

MANAMA (Reuters) – Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has ordered a cabinet reshuffle that included appointing a new oil minister, state media reported. Mohammed Bin Mubarak Bin Dainah, who was the country's envoy for climate affairs, was named minister of oil and environment, replacing Oil Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa. Bahrain, a small non-OPEC oil producer, is one of the region's most indebted countries, with its bonds rated "junk". Persian Gulf allies helped it avert a credit crunch in 2018 with a \$10 billion aid package. Ratings agencies Fitch and Moody's have said Bahrain would likely need more financing from Persian Gulf neighbors.

The mind of a wise man is the safest custody of secrets; cheerfulness is the key to friendship; patience and forbearance will conceal many defects.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Survey: Half of Netherlands Regards Israel as Apartheid Regime

AMSTERDAM (Dispatches) – A new survey has found that 51 percent of the population of the Netherlands think that the Zionist regime is an apartheid regime, PAX reported on Tuesday.

The survey was conducted by I & O Research for the peace organization.

"This picture of how Dutch people view the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories has never been given before," explained Anna Timmerman, the General Director of PAX. "Although many people only have limited knowledge of the situation, the results are striking as they show a huge gap between the Dutch government's policy and the opinions of a cross-section of the Dutch population."

She added that, according to the survey, "The Dutch want the government to take a firmer stance on human rights abuses."

A larger proportion of the population, 61 percent, holds the occupying regime entirely or mainly responsible for the fact that the



A woman holds a banner during a demonstration to protest the Zionist regime's attacks on Palestinians on May 21, 2021, in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

conflict has persisted. Commenting on this, Timmerman said: "A notable finding is that young people in particular tend to see Israel as responsible."

Most of the respondents — 56 percent — think that the occupying regime should stop building and expanding illegal settlements; only six percent disagree.

Finally, the survey found that 40 percent of the Dutch feel that the Netherlands should stop collaborating with Zionist weapons manufacturers.

Moroccans Condemn Normalization

Meanwhile, a group of Moroccan

journalists have condemned the U.S.-sponsored normalization of diplomatic relations between the North African country and the occupying regime, and demanded closure of the office of Israel's i24NEWS television news channel in the capital Rabat.

On Monday, the journalists in a joint statement denounced media cooperation with the occupying regime as "a crime against Palestinians, Moroccans and humanity."

They condemned the opening of an office for the Israeli i24NEWS channel in Morocco, and demanded its immediate closure.

The journalists stated that the measure provoked the feelings of Moroccans, whose hearts go for supporting the Palestinian cause and defending oppressed Palestinians.

i24News channel opened an office in Morocco on May 30, becoming the first Israeli television channel to have a presence in the North African country.

Official: Yemen to Hit Saudi Oil Facilities If Smuggling Continues



The Hudaydah port in the Red Sea north of the Yemeni city of Hudaydah

SANA'A (Dispatches) – A senior Yemeni official says the country's armed forces will launch retaliatory strikes against oil installations deep inside Saudi Arabia in case the Riyadh-led coalition keeps on smuggling hauls of contraband crude oil and natural gas out of the country.

Mohammad Tahir Anam, an adviser to the Yemeni Supreme Political Council, warned the alliance that Yemeni authorities would not allow Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to further violate the extended United Nations-brokered ceasefire and plunder Yemeni oil and gas.

The Yemeni official reported a sharp increase in the theft of Yemeni oil and gas in addition to the seizure of Yemeni vessels off the coast of the country's southern province of Shabwah.

"We will be targeting Saudi companies and ships, along with their oil and gas refineries," Anam said.

Moreover, Mohammed Muftah, another adviser to the Yemeni Supreme Political Council, gave the Saudi-led coalition a stern warning, stating that tanker ships that loot Yemeni crude oil and natural gas will be targeted.

His remarks came a few days after Apolytares tanker, carrying more than two million barrels of stolen Yemen oil worth over \$270 million, departed al-Shahar port in Hadhramaut province of Yemen for the Port of Sriracha in Thailand.

Meanwhile, the United Nations on Monday launched a crowdfunding campaign to avert oil spill from the decaying FSO Safer that is moored in the Red Sea north of the Yemeni city of Hudaydah, a UN spokesman said.

The UN resident coordinator and humanitarian coordinator for Yemen, David Gressly, on Monday announced the launch of a social media campaign "to raise the necessary funds to start the emergency operation to transfer the oil from the FSO Safer to a safe temporary vessel," Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, said at the regular press briefing.

A May 11 pledging conference, co-hosted by the Netherlands and the United Nations, raised around 40 million dollars of the funds needed.

According to the United Nations, the overall estimated cost of the UN plan is about 144 million dollars, including the long-term replacement of the floating storage and offloading (FSO) vessel.

The decaying, dilapidated supertanker has been described as a "floating time-bomb" that risks causing an explosion or an oil spill four times as disastrous as the 1989 Exxon Valdez incident in the Red Sea.

Zionist MP's 'Button to Get Rid of Palestinians' Comment Stirs Outcry

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – A senior member of the Zionist regime's fragile coalition cabinet has been criticized for saying that he would deport all Palestinians in the occupied territories to Switzerland if he could.

Deputy religious affairs minister Matan Kahana from Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's right-wing Yamina party made the remarks in a speech at a boy's religious high school in the illegal settlement of Efrat in occupied Bethlehem.

The video clip aired by Israeli channel Kan shows Kahana saying: "If there was a button I could press that would take all the Arabs and put them on a train to Switzerland, I would."

The remarks by Kahana faced a backlash on Twitter.

"Matan Kahana, we are here because this is our homeland," said Walid Taha of the Arab par-

ty Ra'am. "You, and those who think like you, will continue to bear your frustration because we simply won't disappear."

Knesset member Ahmad Tibi, from the predominantly Arab Joint List opposition party, tweeted: "There is a button that will make you disappear from the cabinet and from the Knesset. I will press it soon." His words have been interpreted to suggest that the teetering coalition will soon collapse amid plans to present a motion to dissolve the current Knesset and call a new General Election.

Cabinet Close to Implosion

The Zionist regime's fragile coalition appears closer to collapse after a lawmaker from prime minister Naftali Bennett's right-wing Yamina Party said

he was "no longer part" of the cabinet.

The development came as Bennett's coalition with deep chasms, which includes hard right and Arab parties, has staggered ever closer to implosion, a year after it ended Benjamin Netanyahu's record 12-year rule.

"I have informed the prime minister that based on the current situation, I am no longer part of the coalition," Nir Orbach said in a statement published by several Israeli media outlets.

Bennett's coalition was sworn in last June after his predecessor Netanyahu was ruled unfit for the job following several indecisive elections.

Orbach, who was the third legislator to leave Bennett's far-right Yamina Party, said he wanted to avoid another election.

His departure has left Ben-

nett's coalition with 59 seats in the 120-member Knesset—two sits short of the majority it needs to be able to pass laws.

Netanyahu, now head of the opposition and vowing a comeback despite being on trial for corruption, said the ruling coalition was holding "one of the longest funerals in history."

By his own admission, Bennett's coalition may collapse within "a week or two" unless the MKs who have quit choose to return. "If they don't, then we cannot [continue]," Bennett said.

"We are fighting because the choice is between chaos and stability," he alleged, claiming that his coalition "isn't perfect, but the alternative isn't better."

Netanyahu responded by saying, "You are not fighting" for the occupying regime "but for your own seat."

Riyadh to Execute Man Convicted as Minor

Biden to Visit 'Pariah' Saudi Arabia, Occupied Territories Next Month

WASHINGTON (AP/Middle East Eye) – President Joe Biden confirmed on Tuesday that he will visit Saudi Arabia next month for talks with leaders of the kingdom, a dramatic reordering of his stance on the kingdom that he pledged to make a "pariah" as a Democratic candidate for the White House.

With the visit at the tail end of a July 13-16 Middle East trip that includes stops in the Israeli-occupied territories, Biden is edging off his adversarial stance against the Saudis' human rights record. He's looking to reset the relationship at a time when the U.S. could use help from the oil-rich kingdom to alleviate soaring prices at the pump for motorists at home and around the globe.

The stop in Saudi Arabia will include talks with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the defacto leader of the kingdom. U.S. intelligence officials have determined Prince Mohammed likely ordered the 2018 killing of U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

In a brief exchange with reporters ahead of departing to Philadelphia on Tuesday for a labor convention, Biden bristled when asked about his upcoming visit to Jeddah and noted that his team had laid out in a statement "everything I'm doing in the Middle East."

Human rights advocates and some Democratic allies cautioned Biden about visiting the kingdom, saying such a visit without first getting human rights commitments would send a message to Saudi leaders that there are no consequences for egregious rights violations. The Saudis have been accused of using mass arrests, executions and violence to squelch dissent.

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and the No. 2 Senate Democrat, told CNN that Biden "has a tough job dealing with gasoline prices and trying to find ways to find new sources and supplies to bring down inflation in the energy sector."

But Durbin said he had "mixed feelings" about the visit, calling the Saudi's human rights

record "an outrage."

The Saudi Embassy in Washington said Biden would meet with both King Salman and Prince Mohammed and described the visit as coming at the king's invitation "to strengthen the historical bilateral relations and the distinguished strategic partnership between" the two countries.

Biden confirmed his trip as a Saudi court has upheld a death sentence against teenager Abdullah al-Huwaiti, who was convicted for crimes allegedly committed when he was a minor.

Saudi Arabia's Court of Appeal decided on Monday to carry out the death sentence against Huwaiti, who was arrested in 2017 when he was only 14 and given the death penalty at 17 after being convicted of murder and armed robbery.

Reprieve, a UK-based legal NGO, said in a statement that the death sentence against Huwaiti, now 19, "defies United Nations experts' plea that his death sentence be reversed".

Rights Group: Egypt 'Exacerbating' Gaza Blockade

CAIRO (MEMO) – Policies implemented by the Egyptian government at the Rafah border crossing to Gaza have "exacerbated" human rights conditions for Palestinians, according to a new report by Human Rights Watch.

Omar Shakir, Israel and Palestine director at HRW, says that Egypt has helped the Zionist regime turn Gaza into "an open-air prison."

Whilst many start travelling again after two years of the global coronavirus pandemic, Gaza's population remains under a 15-year lockdown.

The Zionist regime's authorities have blocked Gaza since 2007, banning Palestinians from travelling through the Erez crossing, which is controlled by the occupying regime's army, and from operating a seaport or airport in the strip.

Egypt has exacerbated the blockade by restricting and sometimes fully closing the Rafah Crossing into the Sinai Peninsula, which has become the only route for Palestinians in Gaza to travel

in and out.

Following the 2013 toppling of the late President Mohamed Morsi, Egypt exerted control over the Rafah Crossing and kept it closed for five years.

In 2018 restrictions eased, but the crossing remains more tightly sealed.

According to the watchdog's statistics, pre-2013 an average of 40,000 people crossed every month whilst in 2021 an average of 15,077 crossed.

If Palestinians are allowed to travel through the Rafah Crossing and onwards through Egypt, they must pay high fees and bribes to try and ease their passage.

Five Palestinians interviewed by Human Rights Watch said they suffered intrusive searches at the crossing and that Egyptian officers had confiscated their belongings.

The seven-hour journey from Rafah to Cairo airport can take up to three days due to the checkpoints and other delays and passengers are often prevented from using their phones.