



Drone attack on King Abdullah Airport injures 10

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Opinion

Qatar visit to UAE quiets crowds

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THE Gulf summit held in Al-Ula in Saudi Arabia at the beginning of this year was an important turning point in the course of the Gulf Cooperation Council, as the solidity of the ties of kinship and cohesion of destiny were reaffirmed.

Therefore, all the meetings that took place after that continue to complement that summit, including the recent visit of the Qatari Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman to Abu Dhabi where he met with his UAE counterpart Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed.

This meeting disqualified all illusions of failure to reconcile as per what was experienced in the 41st summit, something that some had started to believe.

For decades, crowds in the region have been betting on the fragmentation of the Gulf system. After 2001, the arrows of treachery began to be directed at this organization against the background of the events of September 11 that year, and with it the intrigues of assigning responsibility for these events to some Gulf countries.

The crowds were the Muslim Brotherhood Group and the savages of Iranian Mullahs. They strived hard to hit the wedge one after another on this GCC solid wall, until the wave of what was falsely called "The Arab Spring" began in the year 2011. That was when the masks fell from the grim faces conspiring against the unity of the Gulf. Some opportunistic officials tried to transfer chaos to the GCC countries, but their evil scheme was confronted with strong resolve.

Undoubtedly, that stage left its trails on the relations among the GCC brothers, but the efforts exerted by the young Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad and the decisive measures he took had helped dispel the clouds that hovered for about five years in the sky of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The Qatari efforts in this regard were boosted by the Kuwaiti efforts headed by the late Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad. He took the initiative to heal the rift from the very first moment until it culminated in the blessing of His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad at the summit of Al-Ula to turn that page forever.

Each and every member of the Gulf Cooperation Council has a role both regionally and internationally. Therefore, none of them can succeed without the other. It is like an orchestra. Anyone who plays on his own causes the music to go out of tune. Therefore, the Saudi-Emirati-Qatari integration is an essential pillar in this sensitive stage that the region is going through, due to the great capabilities of these countries, whether geographically for Saudi Arabia and the Emirates, or financially and economically for the three countries.

In these countries, young leaders like Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad, and the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who faithfully implements King Salman's vision for the development of the great kingdom. Through the movement of development and openness, the Saudi Crown Prince turned the tables on all those who tried to bring chaos into Saudi Arabia. This led that country to reach such an advanced level that every Gulf country is proud of, even a loyal Arab.

In the UAE, the efforts made by the powerful Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, who cooperates to a large extent with the Gulf brothers, and with the follow-up of the Vice President Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, served as the main support for the development of the common vision of Gulf relations.

The positions of the three countries, in addition to the Kuwaiti and Omani efforts to confront the attempts to destabilize the Gulf national security, were clearly evident in thwarting the Iranian plan to sabotage Bahrain. The efforts of the Bahraini king and leadership integrated with the brothers to restore its stability. In addition to that is the solidarity shown towards the Sultanate of Oman when Cyclone Shaheen hit recently.

The cooperation council for the Arabian Gulf States is built with solid pillars that cannot be shaken by any storm. Rather, it is an impregnable wall, and the main supporter of the Arab brothers. The Qatari position on Egypt after the reconciliation of the Al-Ula summit is the best example, as the visit of Muhammad bin Abdul Rahman to Abu Dhabi served as a shining point. Also, his visit to Egypt last May was a clear sign, with great indications of the return of Arab solidarity to what it was.

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Syria skirts Paris prison

BEIRUT, Oct 9, (AP) — President Bashar Assad allowed his exiled uncle back into Syria to avoid serving a four-year prison term in France, where he had spent more than 30 years, a Syrian pro-government newspaper reported.

Rifaat Assad's lawyer confirmed his client has left France, denying he fled French justice. Assad, 84, was sentenced last year for illegally using Syrian state funds to build a French real estate empire. He did not attend the trial because he was in poor health, and a French appeals court has upheld the sentence. Assad's lawyer took the case to France's highest court, which is yet to render its ruling.

Al-Watan, a pro-Syrian government newspaper, reported the return of the elder Assad, who fled Syria in 1984 after he led a failed coup attempt against his brother, late President Hafez Assad. Rifaat Assad had served as a vice president and a top commander in the Syrian army.



Rifaat



A Palestinian artisan works on a copper plate manuscript, during the activities of the Palestinian Heritage Day, at the historic archaeological center of the West Bank village of Sebastia, north of Nablus. (AP)

Kuwait starts booster registration

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9, (Agencies) — The Kuwaiti Health Ministry has started registration for the use of a third vaccination, or booster vaccination, of the Covid-19 vaccine on individuals 18 years of age and older.

The booster shot will be mainly given to high risk individuals, at least six months after their second dose, the ministry's spokesman Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanad said in a press statement on Saturday.

He restated his ministry's eagerness to provide the best protection against the viral illness and to ensure a safe and stable return to normal life in the country.

The State of Kuwait on Friday said confirmed coronavirus cases rose by 35 over the past 24 hours to a total of 412,016, while a single fatality took its death toll to 2,453, the health ministry said.

Some 39 people were cured of the virus, raising the total of those to have overcome the disease to 408,918, the ministry's spokesman Dr. Abdallah Al-Sanad told KUNA.

The number of people hospitalized with the virus at COVID-19 wards is 28, while there are 10 patients in intensive care units, in addition to 645 active cases, he added.

Some 17,003 swab tests were conducted over the last day, taking the total to 4,422,897, he said.

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) announced the endorsement of the lists submitted by four government agencies with names of employees deserving COVID-19 front-liners reward, thus bringing the total number of agencies that sent such lists to the Ministry of Finance to 38, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a post on Twitter, CSC clarified that the four agencies that submitted their lists were - the State Audit Bureau, the Competition Protection Agency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Defense (civilians).

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is waiting for a statement from the State Audit Bureau (SAB) to start discharging bills related to the evacuation of Residence Law violators during the Corona crisis at KD9.6 million, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Outside 60s still at loss

Mubarakiya celebrates

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Those people who are 60 years and above and left the country and whose residence permits have expired are not entitled to benefit from the amendment to the 60s decision if it is amended, reports Al-Qabas daily.

This was stated after the Fatwa and Legislation Department of the Council of Ministers ruled the decision issued by the Director-General of the Public Authority for Manpower not competent to issue the decision - the decision not to renew the work permits of non-graduate expatriates who are sixty years and

above. After 9 months of its implementation and thousands of affected have left the labor market and the Fatwa and Legislation Department dropped a bombshell saying the government made a grave mistake when issuing its decision to ban work permits for expatriates over the age of 60, which came into effect on Jan 1, 2020.

The head of the Fatwa and Legislation Department, Counselor Salah Al-Masad, said in response to a request for legal opinion submitted by the Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr. Abdullah Al-Salman said the decision is not legally sound.

The source said that a distinction must be made between those in the country who are over 60 years old and above whose residence can be renewed whenever the door opens for renewal.

The old Mubarakiya market, on hearing the annulment of the decision which was issued by the Public Authority for Manpower of those 60 years and above exploded in joy because the earlier decision would have meant leaving the country they loved, reports Al-Rai daily. Lawyers told the daily, the consequences and effects of the decision and asked who will bear the responsibility for compensating those who have been affected.

The joy that prevailed among the workers at the Mubarakiya market cannot be expressed in words as some shed tears of joy because for them it was like a new birth in the country of goodness.

Al-Hajj Mustafa Muhammad, who has been working in Kuwait for 40 years, told Al-Rai lensman, "We thank Kuwait for canceling the decision. We expected it to be issued because it does justice to the workers. Kuwait is a country known for its generosity and humanity." He added, "I was overjoyed today when I heard the cancellation of the decision, which was like a balm on the wound, and I thank everyone who exerted efforts to cancel the decision."

For his part, Haj Boukassam, who is 75 years old, said, "I am very happy at the cancellation of the decision, which was a stumbling block in front of our dreams and our livelihood. We did not expect such decisions to continue in a country like Kuwait, so everyone is reassured that the decision is cancelled."

Day by Day

THE book 'The Miscalculations of the Muslim Brotherhood' by Emirati writer Dr. Jamal Sanad Al-Suwaidi is important and the writer is an expert on the secrets of this organization.

The Ministry of Information in Kuwait has banned the circulation of the book, and we wonder if 'Brotherhood' does control our affairs. It is one of the wonders. What is the secret behind banning this book? Will it be removed from the Google search engine, the social media and the electronic libraries if the Kuwaiti censorship bans it?

Minister of Information, this should not happen in your era, stop these massacres that we have lived for long years and which have destroyed us and our country.

Minister of Information, is your ministry a 'Brotherhood Protectorate' to protect that group from being criticized by the world wherever it exists? God willing, we hope 'NOT'. ... Yet, tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Kuwait deplores

JEDDAH, Oct 9, (Agencies) — The Saudi-led Arab coalition to support legitimacy in Yemen said that an explosive-laden drone targeted King Abdullah Airport in Jazan city, southern Saudi Arabia, on Friday, injuring 10 persons.

The drone attack was carried out by the terrorist Houthi militia, spokesman of the coalition Brig. Staff Turki Al-Maliki said in a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

The ten injured are six civilian travelers and workers at the airport of Saudi nationality, three workers from Bangladesh and a Sudanese worker, he revealed.

The attack also destroyed some facades at the airport.

The terrorist Houthi militia persist in such immoral attacks on civilian lives and property, the spokesman said, noting that such malpractices are tantamount to war crimes under the international humanitarian law.

He reaffirmed the resolve of the coalition to continue neutralizing the terrorist threats using its right to self-defense.

The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry on Friday condemned and denounced, in the strongest words, persistent attempts by Houthi militia to jeopardize Saudi Arabia's security by launching a drone attack on the Saudi Abha International Airport, in addition to another drone and ballistic missile attack on Khamis Mushayt City.

Statement

The ministry said in a statement that the continuation of these hostile practices and escalation targeting civilians and civilian areas, the kingdom's security and regional stability are a flagrant breach of international law and international humanitarian law rules so the international community is required to move immediately and decisively to deter these threats and bring perpetrators to accountability.

The ministry reiterated Kuwait's total support to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and all the measures it is taking to safeguard its security, stability and sovereignty.

Egypt on Saturday condemned, in the strongest words, nonstop "cowardly terrorist" attacks by Yemen's Houthi militia on Saudi territories, regarding the security and stability of both countries as "closely interlinked".

The Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement that Egypt emphatically backs all moves Saudi Arabia is taking to stop these "despicable terrorist" attacks, the last of which was the targeting of King Abdullah Airport with two drones on Friday, which triggered off casualties and damage.

It deplored the recurrent targeting by Houthi militias of civilian facilities, including southern airports, and innocent civilians, billing it as a serious escalation and menace to the kingdom's security and stability.

Rapped

It, further, stringently rapped these attacks as an unequivocal breach of international humanitarian law and threat to travelers' lives and civil aviation, according to the ministry's statement.

Bahrain on Saturday vehemently decried a bomb drone attack by the "terrorist" Houthi militia on King Abdullah Airport.

In a press statement, the Bahraini Foreign Ministry condemned that Houthi militia had launched two bomb drones on the Saudi airport, injuring workers and travelers and minor damage in "hostile, systematic and deliberate" attempts to target civilians and property.

However, the ministry appreciated the response, vigilance and efficiency of the Saudi-led coalition on Yemen in the interception and destruction of the two booby-trapped drones, according to the statement.

It also reiterated that Bahrain stands by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and backs all deterrent measures it is taking against any attempt to undermine its security, stability and territorial integrity or to target its citizens and residents.

The Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Dr. Yousef Al-Othaimeen condemned in the strongest terms the Houthi terrorist militia's drone attack on civilians in the King Abdullah Airport in Jazan city.

Al-Othaimeen said in a press statement, Saturday, "The attack on civilian airports and endangering the lives of innocent travelers is a cowardly terrorist act, a war crime, and a grave violation of international humanitarian law."