

Bahrain qualify for youth handball worlds

Bahrainis defeat Kuwait to take fifth place in ninth Asian Men's Youth (U19) Handball Championship, book tickets to 2023 Men's Youth World Handball Championship | P12

Meghan Markle says she's still 'healing' after royal family exit

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BUSINESS 6 Most bourses in red as oil slide weighs on region

Bahraini citizens in Iraq urged to leave immediately

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain has urged Bahraini citizens currently resident in Iraq to leave following the unrest in the country. It also calls upon Bahraini citizens wishing to visit Iraq to postpone their travel plans. For assistance, they may contact, the Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain in Baghdad: 009647814256980; Consulate General of the Kingdom of Bahrain in Najaf: 009647728672227; and Operations office in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: 0097317227555.

The Ministry expressed deep concern over the developments in the political and security situation in Iraq.

In a statement, the Ministry called on all parties to de-escalate, exercise restraint, prioritise national interest, and actively participate in a comprehensive and inclusive national dialogue in a way that meets the aspirations of the brotherly Iraqi people.

Arab League concern
Cairo

Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit said he is "following with great concern the dangerous developments in Iraq." He added: "I call for giving priority to the national interest, avoiding bloodshed, and preserving civil peace in the country."

Early elections call to end Iraq's crisis

President Saleh speaks after Sadr supporters' withdrawal from Baghdad's Green Zone

● Nearly 24 hours of clashes leave 30 Sadr loyalists dead and 570 injured

Baghdad

Iraqi President Barham Saleh yesterday encouraged early legislative elections to settle a political crisis that escalated into deadly clashes this week, killing dozens and wounding hundreds more.

Early elections, less than a year after the last polls, have been a key demand of Shiite Muslim cleric Moqtada Sadr, whose supporters battled state security forces in violence that started on Monday.

"Holding new, early elections in accordance with a national consensus represents an exit from the stifling crisis," Saleh said in a speech.

"It guarantees political and social stability and responds to the aspirations of the Iraqi people," Saleh spoke hours after supporters of Sadr withdrew from Baghdad's Green Zone following nearly 24 hours of clashes that pitted them against the army and Shiite factions backed



Deadly clashes between rival factions grip Baghdad

by neighbouring Iran.

Thirty Sadr supporters were shot dead and at least 570 others were injured after fighting that began on Monday when Sadr's loyalists stormed the government palace following their leader's announcement that he was quitting politics.

Sadr and his supporters have spearheaded calls for the dissolution of parliament and new legislative elections following months of political paralysis.

Under the constitution, parliament can only be dissolved by an absolute majority vote in the house, following a request

by one-third of deputies or by the prime minister with the approval of the president.

Sadr's bloc emerged from last October's election as the biggest in the legislature, with 73 seats, but far short of a majority.

Since then the country has been mired in political deadlock

due to disagreement between Shiite factions over forming a coalition.

In June, his lawmakers quit in a bid to break the logjam.

Sadr's supporters had for weeks been staging a sit-in outside Iraq's parliament, after storming the legislature's interior on July 30.

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IRAQI PRESIDENT BARHAM SALEH

US Navy prevents Iran from seizing unmanned vessel in Arabian Gulf

London

The US Navy has prevented an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy support ship from capturing an unmanned surface vessel operated by the US 5th Fleet in the Arabian Gulf.

The US 5th Fleet observed IRGCN support ship Shahid Baziar towing a Sairdron Explorer unmanned surface vessel in an attempt to detain it at 11 p.m. local time on Monday.

US Navy patrol coastal ship USS Thunderbolt (PC 12) was operating nearby and responded to the attempted attack. The US 5th Fleet also launched an MH-60S Sea Hawk from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 26 which is based in Bahrain.

The actions taken by US naval forces resulted in the IRGCN vessel disconnecting the towing



A radar image showing the unmanned surface vessel operated by the US 5th Fleet in the Arabian Gulf

line to the unmanned vessel and departing the area around four hours later, the US 5th Fleet said. "IRGCN's actions were fla-

grant, unwarranted and inconsistent with the behavior of a professional maritime force," said the commander of US Naval

Forces Central Command, US 5th Fleet, and Combined Maritime Forces Vice Adm. Brad Cooper.

Afforestation strategy is a 'national priority'

TDT | Manama

Preserving the environment is a collective social responsibility, according to Council of Representatives Speaker Fawzia bint Abdulla Zainal, stressing that afforestation strategy is a national priority. She made the statement while inaugurating the afforestation programme at the Council of Representatives, along with the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak.

Bahrain is making steady progress in developing the agricultural sector, as reflected in its implementation of qualitative initiatives aimed at expanding the green area.

These efforts supports endeavours to mitigate the effects of climate change and enhancing food security, she said.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL TESTED
10274373

ACTIVE CASES
1555

DEATHS
1515

DISCHARGED
668414

NEW CASES
232

CRITICAL
1

220 fils (includes VAT)

