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Lebanon hails constant Kuwait support

Opinion

Dear Egypt which never settles for mediocrity

By **Ahmed Al-Jarallah**

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

JUNE 30 is not only a special day for Egypt, but it is a pivotal date for the Arab and Islamic worlds. It is a glorious day that the world will talk about for several decades.

This is due to the fact that for the first time in the history of uprisings, the popular voice became the agent of change, and not the army as is customary in the Third World.

Indeed, the Egyptian armed forces were the echo of the voices of 33 million Egyptians who rose to stop the systematic rape of the state orchestrated by the Muslim Brotherhood Group when it hijacked the January 25, 2011 uprising to install its puppet at the head of the government.

What happened in 2013 was the thwarting of the largest conspiracy targeting the Arab and Islamic worlds by dividing them into two camps - Sunnis led by the Muslim Brotherhood Groups, and Shites led by the Mullahs of Tehran - while the maestro was Israel.

The letters of the late Mohamed Morsi to the Israeli President Shimon Peres at the time revealed the depth of the relationship between the two parties, as he used to start those letters with the words "My dear and great friend" and end them with "your loyal friend".

Furthermore, we have the memoirs of the former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and the memoirs of the former US President Barack Obama concerning the plots against the Arab and Islamic worlds by the demons of the Muslim Brotherhood Group and the American intelligence.

In 2013, by the divine intervention, President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi and the army emerged and destroyed that demonic scheme, recovering what was almost killed during the two lean years of the Brotherhood conspiracy, which transmitted its infection to the Arabian Gulf states to spread in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the Emirates and other GCC countries. However, vigilance and good governance in some of those countries defeated the saboteurs.

The Brotherhood's demonic interference did not stop at the limits of political action, but it reached the Egyptian judiciary, which found itself shackled to a group of demons who clearly expressed their goals in the case of the late President Hosni Mubarak.

One of the mediators told them, "Reduce the pressure on the man" and the response of the supreme leader of the Muslim Brotherhood Group was, "We will lead him from prison to the grave".

In fact, Mubarak believed that he did not commit a crime, which is why he said clearly in his last speech, "I will not leave Egypt where I was born and where I will die". However, it is the evil Brotherhood's hatred, which was practiced against all former officials and business persons, and even tens of thousands of Egyptians who refused the usurp the rule.

So when the Egyptians celebrate the June 30 uprising, they celebrate the anniversary of the restoration of pride and dignity.

That is why when the Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi said on one occasion that the Gulf countries were generous to Egypt, the response of those countries was, "We are generous with ourselves. Egypt is a dear part of the Arab world, and it is the strategic depth of the Gulf. Its stability is part of the regional stability".

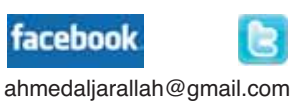
Today, Egypt is under the custody of a president who works day and night to raise its status. For this reason, he made the entire country a workshop, in which the army and the people participate. He spends billions on rural and urban development, believing in one rule that everyone should work, based on the principle "Give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. Teach him to fish, and you feed him for life".

Indeed, may Almighty Allah bless the President who is persistent in succeeding for the sake of his country. The process is still in its infancy. Just as you have accomplished all those huge projects, there is no doubt that Egypt will complete the 10,000-kilometer road, the North Highway linking the countries of the African continent.

Thank you to the people of Egypt who are able to win the big bets. Thank you to President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, the pioneer of its modern renaissance.

Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

MP plea to Foreign Affairs

Persona non grata push on US chargé d'affaires

By **Saeed Mahmoud Saleh**
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: MP Abdulkareem Al-Kandari called on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to declare the charge d'affaires at the American Embassy in Kuwait persona non grata for supporting homosexuality. He pointed out this is the second time that the American Embassy in Kuwait publicly expressed support for homosexuality -- a violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. He said the American charge d'affaires must be declared persona non grata for ignoring Kuwait's objection to all forms of promoting homosexuality.

National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim had a meeting with Speaker of Azerbaijan Parliament (Milli Majlis) Sahiba Gafarova on the sidelines of the Parliamentary Non-Aligned Movement Network Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The two parties discussed bilateral issues, especially those concerning the legislature; and ways to strengthen parliamentary cooperation.

MP Ahmed Al-Hamad and Charge d'Affaires at Kuwait Embassy in Azerbaijan Faisal Jazzaa Al-Mutairi were also present at the meeting.

In a relevant development, Al-Ghanim disclosed that Kuwait National Assembly will host conferences of the Non-Aligned Movement in the coming

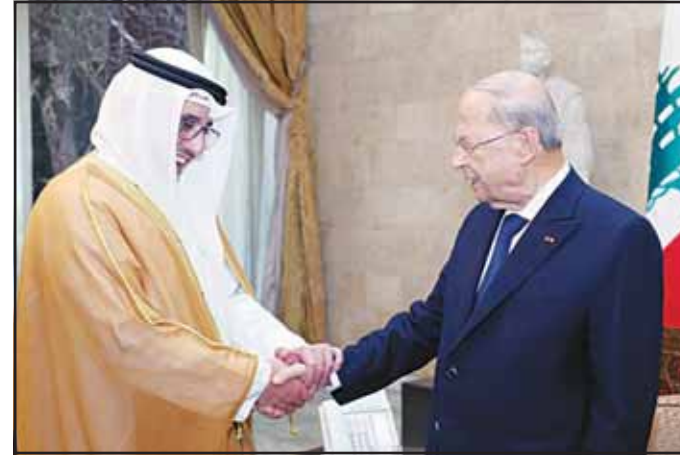
years. He affirmed Kuwait is capable of hosting international parliamentary events; but the participation of the Israeli Parliament prevents it from doing so, because the latter is not welcome in Kuwait.

Meanwhile, MP Osama Al-Shaheen submitted a proposal to include Kuwaiti housewives to the beneficiaries of the KD3,000 incentive for retirees. He argued the Public Institution for Social Security Law No. 61/1976 states that the institution has the authority to grant exceptional rewards to deserving categories.

MP Abdulkareem Al-Kandari said the Environment Public Authority (EPA) has no right to suspend the launching of South Qairawan Housing Project, especially since the concerned ministers and Council of Ministers have approved the proposed area for the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) to implement the project. He stressed the need for Kuwait Municipality to remove obstacles to the project.

Moreover, Al-Ghanim sent cables to President of the National Assembly in Burundi Gelase Ndirirabane and Senate President Emmanuel Sinzohagere to greet them on their National Day.

He also sent cables to Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of Rwanda Mukabalisa Donatille and Senate President Augustin Nyamuremye to greet them on their National Day.



Lebanese President receives the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister. KUNA photo

FMs meet

BEIRUT, July 2, (KUNA): Lebanese President Michel Aoun spoke highly of the Kuwaiti Amir, government and people for standing by his country in all weathers.

During his meeting with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr. Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah on Saturday, President Aoun praised the historical deep-rooted relationship between the two sisterly countries, according to a statement from the Lebanese presidency.

He welcomed Sheikh Dr. Ahmad's participation in the Arab foreign ministers' consultative meeting which opened earlier today in Beirut.

President Aoun commended the positive impacts of the Kuwaiti initiative for improving the relationship between Lebanon and the GCC states, noting that the relations have been improving since the return of ambassadors of both sides.

The Kuwaiti Foreign Minister delivered on Saturday a letter from His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the Lebanese President.

The letter, handed during a reception in Beirut, focused on ways to further bolster ties.

Sheikh Dr. Ahmad Mohammad Al-Nasser is in the Lebanese capital to partake in the consultative meeting for Arab Foreign Ministers.

Discussed

The Arab foreign ministers discussed, during their consultative meeting in Beirut on Saturday, a range of regional crises, with emphasis on food security and the impacts of Ukraine war on the Arab countries.

Praising the tone and atmosphere of the meeting, Lebanese Foreign Minister Abdullah Bou-Habib said the meeting was a complete success and drew broad participation.

"The transparent, highly responsible and substantive discussions led to consensus on a host of regional and international issues," he said at a joint press conference with Arab League Secretary-General Ahmad Abul-Gheit.

"We felt amity and solidarity from all participants towards Lebanon, which is undergoing challenging economic conditions."

"All of them hope to see the Lebanese economy recovering as early as possible; their participation in the meeting at this time sent a message of support to Lebanon," the minister noted.

The discussions dealt with the need to continue support to Lebanon, improve the living conditions of the Lebanese people and realize the objectives of the Kuwaiti initiative for Lebanon, Bou-Habib said.

He noted that he raised during the meeting the need of finding a new solution to the crisis of Syrian refugees other than funding their stay in Lebanon.

Abuses

On Palestine question, he said the conferees discussed the abuses of the Israeli occupation authorities which undermine the possibilities of fair and comprehensive peace based on the two-state vision.

Regarding food security, the meeting mulled over the risks of famine in Somalia due to drought and reached consensus on offering emergency assistance to the Arab country to alleviate the suffering of the people there, Bou-Habib went on.

As for the war in Ukraine, the Arab top diplomats were unanimous in rejection of any politicization of international organizations against the backdrop of this conflict, he added.

On his part, Abul-Gheit said the just-ended consultative meeting took place between two regular formal meetings of the Arab League's Council in March and September.

"The conferees reviewed preparations for the coming Arab Summit and the impacts of the war in Ukraine on Arab countries in such areas as food security and energy," he noted.

They held good discussions on how to help Lebanon recover from the current difficulties and support it in the talks with the IMF, he revealed.

Asked on the Lebanese-GCC relations, Abul-Gheit said there is a good progress in this relationship which signals the shared desire to normalize the relations.

'Kuwait least unemployed'

News watch

KUWAIT CITY, July 2: The Arab Investment and Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (Daman) reported that Kuwait topped the global and Arab rankings in 2021 with the lowest unemployment rate (1 percent), while it ranked fifth globally in the current account balance ratio and government debt-to-output ratio, adding that it ranked 33 globally in net Government borrowing or borrowing as a percentage of output, and 22 globally in the current account balance, in billions of dollars, reports Al-Rai daily.

The sources indicated that Kuwait topped the Arab countries in the majority of global indicators of the country's risks related to trade last year, while it came in second place in the Arab world in the two COFAS indicators for assessing the business climate and state risks (38 globally).

In the 37th annual report on the investment climate in the Arab countries for the year 2022, Daman pointed out that Kuwait ranked third in the Arab world in terms of GDP growth rate last year (166 globally), 59th globally in the value of output in billions of dollars, and 67th in output according to a tie purchasing power, 38 per capita output, 35 per capita output according to purchasing power parity, 94 per capita inflation, and 84 per capita investment as a percentage of output.

The report stated that Kuwait fell 27 places in the economic freedom index in 2022, to rank 101 globally, compared to 74th in 2021, while it came 6 in the Arab world.

With regard to new foreign direct investment (FDI) projects in the Arab countries during 2021, Daman reported that Kuwait ranked 11th with 7 projects that constituted 0.8 percent of the total foreign investment projects in the region, while the country ranked 13th in the Arab world in the investment cost of projects, which constituted a cost of the seven projects, amounting to \$100.8 million, are only 0.3 percent of the region's total. As for the number of new jobs provided by these projects, Kuwait ranked 11th in the region with 461 jobs.

Kuwait ranked third in the Arab world in the number of inter-Arab projects invested by it in the Arab countries with 15 projects, while the investment cost of those projects amounted to 500.4 million dollars, making the country ranked second in terms of cost.

KUWAIT CITY: The price of Kuwaiti oil went down by \$2.91 to \$112.51 per barrel on Friday from \$115.42 pb the day before, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Saturday.

Globally, the price of the Brent crude went up by \$2.60 per barrel to \$111.63 per barrel, the same case with the West Texas Intermediate, which went up by \$2.67 to \$108.43 pb. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: The Institute of International Finance called on Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain to raise domestic fuel prices in light of rising prices globally, and to use part of the resulting savings to expand social support programs, reports Al-Rai daily.

The institute estimated that the non-oil GDP of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries will grow at an average of 4.5 percent this year, which is the highest rate among emerging and developing economies, as expectations are based on high oil prices and following sound economic policies, which will compensate for the negative impact of raising borrowing costs as a result of raising rates benefit.

He stated that the low debt-to-GDP ratios and the large precautionary financial buffers in Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar and Saudi Arabia give investors confidence to be exposed to the markets of those countries, and that the GCC countries offer a relatively higher risk premium compared to emerging economies to attract investors.

The institute explained that the second half of this year will witness a sharp increase in the issuance of institutions (banks and non-banks) due to the great need for refinancing of loans and bonds, the terms of which are expected to come this year, pointing out that the severity of the impact of the tightening of US monetary policy depends on the growth of GDP, the non-oil realities of the GCC countries, the level of international oil prices, and the financial policies of the six countries.

KUWAIT CITY: The Central Bank of Kuwait has directed banks to implement a new mechanism in pricing deposits in dinars, especially those whose maturity date is approaching, and those whose deadlines are upcoming and the process is underway to renew them, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to informed sources, the Central Bank of Kuwait obligated the banks to disclose and advise clients, especially for applying the interest rate on clients' deposits in dinars. The advice in this regard should enable the clients to be fully aware of the bank's measures taken in this regard.

The sources said, "This procedure allows the customer to obtain the highest possible pricing for his deposits, compared to the highest levels traded in the market".

RIYADH: Kuwaiti Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Saturday delivered a letter from His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

The letter has something to do with firm and close fraternal relations between both sisterly countries and peoples, and ways of promoting them in different fields and at all levels.

The letter was received by Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister Waleed Al-Khuraj on behalf of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan.

During the meeting, they addressed bilateral ties and means of bolstering them in all domains, and exchanged views on issues of mutual interest. (KUNA)



Viktor Shevchenko stands in a crater to show how deep it was that was created by a shell after a Russian attack in the Saltivka district in Kharkiv, Ukraine, Friday, July 1, 2022. (AP)

More US arms for Ukraine

Russians press attack

KYIV, Ukraine, July 2, (AP): Russian forces are pounding the city of Lysychansk and its surroundings in an all-out attempt to seize the last stronghold of resistance in eastern Ukraine's Luhansk province, the governor said Saturday.

Ukrainian fighters have spent weeks trying to defend the city and to keep it from falling to Russia, as neighboring Sievierodonetsk did a week ago. The Russian Defense Ministry said its forces took control of an oil refinery on Lysychansk's edge in recent days, but Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai reported Friday that fighting for the facility continued.

"Over the last day, the occupiers opened fire from all available kinds of weapons," Haidai said Saturday on the Telegram messaging app.

Luhansk and neighboring Donetsk are the two provinces that make up the Donbas region, where Russia has focused its offensive since pulling back from the northern Ukraine and the capital, Kyiv, in the spring.

Pro-Russia separatists have held portions of both provinces since 2014, and Moscow recognizes all of Luhansk and Donetsk as sovereign republics. Syria's government said Wednesday that it would also recognize the "independence and sovereignty" of the two areas and work to establish diplomatic relations with the separatists.

In Slovyansk, a major Donetsk city still under Ukrainian control, four people died when Russian forces fired cluster munitions late Friday, Mayor Vadym Lyakh said on Facebook. He said the neighborhoods that were hit did not contain any potential military targets.

Elsewhere, investigators combed through the wreckage from a Russian airstrike early Friday on residential areas near the Ukrainian port of Odesa that killed 21 people. Ukrainian Prosecutor-General Iryna Venediktova said the investigators were recovering fragments from missiles that struck an apartment building in the small coastal town of Serhiivka. They also were taking measurements to determine the trajectory of the weapons, she said.

"We are taking all the necessary investigative measures to determine the specific people guilty of this terrible war crime," Venediktova said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said three anti-ship missiles struck "an ordinary residential building, a nine-story building" housing about 160 people. The victims of Friday's attack also included four members of a family staying at a "typical" seaside campsite, he said.

"I emphasize: this is a deliberate direct Russian terror, and not some mistake or an accidental missile strike," Zelenskyy said.

Continued on Page 4



The rutab dates season has arrived in Kuwait with early varieties of the fruit in all shapes and colors hitting the market. The summer rutab dates have their taste and quality, which push consumers racing to the market to acquire them. Some clients prefer certain types of rutab including (Al-Munsef), a type of date with dual yellow and brown colors tasting and looking sweet. KUNA photo