



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, accompanied by Kuwait Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Kheder.

AMIR, CROWN PRINCE RECEIVE STATE OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Seif Palace yesterday. His Highness the Amir also received Parliament Speaker

Marzouq Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, as well as Defense Minister Sheikh

Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, who was accompanied by Kuwait Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Kheder.

His Highness the Crown Prince also received Minister of Information and

Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, along with Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, and Acting Minister of Electricity and Water Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. —KUNA

HORECA KUWAIT 2016 KICKS OFF TODAY

PARTICIPANTS, SPONSORS PARTNERS IN SUCCESS: ANJERI

KUWAIT: Under auspices of Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, the Horeca Kuwait 2016 exhibition opens today at Badriya Ballroom in the Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa, with participation of over 60 companies specialized in hospitality, catering and hotel equipment. The three-day event is organized by the Leaders Group Company for Consulting and Development in collaboration with the Hospitality Services Company.

Speaking on the occasion, Nabila Al-Anjeri, Leaders Group's General Manager, stressed that preparations for the exhibition are

complete. "The exhibition is a good chance for ambitious young people who intend to start new restaurant and hotel-related projects," she said in a press statement, noting that Horeca Kuwait is a scientifically specialized exhibition where experts in the hospitality, food industries, hotel equipment, tourism, shipping and storage fields would take part.

Anjeri thanked all participants and sponsors of the event, noting that their cooperation has been the base of Horeca Kuwait's success, and enabling it to achieve a leading position in Kuwait, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region and the Middle East.



Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah



Nabila Al-Anjeri



KUWAIT: Lord Mayor of London Jeffrey Evans arrived in Kuwait yesterday on an official visit. He was received by Hawalli Governor Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. —KUNA

WE WOULD DO IT AGAIN IN A HEARTBEAT: US GULF WAR VETS

WASHINGTON: Several US Gulf War Veterans expressed their honor to take part in the liberation of Kuwait, reiterating that they would do it again 'in a heartbeat'. Exactly twenty-five years ago today, the United States Army, backed by an international coalition of 34 countries, began the Desert Storm mission, an operation that lasted 41 days, resulting in the liberation of Kuwait from Saddam Hussein's occupying troops.

In several interviews with Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), the Army veterans said that they are proud to have partaken in 'something very significant,' liberating and returning a forcefully occupied land to its rightful owner.

Scott Stump, a Gulf War Veteran and the President and CEO of the National Desert Storm War Memorial (NDSWM) committee, said that "I am

honored to be a part of this momentous war, we did the right thing, I am proud to make a difference in Kuwaiti people's lives, giving them a future." Stump added that knowing what the Kuwaiti people have endured during the seven-month invasion urged the half a million US troop to combat the "terrorism" that was inflicted upon them.

Gulf War memorial

The NDSWM is designing and lobbying to place a Gulf War memorial on the National Mall in the heart of the US capital Washington DC to highlight the 292 US servicemen who gave their lives for the two operations in the war, Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

They are in the process of choosing the ground and designing in a way that highlights the efforts

of all the coalition and educates in one of the most important and most swiftly won wars that the US have partook in the 20th century.

It was an ultimate success, "what it was supposed to be and what it ended up being were so different," Stump noted about the offensive operation, Desert Storm, that began its aerial and naval bombardment of occupying Iraqi forces for five weeks and a ground assault on the February 24th, only two days before the official liberation of the State of Kuwait.

Stump visualized the dark black smoke that came out of Kuwait oil fields as it was set on fire "desperately" by Iraqi forces as they were fleeing out of Kuwait's north boarder. "We have a responsibility to our fellow man," Kent Shively, a US Marine infantry during the Gulf War, told KUNA and that "nobody has a desire to leave their family and home, but when you see snippets of what has occurred to your people (Kuwaitis), you go on ahead." "To be a 19-year-old kid and write your own will," Shively said who was married for 3 and half weeks at that time, but the swift victory gave them "an enormous sense of relief, as we believed this mission was a one-way trip."

Finish the job

On the other hand, Stephen Venneman who was a Firefinder Radar Operator during the war said that "I only wish we would have been able to finish the job and remove Saddam Hussein from power," however, he added "we met our objective to liberate the people of Kuwait from an illegal occupation." "I knew I wanted to go as soon as we heard about the Iraqi invasion," Venneman reiterated "I felt that the invasion was wrong, unjustified, and deserved a swift and decisive response from the international community," which it did.

On the reaction when he returned to the US after the victory he explained "I was treated like a conquering hero," noting that "I treasure the Liberation of Kuwait medal I received from the Kuwaiti government." A fourth US Army Veteran Cee Freeman also told KUNA that "I had to say goodbye to my parents," but when asked if he would do it again; he and the other veterans jumped and said "in a heartbeat." "We were riding along with a full army brigade when the news of the ceasefire broke and Kuwait's liberation. Miles of vehicles halted, soldiers came out of their vehicles and started jumping like kids," Freeman recalled. "We have accomplished the mission."

Starting January 17th, 1991, the international coalition back-then lead by the United States launched an aerial campaign dropping over 88 tons of bombs destroying Iraqi military infrastructure, targets and Scud missile launchers. More than 900,000 troops participated in Operation Desert Storm that continued two days after announcing Kuwait's free on the February 26th ending the around seven-month occupation. — KUNA



Gulf War veteran Cee Freeman's brigade in 1991.



WASHINGTON: Gulf War veterans Scott Stump, Kent Shively and Cee Freeman. —KUNA

SPEAKER MEETS YAZIDI SURVIVOR OF IS ATTACKS

KUWAIT: Parliament Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem met yesterday with a Yazidi girl who has survived aggressions by the so-called Islamic State (IS) in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, where she had spent months in captivity. Nadia Murad, who is on a visit to Kuwait at the invitation of Ghanem, gave the Parliament Speaker the minutia of the adversity she and her ethnic community

had to endure at the hands of IS in the city of Sinjar, which had fallen under IS' control. Ghanem extolled Murad's valiancy, vowing that the Arab Inter-parliamentary Union (AIPU) would vigorously pursue the issue. Murad had recently visited the United Nations (UN) and Egypt as part of efforts to shed light on female detainees held captive by IS. — KUNA



Fouzi Al-Sager



Eid Al-Otaibi.—Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

CANDIDATES FOR BY-ELECTIONS IN 3RD CONSTITUENCY REACH 30

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The total number of candidates running for by-elections in the third constituency rose to 30, while no female candidate has yet registered. Speaking after filing his nomination, candidate Abdullah Al-Kandari said that there was fierce competition in the constituency. He also slammed talking about the short period remaining in the current parliament's tenure, noting that a year has 365 days and that much could be done once lawmakers pinpointed citizens' concerns and needs.

Candidate Fouzi Al-Sager stressed that his main concern if he makes it to the parliament would be domestic stability because development basically depends on security. Candidate Faisal Al-Saleel said that his electoral program mainly focuses on supporting security forces in view of the threats surrounding Kuwait and endangering national identity and loyalty to the nation. He added that he would also focus on issues like disabled rights, educational development, improving health services and activating youth roles.

Candidate Eid Al-Otaibi said that his electoral program would focus on three main issues - decent dialogue, moderation and development. Candidate Mezyad

Al-Maasherji stressed that Kuwait was going through a new era that calls for more work, accomplishments and letting bygones be bygones. "We need to have youth play more significant roles in decision-making," he underlined.

Candidate Essa Abdullah said that he would focus on housing and health services. Candidate Fuhaid Al-Ajmi said that he would focus on serving citizens, education, health, housing and women's causes.

The Interior Ministry's Directorate of Elections Affairs had announced yesterday that nine more Kuwaitis have registered to run for by-elections in the third constituency. The decision to accept more candidacy requests is in line with Law 112 of the year 2016, issued by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Director General of Election Affairs Salah Al-Shatti told KUNA.

Candidacy requests will be accepted until January 22, Shatti announced. Moreover, on January 12, Parliament Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem has declared vacant, the seat of deceased MP Nabil Al-Fadhli. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah has been notified to ensure proper action in line with constitutional law.