



GCC-Iraq power interconnection project launched



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Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs, Yaser bin Ibrahim Humaidan, yesterday joined a ceremony in Khobar, Saudi Arabia, to inaugurate power interconnection project between GCC countries and Iraq.

The minister said the project will enhance cooperation and address a portion of the electricity demand, particularly in southern Iraq, while supplying the Iraqi electrical grid with a minimum of 500 Megawatts.

He further stressed that the connection with Iraq will boost the economic functionality of the regional network, paving the way for future expansion at the Arab and international levels. Additionally, it will enhance reliability and improve energy efficiency within the Gulf network.

China says Palestinian president to visit next week

AFP | Beijing

Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas will make a state visit to China next week, Beijing said yesterday, after China said it was ready to help facilitate Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

"At the invitation of President Xi Jinping, President of the state of Palestine Mahmud Abbas will pay a state visit to China from June 13 to 16," foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said.

China's Foreign Minister Qin Gang in April told his Israeli and Palestinian counterparts that his country was willing to aid peace negotiations.

Qin encouraged "steps to resume peace talks" and said that "China is ready to provide convenience for this", in a phone call with Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen, Xinhua reported.

Brunei Sultan arrives in Bahrain

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Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei arrived in Bahrain yesterday on an official trip accompanied by Prince Abdul Mateen and other top delegates.

Upon landing in the Kingdom, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa welcomed Sultan Bolkiah to the Kingdom.

Also present were HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Personal Representative of HM the King HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, National Security Advisor HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Royal Court Minister, the Minister of Finance and National Economy, the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Information, the Chief of Staff of Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) and Muharraq Governor.

Shortly after, HM King and Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah received a Guard of Honour as students from the Ministry of Education welcomed the leaders.

The Bruneian delegation



His Majesty King Hamad welcomes Sultan Bolkiah yesterday

comprises Dr Awang Haji Mohd Amin Liew Abdullah, the Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Finance and Economy II, Erywan Pehin Yusof, the Minister of Foreign Af-

fairs II, Dr Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Md Salleh, the Minister of Education, Nazmi Mohamad, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports and Major general Haji Muhammad Haszaim, the

Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

Later, the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments formed a Mission of Honour.

Digital learning platforms from China, Ireland win UNESCO King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa Award



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The 2022 edition of the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Education will be awarded to "Smart Education of China", implemented by the National Centre for Educational Technology of China, and "The National Resource Hub", ran by the National Forum for Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education of Ireland.

The two laureates will each receive US\$ 25,000 for their work in making public digital learning platforms and digital content universally accessible, developing digital competencies for all teachers and learners, and promoting universal connectivity in education.

The Award Ceremony will take place on 7th September 2023 during UNESCO's flagship Digital Learning Week at its Paris headquarters. Discussions during the week will focus on digital learning platforms and the role of artificial intelligence - especially generative AI - to steer the human-centered digital transformation of education.

The winning projects were selected from 98 nominations submitted by 58 UNESCO Member States and seven NGOs in official relations with UNESCO.

The 2022 edition of the Prize had the theme "The use of public platforms to ensure inclusive access to digital education content".

Established in 2005 and supported by Bahrain, the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Education rewards every year individuals and organizations that enhance teaching, learning and overall education performance.

An international Jury selects two best projects annually.

New Sudan truce in force with warning to generals

Mediators warn will abandon talks if ceasefire violated

Talks in the Saudi have been suspended since late last month

Multiple ceasefires have been agreed and broken

Sudan declares UN envoy "persona non grata"

TDT | agencies

Sudan's warring generals have agreed to a 24-hour ceasefire from yesterday, US and Saudi mediators said, acknowledging that previous attempts to pause a conflict now nearing its third month had proved abortive.

"Representatives of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) agreed to a 24-hour country-wide ceasefire beginning on June 10 at 6:00 am (0400 GMT)," said a joint statement from the



Black smoke billows behind buildings amid ongoing fighting in Khartoum



Entire districts of Khartoum no longer have running water, mains electricity is only available for a few hours a week and three-quarters of the hospitals in combat zones are not functioning.

mediators released by the Saudi foreign ministry on Friday.

Multiple ceasefires have been agreed and broken, and Washington slapped sanctions on both the warring generals after the last attempt collapsed at the end of May, blaming them for the "appalling" bloodshed.

"Should the parties fail to observe the 24-hour ceasefire, facilitators will be compelled to consider adjourning" talks in the Saudi city of Jeddah which have been suspended since late last month, the mediators said.

Since April, fighting between the regular army and the para-

military RSF has gripped Khartoum and the flashpoint western region of Darfur, defying a series of truces.

Upwards of 1,800 people have been killed, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project, and the UN says nearly two million people have been displaced, including 476,000 who have sought refuge in neighbouring countries.

The Saudi and US mediators said they "share the frustration of the Sudanese people about the uneven implementation of previous ceasefires".

"If observed, the 24-hour ceasefire will provide an important opportunity... for the parties to undertake confidence-building measures which could permit resumption of the Jeddah talks," the statement said.

Friday's announcement comes a day after Sudanese authorities loyal to the regular army declared UN envoy Volker Perthes "persona non grata", accusing him of taking sides.

The fighting has sidelined the envoy's efforts to revive Sudan's transition to civilian rule.

