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Sheikha Fareeha Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah dies, 74

Amiri Diwan mourns passing

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13, (KUNA): In the early hours of Monday, Kuwait mourned the death of Sheikha Fareeha Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, President of the Kuwait Association for the Ideal Family, who passed away at the age of 74.

Sheikha Fareeha was the daughter of the late His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the tenth ruler of Kuwait, and the sister of both His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as well as His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince of Kuwait.

She was born on Feb 15, 1944 at Dasman Palace and married her cousin Sheikh Rashed Al-Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, with whom she had four children, Sheikha Reem, Sheikha Bibi, Sheikh Humoud and Sheikh Ahmad.

Sheikha Fareeha was known for her passion for charitable and social work, as well as her dedication to family issues and women's rights in particular. The Kuwait Association for the Ideal Family, which she heads, launched the "Ideal Mother Award for Outstanding

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MP offers condolences ... recalls philanthropy, kindness

By Lukman Badru
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13: MP Riyadh Al-Adani sent condolences to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the whole Al-Sabah Family on the demise of Sheikha Fareeha Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The lawmaker described Sheikha Fareeha as a strong pillar in handling family-related issues with strong passion for philanthropic and social activities. He said the annual Ideal Mother

Award was one of her initiatives, revealing that he personally experienced Sheikha Fareeha's kindness when he served as board member of Al-Nuzha Cooperative Society for six years as she was a resident in the area. He added Sheikha Fareeha was in constant contact with the society concerning the award, while honoring outstanding students. He prayed that Allah Almighty forgives her shortcomings and grant her the best place in Al-Jannah.

Meanwhile, MP Mohammad Hayef Al-Mutairi has forwarded questions to Deputy Prime Minister and State Minister for National Assembly Affairs Adel Al-Kharafi on the spread of cyber

crimes, particularly hacking. He pointed out the heinous act affects lives, especially the right to access information and respect for one's privacy. He considers it as one of the hazards of technological advancement.

He accused several social media sites and online applications for spreading immoral clips targeting human values and ethics; in addition to serving as platforms for swindling, theft, violation of confidentiality code and exposing people's data. He added this has become a blackmailing tool and a negative phenomenon which

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Opinion

You were right Abdullah ... they are seceders

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

FOR the past seven years, Jordan has been serving as a barrier against terrorist groups and the spread of these groups in Arabian Gulf countries. Without a doubt, citizens and security forces paid a high price, especially since the kingdom has been and continues to be a sanctuary for about a million and a half Syrian and Iraqi refugees despite its limited resources. This has not weakened security control in preventing chaos caused by terrorist groups seeking to include Jordan on the list of countries under the control of what King Abdullah II described as 'seceders' or 'khawarij' in Arabic.

Therefore, the operation to eliminate the terrorist cell in Salt town a few days ago is of great importance especially in this period when the defeated terrorist groups in Syria and Iraq are searching for a new hideout or sanctuary from which they could carry out and launch terrorist operations in the region and the entire world. This is in addition to transforming the newfound sanctuary into a breeding ground for the 'seceders' of this era whom Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) described as 'dogs of hellfire' because they terrorize people and go against the charter on sanctity of blood and people's money.

This category deviates from the values of Islam and distorts the image of Muslims and their good faith. No matter how different the names — whether DAESH, Popular Mobilization Forces, Hezbollah, Ansar Allah (Houthis), al-Qaeda or Ansar Bait al-Maqdis — they come from one setup where they are taught about ideology, extremism and misinterpretation of religious texts within the confines of the Muslim Brotherhood Group.

Since 1928, the Arab world has been plagued by a new generation of seceders. The group tried to deceive Arabs and their rulers within a specific period, especially in Egypt when they kowtowed to Abdul Nasser before the irrevocable divorce between them following the attempt to assassinate the latter after he rejected some of their demands which were aimed at controlling State organs.

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A handout picture released by Iran's Defence Ministry on Aug 13, 2018 shows Defence Minister, Brigadier General Amir Hatami, standing by the next generation short-range ballistic missile 'Fateh Mobin', during an unveiling ceremony in the capital Tehran. State broadcaster IRIB said the new missile had 'successfully passed its tests' and could strike targets on land and sea. (AFP)

Syria depot blast toll 69

BEIRUT, Aug 13, (Agencies): The death toll of an explosion at a weapons depot in north-western Syria has risen to 69, mostly civilians including 17 children, a monitor said Monday as search operations continued.

Sunday's blast of unknown origin in the town of Sarmada in Idlib province took the lives of 52 civilians, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The explosion also killed 17 members of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, a jihadist-led alliance, according to the Britain-based monitor, which relies on a network of sources inside Syria.

"Rescue operations are still ongoing," Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman told AFP, more than 24 hours after the blast at the depot inside a residential building.

Most of the civilians killed were family members of HTS fighters displaced to the area from the central province of Homs, he said.

HTS controls more than half of Idlib province and is led by jihadists from Syria's former al-Qaeda affiliate.

Most of the rest is held by rebels, while the regime also holds a slither of the province's

southeast.

The Islamic State jihadist group also has sleeper cells in the area.

In recent months, a series of explosions and assassinations — mainly targeting rebel officials and fighters — have rocked the province.

While some attacks have been claimed by IS, most are the result of infighting since last year between other groups.

Regime forces have in the past week ramped up their deadly bombardment of southern Idlib and sent reinforcements to nearby areas they control.

President Bashar al-Assad has warned that government forces intend to retake control of Idlib, after his Russia-backed regime regained chunks of territory from rebels and jihadists in other parts of Syria.

Around 2.5 million people live in the province, half of them displaced by fighting in other regions of the country.

More than 350,000 people have been killed and millions displaced since Syria's civil war started in 2011 with the brutal repression of anti-government protests.

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'Agility' teams for Abraaj bid

DUBAI, Aug 13, (RTRS): Kuwait's Agility has teamed up with New York-based Centerbridge Partners for its bid to acquire all or part of stricken Middle East private equity firm Abraaj, according to a finance source.

The pair are among potential buyers to emerge for the investment management unit of Dubai-based Abraaj, which filed for provisional liquidation in the Cayman Islands in June after months of turmoil related to a row with investors over the use of their money in a \$1 billion healthcare fund.

Agility's aim in partnering with Centerbridge, which has experience in managing distressed assets, is to make its offer more attractive to limited

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Stab in back: Erdogan

Kuwait denies cash buy to shore up lira

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 13, (Agencies): Kuwait has rebuffed as "ungrounded" reports that it injected KD 500 million (\$1.6 billion) to back the Turkish currency of lira, which has been in free-fall over deteriorating ties with the US.

Denying such reports, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance said in a statement that Finance Minister Nayef Al-Hajraf met with Turkish Minister of Treasury and Finance Berat Albayrak at Kuwait International Airport on Sunday evening.

During the meeting, both ministers addressed the latest economic situation in Turkey, where Kuwait has various investments, according to the statement.

But, they did not touch upon a possible backing to the Turkish national currency, nor did they make any financial or investment decisions, it confirmed.

Meanwhile, Turkey's central bank on Monday failed to halt the precipitous plunge of the lira with a raft of measures aimed at soothing markets, as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accused the United States of seeking to stab its NATO ally "in the back".

A dispute between Turkey and the

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This handout photo released on Aug 13, by the Turkish Presidential Press Service shows President Recep Tayyip Erdogan addressing a luncheon for participants of 10th Ambassadors' Conference at the Presidential Complex in Ankara. (AFP)

NewsWatch

AMMAN: Jordan said Monday that a "terror cell" targeted in a deadly weekend raid by security forces were supporters of the Islamic State group and shared its extremist views.

Saturday's raid, during which three jihadists were killed and five arrested, revealed that the militants were preparing a series of "terrorist" attacks in Jordan, Interior Minister Samir Mubaiden said.

A joint unit of special forces, police and army troops raided a house in Salt, a town northwest of Amman, a day after an officer

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No war, no talks

Not all Iran sanction: Iraq

TEHRAN, Aug 13, (Agencies): Iran's supreme leader said Monday there would be neither war nor negotiations with the United States, and that the country's problems were the result of government mismanagement more than renewed sanctions.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's comments add to the pressure on President Hassan Rouhani following a collapse in the currency and widespread protests over high prices and corruption.

They also appeared to rule out any hope of fresh talks with Washington, which US President Donald Trump had proposed after walking out of the landmark 2015 nuclear deal and reimposing sanctions.

"Beside sanctions, they are talking about war and negotiations... let me say a few words to the people: There will be no war, nor will we negotiate with the US," Khamenei said via his official Twitter account in English.

There was also a show of military resolve as Defence Minister Amir Hatami unveiled a next generation short-range ballistic missile and vowed to further boost the country's missile capabilities.

State broadcaster IRIB said the new Fateh Mobin missile had "successfully passed its tests" and could strike targets on land and sea.

Despite renewed sanctions, many Iranians — including many at the highest levels of the establishment — see US hostility as only a contributing factor to long-standing problems inside the country.

"Today's livelihood problems do not emerge from outside, they are internal," Khamenei said in another tweet.

"Not that sanctions don't have an impact, but the main factor is how we handle them," he added.

Criticism

Khamenei mirrored recent criticism of Rouhani's economic management from senior members of the clergy and the Revolutionary Guards — particularly over the collapse of the rial, which has lost around half its value since April.

A fortnight ago, Guards commander Mohammad Ali Jafari told Rouhani to take "revolutionary actions to control prices and prevent the enormous increase in the price of foreign currency and gold," in an open letter published by the conservative Tasnim news agency.

But Khamenei criticised conservatives who called for Rouhani's resignation, saying they were inadvertently "playing into the hands of the enemy".

"The government must stay in office and powerfully carry out its duties to resolve the problems," he said.

Part of the strategy has been an effort to show action against Iran's deeply entrenched corruption, which Khamenei once described as "a seven-headed dragon".

The judiciary said Sunday it had arrested 67 people under a sweeping corruption crackdown and prevented 100 government employees from leaving the country.

Khamenei approved a written request from the head of the judiciary, Sadegh Larijani, to set up special revolutionary courts to try people quickly for economic crimes.

Some lawmakers have criticised the move, with high-profile MP Ali Motahari saying on Monday that parliament must not be "by-passed" when writing new rules.

With the nuclear deal crumbling, Rouhani finds himself with little to show for his five years in power and increasingly under fire from all sides.

Although the other parties to the agreement — Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia — have vowed to resist US sanctions, many foreign companies have already abandoned projects in Iran for fear of US penalties.

A significant cut in oil sales is also expected when the US reimposes a second phase of sanctions in November — with some analysts estimating a drop of 700,000 barrels per day from its current level of 2.3 million.

State news agency IRNA reported on Monday that Iran is offering oil and gas at a discount to Asian customers in a bid to retain sales.

Khamenei's tweets followed a speech in Tehran, in

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