



A view of the Kuwait Liberation Tower and other high-rise buildings in Kuwait City.

Photo by Bassam Abu Shanab



Photos by Mohammad Morsi

Top and above: 360 Mall wears a new look after its refurbishment.

'Egypt does not interfere in Kuwaiti affairs'

Individual actions do not 'hit' Egypt-Kuwait ties: former FM

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8: "Nations and rational governments do not focus on minor issues. Individual actions do not express the reality of relations between the two peoples and the two countries." This was the comment made by the former Egyptian minister of foreign affairs Muhammad Al-Orabi, who worked in the Egyptian Embassy of Kuwait from 1978 to 1982, about the tensions in the political relations between Egypt and Kuwait. He stressed that, "This has nothing to do with reality. Egypt does not interfere in Kuwaiti affairs," reports Al-Qabas daily.

Al-Orabi affirmed that, "There is great concern between Egypt and Kuwait about their historical relationship. Egypt is always supportive of Kuwait's security, and there is consensus between them and constant communication. There is no crisis despite the fact that the entire Arab reality in the region is not auspicious, but there is a common desire to go beyond the topic and turn the page with an interest in absorbing the lessons learned from it."

He insisted that individual actions do not reflect the reality of relations between the two nations and the two countries.

Talking about his work tenure in Kuwait, Al-Orabi explained, "I worked in the Egyptian Embassy in Kuwait during a difficult period in the history of Arab-Egyptian relations, especially after the Baghdad summit. Yet, we have never been subjected to any feelings of hostility or passivity by the Kuwaiti people, despite the existence of individual incidents."

He added, "Such problems have occurred and will still occur in the future, but the nations and rational governments do not focus on the trivial matters at all. I believe that this event has been overlooked and things have returned to normal."

Al-Orabi stated that, "The Egyptian Foreign Ministry does not interfere at all in Kuwait's internal affairs. Actually,

'Medical co-op'

2nd Cuban medical delegation to arrive

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8: The second Cuban medical team will arrive in Kuwait soon to join the group that arrived about two months ago, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting sources.

Sources disclosed the medical delegation includes 40 doctors with different specialties; specifically intensive care, anesthesia and neurosurgery. Sources affirmed this is within the context of medical co-operation between the Ministry of Health and Cuba.

Sources the efforts of Kuwaiti Ambassador to Cuba Muhammad Khalaf, will culminate in a memorandum of understanding or a special protocol related to health co-operation; considering the success achieved over the years.

Egypt does not interfere in the internal affairs of any country. It is committed to this, and it cannot deviate from the rules of Egyptian policy that raise the value of non-interference in the affairs of any state.

"Interest in the affairs of the Egyptian community in Kuwait is not considered as interference in the Kuwaiti affairs. We also realize that Kuwait is a state of law and everyone is equal before it."

"There are elements that have interests in igniting differences between the two countries, do not want stability in the region and are trying to fuel any event until it turns into a problem. They do not seek good or stability, and they have their goals."

Rent-waiving decision soon for those with State property deals

Exemption tto be calculated from April 1

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8: Ministry of Finance has adopted the decision to exempt tenants contracting with State property from the rental value or fees for licenses to use units, public markets and others whose activities have been suspended, as a precautionary measure to confront the spread of the new coronavirus, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The daily quoting informed sources indicated the waiver decision, which will be announced in the next few days, will be calculated from April 1 and extending until the government announces the end of the corona pandemic, provided that the exemption period is not less than six months.

The same sources reported that the State property sector is currently working on a calculation method for the waiver, especially as the mechanism for paying State property dues is done annually, in addition to setting up special measures to verify application of the waiver to other parties contracting with tenants from the State.

They indicated the exemption decision will not include chalet and farm contracts, considering they do not belong to the affected commercial sector, stressing the beneficiaries of State property exemptions are the ones involved in the following activities: Markets such as Al-Mubarakiya, Al-Munakh, Al-Kuwait, Al-Dawliyah, Al-Mutahidah, and other markets managed by others, provided that the rent is reduced by the same proportion.

Exempting

And, exempting all occupants of rented units in various cultural centers, including the Jaber Cultural Center, Al-Shaheed Gardens, and all sites related to the Amiri Diwan from the rental value, according to the contracts concluded.

They emphasized the adoption of rent waiver decisions on State property will contribute to the economic stimulus process, especially as the majority of the contracts to be exempted are markets and commercial complexes. This will have a significant impact on the commercial sector, such as retail stores, restaurants and corporate offices, they said.

In a related development, concerned sources revealed that the Public Authority for Industry is still studying the mechanism of exemptions for the industrial sector, as there are beneficiaries whose work did not stop during the complete or partial ban period, such as factories for foodstuffs and many others.

In return, there are activities that completely stopped during the ban period and the damages are enormous. It is expected that the Public Authority for Industry will announce the exemption mechanism and extend it in the coming weeks.

Cabinet recommended the Public Authority for Industry to reduce fees on its lands in some areas, such as: Shuwaikh, Al-Rai, Sabhan, Mina Abdullah, Ahmadi, Fahaheel, and Sharq, provided that the rent for their tenants be reduced. It is noteworthy the Council of Ministers had directed government agencies to exempt the tenants contracting with them from the rental value or fees for licenses to use public units or markets and others whose activities were suspended as a precaution.



Dr Hilal Al-Sayer, Ali Al-Khalil, Maha Al-Barjas, Muhammad Najia, Anwar Al-Hasawi and Zeina Al-Muqaddam in a group photo.



Kuwait Red Crescent Society sends relief aid to Lebanon.

KUNA photo

LBC thanks Kuwait for support, solidarity

Shell-shocked Lebanon receives second batch of aid from Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8: Shell-shocked Lebanon has received the second airlift of relief from Kuwait which was organized in conjunction with the launch of public donation campaigns to contribute to the Lebanese who are facing the most difficult testing times at the moment in the aftermath of the explosion that rocked Beirut and surrounding areas, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Kuwait Red Crescent Society is said to have delivered 36 tons of medicines, wheelchairs, and baby milk and blood bags to the Lebanese Red Cross.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Abdulaziz Shuaib announced it is coordinating with the charity associations to launch relief projects and collect donations.

However, in a press statement Shuaib said the relief does not include cash donations which are forbidden.

He stressed the need for the tenants of State property to exempt their tenants so as to reach the largest number of beneficiaries and to reduce burdens resulting from the precautionary measures taken by government in the fight against the novel coronavirus.

Concerned sources confirmed that

den. However, the cash donations can only be done through the 'Knet' service and 'online payments' and money deducted directly from the bank accounts, e-electronic applications via smart phones and text messages via the telecommunication companies.

Al-Shuaib stressed that the ministry licenses associations whose statutes allow collecting donations if and when a formal request is submitted to the ministry.

For his part, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Red Crescent Society, Dr Hilal Al-Sayer – who delivered the aid said the plane load is part of the humanitarian and medical aid which was ordered by HH the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad to send urgent aid to the brothers in Lebanon after the massive explosion caused massive material damage.

Kuwaiti Ambassador to Lebanon

Cabinet's recommendation related to BOT contracts is still being studied and no decision has been taken in that regard until now, given that Cabinet alone has the right to extension.

It is worth noting the Council of Ministers in May recommended the extension of contracts registered under the "BOT" system for a period

of 10 years without reducing the annual rent, on condition that the rent is reduced.

And, it requested all occupants of rented units in all cultural centers and Al-Shaheed Gardens be exempted from the rental value for one year, according to the contracts concluded with them, as of March 2020.

Abdul Al-Qanaei, who headed the delegation from the embassy during the delivery of the aid, affirmed that Kuwaiti officials always keen to communicate with their brothers in Lebanon during 'crisis' to provide them a list of their needs, especially medical.

Meanwhile, the head of the Lebanese Business Council (LBC) in Kuwait, Ali Khalil, said the LBC will provide all support to the Kuwait Red Crescent Society's campaign to help Lebanon, which in coordination with the Kuwait donors, is trying to reach the largest possible number of Lebanese, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This came, in a statement to him, after his meeting with the Deputy Chairman of the LBC, Muhammad Najia, with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society headed by Dr Hilal Al-Sayer in the presence of Anwar Al-Hassawi and Maha Al-Barjas.