



The Kuwaiti delegation at the meeting.

**KCCI participates in 52nd GCC chambers meeting**

Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), led by the First Deputy Chairman Abdulwahab Mohammad Al-Wazzan, participated in the 52nd meeting of the GCC Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, which was hosted by

Oman's Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Dec 11-12. According to a press release, other members of the Kuwaiti delegation to the meeting were the Director General Rabah Abdul-Rahman Al-Rabah, Deputy Direc-

tor General for Support Services Saqer Essa Al-Muna'ie, Deputy Director for Commercial Relations Fahad Mohammad Al-Saghir, and Deputy Director for Computer Systems Management Abdul-Rahman Al-Hamlan.

**'Cooperation key to develop media agencies in the area'**

Kuwaiti team in China to boost relations

**MUSCAT, Dec 14, (KUNA): KUNA's Director General and Chairman Sheikh Mubarak Duajj Al-Sabah said on Saturday that a bloc of Arab news agencies has bolstered cooperation among its members.**

come with closer cooperation, the KUNA chief added, emphasizing the importance of turning to credible and reliable sources for news. KUNA's chairman spoke of how global news outlets' use of modern tools and resources provide Arab news agencies with an example to follow, which in turn, would prove beneficial for the region's news sources.

the cities of Beijing, Shanghai and Xi'an, was made possible due to an invitation from the Chinese government. China is keen on developing relations with Kuwait on all possible domains, stated Al-Marzouq, adding that the visit focused on developing relations in particular the political, economic, and social ties. Meetings with Chinese foreign ministry, media, and economic officials were held during the visit, the Kuwaiti media figure affirmed.

The Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA) has provided a platform for the exchange of ideas and knowledge, he said amid talks involving the bloc's general assembly, pointing out that cooperation is key to develop the region's media and broadcasting sector. He mentioned a number of challenges facing the global media industry, particularly in the wider Arab region, ones that can only be over-

He went on to commend Oman for hosting the talks, saying he was impressed with the spate of recent accomplishments the Gulf Sultanate has made across various fields. Meanwhile, a Kuwaiti delegation - led by editor-in-chief of Al-Anba newspaper Yousef Al-Marzouq - visited China as part of both countries' efforts to bolster relations on all possible domains. Speaking to KUNA, Al-Marzouq said that the visit, which included

He also noted that the Kuwaiti media delegation also met with Ambassador of Kuwait to China Samih Hayat and member of the embassy's staff with the encounter discussing the huge development in Kuwaiti-Chinese relations since His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's 2018 visit to China.

**DIWANIYA** ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

**'Iraq revolt unlikely to end soon'**

**'End sought to Iranian influence'**

"NO SIGNS show that the Intifada (uprising) of the Iraqis which has been turned into a revolution will end soon, because we know that its demands are not limited to the ouster of the Prime Minister," columnist *Dr Hamed Al-Humoud* wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"In this context, there is another event in the Iraqi history that can be compared with this revolution, the Revolution of 1920 which covered entire Iraq in general and the southern and central parts of the country in particular. This revolution erupted post the British occupation of Iraq in 1914 and was completed in 1918.

"As a matter of fact, to be exact this revolution happened in May 1920 which took the form of demonstrations in Baghdad and some other Iraqi cities, but later it took a different turn when it became a fight between the revolutionaries and the British forces in the center and south of Iraq.

"However, in the wake of this revolution, the British side began serious discussions on the issue of Iraq's independence and this was evident through the holding of the Cairo Conference post the revolution.

"Following this conference, the then British Higher Commissioner Percy Cox ordered the formation of a constituent council to look for solutions that might be required to bring stability to Iraq.

"Likewise, the Constituent Council, was tasked among other things to form the Iraqi government which was formed under the chairmanship of the prominent Iraqi Abdurrahman Al-Naqeeb Al-Kailani and the government was empowered by other things to choose a monarch for Iraq and as a result Faisal Ben Al-Husseini was enthroned in 1921.

"In spite of the above, Iraq remained under the British mandate up to 1932 before gaining complete independence.

"Given the above, we say there is a resemblance between the current Iraqi revolution and the Revolution of 1920, because the two revolutions erupted because of foreign occupation and the two revolutions were aimed at founding a new political regime.

"Apart from the above, the two revolutions initially erupted in the same place and had the support of the Shiite Terms of Reference. But the current revolution is distinguished by the fact that this revolution erupted because of the majority of the Iraqis are disappointed because of the deteriorating public services and the economic situation under the current regime which was founded under the American occupation of Iraq.

"In this connection, we elucidate that during that time, the Shiites were seen as the oppressed lot as a result of founding the Iraqi state in 1921. Not just that even post the independence of the country in 1932, most of the Iraqi prime ministers and the commanders came from the Sunni areas.

"Such being the case, the Shiites see the current state which was founded post the American occupation of Iraq in 2003, were awarded the leading posts. In other words, the Shiites were expecting that the new regime will play a significant role to develop the southern Shiite majority Iraqi areas.

"But the Iraqis in general and the Shiites in particular later discovered that the rate of poverty had increased and the health and the educational services had deteriorated. This happened, while the funds were going into the pockets of Shiite party leaders.

"Hence, the revolutionaries rejected any cooperation and coordination with all Shiite parties including the 'Saeroun Current' led by the Shiite cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr, because his current party is represented in both the Iraqi parliament and the Cabinet.

"Given the above, we found the framework on which the current Iraqi political system was set up after the enactment of the 2005 constitution, had collapsed or weakened after the Iraqis had discovered that this constitution doesn't distribute wealth on sectarian basis, rather distributes among leaders of sectarian parties in addition to the circles surrounding them. Moreover, the distribution of the benefits depends on the level of closeness to each circle with the centre.

"Last but not the least, we would like to say here that the current revolution is determined to get rid of the Iranian influence which is at the top of the objectives of the revolution. Hence, we found how the revolting crowds set fire three times to the Iranian consulate in Najaf.

"However, it is shameful indeed to see after all of the relevant sacrifices made by the Iraqis calling for the exit of Iran from Iraq to see the Iranian official Qassim Sulaimani entering Iraq along with 520 persons belonging to the Iranian Revolutionary Guard.

"Not just that, post this destruction and the tremendous sacrifices made by the Iraqis, it is Qassim Sulaimani who will appoint the new Iraqi prime minister for deal with the country's upcoming phase."

**Also:**

"It is for the first time to see the Lebanese in about one hundred years standing united to confront the ruling powers -- the senior officials who have oppressed them," columnist *Fahd Dawoud Al-Sabah* wrote for *Annahar* daily.

"They are standing united angrily demanding a new regime to be like the people who love life. Of course, this development is something which surprises those who know the Lebanese closely, because they relinquish their political tendencies, doctrines and sects for the sake of joy and dancing be at the doorsteps of the restaurants or playgrounds.

"In other words, they forget everything while they enter any place of joy, because this people always look forward for life. These are the Lebanese who on the streets and the TV channels defend their political and doctrinal belongings -- it is a special equation indeed where nobody can understand the same except the Lebanese, and nobody can comprehend the same except those who are saturated with the Lebanese habits and traditions.

"However, today all the above have been abandoned in the street, because the Lebanese have revolted angrily against the ruling power, they don't like to defend either doctrine or sect, or any political party or current or any type of political power which is looting the country and driven the Lebanese to the verge of hunger.

"Consequently, we see during the last fifty days, how the Lebanese have managed to transform anger into joy while they have been striving to keep the ceiling of their demands extremely higher. But in the meantime, they were involved in the confrontation battle with the ruling power by means of all of the peaceful tools. In other words, they have brought down the prime minister along with his government without any shedding a drop of blood, hence, we wonder what kind of Lebanon will be born as a result of this Intifada (uprising).

"Notwithstanding, the complicated Lebanese situation gives no room for predictions towards the developments, but for us as we follow up the Lebanese situation from outside that country, must realize that this country, shall witness a big change based on the conviction that the real state to be established in Lebanon will be represented by the civil state and this is the basic demand of all Lebanese.

"Consequently, we found how the current political

class is currently facing a real crisis in terms of formation of a new government that will not be toppled by the street. Not just that, even if this government is formed, then it is the people that shall draw its work program, not the politicians whatever the stubbornness shown by these powers, but they will not be in a position to go against the desire of the citizens.

"In other words, a new Lebanon is in labor, and like in childbirth every process is accompanied with pangs of pains, but the most important thing will depend on the outcome of the new regime, where the citizens will have the final say to separate between absolute power protected by the sectarian settlements and intact application of the law, particularly since we know that the first fruit of the current Lebanese Intifada represents the discussions on corruption and exposure of the corrupt people who in the past were the red line that should be touched by anybody, but some of these corrupt people following the eruption of the current Intifada have been dragged into the courtroom and are being tried."

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"Personally, I always liked the policy adopted by the former minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey Ahmet Daoud Oglu, who represented a unique type of experienced politician," *Dr. Abdurrahman Al-Essa* wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"Despite the fact that I do not agree with some of his opinions and justifications for certain situations, I still consider him as a sophisticated politician who defended his country decisively and with emotional stability.

"He is the founder of the theory called 'The New Turkish World' about which he wrote in his book published by Al-Jazeera Office for Strategic Studies. In that book, Oglu explained his theory, highlighting Turkey's surrounding neighborhood from Aegean Sea in the West to China in the East. He is also the founder of the theory called 'Zero disputes with the neighbors of Turkey'. He was keen on enforcing his theory until 2011 when the 'Arab Spring' erupted and later turned into devastation.

"Prior to 2010, Turkey lived a golden era which witnessed the solving of all disputes concerning borders with neighbors. Even the disputes that have not been solved, Turkey managed to freeze them, leaving them time to disappear. As a result of the zero disputes theory, Turkey managed to benefit from its fruits in terms of outstanding economic growth and exceptional industrial development. Nevertheless, by 2010, Turkey found itself, either deliberately or accidentally, involved in regional and global issues with had negative impacts on Turkish politics and economy.

"Those circumstances led Oglu to take the decision to stay away from conservative type of politics and from governance. Turkey found itself involved in disputes that brought much trouble and political instability. After that period of 'zero disputes', we see Turkey having problems with many countries including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Iraq, Germany, France and EU in general as well as the United States of Emirates, Russia, America, Armenia and Greece of course.

"This policy reflected negatively on the image of Turkey in the eyes of the Arab people and negatively impacted the Turkish economy. How did the new Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs calculate such an equation? What are the gains compared to the losses? Isn't it time for Turkey to put the disputes back on the zero condition?"

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"The statistics issued by the Ministry of Justice related to the increase in cybercrime, at an average of 6 cases per day, deserve to be paused before the analysis, and there is nothing wrong with assigning specialized agencies in the state to study the reasons for their increase, as there may be loopholes in the law that are exploited by some, there is nothing wrong with amending the law because of who Human beings put it if necessary", columnist *Muhammad al-Jalalimah* wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"The authorities entrusted with studying these laws can recommend awareness-raising programs to reduce this type of crime, and to clarify that there is a big difference between the freedom of expression guaranteed by the Kuwaiti constitution and igniting strife, defamation and abuse to people so that those affected may pursue the issue with the Kuwaiti judiciary.

"Those involved in cyber crime cases are young, motivated people or with little experience in life who expresses their opinion without being thoughtful or the emotions get the better of them and as a result they face legal prosecutions.

"Studying and analyzing these issues and developing educational programs will prevent a large segment of our sons and daughters from finding themselves 'victims' of e-crimes.

"By virtue of my work as a security editor and what I receive from documented information, there are those who monitor the mistakes of some even if they are in good faith and result from lack of experience and are a means of profiting and taking these issues as a means of bargaining and blackmail in the sense of (giving up claims in exchange for money or proceeding with litigation procedures).

"No one accepts that accusing anyone of falsehood or insulting, defamation, insult, slander, incitement to immorality and abusing the leaders and symbols in the country, but in return it is a duty to alert our children because they are being exploited by some due to their young age and lack of experience."

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"We have already mentioned in several articles the significance of postal services in a country, and how it determines the level of progress in any given nation. The postal service is linked to local and global finances, businesses, investments and others productive sectors, hence its significance," columnist *Zayed Al-Zaid* wrote for *Al-Nahar* Daily.

"Although Kuwait has a long postal history, and is even the leading country in the region in this field, Kuwaiti Postal service today suffers a great deal from bureaucracy and incompetency in dealing with parcels, let alone the repeated strikes by workers of companies the state contracts with to conduct postal affairs due to failure of some of the companies to pay salaries of their staff, or because of poor coordination and follow-up on government's side.

"Last week, the postal services in the country were completely paralyzed when contracts of the companies signed with the state expired due to mere negligence of the relevant agency and bureaucracy that prevails in the government institutions. The existence of financial claims by some companies on the state and unpaid dues of about 400 workers made it impossible to sort, arrange, and deliver mails to homes and companies.

"Although we do not oppose the principle of privatization, especially in sectors that need to be developed and revamped, it should come with the need of capitalizing on it to generate more income for the public fund. We believe that government can restructure this sector again and make it a source of income for the state, as it is in many other countries of the world- instead of becoming a source of headache and concern for the people of this country in general, especially those who continue to use postal services to conduct their affairs."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb

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