

Local

Kuwait strongly deplores Lebanon Information Minister's comments on Saudi Arabia, UAE

Lebanon stresses its position on defending security, safety of Gulf states

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry yesterday voiced vehement condemnation and disapproval of the Lebanese information minister's remarks on Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE). In his comments, the Lebanese minister pressed baseless accusations against both sisterly countries, which ignore their great and much-appreciated role in supporting Yemen and its people and even contradict the authentic reality of the current situation in Yemen, the ministry said in a statement. The statements also run counter to the Lebanese government's official position and wink at the crucial role of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the UAE as well as the Arab coalition to support Yemen's legitimacy, it added. The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry has summoned the Lebanese charge d'affaires in Kuwait Hadi Hashem and handed him an official memo of protest including Kuwait's utter disapproval of these comments which have nothing to do whatsoever with the reality and contradict the simplest rules of dealings between countries.

The Saudi Foreign Ministry has also summoned Lebanon's Ambassador and handed him a letter of protest regarding comments made by Lebanese information minister George Kurdahi about Saudi Arabia and the UAE. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted the foreign ministry as saying in a statement that the Lebanese minister's "statements contradict the simplest political norms and are inconsistent

with the historic relations between the two brotherly peoples." The ministry also expressed disappointment by the "insults contained in those statements directed at the Kingdom and countries part of the Arab coalition to support legitimacy in Yemen."

Lebanon's Arab brothers

Lebanon's Foreign Ministry has meanwhile defended its position that condemns "terrorist attacks" on Saudi Arabia, and stressed the security



GCC chief demands apology

and safety of the Gulf States and their citizens. Responding to the Information Minister George Kurdahi's latest controversial comments, the ministry said in a statement, "a personal statement was previously issued by Lebanon's Minister of Information, George Kurdahi, prior to his appointment as minister, and it was published yesterday".

Late Tuesday, Lebanon Prime Minister Najib Mikati said in a statement that "Lebanon highly respect and appreciates the people of the Gulf States," stressing the Lebanese government's adherence to "brotherhood ties with the Arabs". Regarding Minister Kurdahi's comments, Mikati said that these stances do not reflect those of the Lebanese government, neither reflect the government's ministerial statement that clings to brotherly ties with Lebanon's Arab brothers, especially with Saudi Arabia. He stressed his country's keenness to keep the good relations with Saudi Arabia, rejecting any interference in the kingdom's internal affair.

Inadequate understanding

In the meantime, GCC Secretary-General Nayef Al-Hajraf voiced utter rejection of the Lebanese information minister's statements, which reflect an inadequate understanding and superficial reading of happenings in Yemen. In a press statement, Hajraf deplored the Lebanese minister's criticism of Saudi Arabia, which leads the Arab coalition to support Yemen's legitimacy, as well as the UAE, while the coalition has been trying to improve the situation in Yemen since Houthi coup in September 2014. He called on the minister to read historical facts of the situation in war-torn Yemen so that he could be aware of the sizable support provided by the Saudi-led Arab coalition with a view to reaching a total



solution to the Yemeni crisis.

The GCC chief, further, blasted the minister for having defended Houthi group while winking at the latter's recalcitrance against all international efforts to resolve the crisis and its missile and drone attacks on Saudi Arabia and even disarmed Yemenis. He emphasized that Lebanon's minister of information should apologize for his remarks and that the Lebanese state should clarify its position. — KUNA



NEW YORK: Kuwait's deputy permanent delegate to the UN Bader Al-Munaikh speaks during a UN general assembly session on Tuesday. —KUNA

Nations should decide own fate, Kuwait tells UN

NEW YORK: Nations should be allowed to decide their own fate based on principles and values embedded in UN resolutions, a Kuwaiti diplomat said, saying such rights are legitimate and cannot be taken away. Citing the Palestinians as a case in point, Kuwait's deputy permanent delegate to the UN Bader Al-Munaikh told a UN general assembly session on Tuesday that the Palestinians have full-fledged political rights to determine their own fate. He

lamented that the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has been exposed to a "political attack" that imperils its core objectives, in addition to the COVID pandemic, which impeded most of the aid agency's work.

UNRWA will always have Kuwait's firm backing, the diplomat highlighted, mentioning a \$20 million grant deal signed between both sides to keep the UN agency's aid programs for the Palestinians afloat, ahead of Belgium-hosted talks over the matter next month. He reiterated calls for the Palestinians' inalienable right to an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital, based on 1967 borders, as supported by relevant UN resolutions, which back a two-state solution as the only way for peace in the Middle East. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Chief of Staff of Kuwait's Army General Khaled Saleh Al-Sabah participates in the virtual meeting. —KUNA

Family allegedly kept daughter's death secret for five years

KUWAIT: Kuwait police are investigating a bizarre case in which a woman is accused of keeping her daughter's body inside her apartment for five years, before officers made the grim discovery a few days ago. The case was first brought to police's attention when a Kuwaiti man told Salmiya police station officers that his mother has kept his sister's body in the bathroom of their apartment for five years, and only skeletal remains

are left. The public prosecution called the mother, her son who reported the matter and his brother for questioning about this unusual case. Al-Qabas Arabic daily reported yesterday quoting sources familiar with the investigation.

When detectives went to the apartment, they found the daughter's body in a small room with a bathroom, which was sealed with wood and difficult to open. The room was not opened for years and was full of dust. Sources said inspection by detectives and forensics personnel of the apartment revealed that the mother had covered the central air-conditioning vents with plastic so that the noxious odor of the decomposing corpse did not reach the rest of the building. She then installed many air-conditioning units to maintain good ventilation and prevent the odor from spreading, according to the sources.

The prosecution ordered the release of the son who sounded the alarm and detained his mother

and brother at Salmiya police station until investigations are complete and the coroner's report is issued about the cause of death. Meanwhile, another security source quoted in the report said the investigator noticed that the mother, who is a cancer patient, and her two sons were not behaving normally when questioned.

Separately, the same newspaper reported yesterday that the alleged armed robber of a Jahra bank told detectives he planned to rob another bank in Farwaniya after committing the first robbery. But after waiting for a long-time monitoring security arrangement, he said that he changed his mind because he was afraid of being arrested, according to the report. He then went to Hawally and hid in a hotel before he was arrested. The suspect was sent to the public prosecution on several charges. He also led detectives to the stolen money and the knife used in the crime. The suspect is a drug addict and has a criminal record.

Kuwait army chief participates in GCC meeting

KUWAIT: Chief of Staff of Kuwait's Army General Khaled Saleh Al-Sabah participated yesterday in a virtual meeting of the Supreme Military Committee of the Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces of the GCC. The Army said in a press statement that the Supreme Committee issued several decisions and recommendations that contribute to supporting military integration and cooperation between the armed forces of the GCC states. The GCC consists of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman. — KUNA

Saudi initiative sets foot on world economic map: Kuwait

RIYADH: Minister of Information, Culture, and State Minister for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi affirmed yesterday that Saudi Arabia's Future Investment Initiative (FII) sets foot on world economic map due to its achievements. This came in a statement to the press on the sidelines of the fifth edition of the Future Investment Initiative and his meeting with Saudi Minister of Tourism Ahmad Al-Khateeb.

Mutairi noted that the four past initiatives have established strong economic grounds that attract the attention of investors and economists that helped Saudi Arabia to achieve economic growth and attain an advanced position in global economy. "This event witnessed vast participations of more than 2,000 delegations and 5,000 participants of political and economic leaders from around the world, which reflects Saudi Arabia's central position in the world of economy," said Mutairi. "In Kuwait, we look closely to the forums set up by Saudi Arabia, as they undoubtedly benefit Kuwait and the region as a whole," he added. He also noted that Kuwait is keen to participate in these major economic initiatives to benefit from the experiences. On the other hand, Mutairi said that his meeting with Khateeb comes as part of the continuous cooperation between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and that several topics related to the tourism sector have been discussed and ways of developing them.

Grave challenges

Saudi Arabia's annual Future Investment Initiative (FII) is a testament to the grave challenges facing the entire world, Kuwait said during the pan-

regional talks on Tuesday, highlighting the need for sustainable solutions. These solutions can only be attainable with greater cooperation at an "institutional and government" level alike. His Highness the Amir's representative to the FII, Kuwaiti Defense Minister Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali said in a speech during the talks. He cited the COVID pandemic as affirmation that overcoming challenges can never be a "single-handed attempt," rather, it requires collective action to bring such measures to fruition.

On these challenges, he said rapid "social and economic" changes have only exacerbated the matter, which behooves countries to work as a cohesive unit to keep these hardships at bay, added the Kuwaiti minister. He went on to applaud Saudi Arabia for the "meteoric growth" the kingdom has seen in recent years, attributing the national success to the "wisdom" of the country's political leaders.

Humans and climate

The first session of the fifth edition of the Future Investment Initiative (FII), which kicked off Tuesday in the Saudi capital Riyadh, discussed multiple topics related to humans and climate and their relationship to investment. Seven heads of international companies discussed the importance of climate change, the challenges that will face future generations, the possible investment opportunities, and the importance of investing in small and medium-sized companies. They also touched on supporting youth for growth in the global economy, and providing greater opportunity for sustainability, indicating that renewable energy is one of the most important investments that must be focused on. The participants stressed that everyone must be ready for change, as the Coronavirus pandemic has proven that and made the world pay attention to what they should look and focus on. They also urged the need to empower women and find innovative solutions to overcome the current obstacles, in addition to rationalizing the use of electricity and searching for alternatives in clean energy.

In a session entitled 'The Future of Tourism - Global Perspectives', Saudi Tourism Minister Khateeb stressed the importance of finding unified



RIYADH: Minister of Information Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi (left) attends the fifth edition of the Future Investment Initiative in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. —KUNA photos



Minister of Information Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi meets Saudi Minister of Tourism Ahmad Al-Khateeb.

travel regulations and legislation for the world, since travel during the pandemic has become a "nightmare" for travelers. Khateeb noted that the tourism sector is one of the most affected sectors in the

world, along with the transportation sector, which decreased by more than 80 percent in 2020, which led to the loss of more than 60 million jobs out of the total jobs in the tourism sector worldwide. — KUNA