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Page 44

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# MPs demand 24 prosecutions over Dow deal



HH the Amir honors a Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) award winner. — See Page 3

## Nod to juvenile draft law

By Abubakar A. Ibrahim  
Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 2: Kuwaiti MPs called on the government Wednesday to refer 24 ex-oil officials to the Public Prosecutor over a scrapped deal with US firm Dow Chemical that resulted in a \$2.2 billion fine.

A parliamentary probe report charged the officials, including two former oil ministers and ex-top executives, of squandering public funds and making illegal profits.

Kuwait and US petrochemicals giant Dow Chemical signed a \$17.4-billion joint venture in 2008 but the emirate unilaterally scrapped the deal in December the same year due to a political dispute between the government and Parliament.

The International Chamber of Commerce, acting as an arbitrator, ordered Kuwait to pay a penalty of \$2.2 billion for scrapping the deal.

The government paid the fine in May 2013 although Parliament had warned against making the payment before con-

ducting a probe.

State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Sabah told Parliament the government will refer the parliamentary investigation to court for legal action.

During the debate, several MPs criticised the parliamentary investigation as "unfair, biased and politically-motivated" for not including a large number of former and current top officials who were linked to the issue.

MP Ahmad Al-Azemi said members of the Supreme Petroleum Council must also be charged because they approved the deal and its cancellation.

MP Mohammad Tana described the fine as "the robbery of the century" and claimed the payment was deliberately rushed for selfish interests.

He also accused the government of not taking any action to recover the funds.

Islamist MP Hamdan al-Azemi said the report failed to interrogate the senior officials who took the decisions, in a

Continued on Page 8

## Other Voices

# He cried... they cried!

By Ali Ahmed Al-Baghli  
Former Minister of Oil



Al-Baghli

dominant force all over the world.

These two cell phones companies have left behind all those who were unable to compete and keep pace with them in terms of the touch system technology, new applications and programs who now lament their bad

THE Board Chairman of Nokia Corporation, a multinational firm which for long years had topped the cellphone industry, addressed the company workers when the firm was sold for just \$2 billion to US Microsoft Corporation although the company was worth tens of billions.

The former Nokia Chairman said, "We did not keep in touch with time, it did not wait for us and this is the consequence."

At the mention of these words he cried and all those who were there shared his sorrow because of his words of wisdom. He said the Nokia Company did not keep abreast with the modern cell phone technology unlike Apple and Samsung which have become a

luck. Personally, I ask Allah the Almighty, to bestow mercy upon the Nokia phones — the phones which we had become so much

Continued on Page 8  
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## Opinion

# Where is Turkey heading with its obstinacy?

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah  
Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

MISTAKES have been committed in the war waged by some countries against terrorism (ISIL). Even if the mistake is small, it is detrimental and it might change the course of the entire battle.

This is what the government of Turkey should have taken into consideration before issuing orders to shoot down the Russian fighter jet even if the jet crossed Turkey's air space — because the current crisis between Turkey and Russia can change the calculations of certain countries. Therefore, it is necessary for these countries to exert tremendous efforts in calming the situation between Turkey and Russia in order to avoid escalation of the ongoing conflict in Syria.

Terrorist groups might take advantage of such conflicts to encourage their members by showing them how the "enemy" crumbles internally in order to instill jubilation, strength and enthusiasm in terrorists. This does not mean a country should let go when its sovereignty is violated — as flexibility is also needed in dealing with such incidents, especially when Turkey is accused of facilitating the way for terrorists to pass through its borders to enter Iran and Syria, in addition to allowing refugees to flood Europe.

Furthermore, the unity of Turkey is under threat by separatist groups in its territories, and Iran, through the presence of its revolutionary guards in Syria and attempts to surround Turkey. This is a serious threat for Turkey and the entire region. It

Continued on Page 8

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# Erdogan ... oil sparks clash

MOSCOW, Dec 2, (Agencies): Russia's defence ministry said on Wednesday it had proof that Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and his family were benefiting from the illegal smuggling of oil from Islamic State-held territory in Syria and Iraq.

Moscow and Ankara have been locked in a war of words since last week when a Turkish air force jet shot down a Russian warplane near the Syrian-Turkish border, the most serious incident between Russia and a NATO state in half a century.

Erdogan responded by saying no one had the right to "slander" Turkey by accusing it of buying oil from Islamic State, and that he would stand down if such allegations were proven to be true. But speaking during a visit to Qatar, he also said he did not want relations

with Moscow to worsen further.

At a briefing in Moscow, defence ministry officials displayed satellite images which they said showed columns of tanker trucks loading with oil at installations controlled by Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, and then crossing the border into neighbouring Turkey.

The officials did not specify what direct evidence they had of the involvement of Erdogan and his family, an allegation that the Turkish president has vehemently denied.

"Turkey is the main consumer of the oil stolen from its rightful owners, Syria and Iraq. According to information we've received, the senior political leadership of the country — President Erdogan and his family — are involved in this criminal business," said Deputy Defence Minister Anatoly AntoNov

"Maybe I'm being too blunt, but one can only entrust control over this thieving business to one's closest associates."

Continued on Page 8



The Kuwait Towers decorated with the flag of the UAE to mark the celebration of its National Day, on Wednesday.

# 'IS struggling to expand in Libya'

UNITED NATIONS, US, Dec 2, (AFP): The Islamic State group has no more than 2,000 to 3,000 fighters in Libya and is struggling to expand its foothold in the north African country, a UN report said Tuesday.

The jihadist group, which controls large swaths of territory in Syria and Iraq, still poses a threat to Libya but the report cited several weaknesses in its operations

in what has been widely viewed as an IS rear base. "ISIL is only one player among multiple warring factions in Libya and faces strong resistance from the population as well as difficulties in building and maintaining local alliances," said the report by a sanctions monitoring team.

Continued on Page 8

## Call for accountability

# Climate blame on rich

LE BOURGET, France, Dec 2, (Agencies): Campaigners on Wednesday pointed a finger at the rich for dangerous warming of the planet as negotiators from 195 nations fought a grinding battle over the text of a pact to avert climate disaster.

The rich-poor divide, which has for decades bedevilled climate talks, re-emerged on the sidelines of the UN conference in Paris, where participants reported mounting frustration over progress towards the post-2020 deal.

The UN talks aim to seal a deal that would slash carbon emissions — which come mainly from burning fossil fuels such as coal and oil — and deliver hundreds of billions of dollars in aid for climate-vulnerable countries.

It is the latest chapter in a 25-year diplomatic saga marked by spats over how to share the burden of reducing emissions, and hobbled by a negotiation system of huge complexity.

Behind their vows of support, many leaders have often preferred the short-term benefits of burning cheap and dependable fossil fuels to power prosperity, ignoring the consequences of carbon pollution.

## Emissions

British charity Oxfam issued a study saying the richest 10 percent of people produce half of Earth's climate-harming fossil-fuel emissions, while the poorest half contribute a mere 10 percent.

An average person among the richest one percent emits 175 times more carbon than his or her counterpart among the bottom 10 percent, the charity said.

"Rich, high emitters should be held accountable for their emissions, no matter where they live," Oxfam climate policy head Tim Gore said.

"But it's easy to forget that rapidly developing economies are also home to the majority of the world's very poorest people and while they have to do their fair share, it is rich countries that should still lead the way," he said in a statement.

Developing countries say the West has polluted for much longer and should shoulder a bigger obligation for cutting back.

They are also calling on rich nations to make good on a 2009 pledge to muster \$100 billion (94 billion euros) a year in climate aid by 2020.

Continued on Page 8

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