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U.S. SAYS 'WORST BEHIND US' ... TILLERSON, MATTIS WORK PHONES

BAHRAIN DETAINS QATAR SYMPATHISER UN WARNS STATES TO RESPECT RIGHTS

Turks bid to avoid escalation of crisis

Qatar pulls troops

ANKARA/DOHA, June 14, (Agencies): Turkey said on Wednesday Qatar's rift with fellow Gulf Arab states and Egypt was damaging the Islamic world and it would do all it could by diplomatic channels to prevent any escalation.

President Tayyip Erdogan, who has cultivated close ties to Doha while preserving relations with Saudi Arabia, dispatched his foreign minister to Doha in a bid to solve a dispute raising concern across the Middle East and beyond.

Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain have broken off ties and imposed sanctions on Qatar, accusing it of supporting terrorism and courting regional rival Iran — allegations Doha denies.

"Our main priority as part of our efforts with both Qatar and Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries is to solve this through negotiations, not to escalate the crisis," Erdogan's spokesman Ibrahim Kalin told an Ankara news conference.

Opinion

Muhammad VI ... Gulf cohesion



Adeeb Shuhaiber

Get fit ... have fun

Adeeb Shuhaiber, Certified Fitness Trainer/Fitness Nutrition Specialist and Kuwait TV2 - FM99.7 News anchor/Presenter, emphasizes the importance of physical fitness. In today's After-Iftar, Shuhaiber talks about the need to increase daily activity to keep fit.

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Kurt Dixon

Good, bad stress

The way in which the word 'stress' is used today usually carries negative connotations. Kurt Dixon, a licensed Clinical Psychologist at Fawzia Sultan Rehabilitation Institute (FSRI), talks about stress, what triggers it and tips on how to manage levels of stress.

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By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE quick move made by the King of Morocco, Mohammad VI, in an effort to mend the dispute between Qatar and three GCC countries — Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain — received positive echo from the leaders and people of the "Gulf council"

The move represents a clear indication of the king's keenness for cohesion and unity to enhance Arabs' strength in facing major challenges. It also indicates unity in the course and destiny despite the geographical distance between the Gulf region and the Arab region in North Africa.

Through his initiative to send his foreign minister for observing the situation and presenting his opinion that will be based on active diplomatic move, King Mohammad VI has demonstrated that he stands with the Arabian Gulf countries in major aspects.

Undoubtedly, this will increase Morocco's presence in the region, not only in the sphere of political and economic cooperation, but also at the level of the people and for deepening brotherly relations between Moroccans and the people of the region.

Morocco's keenness for maintaining stability and solidarity with these countries in facing the possible negative impacts as well as combating any foreign attempts to harm security is known to both the leaders and people of this region. Past events have proven Morocco's commitment to security, especially when its military participated in confronting the dangers that Morocco or the GCC countries had faced.

This kind of politics, which is based on brotherly harmony, is part of the strategy that strives for peace, development and good international relations,

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Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

"Today we are having to tackle many problems such as DAESH (Islamic State), the ongoing war in Syria, the fight against terrorism and poverty. Amid all this, tensions further escalating in the region through such a crisis would mean wasting of the region's resources and opportunities."

Turkey and Qatar have both provided support for the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and backed rebels fighting to overthrow Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Conservative Gulf neighbours have long viewed Qatar's outgoing foreign policy with suspicion.

The Gulf Arab states have not made public any demands of Qatar but a journalist with the state-funded Al Jazeera network has shared a list that includes Qatar severing diplomatic ties with Iran and expelling members of the Palestinian Hamas group and the Muslim Brotherhood who live in Doha.

The list of demands also includes ending support for "terrorist organizations" and ceasing "interference" in Egyptian affairs, charges Qatar denies.

Kalin said a Turkish military base in Qatar, set up before the regional spat, was established to ensure the security of the whole region and did not pose any military threat to any other country.

Turkey approved plans last week to deploy more troops to the base after the crisis began. But it was not immediately clear if they arrived.

Qatar, which imported 80 percent of its food from bigger Gulf Arab neighbours before the diplomatic shutdown, has been talking to Iran and Turkey to secure food and water.

At Qatar's Hamad port on Wednesday workers were busy unloading containers of food and building materials, while another ship carrying livestock, including chickens and sheep from Australia had docked at the port.

"The first vessel on that service is to arrive Friday and will run once a week," he added.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu flew to Doha for a meeting with Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani during a tour that may also include a visit to Saudi Arabia.

There was no word either from Qatar or Saudi Arabia about the visit.

The effects of the dispute could widen beyond the region.

Mood hopeful ... US

Progress has been made towards resolving the crisis between Qatar and its Gulf neighbors after senior US officials met leading players in the standoff, the State Department said Tuesday.

"I would characterize the mood and the approach to that as being one that is hopeful, that believes that the worst is behind us," spokeswoman Heather Nauert told reporters.

Earlier, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson had met Saudi

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At least 12 dead in London inferno



This handout image received from local resident Natalie Oxford early on June 14, 2017 shows flames and smoke coming from a 27-storey block of flats after a fire broke out in west London. The fire brigade said 40 fire engines and 200 firefighters had been called to the blaze in Grenfell Tower, which has 120 flats. (AFP)

— Details Page 13

Sanders supporter shoots rank Republican

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia, June 14, (AP): A rifle-wielding attacker opened fire on Republican lawmakers at a congressional baseball practice Wednesday, wounding House GOP Whip Steve Scalise of Louisiana and several others as congressmen and aides dove for cover. The assailant, prepared with "a lot of ammo," fought a gun battle with police before he, too, was shot and later died.

Scalise dragged himself off the infield leaving a trail of blood as colleagues rushed to his assistance. A government official identified the shooter as James T. Hodgkinson of Illinois. The official was not authorized to discuss the investigation by name and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Shortly after the shooting, Bernie Sanders, the former candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, said on the Senate floor that the shooter apparently was a volunteer for his campaign last year. Sanders said he denounced the violence "in the strongest possible terms."

Earlier Story Page 12



US Sen Jeff Flake (R-AZ) briefs members of the media near Eugene Simpson Stadium Park where a shooting took place on June 14, in Alexandria, Virginia. US House Majority Whip Rep Steve Scalise (R-LA) and multiple congressional aides were shot by a gunman during a Republican baseball practice. (AFP)

Other Voices

Brotherhood's double standards not strange

By Ali Ahmed Al-Baghli

Former Minister of Oil

LAST WEEK, the Turkish authority decided to start the process of withdrawing the citizenship of 130 people who are Turkish from their fathers and grandfathers.

The decision to withdraw their citizenship is not because they acquired it fraudulently, and not even due to their dual citizenship. The decision is based mainly on not being in good terms with the politics of Turkish President 'Najmudeen Erdogan'.

Among those whose citizenship is under threat of withdrawal is prominent opposition figure Fethullah Gulen who has been accused of masterminding the failed coup which occurred in mid-June last year — almost a year ago.

Also, there are two MPs from the Republican People's Party that support the Kurds.

The Turkish style of citizenship withdrawal is followed by a three-month ban on three opposition members from returning to Turkey. It is known that they will be sent to Turkish jails upon their return through captious rulings until destiny emerges.

I am astonished by the 'cemetery silence' practiced by the allies of Erdogan, here I mean the Muslim Brotherhood Group. We have not heard any single statement of criticism or protest against the arrest of thousands of Erdogan's opponents and his policies up to now.

We wish that news on revoking the citizenship of more than a hundred persons from the anti-Erdogan group wakes them up from their administrative slumber. We remind them of their legends and hymns.

Here in Kuwait, the authorities revoked citizenship for legal reasons, because some of them obtained it fraudulently while others had dual citizenship. Others worked against the principles upon which the State is based. Some revolted and continue to do so despite the reinstatement of withdrawn citizenship in exchange for parliamentary political deals for reasons which are still unknown to us — the observers.

But this is not our issue here. Our issue is about the not surprising duality in principled positions practiced daily by those affiliated to the doctrine of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Gulen has been living in the United States since 1999 to evade judicial arrest, because the authorities that plotted the coup in Turkey in 1997 are looking for him. Reason behind the animosity of the

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Email: ali-albaghli@hotmail.com

Relent on residence

KUWAIT CITY, June 14: Citing humanitarian reasons, the General Department for Residence Affairs said the residence permit of approximately 11,500 expatriates — parents and siblings — holding residence under Article 22 will be renewed, reports Al-Rai daily.

However, the renewal for those siblings and parents who are under Article 22 is subject to health insurance from private companies.

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US\$/KD 0.30320/30
Euro/KD 0.3414
Yen/KD 0.0027
British £/KD 0.3879
KSE +2.72 pts at closing June 14 See Page 36
DOW +30.05 pts at 21:20 June 14 See Page 35
Nasdaq +2.67 pts at 21:20 June 14
FTSE -26.04 pts at 21:20 June 14
Nikkei -15.23 pts at closing June 14
Gold \$1,275.50 per oz (London)
NYMEX crude 44.75 per barrel
Brent crude \$47.01 per barrel
3-month \$ LIBOR rate 1.24556%

Kuwait to 'monitor' social media users

KUWAIT CITY, June 14: A governmental committee will be formed soon to deal with social media users who spread rumors, attack other countries or incite sectarianism and sedition, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting a high-ranking security source.

According to the source, members of the committee include representatives from the ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Information and Awqaf.

He said the committee will scrutinize posts on social networking sites and other media platforms to identify those trying to ignite sedition and sectarianism or attack personalities and policies in other countries.

He revealed the Interior Ministry will be in charge of monitoring all social media accounts and refer those proven to have committed violations to the judiciary, while the Information Ministry will form a team tasked to follow up violations in electronic and print media and then refer erring individuals to the Public Prosecution.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Awqaf will monitor religious sermons and discussions, as well as encourage religious personalities to promote unity and warn against discord. Preachers are not allowed to talk about politics in their sermons, the source added.

He said the Foreign Affairs Ministry will continue playing its diplomatic roles abroad to help address rifts in the Arabian Gulf.

Meanwhile, another security source disclosed that Internet patrols are closely monitoring social networking and microblogging sites

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Ramadan Timings

IftarThursday 18:49
Imsak.....Friday 03:03