

Bangladesh boosted their bid to reach the World Cup semi-finals as Shakib Al Hasan's superb all-round display inspired a 62-run win over Afghanistan yesterday.
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King Salman meets Pompeo amid US-Iran tensions

Dubai

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo held talks yesterday with the Saudi King and Crown Prince about countering the military threat from Iran by building a broad, global coalition that includes Asian and European countries.



King Salman with Pompeo.

Pompeo is likely to face a tough sell in Europe and Asia, particularly from those nations still committed to the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran that President Donald Trump repudiated last year.

With tensions running high in the region after Iran shot down a US surveillance drone on June 20 and Trump said he aborted a retaliatory strike.

Iran's naval commander warned that his forces won't hesitate to down more US drones that violate its airspace.

The US has been building up its

military presence in the Arabian Gulf. The US announced additional sanctions Monday on Iran aimed at pressuring the Iranian leadership into talks.

The sanctions, re-imposed after Trump withdrew from the nuclear deal, have crippled the Iranian economy and pushed up the cost of living.

Iran has decried US sanctions, which essentially bar it from selling its oil internationally, as "economic terrorism."

Pompeo, considered a hard-liner in Washington, referred to Iran as "the world's largest state sponsor of terror" before he embarked on the hastily arranged Middle East stops on his way to India,

Japan and South Korea.

He said he'd be speaking with leaders in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates "about how to make sure that we are all strategically aligned, and how we can build out a global coalition ... not only throughout the Gulf states, but in Asia and in Europe" that is prepared to push back against Iran.



Did YOU Know
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Fresh US sanctions to target Khamenei

Washington

US President Donald Trump yesterday signed an executive order that would impose fresh sanctions on Iran, amid increased tensions between the long-time foes.

Trump initially told report-

ers the sanctions, which will target Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his office, were in response to Tehran's downing of a US drone last week. Tehran has said the drone was flying in its airspace, which Washington has denied.

'Iran shouldn't go nuclear'

Moscow

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday his country will do "everything" to prevent arch-rival Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, during a visit by a senior Russian security official.

"Israel will not allow Iran, which calls for our destruction, to entrench on our border; we will do everything to prevent it from attaining nuclear weapons," Netanyahu said.

He was speaking alongside Nikolai Patrushev, the head of Moscow's powerful security council, whose visit followed weeks of simmering tensions between Tehran and Washington in the Gulf.



02 Bahrain-UN projects reviewed

03 Kingdom's exports grew 16pc last month, reveals IGA report

04 Sniffer dogs 'helped cops to arrest drug smugglers'

Championing the Palestinian cause

Kingdom all set to host the 'Peace to Prosperity Conference' today

● **The Cabinet highlighted that countries of the region and the Middle East would benefit from the "promising" economic opportunities that the workshop would offer.**

● **HH Shaikh Mohammed was informed about the latest preliminary steps of the King Hamad Causeway Project.**

Manama

The Cabinet chaired by Deputy Premier HH Shaikh Mohammed bin

Mubarak Al Khalifa yesterday, welcomed the "Peace to Prosperity" economic workshop to be hosted by the Kingdom today in partnership with the US.

The session stressed Bahrain's keenness to contribute to everything aimed at creating opportunities to support the Palestinian economy and building a prosperous future for the brotherly Palestinian people, as part of its constant approach in championing the Palestinian cause and backing all initiatives that benefit the countries and peoples of the region.

The Cabinet highlighted that countries of the region and the Middle East would benefit from the "promising" economic opportunities that the workshop would offer, welcoming the countries, as well as regional and



HH Shaikh Mohammed

international organisations and companies participating in the key economic gathering aimed at stimulating investments and economic initiatives that would lead to achieving peace in the region".

Among other things, HH

Shaikh Mohammed was informed about the latest preliminary steps of the King Hamad Causeway Project that would connect Bahrain to sisterly Saudi Arabia.

Commenting on a presentation given by the Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, the Deputy Premier gave directives to speed up the completion of the technical and engineering steps, and to finalise the procedures of the project's tenders, including the appointment of the project's main consultant.

The session approved the financial statements of the Bahrain Future Generations Fund (FGF) for the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2018, and referred them to the Council of Representatives.

782 million American dollars is the estimated asset of the Bahrain Future Generations Fund.

Audited by the National Audit Office and presented by the Minister of Finance and National Economy, the financial statements revealed that the assets of the FGF had increased by 41 per cent over the past four years, reaching \$782 million, and that the cumulative return on investment in the FGF posted an increase of 20 per cent over the past five years.

WAR GHOST

World War II bomb blasts crater in German field

Berlin

A bomb likely dating to World War II exploded in a field in western Germany leaving a huge crater but no injuries, police said yesterday.

The explosion left a 10-meter (33 feet) wide and four-meter deep hole after residents in Limburg, heard a loud noise and felt the earth shake on Sunday morning.

"The crater was examined on Monday by an explosive ord-



A big crater is pictured on a corn field in Limburg.

nance clearance service to find possible fragments," a police spokesman told AFP.

"The area was used for target practice during the Second World War," he added.

A bomb disposal service spokesman said it was "highly

possible" WW II ordnance was involved.

A local government spokesman in the nearby city of Darmstadt told German daily Bild it was believed the bomb had a chemical-based delayed timer which could have finally eroded.