



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is pictured with Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets the new Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Takashi Ashiki.

AMIR, MERKEL DISCUSS TIES

CROWN PRINCE MEETS NEW AMBASSADORS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received a phone call from Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel, regarding bilateral ties and issues of mutual concern. His Highness the Amir expressed his appreciation for the deep historic ties between Kuwait and Germany, while also sending his greetings to German President Joachim Gauck.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received at Seif Palace yesterday His Highness the

Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also received Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and First Deputy Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Separately, His Highness the Amir received Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane who was recent-

ly awarded the medal of honor of the first degree by Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi. Sane was honored for his efforts in the promotion of religious moderation and tolerance. During the meeting, His Highness the Amir hailed Sane's effective efforts in spreading the Islamic concepts of tolerance and moderation.

New ambassadors

In the meantime, His Highness the Crown

Prince received the newly appointed Tunisian Ambassador to Kuwait Ahmad bin Al-Habeeb bin Al-Sagheer. His Highness the Crown Prince also received the newly appointed Ambassador of Switzerland to Kuwait Aldo de Luca, and the new Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Takashi Ashiki. The audiences were attended by Protocol Chief at His Highness the Crown Prince Diwan, Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. His Highness also received Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, as well

as Chairman of the National Security Apparatus (NSA) Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah. Also yesterday, Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled received the outgoing Azeri Ambassador to Kuwait Tural Rzayev. Sheikh Sabah hailed the ambassador's efforts in developing bilateral ties between the two countries. The meeting was attended by assistant Foreign Minister for the First Deputy Prime Minister's office affairs Ambassador Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah. —KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Iraq's Parliament Speaker Salim Al-Jabouri. — Amiri Diwan photo

IRAQI SPEAKER LAUDS TALKS WITH KUWAITI OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: Iraq's Parliament Speaker Salim Al-Jabouri yesterday commended talks he held with the Kuwaiti side during his official visit to the country. Jabouri said in a press statement that he had met His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Talks addressed several regional issues that necessitate unity, based on the necessity of calming the situation and promoting a state of rapport among regional and international parties to avoid further aggravation of crises, said Jabouri, who left Kuwait later yesterday, concluding a two-day visit to the country.

Meanwhile, Jabouri called for joining forces against terrorism and the so-called Islamic State (IS). Featuring high on the agenda was the forthcoming 11th conference of the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Baghdad will host

later this month, he said, pointing out that Kuwait had been invited to attend the event.

The Iraqi chief parliamentarian stressed that Kuwait played a significant role for the conference to be held in Baghdad. The event will focus on regional developments, and seek a unified view to overcome all political worries. Jabouri said that he acquainted the Kuwaiti side with the nature of events in Iraq, the liberation of Ramadi, the return of the displaced to the provinces recaptured from the IS. He underlined keenness on dissolving differences among countries in the region.

Intensified efforts

Ghanem discussed with his Iraqi counterpart bilateral ties and means of promoting them in different domains, especially the parliamentary one. The meeting, held in Ghanem's office yesterday, also tackled recent developments on regional and international fronts. The two officials agreed to intensify efforts to face diverse challenges in the region. They also touched on preparations for

the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation member states (PUIC) conference which will be held in Iraq in the foreseeable future.

The meeting was attended by chief of honorary mission MP Faisal Al-Shayeh, Treasurer MP Adel Al-Jarrallah Al-Kharafi, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Iraq Ghassan Al-Zawawi, Charge D'affaires at the Iraqi embassy in Kuwait Yaseen Al-Jabouri and Kuwaiti Parliament Secretary General Allam Al-Kandari.

In other news, Ghanem sent a cable of congratulations to Egypt's newly-named Speaker of House of Representatives Dr Ali Abdulaal. In the cable, Ghanem, who is also the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU) President, said he was confident in Abdulaal's capability in leading the Egyptian Parliament to attain its national and constitutional duties for the interest of Egypt and Egyptians. He also expressed his aspiration to cooperate with the new Egyptian speaker at bilateral level, or through activities and actions of AIPU.— KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chaired Sunday a meeting of the Supreme Petroleum Council. The meeting, held at Seif Palace, touched on items on the agenda. — KUNA

ARAB PARLIAMENT OFFICIAL CALLS FOR EMERGENCY MEETING

CAIRO: Deputy Speaker of the Arab Parliament MP Mohammad Al-Jabri called yesterday for holding an emergency meeting for heads of Arab Parliaments in February to discuss challenges facing the Arab nation.

Speaking to KUNA on sidelines of the parliament's permanent four committees meetings, he called the Arab Parliament, the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Arab League to meet the challenges, namely terrorism facing the Arab world at present.

Preparations are underway for the parliamentary summit, to be held with co-chairmanship by President of the Arab Parliamentary Union and Speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, President of the Arab Parliament Ahmed Al-Jarwan in addition to the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, Dr Nabil Al-Araby in Cairo in February, he added.

Jabri also pointed out to the statements of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Ministerial Council regarding condemnation of Iran's acts in regard to the attack on the embassy of Saudi Arabia in Iran and infringements of international conventions. There are already steps to address the

challenges and risks in the Arab arena beginning with the formation of the Arab army to support the legitimacy in Yemen in the fight against Houthi group and militias of Ali Abdullah Saleh, he said. He also announced proposed plans aimed at forming an Islamic army to fight terrorism.

Saudi support

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti MP and member of the Arab Parliament Mohammad Al-Huwaila stressed that Arab foreign ministerial support of Saudi Arabia is reflective of the stance of the Arab Parliament. Huwaila made the comments in a statement at the conclusion of a meeting of the Committee of Social, Educational, and Cultural Affairs of Female and Youth, an affiliate of the Arab Parliament. "The stance of Arab foreign ministers upholds Arab security and stability," the Kuwaiti MP said. There are insurmountable obstacles that threaten peace in the Arab world, ones that call for concerted Arab efforts to overcome any threat to any Arab nation, Huwaila said. Moreover, the Committee meeting yesterday revealed plans to introduce an Arab law designated for environment conservation. A final draft of a special resolution on Arab youth, to be verified in an Arab Parliament session today, was also discussed.—KUNA

HALA FEBRUARY TO REVITALIZE COMMERCIAL, TOURISTIC ACTIVITIES

OOREDOO MAIN SPONSOR OF THE EVENT

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: This year's edition of the annual Hala February Festival will be held between Jan 28 and Feb 24, 2016, and its various events will be broadcast by local and international media. Ooredoo is sponsoring the festival this year.

The main goal of the festival is to revitalize commercial and touristic activities. "This year we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's rule, 25th anniversary of liberation and 55th anniversary of Kuwait's independence. The previous editions of the Hala February festivals proved a success through high attendance, as Kuwait is the perfect place to organize it," said Waleed Al-Suqoubi,

head of the media committee of the festival, during a press conference yesterday.

Madina Ismael, head of the programs and activities committee, noted that the festival is made up of various activities. "The main and first of these activities is the opening carnival, which will be held on Gulf Road and will include a huge parade of floats from the public and private sectors. The festival will also include musical concerts, poetry evenings and religious symposiums, in addition to special activities held for the first time like 'Graffiti in the Love of Kuwait,' which is a competition for the best graffiti symbolizing love of Kuwait," she stated.

"Furthermore, there will be sports activities and international shows for children at the Ice Skating Rink in addi-

tion to a camp in Bneider. A marathon will also be held on Gulf Road and a special competition for horses will take place, in addition to many other activities," added Ismael. Hundreds of stores will be participating in this festival by holding special sales and providing discounts. "A daily raffle draw will be held for a vehicle in addition to cash and other valuable prizes given away daily as well," she concluded.

Mijbil Al-Ayoub, Corporate Communication Manager at Ooredoo, stated that Ooredoo is cooperating with the organizing committee of Hala February to present it in a new innovative style this year. "The company will sponsor various cultural and entertainment activities of the festival to make it the cultural showcase of Kuwait," he pointed out.



KUWAIT: Organizers and sponsors of the Hala February festival are pictured during a press conference yesterday. — KUNA photo