

Kim Jong Un rejects invitation to S Korea summit: KCNA



South Korean President Moon Jae-in has long championed engagement with North Korea

Seoul

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has rejected an invitation by South Korean President Moon Jae-in to a regional summit next week, Pyongyang's state media said Thursday, in a stark illustration of the dire relations between the neighbours.

South Korea is due to host a summit with Southeast Asian leaders in its port city of Busan from next Monday, and Moon had previously expressed hope that Kim would attend.

Kim received a personal letter from Moon on November 5, North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said, but dismissed the prospect of the leader attending the summit.

Four protesters killed in Iraq capital

Baghdad

Four protesters were killed and dozens wounded in overnight clashes with security forces in Iraq's capital Baghdad, security and medical sources said yesterday.

Anti-government demonstrators have spread from their main protest camp in Tahrir (Liberation) Square onto three bridges linking the banks of the river Tigris.



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Bahrain's progress, security shared responsibility: HM King

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Enhancing Bahrain's progress and security is a shared responsibility that is assumed by everyone, said His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

His Majesty the King, the Supreme Commander and President of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC), was chairing the meeting of the SDC at the Al-Sakhir Palace yesterday.

The meeting focused on the follow-up and evaluation of

achievements, setting goals to enhance the defence and security capabilities as well as taking the right decisions for the best interests of the nation, citizens and residents.

HM King Hamad extended thanks to all the affiliates of the Bahrain Defence Force, the Interior Ministry, the National Guard and the National Security Agency for the fruitful efforts they are exerting to protect the accomplishments and achievements attained by Bahrain and its people.



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

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 HIS MAJESTY KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA

The dialogue begins

Fifth Manama Dialogue Conference starts today in Kingdom

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Top policymakers from the Middle East and beyond will converge today on Bahrain for the 15th Manama Dialogue Conference to address the region's most pressing security challenges.

With special sessions on Cybersecurity, Security, conflict and stabilisation in the Middle East, the summit is jointly organised by Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).

The three-day summit, which continues until Sunday, in its opening session will have a discussion on "The New Geo-Economics of the Middle East" in Al Ghazal 1 Ballroom, The Ritz-Carlton Bahrain.

According to summit agenda, the IISS and Sky News Arabia will jointly convene a special live televised of the opening panel to examine some of the key issues to be addressed at the IISS Manama Dialogue and subsequent implications for regional security.

The event will also see IISS



Manama Dialogue Conference has become an important platform for senior officials and experts from across the world to exchange visions and ideas on the most important developments in the region

SHAIKH KHALID BIN AHMED BIN MOHAMMED AL KHALIFA  
 THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister," the minister said.

Shaikh Khalid said the conference is an indication of the political leadership's keenness to consolidate Bahrain's relations with brotherly and friendly countries for a brighter and more prosperous future.

The minister affirmed that the Dialogue has become a platform for top officials and experts from around the world to exchange their visions and ideas to seek durable solutions to issues and enhance the region's security, stability and development.

Shaikh Khalid also commended the efforts of the International Institute for Strategic Studies and their cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in organising the Manama Dialogue.

The ISS Manama Dialogue 2019, the minister said, will discuss a host of issues affecting the countries of the region and representing a source of concerns for all world countries to consolidate global peace and security.

bringing some of the brightest young strategic thinkers in the Middle East and North Africa, who will play a full part in the Dialogue debate. Regional young leaders from Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the UAE will participate.

The initiative, according to IISS, will contribute to the development of a new generation of young leaders and strategic thinkers from the region. "As their careers develop, they will help inform public sector and business policy-making in the



IISS Manama Dialogue 2019 is Middle East's premier security summit where policymakers from all over the world gather together to address regional challenges

Middle East, North Africa and internationally."

Speaking on the summit, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, took pride in the international reputation of the Middle East's premier security summit.

"Its status reflects the policy of Bahrain under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa,

On a collision course

IAEA urges Iran to explain uranium particles at undeclared site

Vienna

The UN nuclear watchdog yesterday urged Iran to explain the presence of uranium particles at an undeclared site, as a landmark deal aimed at curbing Tehran's atomic activities threatens to collapse.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said in a report made public last week that its inspectors had "detected natural uranium particles of anthropogenic origin at a location in Iran not declared to the agency".

The agency's acting head Cor-

nel Feruta said IAEA and Iranian officials would meet in Tehran next week to discuss the matter, adding that the UN body had not received any additional information.

"The matter remains unresolved... It is essential that Iran works with the agency to resolve this matter promptly," he told IAEA member states at a meeting of the agency's board of governors.

A diplomatic source said that the IAEA would send a high-ranking technical delegation to Iran next week.

The particles are understood



The IAEA says one of its inspectors was briefly prevented from leaving Iran after an incident at the Natanz enrichment plant

to be the product of uranium which has been mined and undergone initial processing, but not enriched.

While the IAEA has not named

the site in question, diplomatic sources have previously said the agency asked Iran about a site in the Turqzabad district of Tehran where Israel has alleged secret atomic activity in the past.

Sources say the IAEA took samples from the site in the spring and that Iran has been slow in providing answers to explain the test results.

On Monday, the IAEA confirmed Iran's stock of heavy water for reactors has surpassed the 130-tonne limit set under the agreement.

Heavy water is not itself radioactive but is used in nuclear re-

actors to absorb neutrons from nuclear fission.

Heavy water reactors can be used to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons as an alternative to enriched uranium.

The IAEA has also said one of its inspectors was briefly prevented from leaving Iran, calling her treatment "not acceptable".

Iran has cancelled the inspector's accreditation, saying she triggered a security check at the entrance gate to the Natanz enrichment plant last month.

The IAEA has disputed the Iranian account of the incident, without going into details.