



AMIR, CROWN PRINCE, PM CONDOLE WITH FAMILIES



Military protocols and prayers being held as part of the funeral for 19 Kuwaiti martyrs who sacrificed their lives during the 1990-1991 Iraqi aggression and occupation of Kuwait. KUNA photos

Kuwait holds funeral for 19 martyrs

Amir recalls sacrifices, patriotic role

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait on Sunday held a broad funeral with military protocols for 19 of the faithful martyrs who sacrificed their souls during the flagrant 1990-1991 aggression and occupation of the country.

The somber procession and gathering of mourners were held at Al-Sulaibkhat cemetery by Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense, Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Minister of Education Dr. Ali Al-Mudhaf, Minister of Oil and Higher Education Dr. Mohammad Al-Fares, Kuwait Army Chief of Staff Lieu-

tenant General Khaled Saleh Al-Sabah, Interior Undersecretary Major General Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Guard Undersecretary Lieut. Gen. Hashem Al-Rifai, Chairman of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation Sheikh Abdullah Ali Al-Salem Al-Sabah, senior military leaders and families of the martyrs.

The ministers extended their solace to the martyrs' families, uttering prayers for souls of the deceased, hailing the prisoners and the missing citizens who had sacrificed themselves for Kuwait, setting a great example of patriotism. Head of the prisoners and missing committee at the Foreign Minister, Rabie Al-Adsani, affirmed that remains of

19 martyrs had been identified through DNA examinations by the department of criminal evidence.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Sunday addressed cables of condolences to families of the martyrs.

His Highness the Amir expressed his sentiments of sorrow to the families of the martyrs Badr Mubarak Hamed Dhiab Al-Brai'see, Saeed Awad Aayed Al-Rashidi, Saud Nayef Jazza' Al-Daihani, Mekhled Jbairan Sharid Al-Daihani, Walid Mekhled Hamed Dhiab Al-Brai'see, Nayef Mehmel Dhaifallah Al-Mutairi, Fawaz Btaihah Dghaim Al-Mutairi, Moussa Sattar Jaber Khalaf Al-Enezi, Nayef Awad Aayed Al-Rashidi, Khaled Duaij Abdulrahman Khalifa Al-Khaldi, Saad Mansour Mohsen Al-Ajmi, Bader Met'eb Obaid Rashed Al-Mutairi, Fares Abdulrahman Fares Al-Mutairi, Nayef Khalaf Huwaider, Salah Hussein Sayed Al-Enezi, Mohammad Humoud Obaid Sulaiman Al-Hola, Mohammad Abdulatif Abdulaziz Al-Khras, Fares Mohammad Deham Jahem Al-Enezi and Hussein Ali Jassem Al-Shemari.

His Highness the Amir expressed his deepest condolences to the families of the martyrs who have been laid to rest, proudly recalling their sacrifices, their patriotic role in defending the dear homeland and redeeming its soil with their blood.

His Highness the Amir implored the Almighty to bestow mercy upon the martyrs' souls and shelter them in his paradises and inspire their gracious families to be patient.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah addressed identical cables of solace to the bereaved families, wishing their lost ones heavenly mercy and wishing them ability to be patient.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah addressed cables of identical content to the martyrs' families.

National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim also sent cables to families of the 19 martyrs, in which he expressed sincere condolences and recalled the heroic actions of the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for their homeland.

Opinion

Had it not been for Abu Al-Hasan Al-Isfahani, radish seller would have made students of Samarra University 'deceitful' and 'ignorant' teachers

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

SCANDALS related to forged academic certificates bought from "selling stores" in some universities in various countries around the world emerge on a daily basis.

This phenomenon has intensified at the Arab level after tens of thousands of people, who bought their certificates to seek job promotions, were exposed when some countries adopted the salary-raising system for those who obtained a higher education certificate while working.

Subsequently, this prompted the weak souls to seek higher education certificates to better their financial situation. In the blink of an eye, we started seeing "Dr." for example being added in front of a large number of names.

This disease is not confined to a particular country, especially in the last twenty years. It was recently discovered that about 27,000 Iraqis obtained degrees from four suspicious universities in Lebanon. Also, there are thousands of Kuwaitis, Emiratis, Qataris, Saudis, Algerians, Egyptians, Libyans and others who obtained fake degrees from dummy universities in both Arab and foreign countries, but most of them outside the Arab world such as from the United States, Britain and France.

The most dangerous aspect about this matter is that those who obtained degrees in pure sciences, such as engineering, medicine, or law, benefited from this matter and occupied high positions in a number of ministries and institutions. It was not surprising that a group of doctors in several Gulf countries had not studied medicine at all, and some of them caused the death of a number of patients.

At a time when the Arab countries, and most of the Third World countries, continue to offer university degrees on alternative skills, the United States of America changed its standard of employment when the former President Donald Trump issued an executive order in June 2020 that changed government employment standards, as it had a significant positive impact on the private sector.

The former president ordered the federal government to focus on skills rather than college degrees when selecting federal employees.

The White House's goal was not to eliminate degree requirements for employment, but to encourage the prioritization of job skills, making a degree or certification less important. Companies like IBM have already begun to do this, as 15 percent of its workforce were employed last year based on their skills

rather than educational level.

As for Britain, which hosts 140 universities, some of which are more than four centuries old, it does not depend on university degrees for many prestigious jobs in government institutions or the private sector. This also applies to Switzerland, France, Germany and many European countries.

Few years ago, the owner of the American company Tesla, Elon Musk, whose fortune is currently about \$281 billion, was asked in an interview about the university degrees he is looking for to include in his curriculum vitae (CV). He responded in the following manner - "Despite the importance of degrees, there is an indicator to search for a person's abilities that may qualify him to achieve extraordinary achievements other than certifications."

There are famous names in the field of technology such as Bill Gates, Larry Elson and Steve Jobs who failed to graduate from universities, but acquired a degree of achievement and ingenuity in excellence that was contrary to the trend that everyone follows.

Some work-related studies have proven that it is necessary to search for employees who would occupy positions in which no one else can provide the same effort and achievement, given that it is not a matter of the abundance of geniuses and talents in the company, but rather how such skills are managed. If you have a genius and no benefit comes from him, this is definitely a loss, not a gain."

In Kuwait, for instance, those without degrees have succeeded in managing several companies. In fact, they have developed them to be much better than what they were. Therefore, the decision to prevent the renewal of residency permits for expatriates over the age of 60 years in Kuwait was met with rejection at all levels.

It was seen as the opening of the door to the trade of forged certificates and residency permits, while the country was losing many expertise it needed.

There is no doubt that the desire to obtain a forged university degree is the widest door to corruption. There is a Kuwaiti adage - "He who has a wind in his stomach does not rest". Hence, the holder of a forged certificate will gather around him those who are like him in order to remain dominant, while



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Yamama Palace on Sunday. KUNA photo

Cyberattack breaches Iran private airline Mahan Air

TEHRAN, Nov 21, (AP): A cyberattack on Sunday disrupted access to Iran's privately owned Mahan Air, state TV reported, marking the latest in a series of cyberattacks on Iranian infrastructure that has put the country on edge.

Mahan Air's website displayed an error message saying the site couldn't be reached. The carrier said in a statement that it had "thwarted" the attack and that its flight schedule was not affected, adding it has faced similar breaches in the past.

Many customers of Mahan Air across Iran received strange text messages on Sunday. A group calling itself Hoosyarane-Vatan, or Observants of Fatherland, claimed in the mass texts to have carried out the attack, citing the airline's cooperation with Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard. The self-described hacking group did not provide any evidence.

Mahan Air flies from Tehran to a few dozen destinations in Asia, Europe and the Middle

East. The United States Treasury Department, which polices compliance with sanctions, blacklisted the airline in 2011 for allegedly "providing financial, material and technological support" to the Revolutionary Guard's elite Quds Force, responsible for the Islamic Republic's campaigns abroad. The Treasury accused Mahan Air of ferrying weapons, goods and personnel to Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group.

Major cyberattacks have struck various Iranian systems in recent months, with one in October crippling gas stations across the country, leaving angry motorists stranded in long lines unable to use their government-issued cards to buy subsidized fuel. Without naming a specific country, President Ebrahim Raisi blamed the hack on anti-Iranian forces seeking to sow disorder and disruption.

Another attack targeted the railroad system, causing mass confusion with scores of trains delayed and canceled across Iran.

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace Sunday National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim, former Speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, part of traditional consultations to form a government. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected that Kuwait will record the highest non-oil budget deficit among the Gulf countries at 68.7 percent in 2021, reports Al-Rai daily.

A governmental study included a comparison of forecasts for the economy of Kuwait and other Gulf countries, in which the fund hinted that the government debt to gross domestic product (GDP) ratio for the current year will reach 36.6 percent, while the average in the Gulf will be 43 percent.

KUWAIT CITY: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has criticized several government institutions because data and statistics were not available to help understand the country's economic policies, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The daily said, during its mission to Kuwait the IMF found two institutions that came for severe criticism were the Central Administration of Statistics and the Ministry of Finance - the first for not issuing monthly consumer price data on inflation for about 5 months and not issuing estimates of the quarterly GDP since the end of last year, and the second for not activating the work of the macroeconomic management and fiscal policy in the ministry, which was established in 2009 after an agreement between the Ministry of Finance and IMF, with the aim of setting up a mechanism for the main economic expectations in the short term, developing and maintaining a database for the ministry, and benefiting from economic data issued by those interested in macroeconomic analysis.

KUWAIT CITY: The statistics issued by the Ministry of Health shows a big decline in Covid-19 patients at public hospitals which has led to the closure of special wards which were built to treat those infected with the virus and returning some medical staff to their pre-Coronavirus duties, reports Al-Qabas daily.

This situation is attributed to the improvement in the general situation in the country and in terms of numbers, the total number Covid-19 cases in the wards was only 15 on Friday, Nov 19, compared to 20 in mid-October. 59 cases on September 16, 433 cases in mid-August, and 1,115 patients during mid-July 2021.