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Amir condoles with martyrs families

Gave all

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 13, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has addressed cables of condolences to families of the homeland martyrs.

Names of these martyrs, who have been laid to rest, are Bader Hussein Murad Al-Kandari, Suleiman Kadhim Qatie Ali Taher, Tariq Mohammad Ahmad Abdullah Al-Yaqout, Abdulrahman Abdulaziz Abdullah Al-Showaimani, Abdulmahdi Abdulhameed Mohammad Maarafi Behehaneh, Essa Mohammad Zaman Mohammad, Kamil Abdulrahman Mohammad Nasser Al-Fayez, Mohammad Saad Masoud Al-Ahmad, Mohammad Saleh Mohammad Suleiman Al-Muhaini, Mahdi Habeeb Ali Zaid Al-Boloushi, Mustafa Hussein Ahmad Mohammad Al-Qattan and Yousif Zaid Zamel Saud Al-Zamel.

His Highness the Amir expressed most sincere sorrow on their demise, recalling their sacrifices, brave action for defending the homeland and redeeming their blood for Kuwait's sake.

He has also prayed for the martyrs souls, wishing their loved ones patience and endurance.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent cables of identical content of deep solace to the families on their loved ones' death, also invoking His Almighty's mercy and forgiveness for the martyrs. He has also voiced solidarity with the bereaved families.

Moreover, cables of same content were addressed by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to the martyrs' stricken families.

His Highness the President of National Guard Sheikh Salem Ali Al-Sabah, and National Guard Deputy Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday cables of condolences to families of the homeland martyrs.

In their cables, they expressed their utmost heartfelt sorrows and prayers to martyrs of the nation, remembering their heroic roles and sacrifices during the Iraqi invasion of 1990.



KUANA photo
Kuwait Towers will continue beaming with ornamented and colored lights depicting inscriptions and forms of the national sadu craft works until Jan 31, said chairperson of Al-Sadu Weaving Cooperative Society Sheikhha Bibi Duaij Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah on Wednesday. The towers are shimmering with the lighted ornamentations in celebration of listing sadu in UNESCO's list of human race immaterial heritage. Sheikhha Bibi in remarks to KUNA affirmed the association approach to preserve the national traditional art, one of the most important components of the Kuwaiti cultural heritage.

KD 100 fine for not wearing face mask

Bill introduced

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 13: The parliamentary Health Affairs Committee on Wednesday discussed the government's bill on the prevention of infectious diseases in the presence of Health Ministry Undersecretary Dr Mustafa Reda and assistant undersecretaries in the ministry.

Committee Chairman MP Saadoun Hammad disclosed the bill stipulates KD 100 fine for not wearing face masks, indicating the committee asked the ministry to lighten this penalty. He said only one member of the committee - MP Dr Saleh Zeiab Al-Mutairi - supported the proposed penalty and even demanded for increasing the fine to KD 500.

Hammad confirmed that the ministry briefed the committee on the coronavirus vaccination process, which includes the signing of a contract with American company Pfizer for the procurement of one million doses of the vaccine that will be administered to 500,000 individuals. He added the ministry informed the committee that the efficacy rate of this vaccine is more than 90 percent.

According to the lawmaker, the ministry also signed a contract through a local agent to obtain three million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine for 1.5 million individuals, indicating this vaccine is more than 70 percent effective. He said the ministry did not sign a contract to procure the German vaccine Moderna or the Chinese Emittari.

He added the quantity of vaccines currently available in Kuwait is enough for two million individuals, while the total population is 4,776 million, so the committee asked the ministry to sign contracts with other companies to accelerate the vaccination process such that it will be completed within one year. He pointed out the current rate of vaccination entails it will take more than two years to vaccinate the entire population.

He went on to say that the committee also tackled bills on charitable work, unions and health insurance which it expects to receive soon.

In addition, MP Osama Al-Shaheen forwarded queries to Minister of Health Dr Basel Al-Sabah about the low number of people vaccinated against corona daily.

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Day by Day

IN Kuwait, we have many institutions carrying big names, but unfortunately they are idle. It looks like their goal is something else and not what they were founded for and those close to these institutions enjoy all the benefits - relatives, election managers - which mean more waste and continuation of the documentary cycle.

A long time ago, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill said, "If you want to kill an idea or project, you just have to refer it to a committee or a body because it is the cemetery of projects."

True to what the former British prime minister said, many ideas, projects and plans were referred to such bodies and committees in Kuwait and now they 'rest in peace'.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Tehran holds missile drill in Gulf of Oman

TEHRAN, Iran, Jan 13, (AP): Iran's navy began a short-range missile drill in the Gulf of Oman on Wednesday and inaugurated its largest military vessel, state TV reported, amid heightened tensions over Tehran's nuclear program and a U.S. pressure campaign against the Islamic Republic.

The two-day missile drill was being held in the gulf's southeastern waters and two new Iranian-made warships joined the exercise: The missile-launching Zereh, or "armor," and the country's largest military ship the Makran, a logistics vessel with a helicopter pad named for a coastal region in southern Iran.

President Donald Trump in 2018 unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from Iran's nuclear deal, in which Tehran had agreed to limit its uranium enrichment in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. Trump cited Iran's ballistic missile program among other issues in withdrawing from the accord.

When the U.S. then ramped up sanctions, Iran gradually and publicly abandoned the deal's limits on its nuclear development as a series of escalating incidents pushed the two countries to the brink of war at the beginning of the year.

In recent weeks, Iran has increased its military drills. On Saturday, the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard held a naval parade in the Arabian Gulf and a week earlier Iran held a massive drone maneuver across half the country.

Iran on occasion announces military achievements that cannot be independently verified. The country began a military sufficiency program in 1992 under which Tehran says it produces mortars to fighter jets.

State TV said the 121,000-metric ton Makran is Iran's largest military ship at 228 meters (748 feet) long, 42 meters (138 feet) wide and 21.5 meters (70 feet) tall. The Makran, a logistics ship that supports combat ships in the fleet, can travel for nearly three years without docking and carries information collection and processing gear.

Oman creates CP post

DUBAI, Jan 13, (AP): Oman's sultan announced a shake-up of the Gulf country's constitution with changes that include the appointment of a crown prince for the first time and steps to boost government transparency, the state-run news agency reported.

The move, one year after the death of Sultan Qaboos bin Said, who pulled Oman into modernity and deftly navigated the region's sectarian and political divides, comes as the government faces growing pressures at home. The constitutional amendments bring iconoclast Oman into closer conformity with other Gulf sheikhdoms and dispel fears of any destabilizing succession crisis in the future.

Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, the former culture minister, came to power last year amid intense speculation that gripped the sultanate after the death of his cousin, who left no heirs. His name was written in a sealed envelope left in the palace in Muscat.

Now, there will be no more mystery or tempestuous theatrics. Sultan Haitham, who quietly has made his mark over the past year by renaming and reorganizing ministries once controlled by his predecessor, changed Oman's basic law to allow for the appointment of a crown prince, the succession practice of every other Arab Gulf state.

Monday's announcement did not specify who the crown prince would be or what responsibilities he would have.

"This is revolutionary," said Bader Al-Saif, an assistant professor of history at Kuwait University who studies Oman.

Other Voices

Some Kuwaitis bring pride and others bring disgrace

By Ali Ahmed Al-Baghli
Former Minister of Oil

LAST week, the local newspapers were filled with news about the Kuwaiti youth and individuals who bring pride to the nation, and others who bring shame.

Topping those who bring pride to the people of Kuwait is the young Sheikh Dr. Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. He is Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs and was awarded the "Kuwait Medal" by His Highness the Amir (May Allah preserve him)

for working with dedication to serve the nation away from political accounts and media glare. These are the characteristics of a true statesman.

We saw Al-Nasser boarding his plane, visiting Gulf states stuck in an unjustified conflict, carrying to them the message of our Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad, and complementing the efforts of the late Amir of humanity Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad whose efforts in healing the rift in the walls of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and restoring their unity were observed and praised by the whole world.

I was very pleased when I saw the Qatari people, who were blockaded by their brothers, listening with happiness and pleasure to the statement of Sheikh Dr. Ahmad Al-Nasser when he promised the people of Qatar and the whole world to end the blockade on them.

I share a longstanding personal relationship with Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nasser, as he is a classmate and a good close friend of my brother and diplomat Counselor Nizar Ahmed Al-Baghli, who passed away on the first day of January 2020. His colleague and friend in study and work, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nasser, came to offer condolences, and I exchanged conversations with him about my brother. I told him that my brother used to seek my assistance in every matter he wanted from the senior officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in terms of promotions and moving from one country to another. I used to help him in that and the Foreign Ministry officials and senior employees spared no efforts in assistance.

I also used to ask my brother Nizar why he did not ask his dear friend Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nasser, who was the director of the Foreign Minister's Office, to

meet these requests. My brother laughed and told me that the sheikh said to him, "Your brother Ali has more friends in the Foreign Ministry and more influence than me".

When I recounted this story to Sheikh Dr. Ahmad Al-Nasser, he told me that he avoids any mediation as much as possible, even if it is deserving. This is what we hope all of our government leaders will do, God willing.

The second young Kuwaiti man who has made us proud at the beginning of this year 2021 is the young Hussein Bu Majdad. Al-Qabas daily had published a news about him on January 7 on its last page. He was honored at the Geneva International Fair, and he works as a firefighter in the Rescue and Combat Team in Kuwait Fire Service Directorate.

Bu Majdad, who does the same job as any other firefighter and suffers like thousands of firefighters all over the world, invented a tool that can open doors during emergency cases if children or adults are detained inside closed rooms either in private houses or government institutions or factories. This invention contributes to saving lives and protecting private and public properties by opening doors within 15 seconds without breaking them through the manual use of the tool. Thanks to our young brother Bu Majdad, and we say "May God bless us with more like you".

Those who brought shame to us are many, topped by those who caused suffering to the people of Kuwait after the latter elected them as their representatives in the National Assembly, which they transformed into "the Assembly of Grief".

Many of them promised their successful colleagues that they would elect them to leadership positions such as the National Assembly Speaker or his deputy, but they turned back on their promises. We saw their bad choices for committee membership as they made as members their colleagues who are probably hearing the names of these committees for the first time.

In addition to those offenders are the permanent council officials (the secretary general and his staff) and the National Assembly guards who allowed in tens of rioting youths and ignored the practice of the National Assembly since its inception six decades ago by inviting ministers, former members and prominent social, economic, religious and judicial personalities to attend the opening ceremonies of the first sessions of the National Assembly.

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