



DAUGHTER OF FAMED ACTOR ABDULREDA AMONG 14 WOMEN IN 138 CANDIDACIES

Seven 'key' in Qaeda believed killed in raid

WASHINGTON, Oct 27, (AP): The United States believes it killed seven senior leaders of al-Qaeda in Syria in an airstrike last week as the leaders were meeting near Idlib, US Central Command said Monday.

A Central Command spokeswoman, Maj Beth Riordan, said the strike was conducted Oct 22. She did not identify the seven leaders by name.

"The removal of these AQ-S leaders will disrupt the terrorist organization's ability to further plot and carryout global attacks threatening US citizens, our partners, and innocent civilians," she said.

"AQ-S takes advantage of the instability in northwest Syria to establish and maintain safe havens to coordinate terrorist activities," she added. "With our allies and partners, we will continue to target al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations."

MP warns against Chamber bid for KD 3bn on necessity decree

Safa Al-Hashem registers candidacy

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: The Election Registration Center continued receiving the applications of citizens who intend to stand for the 2020 National Assembly election on Tuesday.

A total of 45 citizens, including six women, registered on the second day of registration for candidates. Nine men and one woman registered in the First Constituency, three men and one woman in the Second Constituency, 11 men and three women in the Third Constituency, nine men in the Fourth Constituency, and seven men and one woman in the Fifth Constituency.

At the end of registration period on the second day, the total number of candidates reached 138 - 124 men and 14 women.

Many former MPs registered on Tuesday including Safa Al-Hashem, Khalid Al-Shatti, Saleh Ashour, Essa Al-Kandari and Naif Al-Merdas.

Mona Abdulhusain Abdulreda, daughter of the late famous actor, was among the women who registered on Tuesday seeking a seat as representative of citizens residing in the Second Constituency.

In another development, MP Osama Al-Shaheen warned the government against responding to the request of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry chairperson to issue a decree of necessity to enforce the bill submitted by the government to grant KD 3 billion to companies in the form of loans guaranteed by the State.

He said this is a violation of both the Constitution and democratic process. He elaborated that it is a violation of the Constitution because the issuance of decrees of necessity is limited to urgent and emergent issues which are not applicable to the economic situation which has been going on for months.

He added the issuance of such a decree violates the democratic process since the bill was not ratified by the previous Parliament.

He disclosed some of the former MPs managed to prevent the passage of the bill which is being used as a Trojan horse through the inclusion of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) just to push for its approval, while the aim of the government and a number of former MPs was to provide full support to veteran businesspersons.

Alliance

He added the alliance between the businesspersons and some former MPs disrupted the ratification of many bills; stressing that he is against monopoly and harming public money, not the businesspersons.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti Cabinet, during its weekly meeting at Seif Palace on Monday, congratulated His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince as well as Kuwaiti people and the Muslim nation on occasion of the Prophet's (PBUH) Birthday, due to fall on Thursday.

The Cabinet members reviewed the guidelines, set forth by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in his address to the last session of the outgoing (the 15th) National Assembly last Tuesday.

The Amir's speech reaffirmed commitment to the democratic course of the Kuwaiti people, and protection of the national unity and the fundamentals of the country's foreign policy charted by His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, said Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Khaled Al-Saleh following the meeting.

The Cabinet members commended "the tremendous efforts" being made by the various State departments and civil society to combat the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in the country.

They also appreciated the cooperation given to the government by the National Assembly, reaffirming the government's commitment to the democratic practices in the run-up to the election of the 16th National Assembly, including protection of public freedoms, impartiality and transparency.

The Cabinet members were briefed about the resignation of Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Nasser Al-Jabri.

They were also apprised of two decrees nominating Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah as Acting Minister of Information, and Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Nasser Al-Roudhan as Acting Minister of Youth.

Opinion

Ethiopia... water is soul

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

ALMIGHTY Allah says, "Have the unbelievers not ever considered that the heavens and the earth were one piece and that We tore them apart from one another, and from water We have created all living things? Will they then have no faith?" (Quran 21:30).

The aforementioned verse must manifest itself in the minds of the Ethiopian leaders who are going against every international principle in relation to the issue of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), and their control over the waters of the Nile River.

Irrespective of Addis Ababa's attempts to conceal the truth, it keeps exposing itself by not relying on the language of reasoning and rationale, let alone its attempt to give itself a role that is bigger than its size in Africa.

Over the past two decades, Ethiopia has refused to abide by international commitment to resolve its dispute with both Egypt and Sudan. It has arbitrarily taken its position, and has exercised pressure outside international law on the riparian states, as the most important articles of the treaty, which was sanctioned internationally in 1997, bars state governments from politicizing water bodies or rather using water as a political tool.

This situation takes us back to when Iraq's Saddam Hussein withdrew from the Algiers Agreement signed in 1975 between Baghdad and Tehran for the sharing of the Shatt al-Arab.

Iraq relied on its legitimate rights, as the Shah did not violate the agreement, whereas Iraq went on to withdraw from the agreement through the actions of Saddam Hussein who ripped the agreement in 1980 during a press conference and declared war on Iran.

However, after eight years of destruc-

tion, killing and displacement, he complied and accepted the agreement.

This fact must manifest itself in the minds of Ethiopian leaders, especially the Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali, who is a Nobel Peace Prize winner, with regard to yielding to the desires of popular enthusiasm, which ultimately leads to dire consequences.

In addition, the international community will not allow a major conflict to erupt in North Africa concerning a settled issue in accordance with international treaties and laws.

In this regard, US President Donald Trump's words last Friday were clear - "It is a very dangerous situation, because Egypt is not going to be able to live that way. I said it before and I say it again loud and clear - They will blow up that dam, and they have to do something."

This talk shows the reality that Egypt, which has been known from time immemorial as the gift of the Nile, cannot accept thirst and submit to Addis Ababa's presumptuousness.

The growing international reaction to the obstinate Ethiopian position clearly indicates that Addis Ababa will face isolation along the lines of Tehran because both of them are pursuing the path of terrorism to implement their political agendas.

Therefore, the Arab and Islamic countries must clearly declare their position in support of Egypt and Sudan in their confrontation with the Ethiopian arrogance because "water is soul", and no one would accept suicide, or give up this right at any cost.

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'Don't vote for me if 'wasta' is going to imperil the future of your country.' Slogans have been advertised by the poll-runners on the streets of Kuwait.

Iran building underground N-centrifuge complex: UN

India issues travel update

By Paul Francis X. Fernandes Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 27: The Government of India has issued instructions regarding 'Visa & Travel restrictions in response to COVID-19', based on which foreign nationals can visit India by water routes or by flights operating under the 'Vande Bharat' mission or 'air bubble' (bilateral air travel arrangements) scheme or by any non-scheduled commercial flights permitted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

The Indian Embassy in Kuwait says those permitted to travel to India are Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) cardholders holding the passports of any country. They also include all foreign nationals intending to visit India for any purpose (including their dependents on appropriate category of dependent visa), except those on tourist visa.

All existing visas, except electronic visa (e-visa), tourist visa and medical visa which remained suspended shall stand restored with immediate effect.

Citizens of Nepal and Bhutan are permitted to come to India from any country (including via any third country).

The embassy says, the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare related to quarantine and all other health/COVID-19 must be strictly adhered to.

Meanwhile, the Government of India has also issued guidelines for the OCI card holders.

The OCI guidelines which have been in force since 2005 requires the OCI card holder who is 20 years and below to get the card re-issued each time a new passport is acquired and the same applies to the person who has completed 50 years and above.

However, this rule does not apply to those who are between 21 years and 50 years old.

The government of India has decided to grant temporary relaxation until June 30, 2021 in the following cases; if the OCI card holder is 20 years old and below and has not got the OCI card re-issued following change of passport, he/she may travel on the strength of his/her existing OCI card bearing the old passport number provided the OCI card holder carries the new and old passports, as mentioned in the OCI card and the same applies to those who are 50 years and above.

However, it is advisable that the OCI cardholders take steps to comply with the existing OCI guidelines mentioned above and renew their OCI cards as required by the rules.

For visa visit the website www.indianvisaonline.gov.in and for the OCI form and OCI related information visit https://ociservices.gov.in.

Biden focus on 'electoral map'

WASHINGTON, Oct 27, (AP): One week until Election Day, Joe Biden is going on offense, heading Tuesday to Georgia - which hasn't backed a Democrat for president since 1992 - and pushing into other territory where President Donald Trump was once expected to easily repeat his wins from four years ago.

The Democratic presidential nominee planned to travel to Iowa, which Trump took by 10 points in 2016, later in the week. His running mate, California Sen Kamala Harris, is heading to Arizona and Texas, where Republicans haven't lost any statewide office since 1994 - the nation's longest political winning streak.

The aggressive schedule is a sign of confidence by the Biden team, which is trying to stretch the electoral map and open up more paths to 270 electoral college votes. But after Democrats flirted with GOP territory in 2016, only to lose those states as well as their traditional Midwestern strongholds, Biden's campaign is mindful of overreaching.

The former vice-president will also visit in the coming days Wisconsin, Michigan and Florida.

Georgia, where Biden will make two stops on Tuesday, has increasingly become a draw for Democrats in recent years, as turnout increases among Black voters and the Atlanta suburbs tilt away from the GOP.

"If this was the Georgia of 2008, 2012, I think there's no way we would have seen a Biden come this late," said Nsé Ufot, chief executive officer of the New Georgia Project, which aims to increase voter registration, especially among young people and minorities. "It's a loud signal and acknowledgment of Georgia as a battleground state."

Trump is staying focused on the so-called "blue wall" states that he flipped in 2016: Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, where he'll return on Tuesday to hit West Salem just three days after holding a Janesville rally.

While Biden rarely travels to more than one state per day, the Republican president has maintained a whirlwind schedule, crisscrossing the country and making the argument that he built a booming economy before the coronavirus pandemic upended it.

BERLIN, Oct 27, (AP): Inspectors from the UN's atomic watchdog have confirmed Iran has started building an underground centrifuge assembly plant after its previous one exploded in what Tehran called a sabotage attack over the summer, the agency's head told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Iran also continues to stockpile greater amounts of low-enriched uranium, but does not appear to possess enough to produce a weapon, Rafael Grossi, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, told the AP in an interview in Berlin.

Following the July explosion at the Natanz nuclear site, Tehran said it would build a new, more secure, structure in the mountains around the area. Satellite pictures of Natanz analyzed by experts have yet to show any obvious signs of construction at the site in Iran's central Isfahan province.

"They have started, but it's not completed," Grossi said. "It's a long process."

He would not give further details, saying it's "confidential information." Iran's mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Natanz hosts the country's main uranium enrichment facility. In its long underground halls, centrifuges rapidly spin uranium hexafluoride gas to enrich uranium.

Natanz became a flashpoint for Western fears about Iran's nuclear program in 2002, when satellite photos showed Iran building an underground facility at the site, some 200 kms (125 miles) south of the capital, Tehran. In 2003, the IAEA visited Natanz, which Iran said would house centrifuges for its nuclear program, buried under some 7.6 meters (25 feet) of concrete. That offers protection from potential airstrikes on the site, which also is guarded by anti-aircraft positions.

Natanz had been targeted by the Stuxnet computer virus previously, which was believed to be a creation of the US and Israel. Iran has yet to say who it suspects of carrying out the sabotage in the July incident. Suspicion has fallen on Israel as well, despite a claim of responsibility by a previously unheard-of group at the time.

Under the provisions of the landmark 2015 nuclear deal with world powers known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, Iran is allowed to produce a certain amount of enriched uranium for non-military purposes.

In return, Iran was offered economic incentives by the countries involved.

stc records KD 209mn revenues for 9M

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Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait's Ministry of Health declared on Tuesday, 775 new coronavirus cases during the past 24 hours raising the tally to 123,092.

MoH Spokesperson Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad said in a statement to KUNA that seven patients who suffered from the germ contamination passed away, putting total number of mortalities with the contagion at 756.

Number of patients receiving medical care at intensive care units reached 116, Dr Al-Sanad said, adding that all confirmed infection cases that continued to receive medical care reached 8,220.

Number of swab tests conducted, during the past 24 hours, amounted to 7,874, with the whole number of the examinations hitting 889,555. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: The Ministry of Interior on Monday advised candidates to show full commitment to social distancing rules and preventive measures against the novel coronavirus while applying for the upcoming general elections, slated for Dec 5.

Undersecretary General Essam Al-Naham said during a visit to the makeshift election commission center that the ministry had drawn up a comprehensive plan to ensure staff and candidates safety and prevent spread of novel coronavirus during the reception of candidates, according to a ministry statement.

He underlined the need for sticking to relevant health instructions. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: A Filipino maid, whose identity has not been disclosed, allegedly ended her life by jumping from the second floor of her sponsor's apartment in Sabah Al-Nasser, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to the sponsor, the maid has infected with the coronavirus and allegedly decided to end her life.

The corpse has been referred to Forensics. A case of suicide has been registered

at the area police station.

KUWAIT CITY: The Ministry of Interior announced the data of the car rental companies will be electronically linked with the General Traffic Department (Traffic Violations Investigation Sector) to support the security and traffic aspects, save the data of the person renting the vehicle and facilitate the process of electronically registering traffic citations against the vehicle's owner (the one who rents it), reports Al-Anba daily.

This will be done in cooperation with the General Administration of Information Systems and direct coordination with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

NEW YORK: The State of Kuwait, addressing the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), has affirmed that the Palestinian cause is a "central issue" for the Arab nation.

Kuwait has also asserted the Arab identity of East Jerusalem in line with a resolution by the latest Arab ministerial council meeting held in September.

Arab states are committed to peace as a strategic option, stated Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi, the State of Kuwait Permanent Representative at the United Nations, during a UNSC session on the Middle East, namely the Palestinian cause, Monday evening. (KUNA)

WASHINGTON: Amy Coney Barrett was formally sworn in Tuesday as the Supreme Court's ninth justice, her oath administered by Chief Justice John Roberts. Her first votes on the court could include two big topics affecting the man who appointed her.

The court is weighing a plea from President Donald Trump to prevent the Manhattan district attorney from acquiring his tax returns. (AP)