



**golf**  
Page 24

THE FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY IN FREE KUWAIT  
Established in 1977 / www.arabtimesonline.com



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

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2019 / RABEE'A AL THANI 19, 1441 AH

emergency number 112

NO. 17259

28 PAGES

150 FILS

# KD 3.3bn for '19-'20 development plan

135 projects

**Opinion**

## When will Iran's Mullah regime realize the enormity of Khomeini's disastrous legacy?

**By Ahmed Al-Jarallah**

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

HAVE Iranians ever asked about the real causes of their incessant crises and why the majority of them are drowning in poverty and a class not exceeding five percent of the population is enjoying their country's resources?

Did they wonder why the country is filled with religious dictators hiding under the guise of spiritual leaders to put themselves at the same level with the Prophets and the pious? How did Iran fall to the lowest scientific, cultural and industrial backwardness with global isolation to the extent that an Iranian is deemed a suspect wherever he is sighted?

It appears that the usurpers of state resources and governance are not interested in obtaining medicine to cure this chronic disease in order to exit the deteriorating situation of the country, while they face thousands of protesters who are demonstrating against the government after hunger and disease sensitized them. Destitution became the profession of millions of Iranians before they could make ends meet on a daily basis.

There is no doubt that the answer, which the Mullah regime leadership is turning their face from is scary, because it is the plain truth they have been trying to cover since 1979 when Khomeini rode the French-US- British horse to power. He bore in his mind the language of revenge and bitterness as the sole address for a country that was once a fountain of culture and civilization. He took the country to the era of darkness supported by some societies in the region with their zeal of instinct honed in the minds of headstrong sectarian groups.

The suffering of Iran today is due to the cumbersome legacy of Khomeini sustained by his successors and the terrorist Mullah regime, which started an eight-year war with Iraq in reaction to Baghdad's response to Shah's request when he was expelled from its territories. This was followed by hostility against Kuwait when it refused to accommodate him, which resulted in his return to Iran where he began to kill and execute most of the officials publicly to avoid sharing the government with anybody.

The preliminary bloodbath witnessed the execution of about 250 senior officials within two months while the first president of the republic Seyyed Abolhassan Banisadr did not escape when he disagreed with him on viewpoints and ended up in exile for fear of assassination.

This same legacy is what made the Iranian Intelligence follow Khomeini's bitter policy against countries of the region such that its cells executed bombing and assassination acts in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, UAE and Iraq, and later meddled in their internal affairs through the so-called Hezbollah.

The evil of Khomeini is not limited to politics as the man worked on fabricating the Shiite understanding of the meaning of loyalty to clerics. He makes it look like criticizing government officials especially loyalists of the clerics, amounts to waging war against God and His Holy Prophet. In order to deepen the crack in Islam, he created his intelligence to be offensive against the disciples and Aisha (May Allah be merciful with them) to fuel sectarian war between Sunni and Shia.

Wrong interpretation and terrorism in principle of the Shiite spiritual leaders has been translated in the unrest and demonstrations witnessed in Iran over the last four decades through the enforcement of banditry, and punishment meted out to political opponents. It started on a large scale in 1988, a year before the demise of Khomeini when he issued a decree to execute 30,000 opposition figures and members of the Mujahid Khalq Organization, followed by a series of executions and incarcerations in

Continued on Page 6

Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com



A riot police officer fires tear-gas from a launcher against anti-government protesters trying to enter parliament square in downtown Beirut, Lebanon on Dec 14. The recent clashes marked some of the worst in the capital since demonstrations began two months ago. The rise in tensions comes as politicians have failed to agree on forming a new government. (AP)

### Ruling parties' offices torched

BEIRUT, Dec 15, (Agencies): Attackers in northern Lebanon set fire to the offices of two major political parties on Sunday, the state-run National News Agency said.

The assaults came just hours after the capital Beirut was rocked by the most violent government crackdown on protesters since nationwide demonstrations began two months ago. Lebanese security forces fired rubber bullets, tear-gas and used water cannons throughout the night to disperse anti-government protesters from the city center - the epicenter of the protest movement in Beirut - and around parliament.

The overnight confrontations in Beirut left more than 130 people injured, according to the Red Cross and the Lebanese Civil Defense.

In the northern Akkar district on Sunday, attackers broke the windows and torched the local office for resigned prime minister Saad Hariri's political party in the town of Kharibet al-Jindi.

In a separate attack in Akkar district, assailants stormed the local office of the largest party in parliament, affiliated with President Michel Aoun and headed by Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil. The party said the contents of the office in the town of Jedidat al-Juma had also been smashed and burned.

Lebanon is facing one of its worst economic crises in decades, and the protesters accuse the ruling political class in place for three decades of mismanagement and corruption.

The violence comes a day before the president is due to hold talks with different parliamentary blocs to name a new prime minister on Monday.

### Newswatch

**KUWAIT CITY:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Sunday sent a cable of condolences to President of Philippines Rodrigo Duterte on the earthquake that struck north-west of Davao del Sur province, which resulted in one victim and several injuries.

In the cable, His Highness wished mercy for the deceased and a swift recovery for the injured.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah voiced similar sentiments in a couple of separate cables to President Duterte. (KUNA)

- See Also Page 10

**KUWAIT CITY:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Sunday sent a cable of condolences to French President Emanuel Macron over the victims of floods and winds that struck southwestern France and resulted in a number of casualties.

In the cable, His Highness expressed sincere condolences to the French President and the victims' families, wishing mercy for the deceased and a swift recovery for the injured.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah voiced similar sentiments in a couple of separate cables to the French President. (KUNA)

Continued on Page 6

### Private sector job support in focus

## MP urges subsidy cut-off for monthly salary over KD 5,000

**By Ahmed Al-Naqeeb and Saeed Mahmoud Saleh**  
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 15: MP Abdullah Al-Kandari says the attention given by the last government towards the country's financial status was insufficient and did not match its level of importance, which led to the government receiving plenty of notices, warnings, and reminders from Parliaments "but in vain because the government's efforts on this file remained weak".

The MP called for serious actions to be taken to put an end to what he described as "unnecessary bleeding of sovereign national funds" in order to avoid reaching a financial state of definitive deficit.

He sent his statement to His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, calling for his new government to firmly address the level of corruption in the country through either the concerned authorities or the parliamentary committees.

MP Al-Kandari said, "It is unacceptable for the state to continue pumping billions of dinars into projects at a time when it is tightening its financial grip on citizens".

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Parliament's Committee for Budgets and Final Accounts MP Adnan Abdulsamad initiated a directive to establish more comprehensive regulations on the private sector national manpower financial support, proposing that any citizen who works in the private sector should not be entitled to this allocation if their monthly salary is above KD 5,000.

He explained that there should be some sort of limitation in the allocation of this financial support, as it is illogical for employees who receives monthly salary of around KD 18,000 to benefit from this support, as its purpose is to promote the private sector and motivate citizens to work in sectors other than the public sector.

Furthermore, Chairman of the Parliament's State Priorities Committee MP Ahmad Al-Fadhli revealed that his committee is on the verge of submitting a letter to the National Assembly to request the discussion of the unemployment issue, and to the government for it to provide its resolution plans during the upcoming session expected to take place on Dec 24 if the announcement of the new Cabinet is made before that date.

He explained that one of the most difficult tasks the new government will have to address within the next five years is creating job opportunities for more than 120,000 unemployed citizens. Due to this reason, a clear governmental vision should be made available to support the current efforts such as the increasing the average project approvals of the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises from 130 to 1,500.

He added, "If the National Assembly is able to approve the bill on the northern financial district, it would contribute to providing an abundance of job opportunities. The same applies if the oil sector is able to expand on its petrochemical industries and open new doors for the Kuwaiti youth".

In another development, MP Saleh Al-Ashour called for a press conference to discuss three main issues.

He talked about the Complaints Committee which was formed based on a decision issued by the Cabinet to receive complaints submitted by companies against the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT).

MP Al-Ashour explained that the decisions issued by the committee are not being executed by CAPT even though the decisions of the committee are obligatory for CAPT based on article 78 of the tenders' Law No. 49/2019. Instead of executing the committee's decisions, CAPT refers those decisions to the Fatwa and Legislation Department.

Continued on Page 6

## Iran hawks leverage Pompeo Senate interest

WASHINGTON, Dec 15, (AP): In recent days, Iran hawks in Congress leveraged Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's interest in a Senate run to win a key concession from the Trump administration that could help their bid to kill the nuclear deal with Tehran.

Late last week, the State Department agreed to release a portion of an internal legal opinion that says the US has the right to demand that all UN sanctions on Iran be reinstated, despite President Donald Trump pulling the US out of the nuclear deal. In exchange, Sen Ted Cruz, R-Texas, lifted his hold on the nomination for Stephen Biegun to serve as the State Department's No. 2 official, according to an administration

official and a congressional aide.

Cruz's hold on Biegun not only put his nomination in jeopardy, but it also risked undoing a relatively seamless transition at the State Department if Pompeo soon steps down to run for Senate in Kansas. Without Biegun in place, the top job at State would have likely gone on an interim basis to a David Hale, a career official who testified in the impeachment inquiry into Trump.

The behind-the-scenes drama raises new questions about Pompeo's future as the nation's top diplomat. A former congressman and Trump's CIA director, Pompeo has been weighing a Senate campaign in his home state for months, though officials say no final

decision has been made.

The matter also highlights the extent to which some Republicans in Washington are still pushing to dismantle remaining elements of the Iran nuclear accord more than a year after the US withdrew. The State Department legal opinion will be used by Cruz and others in the coming weeks to argue that Washington can still force the reimposition of UN sanctions set to expire next year.

Cruz placed the hold on the nomination for Biegun, currently the US special representative for North Korea, pending the release of the Iran opinion. Cruz is an

Continued on Page 6

**KUWAIT CITY, Dec 15, (KUNA):** Financial allocations for Kuwait's development plan (2019-2020) amounted to KD 3.3 billion (approx \$10.9 billion) against KD 3.8 billion (some \$12.5 billion) in the 2018-2019 scheme.

Speaking at a news conference, Khaled Mahdi, Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, said number of projects included in the scheme totaled 135 including 51 with 38 percent in preparatory stage and 75 ones, 56 percent of which in executive phase.

The 2019-2020 plan envisages five planned ventures, execution of which remained in initial stages.

Overall expenditure on the envisioned projects in the first half of the 2019-2020 period amounted to KD 620 million (approx. \$2 billion) against KD 1.8 billion (around \$6.2 billion) during the same period of the 2018-2019 plan.

Proportion of projects in executive phase in the 2019-2020 plan amounted to 56 percent compared to 59 percent in the 2018-2019 scheme and 53 percent in the 2017-2018 one.

On challenges facing the execution, Mahdi said there were 212 administrative hurdles, 104 snags of financial nature, 161 technical obstacles, 85 issues with supervisory authorities and 19 ones of legal reasons.

Up to 80 percent of these snags have been successfully tackled, he elaborated.

Number of strategic enterprises in the 2019-2020 plan reached 22 with annual financial allocations estimated at KD 2.7 billion (approx 8.9 billion), 20.2 percent of which had been spent in the end of the first half.

The strategic projects included four ones concerning high quality healthcare of spending estimated at 9.68 percent, one on human creativity, 33.97 percent spending and five on sustainable living environment, 8.05 percent.

They also included six ones on modern infrastructure, 20.7 percent, six on sustainable and diverse economy with 22.73 percent expenditure.

### Battle rages near Tripoli

CAIRO, Dec 15, (AP): Just two days after rebel Libyan commander Khalifa Hifter declared a "final" and decisive battle for the capital Tripoli, heavy fighting raged for a 24-hour period between his troops and militias loosely allied with the internationally backed government based in the city, officials said Saturday.

The fighting came after Hifter, the leader of the self-styled Libyan National Army, said Thursday that the "zero hour" of his battle for Tripoli had begun, nearly eight months after he began an offensive to take the city from the country's Government of National Accord supported by the UN.

The LNA's media office shared images of reinforcements arriving in Tripoli, including ground troops and pickup trucks with mounted machine guns and of clashes in southern parts of the city. Hifter's forces took control of the town of al-Tawghaar, just south of Tripoli, the LNA said. But Tripoli-based forces disputed that claim.

The fighting has threatened to plunge Libya into another bout of violence rivaling the scale of the 2011 conflict that ousted and killed longtime dictator Muammar Gaddafi.

In the chaos that followed Gaddafi's death, the country was divided into two parts - a weak UN-supported administration in Tripoli and a rival government in the east aligned with the LNA.

The LNA's media office said it shot down a Turkish-made drone over the town of Ain Zara south of the capital. Hifter forces captured a major military camp from the Tripoli-allied militias and clashes continued around the camp, officials from both sides said.

The LNA also launched air-strikes overnight against an air base at the Air Force Academy in the city of Misrata, targeting military warehouses allegedly housing Turkish-made drones used by Tripoli-allied militias, said LNA spokesman Ahmed al-Mesmari.