqi security services said in a statement.

The rocket -- which came after Washington ordered the evacuation of non-essential diplomatic staff from the Baghdad embassy and the Arbil consulate citing threats from Iranian-backed Iraqi armed groups -- caused no casualties, it said.

"A Katyusha rocket crashed into the Green Zone without causing casualties," it said in a brief statement without giving further details.

Premier calls for joint action

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday called for joint action to face regional challenges, maintain security and stability and fast-track growth.

In this regard, HRH the Premier pointed out the success of the UAE which started in the era of late Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and continued by his sons.

HRH the Premier was speaking as he received yesterday members of the Royal Family, senior officials and visiting Kuwaiti journalist and Editor-in-Chief of Kuwaiti *Al-Khalieej* newspaper Ahmed Is-



HRH PM receiving Royal family members, senior officials yesterday

mail Bahbahani.

The Premier stressed deep-rooted fraternal relations between Bahrain and Kuwait, taking pride in strong ties binding both countries.

The PM lauded the key role of the Amir of Kuwait Shaikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al

Sabah and his contributions to serving humanity and promoting peace and stability all over the world.

The Prime Minister reiterated respect of the Bahraini people for Kuwait's contribution to the development efforts in Bahrain.

Modern infrastructure key to development

TDT | Manama

HRH the Crown Prince yesterday stressed the importance of continuing to implement wide-ranging projects that further develop the Kingdom's infrastructure.

"A modern and efficient infrastructure plays a key role in attracting investments and stimulates innovation," said His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa while highlighting the important role the private sector plays in the Kingdom's infrastructure development.

"The Kingdom's major infrastructure projects represent a pillar of Bahrain's economic advancement and stimulate the creation of further jobs for citizens," said the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister.

HRH the Crown Prince was visiting the Majlis of the Commander-in-Chief of the Bah-



HRH Crown Prince during a Majlis visit yesterday

rain Defence Force, HE Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Majlis of Prince Faisal bin Mohamed bin Shuraim Al-Marri, the Majlis of Abdulla bin Hamad Al Noaimi, and the Majlis of the Al Jalahma family.

HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Representative of HM the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and Chairman

of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, were present at HRH's visit to the Majlis of Prince Faisal bin Mohamed bin Shuraim Al-Marri.

Speaking on the occasion, the Crown Prince said the Kingdom's far-reaching efforts to achieve its sustainable development goals are in line with His Majesty the King's comprehensive development programme.

HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa accompanied HRH the Crown Prince to the Majlis visits.

Bahrain, US to hold "Peace to Prosperity" workshop

TDT | Manama

Bahrain and the United States will jointly host a "Peace to Prosperity" economic workshop in Manama to encourage investment in Palestine.

The workshops, on 25 and 26 June 2019, will bring together government, civil society, and business leaders from across the region and the world to share ideas, discuss strategies, and galvanize support for potential economic investments and initiatives.

"Peace to Prosperity" will facilitate discussions for a prosperous future for the Palestinian people and the region, including enhancements to economic governance, development of human capital, and facilitation of rapid private-sector growth.

"I look forward to these im-



Shaikh Khalid

portant discussions about a vision that will offer Palestinians exciting new opportunities to realize their full potential. This workshop will engage leaders from across the entire Middle East to promote economic growth and opportunity for the people in this important region," said United States Secretary of the Treasury Steven T. Mnuchin.

"The workshop underscores the close strategic partnership between Bahrain and the United States as well as the strong and shared interest in creating thriving economic opportunities that benefit the region," said Bahrain Minister of Finance and National Economy Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

Separately, Foreign Minister, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, said that the "Peace to Prosperity" workshop will address the economic and investment needs of the Palestinian people while supporting the development of the region in general.

The Kingdom, the Minister said, will exert "all efforts that would lead to investment in infrastructure and the development of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and enable the Palestinian people to prosper."

He underlined the close partnership between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United States of America, stressing their common interest in promoting thriving economic opportunities in Palestine and the wider region.

The Foreign Minister stressed that the next stage requires all parties to join forces and integrate efforts to create a bright economic future for the benefit of all peoples in the region.

In another statement, the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani, noted that Bahrain and its private sector are keen to take advantage of the opportunities that this workshop provides.

The Minister said sustainable growth requires open trade and joint strategic projects that benefit all.




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'Ready to respond'

Reuters | Riyadh

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Riyadh has accused Tehran of ordering Tuesday's drone strikes on two oil pumping stations in the kingdom, claimed by Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi group. Two days earlier, four vessels, including two Saudi oil tankers, were sabotaged off the coast of the United Arab Emirates.

"The kingdom of Saudi Arabia does not want a war in the region nor does it seek that," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel al-Jubeir told a news conference.

"It will do what it can to prevent this war and at the same time it reaffirms that in the event the other side chooses war, the kingdom will respond with all force and determination, and it will defend itself and its interests."

Saudi Arabia's King Salman on Sunday invited Gulf and Arab leaders to convene emergency summits in Mecca on May 30 to discuss implications of the attacks.

"The current critical circumstances entail a unified Arab and Gulf stance toward the besetting challenges and risks," the UAE foreign ministry said in a statement.

UAE has not blamed anyone for the tanker sabotage operation, pending an investigation. No-one has claimed responsibility, but two US government sources said last week that US officials believed Iran had encouraged the Houthi group or Iraq-based Shia militias to carry it out.

We want peace and stability in the region but we will not sit on our hands in light of the continuing Iranian attack," Jubeir said. "The ball is in Iran's court and it is up to Iran to determine what its fate will be."



Adel al-Jubeir

pumping stations, which Riyadh said did not disrupt output or exports, was claimed by the Houthis, who have been battling a Saudi-led military coalition in a war in Yemen since 2015.

A Norwegian insurers' report said Iran's Revolutionary Guards were "highly likely" to have facilitated the attack on vessels near the UAE's Fujairah emirate, the main bunkering hub lying just outside the Strait of Hormuz.

Saudi Prince calls Pompeo

Washington has tightened economic sanctions against Iran, trying to cut Tehran's oil exports to zero, and beefed up the US military presence in the Gulf in response to what it said were Iranian threats to United States troops and interests.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman discussed regional developments, including efforts to strengthen security and stability, in a phone call with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, the Saudi Media Ministry tweeted yesterday.

"We want peace and stability in the region but we will not sit on our hands in light of the continuing Iranian attack," Jubeir said. "The ball is in Iran's court and it is up to Iran to determine what its fate will be."