



Speaker calls for Mosafer alternative



The bombing of Kuwaiti oil wells by Iraqi soldiers as they retreated from Kuwait during the war of liberation.

China responds

— Details Page 2 —

Day by Day

ALMOST a month has passed since the Parliament went into recess and as the government has always claimed that the National Assembly hinders its work, it has become crystal clear now that the government is still in deep slumber. Nevertheless, the government has not initiated anything to relieve the pain of the people but rather has created more confusion in the area of taking precautionary measures to confront the Covid-19 pandemic.

To add insult to injury, it continues to be stubborn and gives a deaf ear to people's complaints, especially to complaints of citizens who are stranded abroad. All that the people see is arbitrary government decisions and the set of conditions imposed on citizens who wish to return and on those who want to travel. Is the government on a sabotage mission?
... Yet, tomorrow is just another day.

Zahed Matar

NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: A 4.5-magnitude earthquake occurred in Al-Mana-geesh area southwest of Kuwait, said the Kuwait National Seismic Network (KNSN) on Monday.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Enezi, an official at the KNSN, said that the quake happened at 11:31 a.m. local-time in Kuwait at a depth of eight kilometers.

The KNSN is an entity affiliated with the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR). (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: According to a report published by the American "24/7 Wall Street" website, Kuwait is ranked 17th on the list of the richest countries in the world, reports Al-Rai daily.

It ranked third in the Arab world after Qatar and the UAE, which came in second and seventh places in the world respectively, while Saudi Arabia ranked 25th in the world.

As for the richest countries in the world, Macau came first, followed by Qatar, then Singapore in third, Bermuda fourth, and Luxembourg fifth.

As per the list, the per capita share of Kuwait's gross national income amounted to \$58,930 in 2020, and the gross domestic product amounted to \$218.6 billion, according to the 2019 statistics. Also, the average life expectancy in Kuwait is 75.5 years.

KUWAIT CITY: The Cabinet approved today, Monday, the proposal of the Civil Service Commission to suspend work in all ministries, government agencies, and public bodies and institutions next Sunday and Monday on the occasion of the New Islamic Year.

The decision, which was published by Government Communication Center on the social networking site (Twitter), stated that Sunday, August 8, will be a holiday.

He also added that Monday, August 9, 2021, will be the New Hijri Year holiday for the year 1443 AH (official holiday). (KUNA)

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's Aramco Monday denied reports that it planned to engage in bitcoin operations.

Aramco, in a brief statement, said it "totally denies as baseless recent reports that Saudi Aramco plans to be involved in bitcoin activities." (KUNA)

DUBAI: The United States and the United Kingdom joined Israel on Sunday in alleging Iran carried out a fatal drone strike on an oil tanker off the coast of Oman in the Arabian Sea, putting further pressure on Tehran as it denied being involved in the assault.

Calling it a "unlawful and callous attack," British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said his country and its allies planned a coordinated response over the strike Thursday night on the oil tanker Mercer Street.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken soon followed, saying there was "no justification for this attack, which follows a pattern of attacks and other belligerent behavior."

The strike on the Mercer Street marked the first-known fatal attack after years of assaults on commercial shipping in the region linked to tensions with Iran over its tattered nuclear deal. (AP)

Flights missed

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim has said that the commemoration of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on Aug 2, 1990 is an annual opportunity to remember the sacrifice of Kuwaitis, especially the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the nation.

He pointed out that despite the bitter memory of the invasion, the disaster strengthened the unity of Kuwaitis; as well as their adherence to legitimacy. He added this is a good opportunity to remember the role of sisterly and friendly countries which supported Kuwait in its fight for its rights.

He emphasized that the successive generations of Kuwaitis are always grateful to those who supported Kuwait.

He prayed that Allah Almighty continues to protect Kuwait from all kinds of evil. He implored Allah Almighty to show mercy to the righteous martyrs; bless Kuwait; and perpetuate its prosperity, stability and progress under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mesh'al Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Problems

In addition, Al-Ghanim posted on his Twitter account a suggestion for the Ministry of Health and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to find alternatives in case the citizens encounter problems while using 'Kuwait Mosafer' and 'Immune' platforms.

He said there should be a way to check the citizens' documents at the airport to ensure they will not miss their flights due to glitches which have nothing to do with them.

On the other hand, Deputy Speaker Ahmed Al-Shuhoimi stressed the need for Kuwait to learn from the heroic acts of the people of Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion, considering they clearly reflected solidarity and national unity at the time. He added that recalling such a sad incident must be a catalyst for Kuwait to move towards progress and advancement.

He also highlighted the historic roles of HH the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the late Amir Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah and HH the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in the liberation of Kuwait with the support of friendly and sisterly countries. He then underscored the importance of the unity of all Kuwaitis.

Healed

MP Abdullah Al-Turaiji asserted that although 31 years have passed, the wound has not been healed and the crime has not been forgotten. He said Kuwait will never forget the shameful positions of some countries which supported the 'barbarian' invasion, in the same manner that it will never forget the honorable positions of countries which supported it.

The lawmaker spotlighted the vital and heroic role of Saudi Arabia and its leader at the time — the late King Fahd bin Abdulaziz.

He added that Kuwait has experienced many difficult times; but it always proves its capability to overcome difficulties due to the strong bond between the people and political leadership.

In another development, MP Ali Al-Qattan submitted a proposal to grant Kuwaiti nationality to the children of Bedouin martyrs registered at Al-Shaheed Office and those who were killed in the terrorist attack which targeted HH the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

MPs Osama Al-Shaheen, Hamad Al-Matar and Abdulaziz Al-Saqaabi have submitted a bill on the establishment of a permanent central agency for the management of crises and disasters. They said the agency will follow up the preparations of institutions to deal with crises.

The MPs affirmed their proposal is important, taking into consideration the vital role played by public institutions during the Iraqi invasion.

Opinion

Blessed invite from Mohammed VI for a strong Arab Maghreb Union

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

"MOROCCO and Algeria are more than just neighboring countries; they are twins complementing one another." This fact was reaffirmed by the Moroccan King Mohammed VI in his 22nd Throne Day speech, which represents a road map to resolve a crisis that should not have existed for this long.

This is due to the fact that the features of the relationship between the two nations were not shaken by the grey clouds that fell in the skies of these two brotherly countries. They deliberately united their destiny in blood from the start of the Algerian revolution in 1954 from the Moroccan city of Agadir, until it culminated in 1962 with the historic Algerian victory over the French colonizer.

This twin-destiny was supposed to turn into an integration, but the toxic winds that blew from international and regional sides sought to abort Maghreb liberation when they planted mines in the way of their countries that led to tensions during the past decades that did not serve the people of both nations.

Among the bright pages in Arab history is the effort exerted by the late King Hassan II to correct the Maghreb path through his initiative to declare the Arab Maghreb Union in 1988, which culminated in the Marrakesh Declaration in 1989, making this gathering an effective force in the Arab world after the Gulf Cooperation Council.

However, the usual plays of the late Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi led to the paralysis of the union.

Once again, King Mohammed VI reopened the doors for a sound relationship between the two brotherly countries, saying, "We reiterate our sincere call to our brothers in Algeria for us to work together, without conditions, for the development of the bilateral relations based on trust, dialogue and good neighborliness. We are not satisfied with the current state of our relations, as it neither serves our peoples' interests nor is it acceptable to many countries." By this, he defined a

fraternal framework that cannot be deviated from brothers if there was will.

There is no doubt that the five countries in the Arab Maghreb Union — Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya — constitute a major economic power regionally, and an active Arab and African union, in the event that this system is reactivated. Therefore, opening the borders between Morocco and Algeria, which constitute about 75 percent of the economy of the union, represents a qualitative leap in the process of integration among all member states.

In this regard, the blessed King Mohammed VI, entrusted with his wisdom, was clear and transparent in describing the problem and laying the foundations for its solution. Therefore, Algeria must reciprocate positively, especially at this stage that requires unity in the face of difficult challenges.

In order to tie the loose ends to block demons of sabotage from having their way, King Mohammed VI was frank to the fullest extent when he said, "I believe that the security and stability of Algeria and the tranquility of its people are inseparable from the security and stability of Morocco, and vice versa. What affects Morocco will also affect Algeria, because the two countries are like one body."

It goes without saying that this body must be like what the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, "The believers in their mutual kindness, compassion and sympathy are just like one body. When one of the limbs suffers, the whole body responds to it with wakefulness and fever." Unity of destiny is a requirement needed by all of the Maghreb nations.

There is no doubt that the Algerian people, who are tired of being estranged from their brothers, were pleased with this historic speech, which interpreted the feelings of all Moroccans.

Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

Cabinet notes 1990 invasion

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2, (KUNA): The Cabinet held its weekly meeting Monday afternoon at Seif Palace headed by His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Prime Minister. After the meeting, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr. Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Sabah stated the following:

On the occasion of the thirty-first anniversary of the crime of the brutal Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait, the State of Kuwait, the leadership and people, recall with pain and bitterness the heinous crime of treachery at the dawn of the second of August 1990, and recall with appreciation and gratitude the prominent role played by His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the late father Amir Sheikh Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah and His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, may God bless them, for their efforts to restore the State of Kuwait to its freedom and expel the sinful aggressor, thanks to God and the help of brothers and friends and their remarkable efforts and achievements in the reconstruction of the country at a record speed with the help of the loyal people of this country.

The Cabinet also expressed great pride and pride in the manifestations of national cohesion between all segments of Kuwaiti society since the first moment of the brutal invasion and heroic steadfastness in the face of the occupation and its brutal practices and adherence to its legitimacy and homeland, recalling hundreds of

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Sheikh Sabah Al Khaled chairs Monday's Cabinet meeting.

Kuwait lists 805 new COVID cases

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2, (Agencies): Kuwait's daily coronavirus cases rose by 805 to 399,343 as deaths increased by 11 to 2,339, the health ministry said on Monday.

Another 1,289 people were cured of the virus, raising the total of those to have overcome the disease to 386,690, ministry spokesperson Dr. Abdallah Al-Sanad said in a statement.

The number of people hospitalised with the virus currently stands at 866, with 288

of them in intensive care units, he added, revealing that another 10,314 are receiving regular treatment.

Some 13,951 swab tests were conducted over the last day out of a total of 3,430,973, mentioned the official.

He went on to urge nationals and expatriates alike that abiding by health precautions, mainly, following social distancing rules, is the only way to halt the spread of the virus.