

Kuwait plane arrives in Jordan with help for Syrian refugees

Aid sent for Comoros cyclone victims

AMMAN, May 27, (KUNA): A plane belonging to the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense arrived in Jordan on Sunday, carrying about 13 tons of aid to Syrian refugees, sent by Kuwait's International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO).

The humanitarian aid was delivered under direct orders from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to ease the suffering of Syrian refugees, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan Aziz Al-Dihani told KUNA.

He hailed the humanitarian efforts of IICO and the continuous donations of Kuwaiti philanthropists, governmental organizations and NGOs to aid the refugees.

On his part, assistant supervisor for IICO's office in Jordan Ziyad Abu Talib noted that this is the sixth batch of humanitarian aid delivered by Kuwait's Air Force. He added that the aid includes food, clothes and blankets.

Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) said Sunday it distributed 210 food baskets in five villages in the north of Moroni, capital of Comoros, affected by cyclone Kenneth.

KRCS dispatched the aid at the request of the Comoros Red Crescent after many villages were damaged by cyclone Kenneth forcing many people to flee their homes. Khaled Al-Zaid, head of KRCS mission to Comoros, told KUNA.

"We will provide aid for the rest of villages and islands in cooperation with Comoros Red Crescent in order to reach the largest possible number of displaced," he said.

Al-Zaid hoped the two organizations would sign a one-year partnership to enable KRCS drill water wells, provide meals, build health clinics and help the needy.

President of Comoros Red Crescent Moustadrane Boinaidi said KRCS was the first red crescent to help Comoros.

He said KRCS and his organization were joining hands to help as many people as possible.



Part of the relief aid provided by the International Islamic Charitable Organization of Kuwait. KUNA photo

Customers flock to co-ops

Steep seen rise in Ramadan sales

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: The sales of consumer products in cooperative societies have increased by 25% and 40% since the beginning of Ramadan, and offers and festivals have succeeded in attracting customers, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Many cooperatives have been successful in providing promotions for a variety of 800 products, while the highest demand was for Ramadan products.

Al-Qabas said heads of some cooperative societies, who agreed that the prices advertised in the Ramadan festivals are only nominal that achieve the social benefit of the shareholders and the leaders of the associations.

Chairman of Al-Fintas Cooperative Society Aweys Al-Subaia revealed that the percentage of sales in the first half of Ramadan compared to the same period of previous months increased by between 20 and 25%.

He pointed out that the sale on the first day was 58,000 dinars, the highest recorded for a single day since its establishment in 1984.

The Chairman of Mishref Cooperative Society Abdulrahman Al Qudairi confirmed the increase in sales by about 50%, stressing on the keenness of the cooperative to provide the most vital requirements and items in large quantities.

DIWANIYA ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'New govt showed expansionist tendency'

'Iran revolution altered region'

"THE end of 1970s (Feb 1979) witnessed the spark of a revolution that changed the face of our region and brought us into a whirlpool of problems, wars and political conflicts to such an extent this revolution generated new and strange concepts," columnist *Saleh Al-Shayji* wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"I do here mean, the Iranian revolution where the Iranians rallied behind this revolution and this was evident through the huge gatherings and the demonstrations that were organized by the Iranians in support of the revolution and continued their march and succeeded in toppling the regime of the then ruler and emperor of Iran Muhammad Reza Shah Pahlavi.

"However, this revolution was dubbed as the 'revolution of cassette' and this name was in an apparent reference to the small cassettes bearing the recorded messages of a cleric who lived in Paris and (before that in Iraq) holding the title of 'Imam', as such he came to be known as 'Imam Al-Khomeini'.

"As a matter of fact, the Iranian revolution initially was appreciated by the peoples of the region on the basis that this revolution was a victory against oppression and the persecuted peoples, let alone we were motivated by our non-confidence in the Shah, as we were under the impression that the Iranians were suffering from persecution and injustice under the dictatorial and bloody regime of the Shah and his secret service apparatus or the so-called 'Al-Safak', after listening to unbelievable stories about torture in Iran during that period although most of the victims were innocent people.

"Not only that, the Shah had occupied the three islands namely 'Grand Tunb', 'Minor Tunb' and 'Abu Moussa' belonging to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) (in 1971) and this had resulted us in the region to view the regime of Shah as an enemy and occupier.

"Such being the case due to the above reason, we in the region decided to support the Iranian revolution against the Shah, and we were pleased when it was launched and the victory brought about the downfall of the regime of Shah.

"Anyway, in the wake of this development Al-Khomeini arrived in Tehran from his exile in Paris and occupied the Pahlavi throne and became a divine sultan, and Islamized or rather he 'Shiitized' the country.

"In other words, Iran under the rule of Al-Khomeini turban, transformed from a civil state that coexisted on the global periphery became an Islamic Shiite state.

"However, following this development, our viewpoint towards the Iranian revolution, started to change to such an extent frustration set in our hearts, and the hopes of looking forward to the establishment of a just, peaceful and civil rule in Iran, began vanishing.

"But what forces us to snap the chord of courtesy made with the new Iranian rule was when Iran adopted the slogan to export its revolution, because this slogan means Iran was planning to dominate the Gulf states and Iraq before going ahead in its schemes to occupy the entire world.

"As a matter of fact, the thought of expansion seemingly dominated the mind of Khomeini and his coteries and this for them could be realized through expanding the plenum of the Shiite doctrine initially among the Muslims and then among the followers of the other religions."

Also:

"It looks like the effects of the sanctions imposed by the United States of America and the members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) countries on the Iranian oil exports, have started emerging," columnist *Feras Adel Al-Salem* wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"In this context, we have observed how the Iranian oil exports are in a steady setback and this was evident through the curtailment of direct purchase orders received from the Iranian regular customers to avert US punishments.

"As a matter of fact, the American sanctions on Iran shall help create a pressure on other oil producing countries, similar to the Venezuela scenario where the later had lost more than seventy five percent of its oil output and this had resulted in the soaring of oil prices in the international oil market, and led to partial collapse of the Venezuelan state run oil company PDVSA.

"But the question here is: who after Iran will face the American sanctions? In other words, will the Middle East or the Arab states, have their share of the forthcoming American sanctions? And how these prospective sanctions will affect us?

"In this context, we see Exxon Mobile recently withdrew from an oil field situated in the Iraqi southern governorate Al-Basra following the recent developments in the region which shall negatively affect the Iraqi supplies in the oil market.

"Moreover, this withdrawal will add more complications to OPEC prior to its upcoming meeting which is being held to discuss the new developments in the oil market.

"It is needless to say that the political developments directly affect the oil supplies due to a fact that the oil output and exports are always linked to an integrated chain of oil discovery in addition to the production, shipping, handling, storage, the distribution and refining.

"In other words, this chain of operations are undertaken by many parties and as such it will be subjected to many changes while playing its role in fixing the oil prices and this represents the axis of my today's article 'The effects of the American sanctions on (OPEC) and Iran'.

"And what about the OPEC plans and the oil producers in general and the Gulf and Arab oil producers in particular towards supporting their oil outputs in the international market, particularly since we know that these outputs are the most prominent in the international energy market?

"However, to project the importance of the above, we would like to refer to a significant attitude of the Saudi Minister of Energy Khaled Al-Faleh and his balanced statements following the regretful acts of sabotage that targeted 'Aramco' of the sisterly country the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

"However, the resumption of oil output was realized in record time and this means the customers of the Kingdom are reassured as such the Kingdom shall remain a major source of oil capable of meeting the requirements of its customers even under the most difficult circumstances."

"The issue of escalation in the region between the United States of America and Iran has returned to the forefront of Kuwaiti events, through the request of

MPs to allot two hours of the next session of the Parliament to discuss the situation in the region, as if the previous closed door session did not meet the purpose or that the distinguished MPs did not achieve the media 'show' which they wanted from the last session. They want to review in two hours their rhetorical abilities in the next session," columnist *Sattam Ahmed Al-Jarallah* wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"On the other hand, the measures announced by the government to counter any negative development in the region are weak, or rather, ordinary by the standards of countries. It is common knowledge that governments have plans ready for natural or military disasters. These plans are updated from time to time in the event of any disaster or war. Only in Kuwait that this is absent from executive officials, while the law-makers are waiting for a funeral to slap in, as the Egyptian brothers say.

"It is true that the region is oscillating between war and negotiations. In both cases, there are consequences for either option, hence, the need for a clear vision. Without a doubt, the war will not stop at the limits of the Iranian-American engagement. Rather, its effect will take over the region as a whole. Therefore, whatever will end it will have consequences that must be in everyone's calculations and their impact on us in all respects.

"If the winds of escalation turn into negotiations, they will affect the region as a whole, because the conflicting parties have their own targets and they will not get out of it without achieving the purpose. This is because neither of them will bear the large bill alone. Therefore, this entails that we have plans to deal with each scenario and the extent of their negative or positive impact on us.

"Unfortunately, none of those involved in this matter has presented to the Kuwaiti public what is happening in this regard. It seems things are going into our pond, or leave things to chance. In both cases, it does not bode well, because it indicates there is no planning. We have, in addition to parliamentary disdain, if this is better said, and the worst, there are parliamentary opportunities for electoral blackmail.

"This unclear picture of Kuwait in this regional dilemma is a matter of concern. The fear of absence of a vision or future planning for what the country might be is also real. Hence, it may be useful to work according to the Kuwaiti adage: 'Protection is good,' so as not to heighten the attack on Kuwait and to depict it as a nonchalant country."

"Kuwait plays a major role in solving many problems in most countries around the world by assisting its people, the UNHCR, and humanitarian activities. This is why the Kuwait has been given great importance in finding a peaceful solution to end the Yemen crisis by inviting the Yemeni parties to the table in order to bring an end to the conflict," *Mishref Aqab* wrote for *Al-Shahed* daily.

"For many years, Kuwait has been earning honorable positions for solving problems in many Arab and Islamic countries because of its firm belief in human action for many years now and its ability to respond to tragic situations around the world.

"Kuwait has been playing vital roles in solving the problems in Yemen throughout the past years, including settling the clashes among the warring parties on the Yemeni border in 1972 with the intervention leading to the signing of a treaty on March 28, 1979.

"Kuwait hosted the negotiations between the President of the Arab Republic of Yemen Ali Saleh and the President of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen Abdul-Fatah Ismail. The negotiations culminated in the signing of the Yemeni unity statement and the agreement on the formation of a joint committee to draft the Constitution of the Unity State within four months.

"On November 23, 1981, Kuwait hosted the meeting of Presidents Ali Saleh and Ali Nasser to resolve the impasse between both sides. When the relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Democratic Republic of Yemen were strained in the 1980s, Kuwait called for a meeting of the foreign ministers of the two countries on its soil. It was then agreed to end the war of media and propaganda between the two countries, respect each country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and show principles of good neighborliness.

"Kuwait contributed to the initiative put forward by the GCC countries and signed by Ali Saleh in November 2011. It provided for the transfer of power from the president to his deputy, the formation of a government of national unity, and Kuwait's record of initiatives. It is recognized for efforts to resolve Arab-Arab disputes and conflicts, prevent external dangers, establish peace and stability, and promote solidarity and joint action, based on its principles and wise policies that are respected in international forums.

"Kuwait has played a very important role in enhancing relations among the Arab countries, and between the Arab countries and other regions especially Africa.

"In conclusion, we hope the brotherhood in Yemen will give priority to the supreme national interest, and preserve Yemeni national unity and the Yemeni fabric... and stay blessed."

"Iran can stop the accelerated ignition once it announces withdrawal of its forces and militias, stops interference in Arab affairs, introduces a plan for peace and cooperation with GCC countries, and turns all efforts toward economic cooperation, peace and coexistence among countries in the region and support for Palestinian people," columnist *Ali Al-Baddah* wrote for *Al-Jarida* daily.

"Iran is present, along with its troops and militias, on Arab soil. This is a reality. It releases intense statements from leaders of the Revolutionary Guard, which gave an excuse to ambitious countries to use this image to scare the trembling governments or elements benefiting from the tension and turmoil in the region, and opens the Zionist entity's appetite for appearing as protector of its weak neighbors with the support of the superpower.

"The declaration of Iran's withdrawal from Arab States is not underestimating the power of Tehran. It will be a wise and painful blow to plans to invade and divide the region. It will prevent Iran itself, its neighbors and perhaps the entire Middle East from implementing destructive plans, some of which we saw in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen.

"World Zionism, with the full support of the United States, has sought and continues to seek to deepen sectarian differences and transform them into a conflict of existence, creating all the conditions to ignite wars in the region. There will be only one majority - the Zionist entity. Under the proxy war policy, this entity will be waiting for the destruction of all and then reap the harvest."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb

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