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## Mutairis in MP's tent-burning held

Arrest warrants condemned

By Nihal Sharaf  
Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Feb 12:** Security forces have begun arresting Al-Mutairi tribesmen suspected of burning down MP Mohammed Al-Juwaihel's electoral tent two days prior to the 2012 National Assembly elections. Tens of identified tribesmen were held for questioning based on videos taken during the incident and many more are expected to be summoned, according to sources.

Thousands of Al-Mutairi tribe protestors attacked Al-Juwaihel's election tent in Adailiya on Jan 30 and burned it to the ground in response to alleged defamatory statements made by him during a seminar against the tribe and tribe member and MP Obaid Al-Wasmi Al-Mutairi. The election headquarters was torched amidst extensive security presence that was unable to calm the protestors.

Meanwhile, tribal MP Khaled Shukhayyer Al-Mutairi condemned the "arrest warrants against more than 300 Al-Mutairi tribesmen for questioning" and stressed that a parliament investigative committee will be formed on the issue. The MP further alleged that the Ministry of Interior (MoI) is coordinating with Al-Juwaihel in that regard and threatened to grill HH the Prime Minister, Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

### News in Brief

**Tenure of asst undersecretaries renewed:** The interim Cabinet has renewed the tenure of assistant undersecretaries in all ministries and government institutions, reports Al-Shahed daily quoting sources.

Sources explained this is the first time the executive authority is adopting such measures to renew the tenure of senior officials through an Amiri Decree. Sources said the renewal or extension of tenure varies according to the concerned minister's opinion and the report he refers to the executive. Sources confirmed the authority has demanded a report on every assistant undersecretary for general restructuring purposes in the ministries and other government departments.

Sources added the ministers have been granted a grace period of two months to take a decision after reviewing files of the assistant undersecretaries. Sources affirmed the executive authority has the right to renew or terminate the services of officials through an Amiri Decree.

**Power dept ready to face challenges in summer:**

The Assistant Secretary for Network Distribution in the Ministry of Electricity, Eng. Abdul Wahab Turki said that his department is ready to face any challenges that they may encounter in the coming summer season, reports Al-Watan Arabic daily.

He assured that preparations and arrangements are being carried out as per the plan set by the department to efficiently manage any issue that could affect the distribution of electricity within the country.

The department has signed an agreement to receive a supply of 100 diesel electricity generators. These generators will generate 1,800KV for the emergency departments to assist and reinforce distribution networks.

## Iran warns

Continued from Page 1

Larjani was referring to the generous financial aid and political support provided by Gulf Arab states, namely Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, to the Iraqi regime during the 1980-1988 war against Iran.

His comments come at a time when the United States and the European Union have imposed new sanctions on Iran's central bank and oil exports in January over its controversial nuclear programme.

Tehran has called on Saudi Arabia to reconsider a vow to make up for any shortfall in Iran's oil exports due to these new sanctions, saying Riyadh's pledge to intervene on the market was unfriendly.

Long-strained ties between Shiite-dominated Iran and Sunni-majority Saudi Arabia deteriorated after Saudi-led troops intervened in Sunni-ruled Bahrain in March help the government there crush Shiite-led pro-democracy protests.

The relations worsened late last year following US allegations that a foiled plot to assassinate the Saudi ambassador to Washington had been hatched in Tehran.

In addition, the Gulf Cooperation Council comprising of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, have called on Iran to "stop interfering in the internal affairs" of their nations.

Meanwhile, a senior Chinese diplomat arrived in Tehran on Sunday to discuss Iran's nuclear programme, amid differences between China and the West over how to resolve the dispute it has caused.

The semi-official ISNA news agency said China's assistant foreign minister, Ma Zhaoxu, met a member of the Supreme Council of National Security, Ali Baqeri, for talks on Iran's stalled nuclear talks with six world powers, as well as bilateral ties.

The agency quoted Ma as saying China was interested in accelerating talks between Iran and the P5+1 group, comprising the United States, France, Germany, China, Russia and Britain.

In another development, Iranian authorities will crack down this week on any public protest against the year-long house arrest of opposition leaders, Mirhossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karubi, an official was quoted as saying on Sunday.

Iran, at odds with the West over its disputed nuclear programme, holds a parliamentary election on March 2, its first national poll since Mousavi and Karubi were beaten by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in a 2009 vote they said was rigged.

The government denied any fraud in the election, which ignited eight months of street protests, prompting a violent state response and deep splits in the ruling establishment.

The two leaders were placed under house arrest on Feb 14 last year after they urged their supporters to join a rally in support of popular uprisings across the Arab world.

In Manama, the top US Navy official in the Arabian Gulf said Sunday he takes Iran's military capabilities seriously but insists his forces are prepared to confront any Iranian aggression in the region.

Vice Adm Mark Fox, commander of the 5th Fleet, told reporters at the naval force's Bahrain headquarters that the Navy has "built a wide range of potential options to give the president" and is "ready today" to confront any hostile action by Tehran.

He did not outline specifically how the Navy might respond to an Iranian strike or an effort to shut the entrance to the Arabian Gulf, though any response would likely involve the two US aircraft carriers and other warships cruising the waters off Iran.

"We've developed very precise and lethal weapons that are very effective, and we're prepared," Fox said. "We're just ready for any contingency."

Faced with tightening Western sanctions, Iranian officials have stepped up threats to close the Strait of Hormuz if the country's oil exports are blocked. A fifth of the world's oil supply passes through the narrow waterway, which is only about 30 miles (50 kms) across at its narrowest point.

Iran and Oman share control of the waterway, but it is considered an international strait, meaning free passage is guaranteed.

Iran's army chief, Gen Atallah Salehi, early last month warned an American warship not to return to the Gulf shortly after the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis and another vessel left. Another carrier, the USS Abraham Lincoln, entered the Gulf without incident on Jan 22.

Fox acknowledged that Iran's military is "capable of striking a blow" against American forces in the Gulf, particularly using unconventional means such as small attack boats or mines laid along shipping lanes.



Photo by Khaled Sandiq

BBF members pose outside the Arab Organizations Headquarters.

## Building renowned for its spectacular architecture, design

### BBF members tour Arab Organizations HQ

By Valiya S. Sajjad  
Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Feb 12:** The BBF-Aviation, Travel & Hospitality sector, went on a tour of the Arab Organizations Headquarters in Shuwaikh Saturday led by Group Convener, Hanna Jerczynska. About 30 members along with their families and friends took part in the tour.

The Arab Organizations Headquarters houses important institutions such as the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development, OAPEC (Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries), the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation and the Arab Maritime Petroleum Transport Company, and is renowned for its spectacular architecture and design.

The building is the finest study in pan-Arab artistry. During the two-and-a-half hour tour, the guests were led through massive doors each opening into a world of breathtaking splendor deceptively secreted away within the box-like exterior.

On the outside, the building is a massive, prosaic gray cube of granite, covering 54,000 square meters, dotted with deep-set, slanted windows on each face, angled away from sun's direct onslaught. This plain facade, the designers say, is intentional, saving the surprise until one takes a step into the building.

Once inside, the building's soaring dimensions and artistry capture the imagination. The colossal Moroccan

water wall with its colorful hand-crafted tiles and a complimentary Moroccan tile-work are just a hint of what's to come. Next to the waterfall is a wooden Samarkand Tree sculpture.

In keeping with Arab architectural custom, the orientation of the building is entirely inward. In a generally hot and hostile environment high exterior walls surrounding an inner courtyard offer privacy and protection from the sun's intense rays without cutting the airy openness.

The integral use of arts and crafts from across the region is central to the philosophy behind the building. The skilled craftsmanship of carved stone, zellige mosaics, woven tapestries and beadwork mashrabiyas all add an undeniable aesthetic value to this unique structure. Unified by the vital underlying thread of Islam, these multinational crafts also provide a striking visual symbol of Arab unity in the building.

Every detail in the building is a subject of lecture: from the giant Egyptian walnut entrance doors to the Moroccan tile water wall, from the Jordanian stone work and fragrant carved cedar of the Tunisian Room to the Syrian fountain of the Damascene Room, and in so many other exquisite examples of traditional and modern Arabesque artistry. The combination of modern steel, glass and concrete with mediaeval crafts stands as a triumph of Arab artistic creation.

The guests only had to touch the doors to feel humbled by the wisdom

of the ancient masters, as these giant woodworks swung to the dainty push of an unwitting finger. Intricately hand carved and painstakingly constructed, no nails or glue hold the individual pieces in place. This allows the wood to expand with the extreme heats of the region without harming the door.

Despite its extensive attention to artistry, the building's functional offices meet all the modern day requirements and codes without any compromise. The mean-looking control panels and safety equipment are readily accessible on every floor, yet unobtrusive, concealed behind wall panels and decorative doors.

The realities of the building are rooted in practicality and convenience. Raised floors provide easy access to the life support cabling system running from the central building management room. Beneath the floors, computer cables share space with firefighting equipment, communication lines, air conditioning and water pipes. Air handling units, normally above the ceiling, here are housed under the floor as well. Every pipe, light or duct is easily accessible.

The Library of the Arab Organizations Headquarters Building features a graceful spiral staircase, an intricate wood screen and a Moroccan mosaic border around the carpet. The wood screen is carved in traditional Arabesque design. A mosaic border repeats traditional Arabesque patterns around the carpet in front of the library desk.

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