

Bahrain taste defeat but advance
 Bahrain lost to China 1-3 (19-25, 25-23, 18-25, 15-25) yesterday night as the first round of the FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championship 2019 wrapped up at Shaikh Isa Sports City in Riffa. **P16**



Kim Kardashian thanks Trump for his 'efforts to free A\$AP Rocky' **14** CELEBS

WORLD **5** New Delhi asks Iran to free 18 Indians on seized tanker

2 arrested for killing diplomat
Baghdad

Two people have been arrested for killing a Turkish diplomat in Iraq in an armed attack last week, the Iraqi Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) said yesterday. The statement also said that search efforts are ongoing for others involved in the attack. On Wednesday, Osman Kose, who was serving at Turkey's Consulate General in Erbil, was killed in an armed attack at a restaurant.



- 02** Kingdom's exports surge 6pc in the second quarter
- 03** Mystery shrouds teenager's death
- 04** Kingdom condemns Iranian detention of British oil tanker

210 fils (includes VAT)



- The agreement has been in the works for many weeks and is not a response specifically to Friday's seizure.
- The US Central Command said the deployments to Saudi Arabia had been approved by the Pentagon.

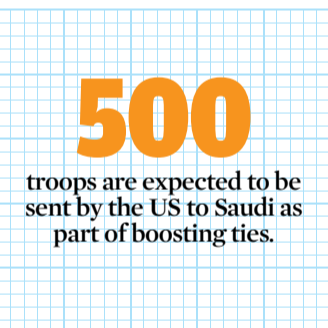
Jeddah

Saudi Arabia's King Salman approved hosting US forces in the Kingdom to boost regional security and stability, the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs said yesterday. The ministry tweeted that Saudi Arabia and the United States are "strengthening their longstanding partnership in the face of regional threats." In Washington, the US Defence Department confirmed the move in a statement, saying it would deploy troops and resources to Saudi Arabia to "provide an additional deterrent" in the face of "emergent, credible threats." The gesture comes amid rising tensions between Washington and Tehran in the Gulf



Gen Kenneth McKenzie, Commander of US Central Command, shakes hand with Saudi soldiers during his recent visit to the Kingdom.

that have impacted global oil markets. With Iranian military threats in mind, the US is sending American forces, including fighter aircraft, air defence missiles and likely more than 500 troops, to a Saudi air base that became a hub of American air power in the Middle East in the 1990s.



Senior American defence officials said some US troops and Patriot air defence missile systems have already arrived at Prince Sultan Air Base, south of Riyadh, where the troops have been preparing for the arrival of aircraft later this summer as well as additional troops. The agreement has been in the works for many weeks and

is not a response specifically to Friday's seizure by Iran of a British tanker in the Arabian Gulf. Tensions with Iran have spiked since May when the Trump administration said it had detected increased Iranian preparations for possible attacks on US forces and interests in the Gulf area. In a written statement Friday evening, US Central Command said the deployments to Saudi Arabia had been approved by the Pentagon. "This movement of forces provides an additional deterrent, and ensures our ability to defend our forces and interests in the region from emergent, credible threats," Central Command said. "This movement creates improvement of operational depth and logistical networks. US Central Command continually assesses force posture in the region and is working with Kingdom of Saudi Arabia authorities to base US assets at the appropriate locations." Putting US combat forces back in Saudi Arabia, after an absence of more than a decade, adds depth to the regional alignment of US military power, which is mostly in locations on the Arabian Gulf that are more vulnerable to Iranian missile attack.

TANKER ROW

Hunt warns Iran to 'reverse illegal seizure'

- The British navy seized Iran's Grace 1 tanker in Gibraltar on July 4 on suspicion of smuggling oil to Syria in breach of European Union sanctions.

London

British foreign minister Jeremy Hunt said yesterday that he was worried that Iran had taken a "dangerous path" after it seized a British-flagged tanker on Friday in the Strait of Hormuz. Iran's Fars news agency reported that the

"We have been trying to find a way to resolve Grace1 issue but will ensure the safety of our shipping."

HUNT

Stena Impero had been taken to the port of Bander Abbas, which faces the strait, after it said the tanker had been involved in an accident with an Iranian fishing vessel. "Yesterday's action in Gulf shows worrying signs Iran may be choosing a dangerous path of illegal and destabilising behaviour after

Gibraltar's legal detention of oil bound for Syria," Hunt said on Twitter. "As I said yesterday our reaction will be considered but robust. We have been trying to find a way to resolve Grace1 issue but will ensure the safety of our shipping." The British navy seized Iran's Grace 1 tanker in Gibraltar on July 4 on suspicion of smuggling oil to Syria in breach of European Union sanctions. Hunt also said he was very concerned about the loss of contact between jailed British-Iranian aid worker Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and her family after she was moved from a prison in Tehran to a psychiatric ward in a hospital. **See Page 4**

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