

Local

Kuwait laments Syrian children's woes as a 'stigma' to the world

Millions of them know nothing about life but only wars

Amir cables President of Peru on Nat'l Day

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to President of the Republic of Peru, Martin Vizcarra on the occasion of the National Day of his country, wishing him everlasting health and wellness, and further progress and prosperity to his country. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem also sent a cable of congratulations to President of the Peruvian congress, Luis Fernando Galarreta Velarde on his country's national day. — KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

NEW YORK: The State of Kuwait said Friday the sufferings of Syrian children are deemed a stigma to the international community, as millions of them know nothing about life but only wars. Addressing a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on the humanitarian situation in Syria, Kuwait's Permanent representative to the UN Mansour Al-Otaibi said Syrian children are the most vulnerable in this war-torn country so they need to be urgently protected.

"Undoubtedly, Syrian children are paying the highest price as a result of the eight-year war in their country, as they have lost their innocence, dreams and undeniable right to life and dignified living," he said. More than three million Syrian children need humanitarian aid amid killings, detention, abduction, enlistment and torturing, he said, cautioning that nearly two million children have been deprived of education.

The Kuwaiti diplomat cited a recent UN report as showing that 67 schools and 108 medical facilities were targeted in 2017, stressing that schools and hospitals are considered a redline, just as stated by UNSC Resolution 2427. He called on all parties in Syria to comply with this resolution, which frankly condemns attacks on educational and medical facilities.

Al-Otaibi also urged them to reach a ceasefire at an early date and to allow humanitarian access to besieged areas. "As the Syrian crisis has entered its eighth year, Syrian children have been undergoing a humanitarian crisis and very critical economic and social conditions. Thousands of them undergo the gravest violations of all the basic principles of international humanitarian law and international human rights law as a result of the continuing circle of violence which has so far claimed the lives of at least 400,000 people, including a large



NEW YORK: Kuwait's Permanent representative to the UN Mansour Al-Otaibi addressing a United Nations Security Council on the humanitarian situation in Syria. — KUNA

number of women and children," he lamented.

He voiced much concern over the recent military escalation in southwest Syria, which led to the displacement of approximately 300,000 people and aggravated humanitarian conditions of innocent civilians. The Kuwaiti permanent representative at the UN noted that the Syrian war, which flared out in 2011, has triggered off the biggest refugee crisis of modern times: five mil-

lion refugees, including two million children, and six million internally displaced persons (IDPs), involving 2.5 million children. However, the Kuwaiti diplomat underlined that the repatriation of children and IDPs should be safe, voluntary and dignified. Finally, Al-Otaibi reiterated Kuwait's support for a military solution to the Syrian crisis, and called for stepping up efforts to save the Syrian people. — KUNA

Risks to Middle East oil and gas shipping routes

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia said it was suspending oil shipments through the Red Sea after Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis attacked two crude tankers, underscoring risks caused by the conflict in the world's top oil exporting region. Iran, in its row with the United States over sanctions, has also threatened to block the Strait of Hormuz, the other major strategic shipping route for oil from the region and the main route for Iranian crude exports. Below are facts about region's shipping routes:

BAB AL-MANDEB

Any move to block the Bab al-Mandeb, the narrow waterway between the coasts of Yemen and Africa at the southern end of the Red Sea, would virtually halt oil shipments through Egypt's Suez Canal or the SUMED crude pipeline that link the Red Sea and Mediterranean. The SUMED pipeline, with capacity for 2.34 million bpd, runs roughly parallel to the Suez Canal and can be used by oil tankers that cannot navigate the canal waterway.

An estimated 4.8 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil and refined petroleum products flowed through the strait in 2016 to Europe, the United States and Asia, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). Reuters data shows Saudi crude exports through Bab al-Mandeb, which is about 18 miles (29 km) wide at its narrowest point between Djibouti's coast and the Yemeni mainland, are estimated to be 500,000-700,000 bpd.

Closing the strait, which has a shipping channel just two miles (3.2 km) wide, would force oil and liquefied

natural gas (LNG) tankers around the southern tip of Africa, extending the distance for a vessel travelling between Saudi Arabia and the United States by 2,700 miles (4,300 km). This would add weeks to the journey time and extra costs, although Saudi Arabia could export its crude along that route on non-Saudi vessels.

STRAIT OF HORMUZ

About 18.5 million bpd of oil or more than 30 percent of seaborne traded crude was transported in 2016 through the Strait of Hormuz, making the waterway at the southern end of the Gulf the most important oil transit channel in the world, according to US EIA figures. The strait, which is about 33 miles (54 km) wide at its narrowest point, separates the Arabian Peninsula from Iran. Most of the crude exported from Saudi Arabia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Iraq must slip through a four mile (6.4 km) wide channel between the Omani and Iranian coasts. More than 85 percent of the crude oil that moves through it is sent to Asia, mainly Japan, India, South Korea and China. In addition, LNG tankers from Qatar, the world's biggest LNG exporter, pass through the strait.

The US Fifth Fleet, based in Bahrain and responsible for an area that includes the Gulf, Red Sea, Gulf of Oman and parts of the Indian Ocean, has said it would not allow any disruption of traffic through the strait. Saudi Arabia and the UAE have pipelines that can transport their crude without passing through the strait. The UAE can ship crude from its Indian Ocean coastline, while Saudi Arabia's alternative route runs to its Red Sea port of Yanbu.

SAUDI ARABIA

Most oil exports from Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest crude exporter which produces about 10 million bpd, are transported by ship through the Strait of Hormuz. In addition, the East-West Pipeline, known as Petrolina, mainly transports crude from the kingdom's eastern fields to Yanbu, which lies north of Bab Al-



The Vladimir Rusanov, a liquefied natural gas (LNG) tanker ship, is seen following its arrival at the LNG terminal in Nantong city, eastern China's Jiangsu province on July 19, 2018, following its journey from Russia's Arctic Yamal peninsula. — AFP

Mandeb so shipments could avoid that Red Sea shipping chokepoint.

The Petrolina has capacity to transport about 5 million bpd of the kingdom's oil exports that can reach 8 million bpd. Saudi Arabia has a parallel 290,000 bpd Abqaiq-Yanbu natural gas liquids (NGL) pipeline linking gas processing plants in the east with NGL export facilities at Yanbu. It also provides only a partial alternative to Saudi shipments of NGL from the Gulf. State oil giant Saudi Aramco plans to launch its overhauled Muajjiz oil terminal on the Red Sea this year, lifting its total loading and export capacity to as much as 15 million bpd. Located on the Red Sea, Muajjiz had been used as an export terminal for Iraqi crude through the Iraqi Pipeline in Saudi Arabia (IPSA), but it has not carried Iraqi crude since Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1990.

OTHER GULF PRODUCERS

Other OPEC members in the region, Iran, the UAE,

Kuwait and Qatar, rely almost entirely on the Strait of Hormuz. A Kuwaiti official said 90 percent of Kuwaiti oil shipments go to Asia and do not pass through Bab Al-Mandeb. The remaining 10 percent of its shipments passing through the Red Sea chokepoint were mostly refined products. The UAE has built a new pipeline, the Abu Dhabi Crude Oil Pipeline with a capacity of 1.5 million bpd, to carry the bulk of its production to Fujairah, a bunkering hub and oil terminal on the Indian Ocean, bypassing the Strait of Hormuz. Qatar, a small crude exporter, shipped about 3.7 trillion cubic feet (tcf) per year of LNG through the Strait of Hormuz in 2013, according to BP Statistics.

IRAQ & IRAN

Nearly 80 percent of Iraq's crude is exported through Gulf ports and through the Strait of Hormuz. Most of it heads to Asia. Iran's total reliance on crude exports through the Strait of Hormuz is one of the reasons why it is unlikely to be blocked. — Reuters

Kuwait witnesses century's longest lunar eclipse



KUWAIT: People in Kuwait witnessed the century's longest lunar eclipse on Friday, with the moon looking purple as it is aligned with earth and sun, lasting for 1:43 hours. The eclipse starts with a shade covering the moon which turns to a full eclipse then to partial and then ends. The public and meteorologists were following the eclipse, which happens through three phases: the shade at 8:15 pm, the partial eclipse at 9:24 pm and the full eclipse at 10:29 pm, then ends at 2:29 am. The eclipse occurs because the sun, earth and moon will be aligned, so the shadow of earth will reflect on moon thus restricting sun rays. Upcoming full lunar eclipse would take place on January 21, 2019. — Photos by Joseph Shagra