

SALT Abu Dhabi: Where finance, technology, geopolitics meet

Author:

Mon, 2019-12-09 21:32

DUBAI: The first Middle East SALT conference – the global thought leadership platform run by former White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci – kicks off in the UAE capital Abu Dhabi on Tuesday.

Some 1,000 leaders from the worlds of investment, finance and policymaking will gather at the city's financial hub, the Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM), for the two-day event, billed as a "Davos style" forum intended to "foster collaboration at the intersection of finance, technology and geopolitics." Scaramucci, who launched the event in 2009 under the auspices of his investment business Skybridge Alternatives, told Arab News that there will be a "phenomenal group of people" at the event, which combines onstage presentations, one-to-one "bilaterals" and networking for some of the leading business and technology thinkers in the world.

"It's through conversations like these that we can create greater cross-cultural understanding and begin to solve the world's most pressing problems," he said.

The big annual meeting is held in Las Vegas each year, but spin-off events have been held in Tokyo and Singapore.

The event will have a strongly regional flavor, with Saudi Prince Turki Al-Faisal, chairman of the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, being joined by ADGM Chairman Ahmed Al-Sayegh and Khaldoon Al-Mubarak, managing director and group CEO of the Mubadala Investment Co., both of the UAE.

Al-Sayegh said: "The UAE's robust economic environment, comprehensive industry offerings and sound political stability continue to uphold the nation's stature as one of the most preferred investment destinations in the world."

He added: "The SALT Abu Dhabi conference opens up a new window for global businesses and policymakers to gain new insights of what Abu Dhabi and the UAE have to offer now and in the long term."

Among the foreign thought leaders attending the event are Gen. John F Kelly, former White House chief of staff, and Matteo Renzi, former prime minister of Italy.

"The future of US-Arab relations" will be the topic of a panel discussion on Monday. The session, to be moderated by Arab News Editor in Chief Faisal J. Abbas, will feature Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations; Norman Roule, CEO of Pharos Strategic Consulting LLC; and Dania Koleilat Khatib, affiliated scholar at the Issam Fares Institute.

On the same day, another panel discussion – featuring Renzi and Phillip Hammond, former chancellor of the British Exchequer, and moderated by Gideon Rachman, chief foreign affairs commentator at the Financial Times – will address "the future of Europe."

The delegates will be keen to hear Scaramucci's latest view on the political situation in the US.

He has been one of the fiercest critics of the presidency of Donald Trump, and is leading a campaign to persuade other members of the Republican Party to choose another contender for next year's presidential election. "Given his rank lawlessness and criminal activity, the lack of resistance in the Republican Party to him tells you a lot about the hypocrisy in America today," Scaramucci said. "He has clearly broken the law, but he has a group of sycophants and acolytes who won't condemn what he's doing," he added. "I just think he's the wrong leader for the US. Our system is supposed to ensure that everyone is subject to the law. The president is supposed to serve, not rule. I think the guy is a traitor."







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15,000 to attend World Energy Congress in UAE Abu Dhabi to host 3rd Global Energy Forum

[SALT Abu Dhabi: Where finance, technology, geopolitics meet](#)

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15,000 to attend World Energy Congress in UAE Abu Dhabi to host 3rd Global Energy Forum

Vandals damage cars in Arab neighborhood of east Jerusalem

Author:

Associated Press

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Mon, 2019-12-09 15:30

JERUSALEM: Vandals slashed the tires of over 160 vehicles and sprayed slogans such as "Arabs=enemies" in a Palestinian neighborhood of Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem, Israeli police said Monday. Elsewhere, Palestinian residents of the volatile West Bank city of Hebron staged a general strike to protest the construction of a new Jewish settlement there.

Masked suspects operated under the cover of darkness to vandalize the cars in east Jerusalem's Shuafat neighborhood and spray-painted Hebrew graffiti on a nearby wall, police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said. He said the authorities were treating the incident as criminal with "nationalistic motives."

Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Lion condemned the "hate crime" and called upon the police "to find the criminals as fast as possible and bring them to justice." The graffiti included the phrases "When Jews are stabbed, we aren't silent," and "There is no place in the land for enemies."

Hard-line nationalist Israelis have been known to execute so-called "price tag" attacks against Palestinians in response to Palestinian militant attacks or perceived efforts by Israeli authorities to limit settlement expansion. It was unclear what motivated Monday's incident.

In Hebron, the West Bank's largest city, Palestinian shops, schools and businesses were shuttered for the one-day strike. Some youngsters hurled stones at Israeli military patrols, and soldiers fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the crowds.

Israel's new defense minister, Naftali Bennett, presented his plan for a new settlement there early this month. Bennett, a longtime supporter of the West Bank settlement movement, said his plan will double the Jewish population of Hebron.

Hebron is frequent flashpoint of violence. Hundreds of hard-line Jewish settlers guarded by thousands of soldiers live in the heart of the city, which has a population of over 200,000 Palestinians.

Palestinian Mayor Tayseer Abu Sneineh said the city has formed a legal team to challenge the decision in Israeli courts.

Israel captured the West Bank and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war and quickly began settling the newly conquered territory.

Over the past five decades, Israel, citing security needs, has established a military bureaucracy in the West Bank that enforces movement restrictions on Palestinians through a complex permit system. Some 600,000 Israelis now live in settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem.

The US announced a new American doctrine last month that does not consider Israeli settlements a violation of international law. It was the latest in a

string of diplomatic gifts by the Trump administration to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.



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Israel closes Palestinian organisations in Jerusalem

[Heavy rain causes floods, paralyzes Lebanon's capital](#)

Author:

Associated Press

ID:

1575906289986986200

Mon, 2019-12-09 15:25

BEIRUT: A rainstorm paralyzed parts of Lebanon's capital Beirut on Monday,

turning streets to small rivers, stranding motorists inside their vehicles and damaging homes in some areas.

The flooding came as protesters have been holding nearly two months of demonstrations against the country's political elite and decades of widespread corruption and mismanagement. Protesters remained in their encampments in Beirut and other cities amid the heavy rain.

Despite spending billions of dollars since the 1975-90 civil war on improving infrastructure, Lebanon still suffers hourslong electricity cuts every day, and many people rely on tanker trucks to bring water to their homes. Every year when it rains, roads get flooded with water because of an inadequate sewage system.

The rain began to fall Sunday morning and has affected the entire country, but Beirut and its suburbs were hit the worst.

In the southern suburb of Ouzai, cars were nearly submerged in the rising water, leaving motorists stranded. A tunnel that passes under the Rafik Hariri International Airport remained closed for hours because pumps that clear water from inside it didn't work.

A man was seen using a surf board to pass through the tunnel, while in other parts of the city some residents used small boats to get around.

Outgoing Minister of Public Works and Transpiration Youssef Fenianos blamed the crisis on what he said was 50-year-old infrastructure and population increases in some areas. He added that as a result of Lebanon's recent economic and financial crisis, it was difficult to open lines of credit for infrastructure work.

"I am ready to take full responsibility," the minister said during a news conference.

Fenianos was part of the Cabinet of former Prime Minister Saad Hariri, who resigned Oct. 29 under fire from the anti-government protesters. A stalemate has since ensued over who should head the new government amid a deepening economic crisis, shortage of liquidity and hard currency.





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Lebanon PM widens plea to secure food imports
Job losses and pay cuts as Lebanon's economy crumbles

[2 Turkish soldiers killed, 7 wounded while defusing bomb](#)

Author:

Associated Press

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1575903756676766100

Mon, 2019-12-09 11:46

ANKARA: At least two Turkish soldiers were killed and seven others were wounded on Monday while attempting to defuse an improvised explosive device, officials said.

The device exploded in a village near the town of Idil, in the mainly-Kurdish

populated Sirnak province, according to a statement from the regional governor's office. It said the explosive device was planted by militants of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK. The statement didn't provide further details but said Turkey's operations to combat the PKK were continuing with "determination." There was no word on the wounded soldiers' conditions. The PKK, which is considered a terror organization by Turkey, the United States and the European Union, has been waging an insurgency inside Turkey since 1984. The conflict has killed tens of thousands of people since then. In October, Turkey invaded areas of northeast Syria in a bid to drive Syrian Kurdish fighters away from its border. Turkey says the Syrian Kurdish fighters are linked to the PKK and has been infuriated by Western nations' support to the militia.



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Turkey protesters demand sacking of top police officers Turkey kills Daesh suspect, detains 4 more