



KUNA photo
Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Muhammad Al-Sabah with the United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen Martian Griffiths.

Yemen resolution focus of talks

The Assistant Foreign Minister and Office Director of the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Muhammad Al-Sabah received on Tuesday at the Foreign Ministry Diwan the United Nations Special Envoy for

Yemen Martian Griffiths and the accompanying delegation.

They tackled, during the meeting, the latest developments in the international efforts aiming at reaching a resolution to the crisis in Yemen.

Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad

Al-Nasser emphasized Kuwait's supporting role to all the efforts by Griffiths to retain security and stability to Yemen and alleviate the humanitarian suffering of its people.

Senior officials at the ministry attended the meeting. (KUNA)

Scores of workers cheated by 'human peddlers' stage sit-in

No 'iqama' stamped after 9 months

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 3: Scores of workers demonstrated in downtown Kuwait City in one of the towers because the company that hired them has allegedly failed to comply with the terms and conditions mentioned in the contract and violated their rights, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to the daily after the workers accused the company representatives of swindling them. They said each of them paid an equivalent of KD 1,000 to get a job in Kuwait. They added, they were

hired as car and motorcycle drivers and their job was to deliver 'merchandise'. They added, although they arrived in the country about nine months ago, the company has yet to make their stay legal; this is in addition to other injustices they have been subjected to.

They pointed out after they went on strike the company officials closed their offices and instead of taking action challenged the workers to do what they can. The workers have appealed to the government to intervene and help them get their rights and either refund their money and force the company to get them the residence permit because the company hired them from overseas.

The laborers affirmed that they

have not received any salary or support from the company since their arrival. They said they have all documents to prove their rights.

They added they have filed a complaint with Disputes and Settlements Department of Public Authority for Manpower accusing the company of wrongdoing. They added, they are looking for a lawyer who can assist them to get their money which collectively amounts to about 70,000 dinars.

Meanwhile, the daily has learnt that the PAM Deputy General Manager Dr Mubarak Al-Azmi is following up the issue and the inspection teams from the authority will pay a visit to the workers and pursue the 'human traffickers'.

DIWANIYA ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Many killed, injured in Iraq upheaval'

'Two demos with different outcomes'

"THERE is a big resemblance between the people's movement or revolution in Iraq and Lebanon in terms of their causes and objectives," columnist Dr. Hamed Al-Humoud wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"The two countries are suffering from poverty, unemployment and the deterioration of the educational and health services. The two revolutions aim to fight rampant corruption in the state's organizations. Not just that the peoples in the two countries are suffering because of the absence of their real representation in their elected councils.

"Apart from the above, there is another resemblance between the two countries, their similar internal circumstances under which the constitutions of Lebanon and Iraq were drawn.

"In other words, the Lebanese constitution was written in 1926 and the country during that time was subjected to the French domination, and the Iraqi constitution by the American ruler of Iraq Bremer in 2005, hence, we find how the demonstrators in the two countries called for constitutional amendments to get rid of the sectarian distribution of portfolios in the government.

"But it is needless to say the above demand of the demonstrators is the most difficult when it comes to translating the same into a reality because one really wonders if there is a possibility of forming a government or parliamentary elections in the two countries away from the sectarian quota.

"However, I think the most important resemblance between the two countries shows that 'revolutionary' Iran, is the supporter of the corrupt sectarian regimes in both Iraq and Iran, particularly since we know that the Iranian spiritual leader Ali Khamenei looks at what is happening in the two countries as 'riots' instigated by the Americans and the Israelis and the regional states.

"Speaking of the popular moves in both Iraq and Lebanon which erupted spontaneously during October 2019 did not ignite the feelings rapidly but they transformed into an overwhelming popular intifada (uprising).

"As such in view of the great number of people taking part in these intifadas, the latter have yet to form their leadership. With regard to Iraq, for instance, we have been accustomed to see the popular move led by the 'Saeroun Bloc' as the biggest parliamentary bloc led by Moqtada Al-Sadr although he is not a member of parliament.

"In this context, we say that the Saeroun Bloc shouts slogans against America but not against Iran and given this situation Al-Sadr suddenly finds himself as part and parcel of the regime which the demonstrators are currently looking forward to change.

"And because the Saeroun Bloc is not in a hurry to lead the current popular move, this has actually shadowed Al-Sadr and some Iraqi blocs and Shiite parties which are loyal to Iran, as such Al-Sadr himself has left Iraq after the revolution erupted and now lives in Iran and left the situation in the hands of Hadi Al-Amri who is the Iranian strongman in Iraq.

"In the meantime, we have observed that while the popular move in Lebanon from the very beginning has been peaceful, the movement in Iraq has turned ugly and has resulted in the death of more than 481 demonstrators and wounded thousands of others since the beginning of last October and this shows that the atmosphere of freedom, the economic situations and the educational level in Lebanon is still better than that of Iraq.

"In this context, we say that the protests in Lebanon sometimes take a festive mood but in Iraq the regime has dealt with the demonstrators with violence particularly in the absence of political representations among the Iraqi demonstrators. To make matters worse Moqtada A-Sadr has abandoned them after they shouted slogans against Iranian interference in the Iraqi affairs."

Also:

"The new tendency towards the institutional evolution of modern management in the world is currently based on transparency and the popular contribution to boost the actual role of national governments," columnist Dr. Nasser Khamees Al-Mutairi wrote for Annahar daily.

"Amid such atmospheres, a new term called the 'Open Government', has emerged. This term actually reflects the commitment to the principles of the Institutional Open Government through idealism in addition to the consecration of the concept of democratic government.

"Initially, the term 'Open Government' surfaced during the reign of the former American president George W. Bush Jr. in 2007 when he signed 'The Open Government Law'. But at the outset his successor the then president Barack Obama in 2009, witnessed the implementation of 'The Open Government' initiative in a bid to apply the highest level of transparency on government work, and the 'Open Government' became not only a global tendency but a part and parcel of the democratic regimes in the world.

"In 2011, eight countries including Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, the Philippines, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, endorsed the declaration of the Open Government and together launched the 'Open Government Partnership' (OGP) - deemed as an initiative of multiple parties as well as a partnership between the government and the civil community.

"As a matter of fact, the OGP philosophy says the governments must play a transparent, cooperative and partnership role under which the citizen will reserve the right to familiarize himself/herself with the data related to the project as well as for discussing the same and eventually express his/her opinion on the same in addition to the submission of the necessary proposal and enlightening the public opinion for the best interest of the people through the social media and this shall enable the relevant government to respond to the demands of its citizens and appreciate their partnership, experience, and contribution to the decision-making process.

"It is a comprehensive government where all citizens will be able to have access to its services, because it depends on the advanced technology that might be required to boost the OGP role in extending various services.

"Given the above, we believe Kuwait joining the OGP has become a necessity - necessary towards the ideal application of the institutional government programs and work seriously to fight corruption through popular contribution and the reactivation of transparency in addition to boosting civilian control to help

support the parliamentary control and democracy."

"No state can become a state of institutions if law is not applied in it, because any favoritism in this regard means undermining institutions. 'Wasta' (influence) is the first shovel of demolition in this regard. So when the law is applied to an MP or minister, it means protection for them before a blow is given to their influence. The goal means that, when he becomes a former official, no one will insult him or take revenge on him for doing injustice to the avenger in the past," Sattam Ahmed Al-Jarallah wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"In the past years, we have heard many complaints about the interference of MPs to prevent application of the law on those close to them. Instead of being a popular role model in seeking to establish a state of institutions, they have become role models in breaking the law. This is the reason for the chaos that engulfed Kuwait at all levels, because the outlaw has found those who support him and provides him with protection.

"Grievances abounded from the interference of MPs in institutions, the unworthy appointment of people who sabotaged the institutions, and the pressure on the police in the performance of their duty to infringe their prestige, which made them appear helpless. This is the worst that can happen to a state.

"What has happened in the past few days over interference in a purely legal matter needs a long pause in the situation that Kuwait has reached. It calls for a public rally around the security man who applied the law without fearing or submitting to 'wasta' or influential figure. "If any official tried to put pressure on this policeman, he should be held accountable, because the official paved way for insulting the policeman, who is the first and last resort for people to protect them. Those with any observation in this regard or has any right, there is the judiciary to which everyone invokes.

"It is surprising in a democratic state such as Kuwait that the legislature is transformed into a transgression on the executive authority, not an honest observer to apply the law and adhere to the correct standards in this. The first source of corruption that everyone must work to combat, and most importantly, the security men should not be subjected to any pressure, whether tribal, sectarian or regional. It is the duty of an MP, if he finds failure of a security man or an employee of his tribe to seek accountability, then justice becomes the basis for the king and a source of success for the state."

"We have been hearing talks on the e-government, administrative development, future plans, and Kuwait's vision for 2020 and 2030, yet we see nothing but the growing red tape," columnist Mesh'al Uqab wrote for Al-Shahed daily.

"An observer of sustainable development in Kuwait realized the bitter truth that there has been no progress for many years, maybe since the liberation of Kuwait in 1991. The real situation implies deterioration in all fields including education, health services, infrastructure, traffic, roads and employment. These facts reveal the absence of clear development plans.

"We have heard a lot about launching five-year plans but years have gone by and we see no results at all. As we approach the end of 2019, will we see some fruits in 2020? I really doubt it due to the poor performance of both the government and the Parliament, in addition to suspension of parliamentary sessions and the government's absence from these sessions. All these put us back to square one. Actually, we have no five-year, 10-year or 30-year plans.

"A number of governments and parliaments have been formed in the last few years. This implies instability. Where are the new hospitals? Where is the expansion of roads in order to ease traffic jams? Kuwaitis are depressed due to the lack of development plans.

"While listening to the fairy promises of the government, the citizen becomes isolated from reality such that he plunges into rosy dreams which never come true. Ironically, the government admits that there are many shortcomings in terms of services but it remains silent and puts responsibility on the Parliament accusing the latter of disrupting development plans through grilling.

"On the other hand, the Parliament accuses the government of disturbing its sessions. However, the truth is that the government has the budget and the authority to take decisions but it hesitates in doing so."

"In a very short period, Kuwaitis felt a sense of hope after Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad joined the government in December 2017 as the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, in addition to heading the Supreme Council for Planning, which is the most important of all," columnist Maczyd Mubarak Al-Maasharji wrote for Al-Anba daily.

"For once, we felt a practical well-studied development plan in place wherein private sector was the main partner in an effort to restore confidence in investors and ensure the return of capital into the county, while attracting foreign investors. I cannot forget the seminar organized by the volunteer team 'Durar' in the presence of Sheikh Nasser, which presented a study prepared on the development of northern Kuwait and the islands of Kuwait (Failaka, Boubyan and Sabiyah project), containing a detailed explanation of economic feasibility and job opportunities the projects would provide.

"In this regard, we saw hope in Sheikh Nasser because of his determination to fight corruption. We saw him suspending his medical leave to follow-up the incident in which one of the army cadet died during a training session. He personally conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family, and as promised, the case was referred to the public prosecution after which investigations pointed to suspicions of corruption.

"Indeed, there are many things to say about Sheikh Nasser to demonstrate the reason behind our hope in him, but it is enough to mention that he is a graduate from the school of diligence, discipline and politics of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem, Sabah Al-Ahmad and Saad Al-Abdullah, hence he deals with all files realistically away from procrastination and political evasiveness. I am certain that my hope is in Sheikh Nasser; a warrior who fights corruption and the corrupt head-on."

"The joy of people when the Kuwaiti team emerged victorious in their match against the Saudi team was no ordinary joy; it was overwhelming and great joy," Talal Al-Saeed wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"It became clear to all that Kuwaiti people have suffered a lot of frustrations, and thus are in need of joy. They love life and are creators in their daily life, but the pressures they experience on daily basis have increased, and their statutes have changed.

"All the consecutive failures they faced in all fields including sports have been the center of attention for all Kuwaiti people; otherwise, the failure of our team in many matches would have led the people to abstain from following-up the matches.

"Apart from the above, there are no entertainment utilities in Kuwait after Entertainment City and other entertainment utilities were closed. Citizens are also unable to travel."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb

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