

## Gulf Summit Tackles Escalation With Iran



Leaders from Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE arrive at the summit.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman chaired a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) consultative summit in Jeddah, bringing together Gulf leaders for the first time since the Iran war outbreak two months ago.

A Gulf official said the meeting aimed to coordinate a response to thousands of Iranian missile and

drone attacks that have struck GCC states since the conflict began following US and Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28.

Saudi state media said leaders discussed regional and international developments and ways to coordinate their positions amid rising tensions.

The war has damaged energy facilities across all six GCC

states, alongside civilian infrastructure, US-linked firms and military sites.

Attacks have eased since a US-Iran ceasefire on April 8, but regional capitals remain on alert as negotiations for a lasting agreement have yet to produce results.

Leaders from Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates attended the summit.

## Qatar pushes for ceasefire compliance

Qatar reaffirmed that freedom of navigation in international waterways is a fundamental principle of international law, warning that escalating threats to key maritime routes pose risks to global peace, security and trade.

Speaking at a high-level open debate of the United Nations Security Council on maritime safety, Qatar's Permanent Representative Shaikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani said the world faces a "critical moment" as challenges extend beyond traditional security concerns.

She stressed that vital corridors such as the Strait of Hormuz are increasingly vulnerable, with disruptions threatening internation-

al peace and the global economy. "Freedom of navigation is a core principle of international law," she said, referencing the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which guarantees transit rights through international waters.

Al-Thani also highlighted UN Security Council Resolution 552, which underscores the Gulf region's importance to global stability and calls on states to respect the safe passage of vessels not involved in conflicts.

Addressing recent tensions, she pointed to UN Security Council Resolution 2817, submitted by Bahrain on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Jordan. The resolution con-



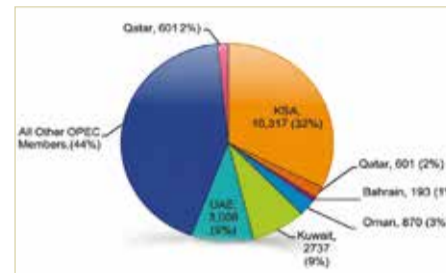
demns attacks attributed to Iran and warns against any attempt to disrupt navigation in the Strait of Hormuz.

She said such actions constitute serious violations of international law and pose a direct threat to international peace and security.

# UAE to Exit OPEC After More Than 50 Years

The United Arab Emirates has announced it will withdraw from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) after more than five decades of membership, in a move reflecting a strategic shift in its energy policy.

The decision will take effect on May 1, according to a



growth in global energy demand over the medium to long term," report said.

It added that the decision reflects a "policy-driven evolution" aimed at enhancing flexibility in responding to market conditions, while maintaining a commitment to stability.

The UAE, a founding member of OPEC since 1967, has been a key player in global oil markets alongside major Gulf producers such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Its departure comes as the country accelerates economic diversification, with non-oil sectors now contributing around 75 percent of gross domestic product. At the same time, Abu Dhabi has signaled plans to boost oil production capacity from about 3.4 million

barrels per day to five million by 2027.

The UAE expressed appreciation for OPEC and its allies, noting its "significant contributions and sacrifices" during its membership, but said it would now focus on priorities aligned with its national interests and global energy commitments.

### Oil Market Volatility by the Numbers

- 7.88 million bpd – OPEC output loss in March
- 20.79 million bpd – Total OPEC production after rop
- 27% – Monthly decline in output
- Largest disruption in decades
- Surpasses 2020 pandemic cuts (6.28 million bpd)
- Exceeds supply shocks of 1970s oil crisis and 1991 Gulf War
- UAE to exit OPEC; Qatar exited in 2019

## Hormuz closure impact discussed in Kuwait-US talks

Kuwait and the United States held high-level talks focusing on the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and its potential repercussions for global trade and energy security, according to an official statement.

During a phone call with US Vice President JD Vance, Kuwait's Crown Prince Shaikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah discussed recent regional developments, emphasizing the strategic waterway, one of the world's most critical shipping routes for oil and goods.

Both sides warned that any dis-



ruption to navigation through the Strait of Hormuz could lead to serious economic consequences, affecting global supply chains, maritime traffic, and the

stability of international energy markets.

The two leaders also exchanged views on wider regional and international developments,

underscoring the importance of maintaining security and freedom of navigation in key waterways.

The Crown Prince reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to regional stability and highlighted the importance of coordinated international efforts to address emerging security and economic challenges linked to maritime routes.

For his part, Vice President Vance reiterated Washington's support for Kuwait and stressed the importance of protecting global shipping lanes and ensuring the uninterrupted flow of energy supplies.

## Prep for Arab-EU ministerial talks



Arab permanent representatives to the League of Arab States held a coordination meeting at the organisation's General Secretariat headquarters to discuss preparations for the upcoming sixth Arab-European ministerial meeting scheduled for next month in Amman.

The meeting reviewed logistical and substantive arrangements for the ministerial gathering, set for June 22-23, 2026, in the Jordanian capital.

It was chaired by Jordan's ambassador to Egypt and permanent representative to the Arab League, Amjad Al-Adaleh, representing the host country of the upcoming min-

isterial session.

The Arab League delegation was headed by Assistant Secretary-General and head of the International Political Affairs sector, Ambassador Khalid bin Mohammed Manzalawi.

According to participants, ambassadors were briefed on the latest developments in the preparatory process and discussed a draft declaration expected to be adopted at the ministerial meeting.

The Arab-European ministerial meetings serve as a key platform for political and strategic dialogue between the two sides on regional and international issues of mutual concern.

## Dubai Hosts One of the Region's Largest Creator Gatherings

Dubai hosted one of the region's largest gatherings for content creators yesterday at 8:30 AM, as Creators HQ brought together influencers, speakers, and digital media professionals at Atlantis The Palm.

The event featured a series of panel discussions addressing key topics in the creator space, including "Between Challenge and Success," "Stories of Influential Women," and "Does Authenticity Outperform Cinematic Production?"—highlighting the ongoing shift in how content is created and consumed.

A notable moment came from Omar Farooq, a Bahraini content creator known for his purposeful and reflective storytelling. He focuses on creating meaningful content that goes beyond trends, aiming to inspire, educate, and positively impact his audience.

Referring to a story involving Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Farooq emphasized the importance of initiative among creators, noting a clear difference be-



tween simply reacting to trends and actively creating content that adds value to people's lives. "There's a big difference between being a reaction and being the action."

The gathering also saw the presence of several prominent creators, including Noor Stars, Anas Bukhash, and Mostafa Agha, reflecting the scale and influence of the event.

As the creator economy continues to grow, such events underline a broader shift: content creation is moving from a hobby to a purpose-driven profession that carries both influence and responsibility.

## Jordan Rejects Israeli 'New Facts' in Palestinian Territories



King Abdullah II reaffirmed Jordan's rejection of any Israeli measures that seek to exploit regional tensions to impose "new facts on the ground" in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza, stressing the need for coordinated international action to counter such moves.

The remarks came during talks in Amman with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, also attended by Jordan's Crown Prince, Crown Prince Hussein bin Abdullah II.

According to a statement, King Abdullah underscored that regional stability cannot

be achieved without ensuring Palestinians obtain their full, legitimate rights and establishing an independent Palestinian state based on the two-state solution framework.

The discussions covered the overall situation in the Palestinian territories amid ongoing regional tensions, with both sides reviewing political and humanitarian developments.

Jordan has repeatedly warned against unilateral actions in the occupied territories, calling for renewed international efforts to revive a viable peace process.



Guided-missile destroyer USS Rafael Peralta (DDG 115) enforces the U.S. blockade of Iranian ports against M/T Stream after it attempted to sail to an Iranian port, April 26.