



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Moroccan Ministers of Interior as well as Economy and Finance, Mohamed Hassad and Mohamed Boussaid respectively. — KUNA photos



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Abdulaziz Al-Fayez.

CROWN PRINCE MEETS MOROCCAN MINISTERS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday Moroccan Ministers of Interior as well as Economy and Finance, Mohamed Hassad and Mohamed Boussaid respectively. The two ministers handed a letter from King of Morocco Mohammed VI to His

Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, which discusses bilateral relations and means to boost them.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Dhari Fahad Al-Othman, Deputy Minister of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, and head of Protocols at the Diwan

of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf received Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Abdulaziz Al-Fayez, who handed a letter from Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to His Highness the Amir Sheikh

Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Earlier, His Highness received Deputy Chief of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaleid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah tours a gallery organized as part of the Kuwait festival for formative creativity. — Amiri Diwan photos



KUWAIT CELEBRATES FORMATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

KUWAIT: Kuwait Society for Formative Arts celebrated the Kuwait festival for formative creativity late Monday, as part of the 'Kuwait Capital of Islamic Culture 2016' festival. In his opening speech at the ceremony, the society's chairman Abdulrasool Salman said that 107

artists participated in the tenth round of the festival with 62 artists. The winners were competing for three prizes including His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah prize, Sheikhha Salwa Al-Sabah and Sheikhha Futooh Al-Sabah prizes, he added.

The ceremony, held under the patronage of the Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs and honorary chairman of the society Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, was attended by Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and his wife, as well as senior

officials from the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) and a number of artists. Later, Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad received yesterday the formative society's Chairman and members, wishing them the best in their future endeavors. — KUNA

ZAIN EXECUTIVES RECEIVE ITU SECRETARY-GENERAL HOULIN ZHAO

KUWAIT: Zain Group, a leading mobile technology innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and North Africa announces that its CEO, Scott Gegenheimer, and the CEO of Zain Kuwait, Eaman Al-Roudhan, have met with the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Houlin Zhao at Zain Group headquarters in Kuwait.

and the private sector, is the main global forum through which all parties work together to achieve consensus on a wide range of issues that affect the direction of the ICT sector.

The two Zain executives' discussion with Zhao centered on the information revolution currently occurring within the ICT industry, and an exchange of views on the vision and work of the ITU, which

improve the regulation of the ICT industry, which is quite an undertaking given the rapid evolution of the sector.

Efforts and priorities

On his part, Zain Group CEO, Scott Gegenheimer commented, "The ITU's efforts and priorities correspond to initiatives launched by Zain Group across the Middle East and Africa, which seek to

well as across the globe, and it was highly beneficial to receive many of his insights." In her conversations with Zhao, Zain Kuwait CEO, Eaman Al-Roudhan noted the challenges and constraints affecting the mobile communications industry in the region. The discussions revealed the extent to which the ITU needs to support the region with respect to the allocation of spectrum for additional growth in the mobile communications, given the explosion of mobile data services regionally. Roudhan also highlighted the positive impact the ITU continues to have on the ICT sector globally, where its efforts in interacting with national regulators has helped to lay the foundation for the improvement in access to ICT, and the rapid uptake of broadband services, which in turn is narrowing the digital divide.

Take the lead

For his part, Zhao expressed his pleasure in visiting with Zain, stating, "I had the honor to meet the leaders of Zain, and admire that it is a company which has been able to take the lead in the ICT industry in the Middle East and Africa, and has established itself as a model of how to successfully run a mobile operator in regions of the world that face unique challenges."

Zhao continued, "We are following the stunning development of the ICT industry in the Middle East, and the positive impact it is having on the lives of people and economies of nations. We note that Zain is an integral part of driving this success, which we hope shall continue long into the future."



Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Houlin Zhao meets Zain officials.

Zhao was on a visit to Kuwait, attending the second annual gathering of the 'Global Forum on Emergency Communications (GET-2016) Saving Lives' and made time to visit and engage in discussions about developments in the telecom sector internationally with the Zain executives.

The ITU was founded on the principle of international cooperation between governments (member states)

operates as a global mediator to facilitate the developments of communications technologies around the world. The ITU's mandate also extends to recommending the best use and distribution of global resources based on the development of a seamless global communications system.

Both Gegenheimer and Roudhan praised the ITU's initiatives and activities, given the organization's drive to

utilize technology to best effect and lower the total cost of ownership of communications services so that all the people in the regions we serve - wherever they live and whatever their means are connected." Gegenheimer continued, "We were delighted to host the Secretary-General of the ITU at our headquarters, where we exchanged ideas on many of the issues facing the ICT industry today, both in the region as



KUWAIT: Director General of Saud Al-Nasser Diplomatic Institute Ambassador Abdulaziz Al-Sharekh speaks at a seminar hosted recently by the institute. — KUNA

NATIONAL DIWAN REMINDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS' SIGNIFICANCE: OFFICIAL

KUWAIT: Forming the National Diwan for Human Rights should serve as a reminder to the government of the significance of human rights, Director General of Saud Al-Nasser Diplomatic Institute Ambassador Abdulaziz Al-Sharekh said yesterday. He made these remarks at a seminar entitled, "The Role of National Organizations in Human Rights," held at the Saud Al-Nasser Diplomatic Institute.

Kuwait has won praise from international organizations for its commitment to human rights, Sharekh said, which indicates that the country has made rapid strides in protecting human rights. This seminar should help shed light on the importance of this issue and just how pivotal it is to a country's international relations, Sharekh noted.

Moreover, speaking on behalf of Assistant Foreign Minister on Coordination Affairs Nasser Al-Subaih, Deputy Director on Coordination Affairs Hassan Zaman said that the seminar comes as part of the Foreign

Ministry's efforts of bolstering Kuwaiti contributions to humanitarian causes. Kuwait has made eight pledges on human rights, including the formation of the National Diwan for Human Rights, which Zaman called a national tool to safeguard human rights.

Regional Representative of the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Arab region Dr Abdulsalam Sayed Ahmad said that the UN attaches great precedence to the issue of human rights, calling it a pillar of the UN. Ahmad also called on nations to set up special councils tasked with protecting human rights on a national level.

Meanwhile, head of the newly established office of human rights Talal Al-Mutairi said that Kuwait's commitment to human rights is actually ingrained in the country's constitution. Kuwait, in 2010, had vowed to initiate a council for human rights, Mutairi noted, saying that the decision reflected the country's obligation to protect human rights. — KUNA

In my view

PAKISTAN-KUWAIT RELATIONS STRONG



By Javid Ahmad

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The Pakistan-Kuwait relations are brotherly, based on shared history, traditions and common culture. Both countries have always enjoyed their bilateral, friendly, trade and cultural ties with enormous respect of their commonality and cultural traditions. The bilateral relations exist both at the official-government level and at the peoples' level. Time has proved that both countries have stood for each other in their most difficult and testing times. Pakistan was among the first countries that sent troops to Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion in 1990. Nine Pakistani soldiers were martyred during mine clearing operations.

Kuwait also responded well to its friendly country and has been the first among countries that have ever extended generous help to Pakistan in difficult times. The Kuwait government donated generously to Pakistan during the deadly earthquake in 2005 and at the time of devastating floods in 2010. Kuwait has contributed almost \$25 million to flood-affected people in Pakistan.

Almost 150,000 Pakistani expatriates in all fields are currently working and living in Kuwait. They remit around \$750 million a year to Pakistan. This is one of the important foreign exchange sources for balancing the external accounts of the country. In addition to this, there are regular visits of Pakistani naval ships to Kuwait. Pakistan has also trained a number of naval officers of Kuwait in Pakistan. Both countries are part of a joint ministerial commission (JMC) - an active body extending its role towards further strengthening and extending their bilateral relations in all fields.

HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah visited Pakistan in 2006. HH the Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah visited Pakistan in 2013 and the Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait Marzouq Al-Ghanem and the Air Force Chief also visited in 2015.

Although bilateral Pakistan-Kuwait political relations historically remain very strong, however their bilateral economic cooperation has not progressed much. There are several reasons which characterize the certain geopolitical, strategic and security obstacles. Bilateral trade volume between both countries almost touches \$2.5 billion a year, though it is far from satisfactory relative to their size and composition of their domestic production and external trade volumes. Pakistan is largely importing crude oil from Kuwait and Kuwait mainly imports, fruits, vegetables, rice and cotton products.

Successive Pakistani ambassadors have tried their best to further strengthen bilateral relations. The current Pakistani ambassador to Kuwait Mohammed Salam Khan, contrary to his predecessors, plays a very active and commendable role towards enhancing and strengthening bilateral trade and cultural relations. He has taken a number of initiatives during his short stay as ambassador of Pakistan in Kuwait. With his efforts, last year's Expo Karachi and investment conference saw the participation of a large number of Kuwaiti businessmen and other trading groups.

He has taken a number of initiatives such as organizing a mango festival/exhibition. A large number of trade groups from Pakistan such as rice exporters, and chambers of commerce of Karachi and Sialkot, have also been invited to exchange their business interests with Kuwaiti counterparts. A wonderful gathering on the anniversary of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the founder of the country, was organized at the Kuwait Teachers' Association. On the anniversary of the Peshwar tragedy, a dignified meeting was organized at the embassy premises.

The outgoing ambassador is largely supportive of cultural and other activities and plays an active role to represent his community. Recently, the embassy and the Kuwait National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters organized a wonderful musical event in which a very popular singer from Pakistan, Farha Pervaiz, performed with her beautiful voice and mesmerizing performance, which captivated her audience.

Hardly any ambassador in the recent past in my memory of 35 years in Kuwait has played such an active role towards strengthening these cultural and trade ties in a very short span of time. The ambassadors are usually posted for fixed tenures of three or four years, extendable at the discretion of appointing authorities based on their performance. It is heartening for the Pakistani community to know that the ambassador is reaching his superannuation, which means his retirement.