



**CLASSIFIEDS**  
are you looking for:  
**job villa shop etc.**

Business and  
**ARAB TIMES**  
CLASSIFIEDS  
Career JOBS  
World Economy  
look page : 26

# US grounds Saudi pilots, halts training



Photo by Claudia Farkas Al Rashoud  
Kit Villiers and Abdul Aziz Al Qallaf listen while Sadeq Ali Hassan Al Qallaf (far right), and Mohammed Fadhel Khalaf Al Qallaf demonstrate the use of traditional ship-builders' tools. On Nov 30, 2019, the son of Alan Villiers, and the son and grandson of Kuwaiti seamen who had sailed with him, spent a memorable morning together.  
- See Pages 11 & 12



Photo courtesy of Melody Mitchell  
Lt Col Melody Mitchell (above), addressing a 'Lean In' meeting. Mitchell is passionate about leadership and gender equality, and about empowering other women to embrace leadership.  
- See Pages 15 & 16

**OUR LIVES**  
OUR COMMUNITY  
What's On  
Pages 10-20

## Opinion

### Beirut to Baghdad ... gangsters dominate

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

FROM the rejection of hike in prices of bread in Sudan to the public protest in Algeria over the fifth term agenda of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika and uprising against the deteriorating economic situation and living standards in Iraq to the protest in Lebanon against the tax regime on WhatsApp. These are real revolutions emanating from certain angles that indicate excessive affront on citizens and further looting; thus the scale of anger became inundated with the momentum witnessed for months in those countries.

If the revolution in Sudan consumed and brought down the "Brotherhood" government and the situation is similar in Algeria, which has begun working on its future through elections, then there is no doubt that it hones the ability of those revolutionists in Iraq and Lebanon to remain in streets, and they will not return to their various homes until their demands are met.

Experience has proven that no power in the world can overcome the determination of the people, especially in places where governments exist in the form of looting gangsters as observed in countries where the authorities control the people through deprivation, debts and crises. The activities of such governments are full of intrepidity in some cases - as witnessed in Sudanese and Iraqi cities, and obstinacy in other cases - as in the situation of Algerian cities and the state of affairs in Lebanese cities. They were oblivious of the fact that the flood cannot be stopped by merely holding up hungry, repressed and marginalized people with anesthesia or analgesic.

The protests have been and remain fruitful until date. For the first time in the history of Lebanon, somebody went out over 37 years ago precisely from the Cabinet controlled by Hezbollah, speaking out to denounce the interference of Iran in Lebanese affairs in the manner by which the Deputy Revolutionary Guard Chief Murtaza Qurbani spoke, and shamelessly violated its sovereignty.

In Iraq, the agitation for better living standards has transformed to "bringing an end to" Iranian control and expelling the arrows of "Faiqa Al-Quds" (Al-Quds Corps) therein. The placards lifted by protesters and burning of the consulates in the southern cities are clear proof that the fake slogans of Tehran's regime, claiming to be defending the weak and oppressed Shiites in the province, have collapsed.

Although the demonstrations may look like a spontaneous action, it's a clear indication that the people are well informed and organized. They remained peaceful until militants working for Iran started killing the protesters, and mercenaries from the "Hezb Amal" and Hezbollah double crossed the protesters in Beirut. The latest of such action was witnessed a couple of days ago within the premises of the Parliament Speaker when the hooligan parliamentary security attacked and beat protesters, causing damage to their vehicles.

**Continued on Page 2**  
Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com  
Follow me on:  
facebook  
ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

### Vetting review

WASHINGTON, Dec 11, (Agencies): The Pentagon announced on Tuesday it was halting operational training of all Saudi Arabian military personnel in the United States until further notice after a Saudi Air Force lieutenant shot and killed three people last week at a base in Florida.

The decision will have far-reaching impacts on visiting Saudi personnel, including grounding more than 300 Saudi Arabian military aviation students as part of a "safety stand-down," first reported by Reuters earlier on Tuesday.

The Pentagon later confirmed the Reuters report about aviation students and added the move would also affect infantry personnel and all other Saudi training, other than classroom training. Such coursework, which includes English-language classes, will continue.

A senior US defense official, briefing Pentagon reporters on the decision, said the move was intended to allow for a broader review of security procedures that would eventually apply to all of some 5,000 international military students in the United States.

**Stand-down**

Still, the safety stand-down only applied to the some 850 visiting students from Saudi Arabia. The defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the shooting "suggested that there could be a particular improvement with that (nation's) population."

"I don't have any evidence to suggest that there is a larger ring or larger conspiracy," the official said, when asked what was driving the safety stand-down.

The FBI has said US investigators believe Saudi Air Force Second Lieutenant Mohammed Saeed Alshamrani, 21, acted alone when he attacked a US Navy base in Pensacola, Florida, on Friday, before he was fatally shot by a deputy sheriff.

The shootings have again raised questions about the US military relationship with Saudi Arabia, which has come under heightened scrutiny in Congress over the war in Yemen and Saudi Arabia's killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi last year.

Still, US military leaders have sought to portray this as a localized issue which would not affect the overall US-Saudi relationship.

Navy spokeswoman Lieutenant Andriana Genualdi said the safety stand-down and operational pause began on Monday for Saudi Arabian aviation students.

She said the grounding included three different military facilities: Naval Air Station Pensacola, Naval Air Station Whiting Field and Naval Air Station Mayport, all in Florida.

The Air Force said its groundings of Saudi aviation students also applied to additional US bases.

"Given the traumatic events, we feel it is best to keep the Royal Saudi Air Force students off the flying schedule for a short time," the Air Force spokeswoman said.

**Designed**

Alshamrani was on the base as part of a US Navy training program designed to foster links with foreign allies. He had started training in the United States in 2017 and had been in the Pensacola area for the past 18 months, authorities said.

A group that tracks online extremism has said Alshamrani appeared to have posted criticism of US wars in predominantly Muslim countries and quoted slain al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden on Twitter hours before the shooting spree.

The Pentagon, meanwhile, ordered a broad review of vetting procedures for international students who participate in training on US military installations and demanded the process be strengthened, in direct reaction to last week's deadly shooting at a Pensacola Navy base by a Saudi aviation student.

The memo signed by Deputy Defense Secretary David Norquist also suspends flight and other operational training for all Saudi Arabian students in US military programs. It follows a decision by the US Navy to halt flight training for more than 300 Saudi Arabian students at the Pensacola Naval Air Station and two other bases in Florida.

Norquist's memo says the review of the vetting must be completed in 10 days, and the flight restrictions will continue throughout the review and until they are lifted by senior leaders.

"As we reaffirm our commitment to these critical military partnerships, so must we assess the efficacy of our security procedures in light of the tragic loss of life on Dec 6," the memo says.

# Labor laws enshrine commitment to rights

'Guaranteeing dignity mission in Kuwait'

**KUWAIT CITY, Dec 11, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah Wednesday reiterated his country's respect for international commitments to human rights.**

Addressing a seminar on contract workers' rights co-organized by the Foreign Ministry and the UN Mission in Kuwait, Al-Jarallah said Kuwait would continue its efforts to ensure the ensuing rights of these commitments, chiefly guaranteeing dignity.

In this regard, he pointed out the efforts exerted by Kuwait over the last years to create a congenial atmosphere for contract workers in Kuwait so that they could positively contribute to the development process in the country, citing relevant laws and decrees.

Al-Jarallah emphasized that badly organized immigration could deepen splits and divisions in societies and subject people to exploitation and abuse.

Therefore, he maintained, Kuwait participated in the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration organized by the UN in the Moroccan city of Marakech in December 2018, which produced the Global Compact for Migration.

He added that all Kuwaiti labor laws are a normal outcome of growth and development in the country, spurring workers to seek job opportunities in this oil-rich country.

As the labor law aimed at making a fair balance between the interests of employees and employers, a new law, Law 6/2010, was adopted, the Kuwaiti official remarked.

This piece of legislation reflected Kuwait's respect for all international commitments in the fields of human rights and International Labor Organization (ILO) agreements, Al-Jarallah said.

Furthermore, Kuwait has established several labor agencies with a view to promoting and safeguarding the rights of contract workers and to offering all necessary facilities to them, he boasted.

Foreign laborers and their families, who are over three million, enjoy all rights enshrined in national laws and favorably contribute to all sectors in the country, Al-Jarallah noted.

In this regard, he recalled the UN General Assembly's decision adopted on Sept 4, 2000 designating Dec 18 as the International Migrants Day due to the increasing number of migrants worldwide.

The Kuwaiti deputy foreign minister cited Law 68/2015 regarding housekeepers as an example to follow owing to its multiple guarantees, mainly in relation to housekeepers and employers.

The law included a center for female laborers, aiming at providing them with help, legal protection and health services and free-of-charge meals, Al-Jarallah pointed out.

The center, which can accommodate 500 women workers, has gained the praise and appreciation of international governmental and nongovernmental organizations and diplomatic missions in Kuwait, he said, adding that another center for male workers was in the offing.

## Other Voices

# The mother of all crimes

By Ali Ahmed Al-Baghli  
Former Minister of Oil

THE mother of all crimes is what we refer to as the "Dow Chemical deal", a case that was unprecedented in the history of Kuwait since its inception. This scandal was quite huge in terms of the size of losses that the public funds incurred illegally, estimated at \$2.5 billion (KD 2,500 million).



Al-Baghli

Dear esteemed reader, just imagine someone receiving from you such a huge sum of money without breaking a sweat.

This scandal is "the mother of all crimes" because its contractual articles were phrased, from A to Z, in favor of one party - the foreign company.

What did the legal consultants and advisors in the Kuwaiti company do about this unfair contract? In fact, the entire agreement of the project, which was to be executed in Kuwait, was based on the Scottish law.

According to the "liberal" legal experts, this law stands with both parties' equality. This prompts us to ask the question - "Why didn't the contract stipulate that the prevailing law should be the 'Kuwaiti law' because the project is to be executed on Kuwaiti land, and instead of the law that favors the foreign party?"

The contract was signed by the Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC), and was presented and approved by its board of directors. The same board owns Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC). This board as well as Ministry of Oil were headed by the same person from the "Brotherhood" fanatic faction, who was a Cabinet member and a member of the Supreme Petroleum Council which also had approved the deal.

**Continued on Page 2**  
Email: ali-albaghli@hotmail.com

## Newswatch

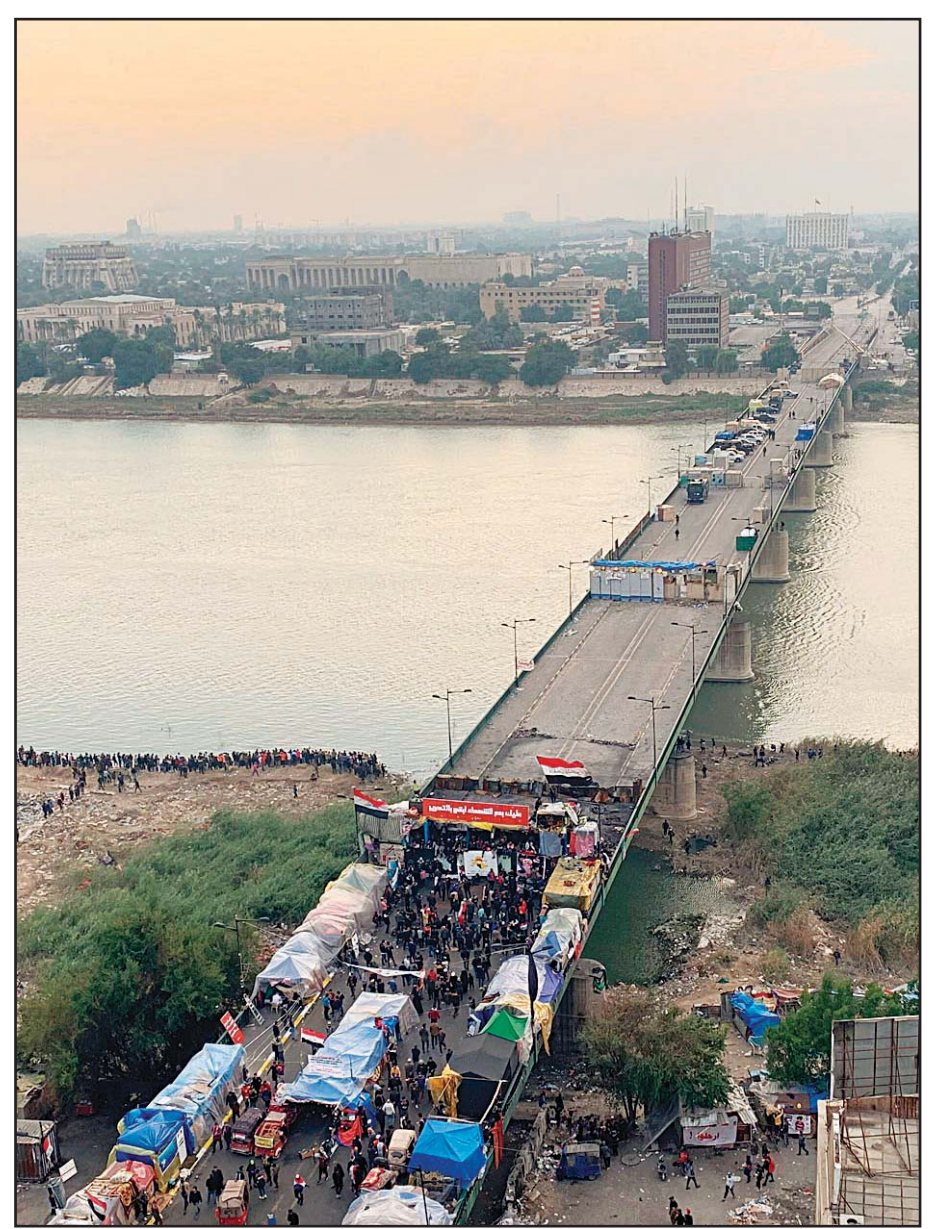
**KUWAIT CITY:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences Wednesday to US President Donald Trump, expressing sincere grief toward the victims of a recent shooting in New Jersey.

In the cable, His Highness expressed wishes for a swift recovery to those injured.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to the US leadership. (KUNA) - See Also Page 8

**KUWAIT CITY:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday a cable of condolences to the Governor General of New Zealand Patsy Reddy over victims of White Island volcano, which erupted Tuesday and caused many deaths and injuries.

**Continued on Page 2**



Anti-government protesters stage a sit-in while security forces close a bridge during ongoing protests in Baghdad, Iraq on Dec 10. (AP)

# New US sanction on Iran

WASHINGTON, Dec 11, (Agencies): The Trump administration on Wednesday hit Iran with new sanctions that target several transportation firms as it continues its "maximum pressure campaign" against the Islamic Republic over its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

The sanctions target Iran's state shipping line and a China-based company that has been involved in delivering missile parts to Iran. They also add a layer of new penalties to a previously sanctioned Iranian airline, Mahan Air, which is accused of sending weapons to Iranian proxies in Lebanon and Yemen, and three of its sales agents.

The moves were announced by the Treasury and the State Department and will subject foreign firms and governments that do business with the targeted entities to sanctions themselves, including a freeze on any assets they may have in US jurisdictions.

"Today's designations put the world on notice that those who engage in illicit transactions with these companies will risk exposure and sanctions themselves," Secretary of State Mike

Pompeo said.

Pompeo announced the sanctions even as he expressed hope that a weekend prisoner swap with Iran could lead to a dialogue between Washington and Tehran over prisoners. He called Saturday's release of Princeton graduate student Xiyue Wang in exchange for an Iranian jailed in the US a "happier note" that could yield progress.

"I do hope the exchange that took place will lead to a broader discussion on consular affairs. We are working to use this as an opportunity to continue that effort," he said. "I hope that it portends well. We have had some indication that may be the case, but I don't want to be overstate that, I don't want to give false optimism about that pathway."

"If we can find an opening and deliver these people back to their families and back to America we will certainly do that," he said.

US authorities say Iran is holding one American national and five dual US-Iranian nationals. They include Navy veteran Michael White, who

**Continued on Page 2**