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Kuwait dismisses Iraq border protest

Opinion

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Other Voices

Right of Reply

Yemen government and their bitter cup

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

SOMETHING is strange in the situation of Yemen's legitimate government and an observer cannot explain it, unless it is considered a diversion from implementing the main project - defeat the first enemy and engage in a sub-dispute. This sub-dispute would not occur if the government performed its real duty - to confront the Iranian expansion project through the south gate of the Arabian Peninsula in the hands of the Houthis gang. Legitimacy failed to defeat this gang despite the tremendous military and political support, and recognition of the international community.

It is worth saying that if not for the existence of the Arab alliance; the Iranian Revolutionary Guard forces would stay in Riyadh, western region, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait. Without the Arab alliance, Yemenis would be subject to woeful occupation which they cannot afford to confront. Thus, the alliance is still doing its mission. It never gave up support for the Yemeni National Army and patriot resistance. The alliance defeated the Houthis in most battles in different parts of Yemen. It limited the Houthis to specific areas. However, the efforts exerted by the alliance needed a Yemeni crane which should have taken part in the ground work rather than be content in echoing the slogans.

Unquestionably, the Yemeni situation is too complicated. The desire for separation of the South and North Yemen exceeded the stage of wishful thinking. It has become a fact that people in the South cannot neglect according to their press statements. The desire for separation intensified when people in the South found themselves out of the legitimacy coverage since the government has allied with the Reform Party which belongs to the Muslim Brotherhood.

hood. The brotherhood has always been the Trojan horse of all terrorist groups, starting from al-Qaeda and DAESH and ending with the Houthis and coup plotters. The Reform Party's major objective is to keep the papers mixed until the revival of the Muslim Brotherhood project; even it is done by allying with the Houthis.

The Kuwaiti proverb, "My brother is strong only when dealing with my mother," is applicable to the Yemeni government. The government brags about cleaning the streets of transitional council forces despite the fact that civilian people in the South constitute these forces. Nonetheless, we have not heard any statement from the government that it defeated the Houthis or cleaned one city of such forces in the last five years. As we said earlier, the defeats of the Houthis were exclusive to the Arab alliance which sacrificed a number of martyrs in order to achieve this objective.

It has become necessary for the government to revise its calculations, instead of being stubborn and claiming that it will not negotiate with people in the South but with UAE which has nothing to do with the internal dispute of Yemenis.

Without a doubt, the government is keen on escaping to search for excuses, instead of admitting that it failed in the confrontation. It should admit that it is powerless and incapable of keeping Yemenis united. Perhaps, it will be obligated to drink from the bitter cup and accept the southern option in order not to turn into a dagger pointed at the people in the South in particular, and all Yemenis in general.

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Newswatch

DUBAI/RIYADH: Saudi Arabia may have to revise down economic growth estimates as lower crude output and tumbling oil prices take their toll on economic activity, with some economists forecasting a contraction this year in the world's biggest oil exporter.

The Saudi central bank forecast economic growth of at least 2 percent this year but economists now expect marginal growth at best or a slight shrinkage, its second in two years. (RTRS)

RIYADH: BlackRock Inc, the world's largest fund manager, has opened an office in Saudi Arabia, pushing ahead with plans to capitalise on the government's ambitious reform agenda despite global criticism of its human rights record.

A company spokeswoman said the Riyadh office had opened recently and is headed by Yazed Alnubarak, who previously worked at Morgan Stanley and Saudi bank Jadwa Investment, according to his LinkedIn page. (RTRS)

DUBAI: A British former newspaper editor in Dubai who was convicted of killing his wife with a hammer may see his 15-year sentence significantly reduced and possibly even be freed from prison altogether in a case that has stirred much controversy in this city-state emirate.

A hearing in the case of Francis Matthew, sentenced for bludgeoning his wife Jane to death at their home in 2017, was adjourned on Wednesday after he did not appear in court. No reason for his absence was given. (AP)

ISTANBUL: One Turkish soldier was killed and two others injured on Wednesday in a roadside bomb planted by the PKK elements in Mardin province south of the country bordering Syria, Anadolu agency reported.

The roadside bomb went off as security forces in Mardin's Omerli district were moving through the area, it added. (KUNA)

JERUSALEM: The Israeli military said Tuesday the militant group Hezbollah and Iran have built a precision-missile factory in neighboring Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

The army issued a statement saying that "in fear of strikes" by Israel, Hezbollah had moved key equipment from the site to "civilian locations in Beirut." It didn't specify when this happened. (AP)

ADEN: Yemeni government officials have begun indirect talks with United Arab Emirates-backed southern separatists in the Saudi Red Sea city of Jeddah to end fighting in Aden and other southern provinces, a Yemeni official said on Wednesday.

The fight for Yemen's south has opened a new front in a multi-tiered war

and threatens to further fragment Yemen, complicating efforts to end a conflict that has killed tens of thousands and pushed the nation to the brink of famine. (RTRS)

GENEVA: The UN human rights chief says her office has tallied more than 1,000 civilian deaths in Syria over the last four months, the majority of them due to airstrikes and ground attacks by President Bashar Assad's forces and their allies.

Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, says 1,089 civilians were killed in the war-torn country between April 29 and Aug 29, including 304 children. (AP)

DARBASIAQH, Syria: The creation of a so-called "safe zone" in northeastern Syria has gotten off to good start, with US-backed Kurdish-led forces pulling back from a small, initial area along the Turkish border, a Syrian Kurdish official said - but calm can only prevail if Turkey also removes its troops.

Iham Ahmed, co-chair of the executive committee of the US-backed Syrian Democratic Council, said the understanding reached between Washington and Ankara last month, and in coordination with the Syrian Kurdish-led forces, constitutes a step toward starting a dialogue over mutual security concerns. (AP)

ISTANBUL: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday that a so-called de-escalation zone in Syria's Idlib region is slowly disappearing because of military attacks by government forces.

Erdogan also said he would make all necessary contacts with parties in the region to find a solution to the Idlib situation, adding that a Syria safe zone which he has proposed to host Syrians fleeing the war is now nothing more than a name. (RTRS)

ANKARA: Turkish defense ministry said Wednesday that their personnel from its Air Force began attending a training for S-400 missile defense systems in Russia.

"S-400 training started in Gatchina, Russia with the participation of Air Force Command personnel as part of long-range air-and-missile defense system project," Turkey's Defense Ministry said in a statement. (KUNA)

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia: Russia plans to expand its cooperation with Saudi Arabia, the head of Russia's RDIF sovereign wealth fund said on Wednesday.

Speaking at an economic forum in Vladivostok in Russia's Far East, RDIF chief Kirill Dmitriyev said that management changes in the Saudi oil industry as Saudi Aramco prepares to hold an initial public offering should not affect ties with Russia. (RTRS)

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4, (Agencies): Kuwait Tuesday dismissed Iraqi objections that a platform installed within Kuwait's territorial waters would affect demarcation of maritime borders beyond maritime border sign No. 162, affirming the country was exercising full sovereignty.

A Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry source was reacting to a reported Iraqi memorandum submitted to the UN Security Council (UNSC) to protest Kuwait's installation of a platform over Fisht Al-Ejj, a piece of land located within Kuwait's territorial water, claiming it would undermine demarcation of maritime borders beyond sign No. 162.

The source, in a statement to KUNA, said Kuwait received the Iraqi memo and responded to it immediately. The source said Kuwait's territorial waters were specified by a decree issued on Dec 17, 1967, and updated on Oct 19, 2014. The decree was in compliance with UN treaty on law of seas of 1982.

He said Fisht Al-Eid was a natural piece of land over the sea level and was located within Kuwait's territorial waters.

"Therefore, the installation of the platform is a sovereign right for the State of Kuwait within its territories and territorial waters," affirmed the source.

The platform installed in Khor (inlet) Abdullah for security purposes, said the source, and Iraq has been informed about it. An official letter informing the Baghdad government was sent to the Iraqi embassy in Kuwait on Feb 8, 2017.

Kuwait answered memos sent by Iraq on Sept 5, 2017 and Sept 12, 2018, in which Baghdad urged Kuwait to delay the installation of the platform until after installation of maritime border signs beyond sign No. 162.

The source said the Kuwaiti position was included in two memos sent from Kuwait Embassy in Baghdad to the Iraqi foreign ministry on July 26, 2017 and on Sept 26, 2018, affirming Kuwait was exercising its sovereignty.

The foreign ministry source said State of Kuwait has been requesting Iraq since to start maritime border demarcation negotiations ever since 2005.

"The State of Kuwait called on the brothers in Iraq to end this issue through international maritime arbitration in line with the UN treat on law of sea of 1982," he said.

Kuwait, he said, would continue coordination with Iraq to address all outstanding issues "in order to prevent distortion of relations."

The Undersecretary of the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Hazem Al-Yousifi has denied there is any issue between Kuwait and Iraq concerning the maritime border. He said this should not be a hindrance or a problem in relations and instead lavished praise on these relations stressing they are at their best given the significant development in all fields.

In an interview with the An-nahar daily during his visit to the country to hand over an archive of 42,000 books found recently (and believed to have been stolen during the invasion of Kuwait), he said that there is the will between the two countries to overcome the mistakes of the past, and everything that happened during Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, pointing out that the invasion was an exceptional event in the history of the two brothers.

The Iraqi official praised the Kuwait support for his country and the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad to Baghdad, which gave a strong impetus to the development of relations.

Democracy is not 'a la carte'

By Ali Ahmed Al-Baghli

Former Minister of Oil

LAST week I wrote about the crisis of Kashmir with the Indian government. Since the issuance of the declaration of independence of India in 1947 and the separation of Pakistan, another resolution was issued regarding the division of some states. According to this resolution, the states with majority Muslims should be joined with Pakistan, and those with majority Hindus should be joined with India. This resolution was enforced in all states across the border apart from Jammu and Kashmir, which is the only state in India with a Muslim-majority population.



Al-Baghli

For the past 70 years, India has been insisting on keeping this state even if the matter required military action similar to what is currently transpiring in this devastated state. Today we will talk about some aspects of the Kashmiri plight under the Indian rule. We used to consider India as a model of real democracy from the days of the first Prime Minister of the Republic of India Jawaharlal Nehru, his daughter Indira Gandhi, and those who came after them as prime ministers through parliamentary elections and after acquiring majority votes from party members or the president.

Instinctively, democracy means freedom of choice, speech and opinion, equality, communication, media etc.

According to news about Kashmir, the state is currently going through a very tough time due to lack of telephone and internet services, which were disconnected by the Indian authority, let alone the major restrictions imposed on exchange of information within the state.

In the past, the Indian authority used to ban the use of the Internet on mobile phones in Jammu and Kashmir whenever there was a threat of violation of laws and disruption of the general order of the state.

However, this ban did not involve landline and Internet services which operated normally, thereby allowing the information media to follow up its usual operations without any obstacles.

Continued on Page 2

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MPs bid to boost powers of police

By Ahmed Al-Naqeeb

Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: MPs Mohammed Al-Dalaal, Osama Al-Shaheen, Askar Al-Enezi, Mohammed Al-Huwaila and Mubarak Al-Hajraf submitted a proposal to amend Law No. 23/1968 on police force regulation in order to allow certain policemen to take legal action against suspects within their jurisdiction.

In their explanatory note, the MPs pointed out that the State of Kuwait has taken great legislative strides to establish the police community; similar to what has been done in numerous other countries. They said the police force is considered the link between society and law enforcement, ensuring higher level of crime prevention and raising legal awareness in society.

They clarified that due to an administrative decision, policemen cannot perform their duties in maximum capacity; hence, the need for legislation to ensure they serve their purpose.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Interior under-secretary, the proposed amendment stipulates granting 'judicial status' to certain members of the police force in order to allow them to conduct arrest operations and issue violation tickets within their jurisdiction.

Prejudicial, derogatory

By Fahad Ahmed Khan Suri

Second Secretary (Political & Commerce) Embassy of India

THIS is with reference to an article (authored by Mr Ali Ahmed Al-Baghli), titled "Oh Kashmir", published in your esteemed newspaper's 29th August 2019 issue.

2. It is unfortunate that the above Article contains some prejudicial remarks, and also references ("Add to this the beauty of the Kashmiri women who are blond unlike the Hindus and others living in other parts of India") that are derogatory to the dignity of women. It is also felt that the article is suggestive of inciting Muslims across the world. Embassy of India in Kuwait deeply regrets that such objectionable comments/references have been carried by a reputed newspaper like Arab Times.

3. We would also like to draw your attention specifically to the paragraphs 5, 6, 11 & 12 of the article, which contain certain factual inaccuracies. In this regard, we are pleased to share the following brief, historically accurate and factual information on the subject, which you may like to use in order to present a correct picture to your readers.

Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) is an integral and indivisible part of India.

The accession of J&K state to

the Republic of India in 1947 was legal and is irrevocable.

The then ruler of J&K acceded to India by signing an Instrument of Accession (similar to the one signed by 542 princely states that joined India after Independence) on 26 October 1947 and unconditionally accepted by the then Governor General of India Lord Mountbatten. It was completely valid in terms of the Government of India Act (1935), Indian Independence Act (1947), and International Law, and was total and irrevocable.

The Preamble and the Article 3 of the Constitution of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, that was framed by a Constituent Assembly elected by the people of the State and adopted in 1956, states that "the State is and shall be an integral part of the Union of India"

The region of J&K and Ladakh is ethnically, religiously and geographically diverse.

It has three regions - Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh

It is a pluralistic and secular society - Muslims (68.31%), Hindus (28.44%), Sikhs (1.87%), Buddhists (0.9%), Christians (0.28%)

Given the wide credibility enjoyed by your esteemed newspaper in the State of Kuwait, we believe that appropriate remedial action would be taken to reflect the accurate, factual position on this matter.

'Credit plan needs work'

Sabotage probe of Dutch

TEHRAN, Sept 4, (Agencies): The Iranian Foreign Ministry and its embassy in The Netherlands is investigating the possible involvement of the Dutch intelligence service in sabotaging the Natanz nuclear site in the central Iranian province of Isfahan via the Stuxnet virus, an Iranian official said Tuesday.

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Abbas Mousavi said that the head of the first department of Western European Affairs in the Iranian foreign ministry stressed his country's concern over the sabotage during his meeting with the Assistant Director-General for Political Affairs of the Dutch Foreign Ministry, who is visiting Tehran.

The Dutch delegation informed the Iranian side that it would discuss the issue with the government of his country, he added.

France's foreign ministry said on Wednesday that there were still many things to resolve regarding a proposed credit line for Iran after its finance minister travelled to Washington Tuesday.

"Current efforts respond to a need to de-escalate tensions, shared by all actors," Foreign ministry spokeswoman Agnes von der Muhll said when asked how the United States had responded to the French idea. "As the Minister said yesterday, the process initiated in Biarritz has not been completed. There is still a lot to be done."

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire met US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin in Washington on Tuesday, but neither side commented on the Iranian aspect of the meeting.

US officials said on Wednesday they had some scepticism over the French plan.

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani gave European powers another two months to save a 2015 nuclear deal on Wednesday, but warned that Tehran was still preparing for further significant

breaches of the agreement if diplomatic efforts failed.

His statement came as Iranian officials appeared to give a guarded welcome to a French proposal to save the atomic pact by offering Iran about \$15 billion in credit lines until the end of the year if Tehran comes fully back into compliance.

Rouhani said talks with European powers were moving forward, raising hopes of at least a pause in a diplomatic confrontation between Iran and the West that has stoked already heightened tensions across the region.

Iran emerged from years of economic isolation after agreeing a deal with world powers in 2015 to curb its nuclear development programme in exchange for sanctions relief. However, US President Donald Trump pulled out of the deal last year, arguing it did not go far enough, and re-imposed sanctions.

Tehran responded with two separate moves that breached some of the terms of the deal, although it says it still aims to save the pact.

Rouhani had threatened to take further measures by Sept 5 unless France and the other European signatories of the pact did more to protect Iran from the impact of the US penalties.

"I think it is unlikely that we will reach a result with Europe by today or tomorrow ... Europe will have another two months to fulfill its commitments," Rouhani said, according to state TV.

"The talks between Iran and European countries are moving forward ... but we have yet to reach a conclusion," he added.

Iran would continue with plans to breach the pact further and accelerate its nuclear activity, Rouhani said, without giving a fresh deadline.

"The third step (in reducing Iran's commitments) will be the most important one and it will have extraordinary effects," state TV reported him as saying.

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