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Opinion

Hassan Nasrallah's tomato and cucumber speech

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

IT is stunning to watch how the Lebanese are subjugated to a liar who is fleeing from international justice and is dictating to them theories that came out of the blue.

Isn't it ironic that the Lebanese – the people who have produced dozens of heads of state and senior officials in Latin America and elsewhere as well as media moguls, managers of international companies and financial institutions, and experts in various scientific disciplines, and are distributed all over the world – are hostage of the Hezbollah terrorist group and its leader Hassan Nasrallah?

This fugitive has once again emerged from his bunker, presenting himself this time as an agricultural, industrial and spiritual expert, after the time when he used to spew out intimidations, threats and hostilities against Israel, the United States of America, and the Arabian Gulf states ... How different is he from Hitler and Stalin?!

Lately, he has been rambling nonsense that sparks laughter to the brink of shedding tears.

Nasrallah is asking the Lebanese to grow vegetables (tomatoes, cucumbers, etc) and grains on their balconies and rooftops in order to deal with the blockade allegedly imposed by the United States.

However, his terrorist group prevents them from cultivating their land in southern Lebanon where they had previously planted mines and cluster bombs that Israeli planes had shelled in various areas because of his absurd ventures, germinating death and destruction for its residents.

As for the Beqaa region in the east, Nasrallah is encouraging the people there to grow cannabis on the plateau, which once fed the Roman Empire with wheat and grain. Perhaps, he wants them to "get high" and forget what he is doing to the people in the south.

Isn't it better for the master of crisis to stop the cultivation, manufacturing and smuggling of drugs, and allow the landowners to grow crops that will help them live in the kind of dignity and pride that he claims?

It is said, "If God is angry at an ant, He makes it grow wings." Nasrallah (wrath is upon him here and in the Hereafter) has become like a raging elephant in a market that sells crystal; wherever he moves, he breaks and wrecks.

He believes that his nonsensical speech can change the reality and make people believe in his foolish promises; but all that he gets is people ridiculing him and his ideas.

This moron is asking the well-cultivated and learned people of Lebanon to turn to Iran, under the assumption that the latter is a major world power in industrial, medical and military aspects, and forgetting that this regime of Mullahs is in a destitute situation due to its absurd political games.

This regime is begging the world to give it a few million dollars in order to deal with the living and economic crisis that it has brought upon its people to such an extent that its currency has lost value to the US dollar reaching an exchange rate of 217,000 tomans to a dollar. No rhetoric has benefited its leaders, and this makes us wonder – Could a country in such a situation be of help to another country?

It's not a secret when we say, "The fury of hunger that the Lebanese are currently enduring is the making of this liar." There must come a day, very soon, when Nasrallah will be taken to the streets as the Iraqis did to King Faisal, Nuri al-Said and Abd al-Karim Qasim. Only then will the terrorists realize their atrocities.

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'Pick up your Civil ID'

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: Director of the Distribution Department at the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) Jasim Al-Madhen called on the owners of renewed civil identification cards to get their cards from the machines in the authority, indicating the number of cards ready for printing reached 440,000, reports Al-Rai daily.

He added the number of civil identification cards that PACI issued so far and are ready for pick up totaled 85,000. He said the authority has 40 machines for dispensing civil identification cards in its headquarters and 15 in its branch in Jahra.



Workers belonging to a company wait outside their residence for their transport to go to work, early morning, as the lockdown in Mahboula was lifted.



Life returns to normal as a three-month lockdown ended in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh on Thursday, July 9.

Photos by Mohammad Morsi

Grilling motion set for Tuesday session

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanim scheduled an ordinary session for Tuesday after consulting the MPs and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled.

Al-Ghanim disclosed the agenda for Tuesday's session including the grilling motion that MP Riyadh Al-Adasani submitted against Minister of Finance Barrak Al-Shitan on June 30, 2020.

Meanwhile, Al-Ghanim said he took legal procedures against the Popular Action Bloc for hurling baseless accusations at him in February. He revealed the bloc falsely accused him of involvement in corruption and protecting the corrupt. He pointed out that he is fully aware of the difference between freedom of opinion and hurling false accusations against others. He affirmed support for the freedom of everyone to express their opinion, which is guaranteed by the law and Constitution. He condemned attempts to make his decision to resort to the court as a way of forcing individuals to remain silent. He asserted if they have evidence against him to support their claim that he obtained gains illegally, they should have filed a case against him or called the attention of relevant institutions like Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) and Public Prosecution.

In another development, Legislative Affairs Committee Chairman MP Khalid Al-Shatti confirmed that the committee completed its report on the proposed amendment of Penal Code No. 16/1960. He disclosed the bill is aimed at giving mothers the right to sign consent forms for medical procedures and surgeries for their children, similar to the right granted to fathers. He explained this will end the suffering of a large number of individuals, especially in case of a dispute between husband and wife or divorce.

He added the committee also recommended amending the law on organizing medical professions (doctors and dentists) and its report in this regard will be referred to its health and social affairs counterpart in order to study the suggested amendments. He said the committee finalized

its report on the bill about nationalizing public sector jobs, indicating the report consists of several comments which will be referred to the Replacement Committee for further discussion.

On the other hand, Rapporteur of Health and Social Affairs Committee MP Sa'adoun Hammad confirmed that the committee met on Wednesday in the presence of Minister of Social Affairs and State Minister for Economic Affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel and the representatives of concerned institutions like the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) and Civil Service Commission (CSC), in addition to the head of the campaign entitled "Kuwaitis without Salaries".

He said Al-Aqeel informed the committee that her ministry will launch an electronic platform for receiving the requests and complaints of citizens who suffered damages due to the lockdown enforced by the government to curb the spread of coronavirus. The minister confirmed that the platform will start functioning within three days and solutions will be presented within one week after the registration of the requests or complaints on the platform. The minister clarified the compensation does not cover the entire lockdown period, as the calculation will start from the date of registering on the platform, he disclosed.

He went on to say that the committee suggested establishing a special fund to pay for the salaries which were suspended from March 12 to June 29.

Furthermore, MP Majed Al-Mutairi forwarded queries to Minister of Oil, Electricity and Water Khalid Al-Fadel about the criteria for nominating employees to senior positions like deputy chief executive officer and chief executive officer at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and its subsidiaries.

He asked about the reshuffling implemented in the last three years, job description of employee number 56089, number of times his employment contract was renewed, reasons for renewal, number of contracts drafted by the employee, if the employee has a rare field of specialization and if any of his first degree relatives are working in any of KPC's subsidiaries.

NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: Minister of Social Affairs and State Minister for Economic Affairs **Maryam Al-Aqeel** revealed about a government proposal submitted by the Ministry of Social Affairs to the Parliament's Committee of Health, Social and Labor Affairs for establishing an electronic platform that enables Kuwaiti citizens without salaries to register their details in order to enable the government authorities to address their financial situation, reports Al-Rai daily.

The minister said this in a press statement issued on Wednesday following her participation in a meeting with the parliamentary committee.

She stressed that the meeting was organized by the committee in response to the discussions held on social media about the presence of a group of Kuwaitis who are financially stranded as a result of the COVID-19 crisis and their lack of financial income.

Al-Aqeel said, "During the meeting, this issue was reviewed with the members of the committee. Cases that were submitted by the head of the "Kuwaitis Without Salaries" campaign held from March 1 to June 30 were presented and discussed". She affirmed the keenness of the state to ensure all citizens have a decent life.

KUWAIT CITY: As the Ministry of Higher Education strives to find solutions to complete the new foreign scholarship plan for 38,000 high school students numbering who are expected to graduate at the end of next September, the ministry found itself facing a new problem that has "made matters worse", reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Add to this the conditions imposed on the students studying in the United States because these conditions have only deepened the wounds of the scholarship plan after thousands of students studying in the United States found themselves between the hammer of completing their studies and immigration laws that do not allow expatriate students with residency (I-F) and (I-M) enrolled in universities that provide full study via the internet.

The Ministry of Higher Education is discussed this morning during an emergency meeting with specialists at the American Embassy in Kuwait, the implications of the immigration administration's decision and the conditions of Kuwaiti students there.

The cultural advisor and head of the Kuwaiti cultural office in **Los Angeles**, **Dr Mohamed Al-Rashidi** confirmed that a decision was issued on July 6, 2020 by the authority concerned about some amendments that were to come into force because of the outbreak of COVID-19 for students studying abroad (in the US).

In a statement issued by the Cultural Office, Al-Rashidi indicated that the most important thing in the decision regarding registration in the fall 2020 semester is that expatriate students holding residency (I-F) and (I-M) who are registered in universities that provide full study via the Internet are not allowed to be in the **United States of America**, as the US State Department will not issue any entry visas for students studying and enrolled in study programs via online for semester of fall 2020 and that the Passports and Customs Administration will not allow them to enter the country but will be allowed to register and complete the study remotely.

KUWAIT CITY: The Ministry of Health has activated the 'WhatsApp' service for booking appointments in the pediatric clinic, particularly for infants discharged from the premature wards at the Maternity Hospital from March 12 to May 31 and those whose previous appointments were canceled, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The ministry disclosed the service is available through 'WhatsApp' number 98945689 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Three deaths

KUWAIT CITY, July 9, (Agencies): Kuwait's Health Ministry on Thursday registered 833 additional coronavirus infections with three deaths, upping the country's tally of cases to 52,840 and the death toll to 382, respectively.

Kuwaiti nationals accounted for 536 cases out of 833 reported in the last 24 hours, while 297 foreigners had contracted the highly contagious disease, according to health ministry Spokesman Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad.

In terms of health zones, 254 cases were reported in Al-Ahmadi, 200 in Al-Jahra, 173 in Al-Farwaniya and 136 in Hawally, while 70 infections were recorded in the Capital, added the spokesman.

As for the top six areas with the highest infection numbers, he listed Jaber Al-Ali with 40 cases, Saad Al-Abdullah (36), Sabah Al-Salem (35), Oyoun (34), Ardiya (32) and Mangaf (30).

He went on to reveal that 150 cases are currently in the intensive care unit, while the number of "active cases" stands at 9,772.

Kuwait has ramped up its coronavirus testing capacity, with 5,011 tests conducted in the last 24 hours, out of a total of 422,885, added the spokesman.

Meanwhile, some 578 people recovered from the virus in the last 24 hours, upping the total number of those to have overcome the disease to 42,686, he said.

He reiterated the strict need to abide by health precautions, urging nationals and expatriates alike that following social distancing rules is the only way to keep the virus at bay.

Ban lift

The Council of Ministers during an extraordinary meeting was expected to lift the total lockdown of Farwaniya which was imposed on the area at the end of last May, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The daily added, the Cabinet is expected to open the area on Aug 21, 2020 at the same time to completely close the "curfew page" in conjunction with the start of the third phase of the "five-stage" plan announced by the government to restore life to normal on the 21st of this month.

The sources confirmed, the Eid Al-Adha holidays are expected to be without curfew in both total and partial terms.

She pointed out that the third stage of the plan, which is scheduled to kick off on Aug 21, includes resuming work in the government sector with 50 percent of the employees reporting to work and allowing visits to cooperative societies and shopping centers without the requirement to obtain a barcode.

Kuwait Ports Authority called on companies and individuals who were unable to receive the goods that they had imported from overseas, due to the imposition of a partial or total curfew in the country, which resulted in grounding charges, to visit the authority in order to initiate the process of exempting them from paying such charges, reports Al-Jadida daily.

According to a circular published on Wednesday by Kuwait Ports Authority on its official website, the importers must submit documents to indicate the damages, provided they were caused by the precautionary health measures taken by the government to combat and contain the spread of COVID-19, within ten days from the date of the circular in order for the authority to study the exemption of grounding charges as per the submitted documents.

The Kuwait Airways announced it will operate a flight from Kuwait to New York and vice-versa, on Wednesday, July 15, 2020, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The sources close to the issue said the trip is for Kuwaiti students and those who travel for treatment abroad, as well as the US citizens, subject to official approval.

The daily did not give more details.

Friday prayers

The Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Counselor Dr Fahd Al-Afasi, anticipates allowing worshippers for Friday prayers inside mosques from July 17 by lifting the temporary suspension for group prayers, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Afasi in a decision issued Wednesday pointed out that the mosques will continue with the closure of water coolers, women's worship area, libraries, and toilets, in addition to adherence to all previous decisions issued by the Council of Ministers, including social distancing.