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# US, Iran begin 'backwater' N- talks



This Jan 15, 2011 file photo shows the heavy water nuclear facility near Arak, Iran. Efforts to bring the United States back into the 2015 deal on Iran's nuclear program are to step up a gear as Iran and the five world powers remaining in the accord meet in Vienna on April 6, while the US is due to start indirect talks with Tehran. (AP)

## Day by Day

IMAM Ali (may Allah bless him) was once asked: "Who is the most despicable of people?" He said: "Those who prosper while their homelands starve."

What the Imam said hundreds of years ago applies to us today. See what is happening in Lebanon, Iraq and Iran. The leaders of these countries plunder their nations and starve their people. This situation is beyond description. They are under the illusion that they will neither be punished nor held to account for the wealth they have accumulated.

They forget that God's mill grinds slowly but surely and they will not enjoy what they have stolen. What these countries are witnessing is a disaster.

... Yet, tomorrow is just another day.

Zahed Matar



The male date palm spathe after it has been opened and is ready to be used for pollination. The male spathe looks something like a long seedpod. Inside are many long, thin floral branches crowded together. In spring, when the male flowers reach their maturity, the spathe changes color from green to a more brownish shade and then split open. This is the time to harvest them and use them for pollination. — Details Page 2

Speaker won't romp in the swamp

## 'Revelations soon'

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh  
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 6: National Assembly Speaker Marzuq Al-Ghanim said he will not slip into the swamp of offending others, which is part of the systematic campaigns conducted by some parties, asserting he will always follow the right path and that several facts will be revealed soon.

In a press statement, Al-Ghanim pointed out the political field recently witnessed financed campaigns, including unprecedented groundless claims and lies against him, the MPs and senior officials. He disclosed that they claimed he prevented journalists from entering the Assembly building and they circulated photostopped footages and pictures on social media which are totally wrong.

He thanked the Kuwaiti people – his supporters or those against him – who rejected the unprecedented offending of others and low level of dialogue among some politicians who used decadent language.

He expressed gratitude as well to all those who communicated with him through short messages or their published articles; stressing that the above-mentioned campaigns will not affect him and will not force him to change his path.

He warned his supporters and the silent majority of the people against reacting to such offensive campaigns in a similar manner as this act contravenes Islam, as well as the Kuwaiti and parliamentary traditions.

He added that one part of the upcoming session will be allocated for revealing facts, while the other part will be announced soon.

Meanwhile, MP Yousef Al-Fadala unveiled his plan to resign from the Assembly; emphasizing that he will not change his decision and will divulge his reasons for doing so later.

MP Saleh Zeiab Al-Mutairi submitted a proposal to assign the parliamentary Education, Culture and Guidance Affairs Committee to prepare a report on the readiness of the Ministry of Education for the paper examination of grade 12 students; indicating the report should be referred to the Assembly within two weeks.

He called for cancellation of the paper exams due to the risk of coronavirus infection. He added that since the students started the online education, they should end the academic year using the same method.

Talking about the oil sector which will conduct interviews to recruit engineers soon, Al-Mutairi hopes for the recruitment of a large number of Kuwaiti engineers; especially since the number of vacancies is higher than the number of applicants. He stressed the need for the oil sector to contribute in solving the unemployment issue since it is a large sector which is supposed to hire graduates from all specializations.

On the other hand, MPs Abdullah Al-Mudaf, Muhannad Al-Sayer, Badr Al-Mullah, Hassan Jawhar and Mehalhal Al-Mudaf submitted a bill to amend Law No. 20/2014 regarding online transactions. The bill is aimed at obligating the government to enforce online transactions in all institutions within a period of two years.

## NewsWatch

**KUWAIT CITY:** Kuwait said 1,357 people tested positive for coronavirus while 12 related deaths were reported on Monday, taking the total up to 238,549 and 1,365, respectively, according to the health ministry.

Another 1,326 people were cured of the virus, raising the total of those to have overcome the disease to 223,269, ministry spokesman Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanad told a press conference.

The number of people hospitalized with the virus currently stands at 13,915, with 216 of them in intensive care units, he added, revealing that some 8,371 swab tests were conducted over the last day out of a total of 2,100,948. (KUNA)

**KUWAIT CITY:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to the President of the Republic of Madagascar **Andry Rajoelina**, expressing his sorrow over the demise of late President **Didier Ignace Ratsiraka**.

In his cable, His Highness the Amir extended his condolences to the family of the late president. (KUNA)

**KUWAIT CITY:** Standard & Poor's Ratings Services affirmed its AA- long-term issuer and financial strength credit ratings on the Arab Investment & Export Credit Guarantee Corporation Dhaman.

In its recent report, standard & Poor's said that its issuer credit ratings on Dhaman are based on S&P's assessments of Dhaman's strong business profile and strong financial profile, supported notably by its capital adequacy and excellent liquidity. (KUNA)

**KUWAIT CITY:** The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has started taking measures to curb marginal employment that spread in its departments and sectors, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting reliable sources.

Sources said the Administrative Affairs Sector recently sent a letter to a company which signed a contract with the ministry demanding for the termination of 74 print workers in different departments; indicating the list includes citizens, Bedouins and expatriates – 14 of whom are assigned in the Financial Affairs Department and 12 in the Department of Islamic Studies (**Farwaniya** and **Jahra**).

**DUBAI:** Police in Dubai have arrested a Russian citizen for filming several naked women on a high-rise balcony in the city, a Russian diplomat said Tuesday, after footage of the nude photo shoot went viral and prompted a crackdown in the Gulf Arab sheikhdom.

More than a dozen foreign women who had posed naked in the photo shoot were detained, but only the photographer carried Russian citizenship, **Ivan Gubanov**, the Russian vice consul in Dubai, told The Associated Press. (AP)

**DUBAI:** Ten officials have been indicted in Iran over the 2020 military shootout of a Ukrainian passenger plane that killed 176 people, a prosecutor said Tuesday, an announcement coming just as Tehran begins indirect negotiations with the West over its collapsed nuclear deal with world powers. (AP)

## 'Spies' caught

**VIENNA, April 6, (AP):** Efforts to bring the United States back into the 2015 deal on Iran's nuclear program stepped up a gear Tuesday as Iran and the five world powers still in the accord were meeting in Vienna while the U.S. is due to start indirect talks with Tehran.

Friday's announcement that Washington and Tehran would begin indirect talks through intermediaries was one of the first signs of tangible progress in efforts to return both nations to the terms of the accord, which restricted Iran's nuclear program in return for relief from U.S. and international sanctions.

Then-President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. unilaterally out of the accord in 2018, opting for what he called a maximum pressure campaign of stepped-up U.S. sanctions.

Since then, Iran has been steadily violating the restrictions in the deal, like the amount of enriched uranium that it can stockpile and the purity to which it can enrich it. Tehran's moves have been calculated to pressure the other nations in the deal - Russia, China, France, Germany and Britain - to do more to offset crippling U.S. sanctions reimposed under Trump.

President Joe Biden came into office saying that getting back into the accord and returning Iran's nuclear program to international restrictions was a priority. But Iran and the United States have disagreed over Iran's demands that sanctions be lifted first.

Senior foreign ministry officials from the countries still in the accord, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, were holding a European Union-chaired meeting Tuesday in Vienna.

Also due in the Austrian capital is a U.S. delegation headed by the administration's special envoy for Iran, Rob Malley. State Department spokesman Ned Price said talks will be structured around working groups that the Europeans will form with the other parties to the accord.

Price said Monday the talks are a "healthy step forward" but added that "we don't anticipate an early or immediate breakthrough, as these discussions, we fully expect, will be difficult."

"We don't anticipate at present that there will be direct talks with Iran," he said. "Though of course we remain open to them. And so we'll have to see how things go."

## Also:

**TEHRAN:** Iranian authorities arrested several people on charges of spying for Israel and other nations, state TV announced Monday.

An unnamed Intelligence Ministry official in the country's eastern Azerbaijan province was quoted by state TV as saying that security forces had detained a group of people suspected of spying for Israel and other unspecified countries. The brief report did not provide further details on the nationalities of the suspects or provide evidence to support the espionage charges.

## 'Development' nod

### Kuwait reaffirms Jordan solidarity

**KUWAIT CITY, April 6, (KUNA):** Kuwait's Cabinet has stressed that its leadership and people stand in full solidarity with Jordan, affirming that the Hashemite Kingdom's security and stability is an integral part of its own security and stability.

This came after the ministers, in their weekly session at Seif Palace led by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, were briefed on the discussions that earlier took place between His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince, and the King of Jordan.

During the call, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah both insisted that the country stands by the brotherly Kingdom of Jordan.

They wished Jordan continued stability and prosperity, under the wise leadership of King Abdullah II, praying that the Kingdom and its people be protected from any harm.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Sheikh Dr. Basel Al-Sabah briefed the ministers on the latest developments on the COVID-19 pandemic, warning that infections and virus-induced deaths in Kuwait are witnessing an "unprecedentedly large increase," due to a laxity in adhering to government-imposed measures.

The Ministry of Health was tasked with providing the Ministry of Education with preventative equipment (face masks, sterilisers, disinfectants, thermometers and other protective gear) ahead of secondary school 2020/21 final examinations.

Furthermore, the Cabinet referred an Economic Affairs Committee recommendation regarding the annual 2020/21 third quarter plan follow-up report to the National Assembly.

It also approved a draft law regarding the Economic Affairs Committee recommendation for the 2020/21-2024/25 development plan, raising the matter to His Highness the Amir ahead of its final approval by the National Assembly.

The Committee's recommendation on the annual 2021/22 development plan, the policies of which are based on the seven-pillar 'New Kuwait' development plan, were also raised to the National Assembly.

## Opinion

### King Abdullah... Prosperity breeds stability

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

JORDAN'S important status in the world has been highlighted by the overwhelming international support it received for the measures taken by its monarch to protect the stability of the country from the intrigues of some. It is also evidenced from the great solidarity shown by the people of the Middle East, especially the Arabian Gulf region, which began in the early hours of the intrigues that emerged in Amman.

All this is due to the balance maintained in its international relations. The late King Hussein bin Talal had invested over five decades of perseverance in strengthening the pillars of the monarchy, and steadfastness in the face of the earthquakes that struck the country, and for creating a political path that made it the focus of the world's attention.

During the 48 years of King Hussein's rule, Jordan was the focus of Western media attention in terms of the initiatives it presented the steadfast positions it maintained concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict, the way it overlooked the wounds caused by Jamal Abdul-Nasser, and its support towards Egypt in the Six-Day War.

It is understood from the start that any setback for an Arab country is a setback for everyone. The Arab image drawn in the Western mindset must be changed for the better, especially the perception about the Arab monarchs, as the Western circles had worked on distorting their stances and courses of development.

In response to these fallacies, the late King Hussein bin Talal worked on two paths. The first path was to ensure internal development by developing human beings using an advanced educational system. For this, he was called the Builder King. Working throughout the country steadily and calmly, he was eventually able to place the country on the map of the world as an important and sovereign state.

The second path was manifested in his international campaign to correct the image of the Arab monarchs. Their leaders were presented to the Western world in the correct manner, and the preconceived conclusions that some orientalist had formed in the Western mindset were eliminated.

Here it is necessary to admit to the man that he created an important kingdom. He knew how to utilize its strategic position to make it the focus of the world's attention. He worked on an advanced system of legislation that strengthened its role and fortified the monarch. He cemented the loyalty of the armed forces and the clans that saw in him great works to build a strong and solid kingdom, as the events of the past two decades have proven.

Nonetheless, as a Kuwaiti, I am bitter about his support towards Saddam Hussein during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. However, I was certain from my interactions with him in London and Amman that the man must return to his purity and Arabism ... but time was not on his side.

Given that this cub comes from that lion, Jordanians, Arabs and the world view King Abdullah II as a complement to his father's path. They expect him to surpass his teacher in modernizing the country in accordance with the Arab proverb which translates – "How many students have become better than their teachers?"

Currently, there are many opportunities available to Jordan, and all of them could turn into historical achievements credited to the current king. This includes developing investments, building a system by taking advantage of the opportunity of peace that relieved Jordan of heavy burdens and paved the way to overcome the escalating unemployment crisis through a large industrial and agricultural infrastructure, building a real partnership among Jordanian, Gulf, Israeli and Western businessmen, and opening western markets to Jordan to overcome all of its economic challenges.

This matter needs special effort from King Abdullah II, who will undoubtedly find a great turnout of investors and states. Indeed, loans will be poured into Jordan, which ultimately will lead to the closure of the outlets for trolls in the waters of its stability crisis. We hence reiterate, "Prosperity breeds stability."

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## Joint Gulf security critical: Kuwait

**KUWAIT CITY, April 6, (KUNA):** Under-secretary of Kuwait's Ministry of Interior (MoI) Lieutenant General Essam Al-Naham has underlined the importance of unifying security efforts among the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), through cooperation and coordination between various security sectors to deal with crime in all its forms.

Al-Naham made these remarks in a speech at the 11th meeting of MoI's under-secretaries in the GCC countries, held in Riyadh, through video conferencing.

A statement issued by MoI's General Department of Security Relations and Media said that Al-Naham welcomed in his

speech the secretaries of the Interior Ministries in the GCC countries, stressing the depth of security relations between them and the continuous coordination to reach the Gulf security integration that everyone seeks.

He thanked and showed gratitude to the Secretariat General of the GCC for their great efforts in strengthening joint Gulf security coordination and cooperation.

The meeting discussed common security issues that contribute to strengthening the process of joint Gulf security cooperation in the GCC countries, identifying the latest developments in the region, and coordinating efforts as required at the current stage.