

Local

In my view

United States and the meaning of friendship

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Despite the good relations that link GCC countries and the United States of America, which is an historic relationship as affirmed by GCC countries and all American administrations, the current US administration could not understand this relationship correctly.

The misunderstanding usually comes from mistaken consultations or previous political stands that impose itself on the American decision maker. Of course, leaders of Gulf countries cannot forget that the US is the superpower in the world and both sides supported each other during hard times. Despite the rapid changes that we see around us, our leaders are still standing in support of the US in the world, even as the GCC countries are an emerging power that is difficult to ignore or deal with.

The liberal intellect from which the US gets its policy is the same that rejects mixing a country's economic interests and political action. The OPEC+ decision was purely an economic decision, imposed by economic factors the world is going through, most importantly the global recession, the Russian-Ukrainian dispute and what followed in the form of economic threats, as well as what China has done by closing many production sources, in addition to other factors. So, OPEC+ countries were compelled to take a decision to maintain stability of the world market.

The most notable evidence is that the decision of OPEC+ is purely an economic decision in order to maintain stability of the world market. The price of oil was not affected by that decision; rather the price dropped by two dollars three days ago. I hope the Biden administration does not rush into untying the strong relations between our countries and the US, as the rapid changes in the world call upon us to be united and understand each other for the sake of our peoples' interests and friendship.

Kuwait International Airport records 8.2 million passengers

KUWAIT: Total number of passengers recorded at Kuwait International Airport amounted to 8.2 million between start of this year until September 28, a ranking aviation official revealed on Monday. Number of departing passengers totaled some 4.3 million and whole arrivals reached 3.8 million during the same period, said Saleh Al-Fdagh, the Deputy Director General for Kuwait International Airport Affairs at the Directorate for Civil Aviation, in an interview with Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

Up to 68,621 planes flew to and from the air facility during the same duration, he said, adding that Istanbul, Cairo, Dubai and Doha were the top destinations in demand between June 1 and August 31 - peak of the travel and external tourism season. Overall number of the aircraft that came and left to Istanbul reached 2,433 - boarding 388,155 people and the total figure of the flights to and from Cairo hit 303,300 with 317,177 passengers on board.

Elaborating, Al-Fdagh said up to a total 1,921 flights were recorded to and from Dubai - transporting 303,300 passengers; Doha - 1,314 flights with 195,635 travelers; and Jeddah, 1,158 flights with 138,327 travelers. He also disclosed in the interview with the Kuwaiti news agency that the number of operating companies at the airport range between 40 and 45, noting that the figure changes with each season due to the facility open air policy.

As per the accommodation capacity, he said there are four passenger terminals, namely T-1, the main building with a current capacity of 7.5 million passengers. However, in the past years, particularly during the corona crisis in 2019, "we used to host more than 13 million passengers per year." As to T-4 terminal, it can serve some 4.5 passengers per annum, but since its operation and expansion of the Kuwait Airways fleet and its operating plans, the terminal has served more than five million passengers a year.

Al-Fdagh noted that Sheikh Saad terminal (T-3) provides services higher than its recorded capacity, likewise T-5, expressing hope that the airport would serve the mounting numbers of the passengers via all the terminals that operate above the capacity levels. He declared that Kuwait International Airport, unlike many other air facilities across the globe, succeeded during the summer travel season and the corona crisis peak, in operating regularly.

Travelers used to suffer from delays in receiving their baggage and bags before the year 2018 because the main terminal operated much higher than the ceiling of its capacity, ranging between 5.5 million and 7.5 million passengers per year, he divulged, affirming the new terminals eased off the pressure at the facility, although some pressure continue to be sensed particularly during the peak travel seasons. —KUNA



KUWAIT: HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah poses with Cabinet ministers. —KUNA

Kuwait Cabinet holds first meeting after oath taking
National Assembly's first session of 17th legislative term begins

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Cabinet on Monday held the first session after swearing in before the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Seif Palace. The meeting was led by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Barrak Al-Sheetan said.

At the onset of the meeting, the Cabinet reviewed Sheikh Mishal's speech on the occasion of the Government's constitutional oath that included some directives. His Highness the Deputy Amir said in his speech that taking over a ministerial post is an honesty before Allah and people, urging the ministers to show allegiance to the homeland and His Highness the Amir, and respect the law and constitution.

Sheikh Mishal also appealed to the ministers to pay attention to the fundamental issues and implement law on all people as well as consolidate transparency. The Deputy Amir further called on the government members to preserve the country and citizens' security, and carry out the development projects and provide housing welfare as well as upgrade health system.

In addition, the Deputy Amir asked the ministers to address the economic and investment situations, combat corruption and hold corrupters accountable, calling for cooperation of all people to serve the beloved Kuwait and raise its status. The Cabinet stressed its full commitment to the Deputy Amir's directives and vowed to take all steps to implement them and serve the country and citizens.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet listened to His Highness the Prime Minister's speech during which he welcomed the ministers, thanking them for accepting responsibility in this period. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf wished the ministers every success in making all possible efforts to set and carry out a comprehensive reform program in all aspects to meet aspirations, give importance to priorities, upgrade public services, implement law, combat corruption and achieve sustainable development.

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Responding to the Prime Minister's speech, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah expressed, on behalf of his fellow ministers, appreciation for the precious trust of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister. Sheikh Talal Khaled pledged to work as a team to harness all energies to address challenges of this stage, and to make every effort to meet hopes and aspirations, advance development, improve services provided to citizens, and continue efforts to eliminate corruption in all its forms and everything that would achieve the advancement of the dear homeland.

The Cabinet approved the coordination committee formation between the government and the National Assembly headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs. It also included Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil, Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs and Minister of State for Housing and Urban Development. The Cabinet finally discussed the National Assembly affairs and the latest political happenings on international and Arab arenas.

The first session

Amid directives to the legislative and executive authorities to assume national responsibility in a new stage of cooperation between them in an atmosphere of consensus, understanding, work and commitment, the National Assembly will start on Tuesday, the first session of 17th legislative term.

The first session of the new legislative term begins according to the agenda with the opening ceremony, where His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will inaugurate the ses-

ion. After that, the session will be adjourned for a period during which the committee will bid farewell to His Highness the Crown Prince, then the session will resume with items on the agenda. The National Assembly then moves in its session to elect the speaker and vice president of the Council for the 17th legislative term, in addition to electing the secretary.

The Council is scheduled to elect members of the committee - preparing the draft answer to the parliamentary Amiri speech and members of the permanent parliamentary committees, which are the committees for petitions, complaints, defense, economic affairs, legal affairs, education, culture, health, social affairs, labor, foreign affairs, budgets and protection of public funds. The Council is expected to elect members of the temporary parliamentary committees, if any.

In this regard, Article 85 of the Constitution stipulates that "the National Assembly's annual session shall be of not less than eight months duration and the session shall not be finally adjourned before the passing of the budget." Also, Article 91 said that a member of the National Assembly shall take an oath before the Assembly in a public meeting before taking up his functions at the Assembly or its committees. Accordingly, Article 93 mentioned that "in the course of the first week of its annual session, the Assembly shall form committees necessary to carry on its work."

On October second, a decree was issued calling for the National Assembly to convene the first session of the 17th legislative term on the morning of October 11, followed by a decree issued on October ninth to postpone the session until the morning of October 18, tomorrow, Tuesday. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, in a speech delivered by His Highness the Crown Prince, on June 22, sent a message to each of the legislative and executive authorities, urging for cooperation between them in an atmosphere of consensus and understanding. —KUNA



Kuwait Society for Handicapped holds General Assembly

KUWAIT: Sunday evening, the Regular General Assembly meeting of the Kuwait Society for the Handicapped was held for the year 2021 in the presence of BedourBou Nashi, the representative of the Civil Societies Department, the administration team at the Ministry of Social Affairs, valued General Assembly members, and the external auditor, Messrs. RSM Albazie and its partners for auditing.

The administrative and financial reports for the year 2021 were approved during the meeting, as the annual report contains all the achievements and activities that the Kuwait Society for the Handicapped organized or its children participated in, clarifies the types of services provided to children with disabilities, and the latest progress of KSH projects and work in general.

The general assembly meeting ended with the election of three members for the Board of Directors, who are Dr Mohammed Ismail Al-Ansari, Nawal Abdullah Al-Mutawa, and Dr Sheikhha Abdullah Shaheen Al-Ghanim. Then the elected board of directors met, and the administrative positions were distributed as follows: Sabeeka Saad Saqer Al-Jasser (Chair); Salwa Abdelrazaq Razouqi (Vice-Chair); Dr Mohammed Ismail Al-Ansari

(Secretary-General); Nawal Abdullah Al-Mutawa (Treasurer); Noura Jaber Al-Ghurair (Member of the Board); BaderAbdulatif Ben Naji (Member of the Board); Dr Sheikhha Abdullah Shaheen Al-Ghanim (Member of the Board).

Sabeeka Saad Saqer Al-Jasser, the Chair of the Kuwait Society for the Handicapped, stated that the KSH has instilled its foothold as one of the pioneers of charitable action in the State of Kuwait over five golden decades. The Society celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 2021. Over the past 50 years, KSH has realized outstanding achievements and provided distinct services to persons with disabilities.

During 2021, the Society continued its endeavors to achieve Kuwait's Vision 2035 with regard to the care and integration of people with disabilities by contributing to the implementation of the national policy for the rights of persons with disabilities. In line with the main themes of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, i.e. integration into education and employment, entertainment and community participation, health care, and quality control of standards for accessibility and availability, including education, the Society managed to support such rights.

During the last year, the Society's efforts were directed primarily towards increasing the opportunities for more than 400 students with disabilities to benefit from its services by expanding the scope of those services and increasing the competency of human resources, including hiring experienced teachers and specialists, as well as raising the capacity of educational centers, the efficiency of

their outputs, and modernizing their settings.

In addition to supporting initiatives, programs, and partnerships aimed at integrating disabled people with members of the mainstream community, and qualifying them to obtain vocational training, which contributes to offering job opportunities that boosts their psychological, social, and financial stability.

It also contributes to helping students with disabilities to improve their ability to work, produce and show the energy of this segment in various fields, as the vocational training programs in 2021 included the banking sector, restaurants, and printing presses. The overall goal is to make them a productive group to contribute to the development of the community.

Al-Jasser added that the harvest of the Society's efforts over these long years, exceeding 50 years, yielded the reflection of the human features of Kuwait and the original values and principles preserved by the people of Kuwait. Had it not been for the help of God, and the support of our success and giving partners, the philanthropists, such achievements would not have been realized.

In conclusion, Sabeeka praised the outstanding efforts of the executive management and the educational, rehabilitation, and nursing staff at KSH. She also appreciates the efforts of all those who contributed to supporting this entity, including government institutions, public and private sector companies, and institutions. My thanks also go to the employees, who support our aspiration for further success and excellence over the 50 years to come, God willing.

KFF, MoI hold safety precautions workshop

KUWAIT: In the framework of cooperation, Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) and the Interior Ministry conducted a workshop on Monday for fire safety precautions at the Information Ministry with the attendance of vice president of KFF Khaled Fahad in order to increase social security and know the best ways to handle incidents at the ministry's buildings. The workshop shows ways to insure safe operation. It also included construction stipulations and ways to escape as well as knowing systems of smoke release, elevators and ways regarding fighting fires and warning systems.

