



HILDALE: The twisted wreckage of two vans that were washed away in a flash flood with women and children inside rest on the bank of Short Creek on September 15, 2015 in Hildale, Utah. —AFP

KUWAITIS SAFE, SOUND AFTER UTAH'S FLOODS

WASHINGTON: The General Consulate of the State of Kuwait in Los Angeles assured yesterday the safety of all Kuwaiti citizens in the State of Utah which was struck by floods killing at least 15 people. It added in a press statement last night that it contacted the Kuwaiti nationals in Utah and assured their safety as none of them was affected by the flash floods which swept the area in a short period of time. It instructed the Kuwaitis to keep monitor-

ing the local media and to be vigilant at all times and to follow the local safety measures in cases of emergency. The Consulate designated the following numbers in case of any emergency: 0330-556-310, and 3644-279-310. Security personnel in Washington City in Utah announced last night the death of 15 people and one missing due to the sudden floods that hit the state and its southern borders with Arizona. —KUNA



MANAMA: President of the International Peace Institute Terje Roed-Larsen (left) is pictured with Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain Sheikh Azzam Al-Sabah (center). —KUNA

LARSEN EXTOLS AMIR'S HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

MANAMA: President of the International Peace Institute Terje Roed-Larsen, praised yesterday the leading role of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in the diplomatic and humanitarian fields in the Arab region and the world. During a meeting with the Dean of the

Diplomatic Corps, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain Sheikh Azzam Al-Sabah, Larsen stressed that Kuwait is worth of appreciation in the United Nations and its various institutions, adding that Kuwait is one of the founding states and an active country in the global peace organization. —KUNA

KUWAIT, BRITAIN DISCUSS SECURITY, CORRUPTION CONVICTS' REPATRIATION

PARLIAMENT SPEAKER TOUTS KUWAIT'S DEMOCRACY

LONDON: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem stressed yesterday the UK's full support to safeguard Kuwait's security, amidst the current developments in the region. The official's remarks came in a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) and Kuwait Television after his meeting with Chair of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee Crispin Blunt, House of Lords' Deputy Chairman Patricia Morris and Speaker of the House of Commons John Bercow yesterday.

Ghanem noted that he had discussed the security conditions in the Middle East with the British officials, praising the strong ties shared between Kuwait and the UK. Signing the nuclear agreement between Iran and the 5+1 Group will not affect the UK's commitment towards the safety and security of the GCC states, stressed Ghanem.

The meeting also discussed signing an agreement between the two sides on the repatriation of convicts wanted for corruption crimes including embezzlement of public funds, noting that the Minister of Justice Yagoub Al-Sane had previously visited the UK to discuss the agreement earlier this year.

All Kuwaiti MPs are determined to bring those charged with corruption crimes to justice, and prevent them from seeking shelter in the UK, Ghanem added. The meeting was attended by MPs Ahmad Al-Quthaibi, Rakan Al-Nisf, Askar Al-Enezi, Majid Al-Mutairi and Kuwaiti Ambassador to the UK Khaled Al-Duweisan.

Meanwhile, MP Enezi affirmed the importance of ratifying an agreement with the UK on the exchange of embezzlers of public funds. He said the delegation of Kuwaiti MPs currently visiting the UK expressed their eagerness to have the process of ratification expedited. Such an agreement would send a strong message to corrupt officials and public funds embezzlers that the arm of the law would reach them no matter how far they escape.

On a different note, he said the Kuwaiti MPs discussed with UK counterparts a gamut of issues, among them UK's commitment to support the stability and security of Kuwait, the Syrian crisis and the plight of its refugees, and the Palestinian problem.

Democratic experiment

Separately, Ghanem delivered a lecture at London School of Economics on democratic development and governance in Kuwait, in which he boasted that Kuwait has a well-



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem is seen during his meeting with Chair of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee Crispin Blunt, House of Lords' Deputy Chairman Patricia Morris and Speaker of the House of Commons John Bercow. —KUNA



Marzouq Al-Ghanem speaks during a lecture on Kuwait's democracy.

established and unique democratic experiment. He added that Kuwait enjoys a different and exceptional democratic example and a united society thanks to its unique democracy and deep-rooted political system.

However, Ghanem expressed belief that there is neither a uniform democratic model nor a perfect democracy. "I believe that any political system involving democracy aims to achieve certain basic goals, notably values and ideals such as freedom, equality and jus-

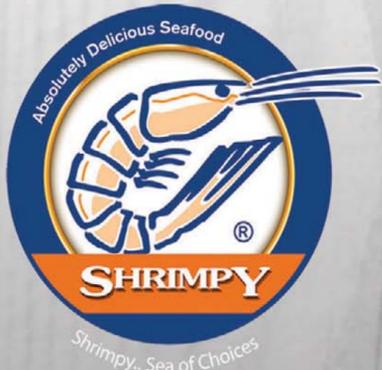
tice and this has nothing to do with an electoral or representative system," he said. The speaker admitted that the Kuwaiti political system might not be an ideal one, but it is suitable to the country since it provides values and ideals that need to be established.

In spite of many obstacles, Kuwait's political system is increasingly developing, given that there should be some balance between civil liberties and national security. "When Kuwaitis established their own democratic system, they only wanted to achieve their political and societal unity. Actually, they have managed to do so as they appreciate values of deep-rooted multiplicity and tolerance," Ghanem said.

Also in his lecture, he elaborated on the democratic development in Kuwait, including the Consultative Council in 1921, the Legislative Assembly in 1938 and its constitution in 1962, pointing to the current National Assembly's legislative and parliamentary accomplishments.

Ghanem meets Jabouri

On a separate note, Ghanem received yesterday Iraqi Parliament Speaker Salim Al-Jabouri. The meeting tackled bilateral relations, with focus on parliamentary cooperation, and regional and international developments of common concern. —KUNA



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