

HH emphasizes depth of long-standing, historic ties shared by both countries

HH the Amir congratulates Bahraini King on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 15, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent congratulatory cable on Sunday to Bahrain's King Hamad Bin Issa Al-Khalifa,

on the Kingdom's 48th National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir emphasized the depth of the long-standing and historic ties shared by Kuwait and Bah-

rain.

In addition, His Highness the Amir wished the Bahraini King everlasting health, as well as prosperity for the brotherly people of Bahrain.

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 sent similar cables.

Ex-US Army logistics officer in Kuwait nabbed for 'corruption'

Arrest warrant issued against Indian businessman

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 15: The US Department of Justice has announced that a former US Army logistics officer has been arrested in the Philippines, and that he will be extradited to the United States for trial for corruption related to contracts he was responsible for coordinating in Kuwait for the Camp Arifjan a few years ago, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to Stripes.com, the lawsuit and criminal investigation authorities of the Pentagon and the US military against the American officer (of Filipino origin) have been charged with corruption, including engaging in bribes and receiving illegal financial gratuities from an Indian businessman who runs a company in Kuwait in exchange for facilitating the award of this company to subcontracts.

The Ministry of Justice statement stated that, through coordination

Nazaha refers top official to Public Prosecution

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 15: Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (NAZAHA), in an unprecedented move, referred an unidentified senior official to the Public Prosecution based on accusations of illegal earnings, reports Al-Rai daily.

He was referred after contradictions were noticed between the financial asset disclosure he submitted and his bank accounts.

In an interview, Director of Inspection Committee Saleh Al-

with the Philippine authorities, the officer was arrested two days ago in the capital, Manila, where he had been living since 2016.

According to the criminal case documents, the charges against him date back to the period between 2010 and 2014 when he was working in Kuwait as responsible for coordinating award procedures and following up the implementation of contracts for Camp Arifjan.

The lawsuit accuses the 62-year-old former officer of brokering a bribe to a senior official of a major company formally contracted with the US military, in order for the lat-

Taneeb said the disclosure of financial assets is aimed at protecting the public funds and enhancing supervision on those in charge of positions in the public sector.

He revealed about the cooperation of the committee with the Financial Investigations Unit, affirming that the categories subjected to disclosure of financial assets includes all three authorities – executive, legislative and judiciary.

ter to facilitate the granting of sub-contracts to a contracting company operating in Kuwait run by an Indian businessman.

The former officer is also accused of having expressed his willingness to inflate the value of Camp Arifjan's contracts, with the value difference being shared by both the main company official and the Indian businessman.

The case papers include documents proving that the accused and his family members in the Philippines received huge financial transfers as bribes and illegal gratuities from the Indian businessman and another con-

tract in exchange for facilitating their subcontracting from the main company.

An American judicial source stated that the Indian businessman is accused in the same case and there was a warrant for his arrest to appear before an American court, but it turned out that he is not currently present in Kuwait and is still on the run avoiding justice.

Under the exchange agreement between the accused between Manila and Washington, the suspect will be extradited to the United States in order to face the criminal charges against him.

When will

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jails, the last of which is the ongoing demonstration that has claimed 1,300 lives and roughly 15,000 arrested.

Everybody in the region and across the globe understands that Iranian regime lacks political reality in relation to regional and global issues. That is why it has been clashing with the international community for almost four decades, as it hardly comes out of a crisis before entering into a more complex one.

If Khomeini and his successor, Khamenei, had translated their slogans against Israel into reality with proof of its genuineness, they would have saved the region the catastrophe being experienced as a result of the disillusioned control attitude of the regime's spiritual leadership.

For this reason, nobody in the region will believe dry statements issued by the officials of Mullah regime, which nearly depicts Iran as being in the best economic, political and security condition, locally and externally. It claims to be a super power competing with the United States, China and Russia in the global leadership, and not a forsaken country wallowing in a multitude of economic and living standard problems.

There is no doubt that the empty threats issued by officials of the regime, last of which was from the Revolutionary Guard Commander, are mere wishful thinking that have no bearing with the reality. Those the "regional enemies" call wanderers (referring to the Arabian Gulf countries) are now forces to be reckon with, while the United States, France and Britain that made the regime are capable of ending it whenever they so wish. For this reason, there is no choice than to face the reality and allow logic to prevail over the suffering of Iranians and do away with the Don Quixote plot guiding their actions.

This regime whose leadership see citizens go through starvation and disease, without the simplest life sustenance, did not hesitate to build a mausoleum for Khomeini to the tune of about \$1billion over 30 years ago, while millions are spent to maintain it every year. Does this regime have the ability to develop a country like Iran?

MP urges

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He revealed that the decisions are not being executed because of the interference of some influential individuals.

MP Al-Ashour addressed His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid to issue directives in this regard to CAPT, urging it to execute the decisions of the Complaints Committee, since he is in charge until the new government is formed.

He hinted that perhaps the next interpellation will be based on this issue.

Also, MP Al-Ashour highlighted the issue of illegal residents (Bedoun), requesting the release of the Bedoun residents who were detained for demanding their rights.

He stressed that the current attitude of the government does not reveal its seriousness in finding a solution to the Bedoun issue, affirming that detaining those who demand their rights puts Kuwait in an embarrassing position with the world particularly the United Nations.

He also criticized what he called "a media campaign targeting the Bedoun residents".

MP Al-Ashour stressed the need to solve this issue for the sake of social stability and national security, warning against the implementation of inappropriate solutions.

With reference to Article 78 of the Constitution, Al-Ashour insisted that the new government should be formed within two weeks.

He said, "We are in the fifth week since the last parliamentary session, which was held in Nov 12. This constitutional violation can result in many problems including suspension of appointments and reshufflings, delays in filling the vacancies of senior positions, and suspension of discussions of bills and creation of laws".

Al-Ashour called upon His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid to expedite the formation of the new government.

In addition, MP Mohammad Hadi Al-Huwaila has submitted a proposal to the

National Assembly, asking for the approval to name two schools in Sabah Al-Ahmad City after the two martyred teachers Hadiya Al-Adwani and Al-Jazi Al-Ajmi who passed away in a terrible traffic accident while they were on their way to work.

Iran hawks

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ally of the White House and one of the most hawkish lawmakers in Congress on Iran.

The hold would have scrambled the pecking order at the State Department should Pompeo depart for a Senate campaign.

The current deputy secretary of state, John Sullivan, was confirmed on Thursday to be the next US ambassador to Russia. The third-ranking official is Hale, the most senior department official to testify in the impeachment investigation. He shed light on the decision to oust Marie Yovanovitch from her posting as the ambassador to Ukraine, as well as on the department's decision to not defend her.

After considering the possibility that Hale would become acting secretary of state with Sullivan off to Moscow and Biegun's nomination on hold, the department relented and released the Iran memo, according to the administration official and congressional aide.

Iran's telecommunications minister announced on Sunday that the country has defused a second cyberattack in less than a week, this time "aimed at spying on government intelligence."

Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi said in a short Twitter post that the alleged attack was "identified and defused by a cybersecurity shield," and that the "spying servers were identified and the hackers were also tracked." He did not elaborate.

Last Wednesday, Jahromi told the official IRNA news agency that a "massive" and "governmental" cyberattack also targeted Iran's electronic infrastructure. He provided no specifics on the purported attack except to say it was also defused and that a report would be released.

On Tuesday, the minister dismissed reports of hacking operations targeting Iranian banks, including local media reports that accounts of millions of customers of Iranian banks were hacked.

This is not the first time Iran says it has defused a cyberattack, though it has disconnected much of its infrastructure from the internet after the Stuxnet computer virus, widely believed to be a joint US-Israeli creation, disrupted thousands of Iranian centrifuges in the country's nuclear sites in the late 2000s.

In June, Washington officials said that US military cyber forces launched a strike against Iranian military computer systems as President Donald Trump backed away from plans for a more conventional military strike in response to Iran's downing of a US surveillance drone in the strategic Persian Gulf.

Newswatch

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MANAMA: Bahrain celebrates Monday, its 48th national day and the 20th anniversary of King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa's assumption of office, with the Gulf Kingdom achieving development and progress.

Governorates nationwide organized national and cultural activities to celebrate the national occasions.

Since its independence in 1971, Bahrain aspired to set a unique path towards development and progress, relying on its economic and financial potentials. (KUNA)

BAGHDAD: Hundreds of demonstrators supporting a powerful Iran-backed militia group in Iraq poured into a central Baghdad plaza Saturday, some burning American flags to protest recent US sanctions against key leaders.

The protest came as Washington pointed fingers at Iranian proxy groups for a recent spate of rocket attacks against its military bases in Iraq. (AP)

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