

## Local

# Parliament Speaker back home after concluding official visit to Azerbaijan

## Ghanem met Azeri president, attended 100th anniversary celebration



**BAKU:** Kuwaiti Parliament Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem delivers a speech during a ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of the Azerbaijani parliament. — KUNA



**National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets with his Azerbaijani counterpart Ogtay Asadov.**



**National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev.**

**KUWAIT:** National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem returned home yesterday following a three-day official visit to Azerbaijan. Ghanem was received by Information Minister and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammed Al-Jabri, National Assembly supervisor Naif Al-Mirdas and Parliament Secretary General Allam Al-Kanderi. Al-Ghanem, whose entourage included MPs Dr Mohammad Al-Huwailah and Abdullah Nasser Al-Dosari in addition to Kuwait's International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) Chairman Dr Abdullah Al-Maatouq, attended the 100th anniversary of the founding of Azerbaijan parliament.

### Stronger ties

Ghanem said on Friday that although Kuwait and Azerbaijan already have strong bilateral ties, there was more room to bolster relations between the two nations. Ghanem's statement came during a celebration marking the 100 anniversary of the Azerbaijani parliament, where he was invited to deliver his speech by Azeri parliament Speaker Ogtay Asadov. Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev attended the ceremony.

"Azerbaijan is an important country with an extraordinary location and it is on the verge of achieving its goals on the cultural and economic scales," Ghanem said in his speech. "The fact that more than 20,000 Kuwaitis have visited Azerbaijan is relieving, and we seek to double those numbers to raise the commercial and cultural cooperation

between the two countries in addition to opening new horizons for youth in the field of sports as well," Ghanem added.

"We will not forget Azerbaijan's stand towards us 28 years ago when Iraq invaded Kuwait, and its support whenever we needed assistance especially the last time when Azerbaijan voted for Kuwait for the membership of



## Kuwait, Azerbaijan strive for stronger ties

the United Nations Security Council," Ghanem continued. "I say to my Friend Ogtay Asadov that we hope to see you in Kuwait soon, and to consider my speech as an invitation for you to visit us anytime you find convenient," Ghanem added.

### Parliamentary relations

Ghanem and his Azerbaijani counterpart held broad

talks on boosting parliamentary ties, in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku. The meeting stressed the depth of relations between the two nations, Al-Ghanem told reporters in remarks after the talks. He stated that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah had previously decorated the Azerbaijani President with the 'Mubarak Al-Kabeer' medal, one of Kuwait's highest decorations, and the Azerbaijani President decorated His Highness the Amir with the supreme medal in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

"During the talks, we touched upon means of strengthening bilateral relations amongst parliamentarians," Ghanem told reporters. The two sides agreed on coordination regarding several common issues in the upcoming international arenas, he noted. There would be an important meeting in Antalya city on October 8 between the Asian and European parliaments, he revealed. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference will be held in mid-October, he pointed out, referring that it will include many issues and files, most of which have been agreed upon. There will be great coordination between the Arab group and the group of countries surrounding Azerbaijan, he stressed. He affirmed his keenness that the Kuwaiti and Azerbaijani parliaments will be a link between the two groups.

Meanwhile, MP Huwaila said that Kuwait and Azerbaijan have distinguished bilateral ties. He emphasized that the parliamentary diplomacy seeks to enhance rela-

tion between the Kuwaiti and Azerbaijani legislatures. Asadov and the Kuwaiti-Azerbaijani friendship committee will visit the State of Kuwait soon, he said, according to Parliament's news network 'Al-Dostur'. Kuwait's Ambassador to Azerbaijan Saud Al-Roumi said that the meeting was good, and regional and international issues were discussed, according to the network. He described Ghanem's visit to Azerbaijan as 'successful' on both political and diplomatic levels.

### Speaker meets Azerbaijan's President

Ghanem had also met on Friday with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev. "I conveyed to President Ilham Aliyev the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his wishes for Azerbaijan's success and progress," Ghanem said in a press statement after the meeting. Ghanem added, "I have learned from his Excellency his keenness to strengthen the Kuwaiti-Azerbaijani relations and his desire to take them to greater horizons."

Ghanem went on to say "I have assured President Aliyev of keenness of His Highness the Amir on continuing cooperation and coordination relations between Kuwait and Azerbaijan, both in terms of bilateral aspect or in terms of coordination with regard to dealing with regional and international files."

### News in brief

#### Amir sends condolences to Vietnam

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent yesterday a cable of condolences to the Vice President of Vietnam Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh, in which His Highness expressed his deepest sorrow and condolences over the passing of the Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. — KUNA

#### ICJ President to visit Kuwait

**BRUSSEL:** The Legal Counselor at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and official at the Kuwaiti embassy in the Netherlands Tareq Al-Shimaimri said yesterday that Kuwait was preparing for an upcoming visit by Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf, a Somali international lawyer and President of ICJ, to the country. Both sides discussed ways to enhance cooperation between Kuwait and ICJ as well as preparations for the upcoming visit. Shimaimri said after his meeting with the ICJ President at the Peace Palace in The Hague. — KUNA

#### Youth Council soon

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri said yesterday that a youth council will be launched soon which will be run by youths and will attempt to improve their partnership with government and civil society organizations, including the private sector. In a press release, Jabri said the council will include one of the best youths in Kuwait, and their age will be between 18 to 34 years. The council will tackle issues related to youth, issues that directly affects those youths, including proposed solutions for various problems based on solid scientific methods. Al-Jabri added. The minister noted that the council will also present proposals on policies and planned strategies related to youth affairs and ways to communicate with government apparatus, civil society organizations and the private sector. Jabri also said that the council will also include youths with disabilities due to being a critical and vital part of society. — KUNA

#### Equinox on Sept 27

**KUWAIT:** Equinox, the event where the durations of daytime and nighttime are equal, is expected to occur globally today, said Kuwaiti astronomer and historian Adel Al-Sadoun. He added that in Kuwait, the equinox would be on September 27, when sunrise is expected at 05:39 am, while sunset follows 12 hours later. The equinox is the point at which the center of the visible sun is directly above the equator, it occurs twice each year around 20 March and 22-23 September. — KUNA

## PM heads Kuwait's delegation to UNGA session

**NEW YORK:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah will represent His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly where he will deliver the speech of Kuwait on September 26, 2018.

The Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi said that there will be several events on the sidelines of the high-level week and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah will hold bilateral meetings with top UN officials.

Otaibi noted that there will be many other different meetings Kuwait will participate at as a member of the Security

Council for this year, where the Security Council will hold two meetings in September under the leadership of the US, one led by US President Donald Trump and the other by US State Secretary.

The Kuwaiti delegation will also take part in discussing the Syrian and Yemeni crises and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees' (UNRWA) financial situation, Otaibi said. The 73rd session of the UN General Assembly will discuss several cases this year such as economic growth and strengthening the role of peacekeeping operations, human rights, Africa's development, the fight against terrorism and different other important topics.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled departed on Friday to New York to participate as part of the Kuwaiti delegation in the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly. The Kuwaiti delegation accompanied him included Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait's ambassador to the US, Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohamad Al-Sabah, the Assistant Minister for the office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Nasser Hajji Al-

## Kuwait involved in 10 projects with IAEA

**VIENNA:** A Kuwaiti official has unveiled her country's involvement in 10 projects with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the years 2018-2019. The Director General of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) Dr Samira Omar gave a statement on the sidelines of the 62nd IAEA General Conference.

Dr Samira assured Kuwait's continued efforts to strengthen cooperation with the IAEA in all fields relating to the peaceful application of science and nuclear technology. This cooperation has played a central role in maintaining a strong relationship with the agency on the administrative and strategic levels, she said. She pointed out advancements in proposals for hosting regional centers in Kuwait, like the subsequent radiation doses measurement center presented on by the protective radiation department in the Health Ministry, and the center for nuclear medicine and medical physics by the fight against cancer center in Kuwait and the Hydro isotopes center embarked on by the KISR.

The Kuwaiti delegate participated in a conference of the regional agreement for the Arab states in Asia on Eurasian research and development in the field of nuclear sciences on the sidelines of the IAEA's conference. A cooperative project has been agreed on for nuclear energy bodies of Eurasia, which was put forth by Kuwait related to the studies on dust and sludge and their radioactive components with atomic methods, she noted. She added, the agency's program of technical cooperation helps support in the efforts to build up human capacity and institutions in order to use nuclear technology safely and undertake the local needs in the national

social and economic development, and contribute to solving worldwide cases. As part of the technical cooperation program, the KISR is in constant contact with the agency to support programs presented by other agencies in Kuwait, which are related to nuclear safety, security and safeguards that are in the interests of Kuwait. Dr Samira also mentioned that the current programs have a high achievement ratio, which has won the admiration and praise of the Technical Cooperation Department's management, pointing to the 2018-2019 specialized budget for the Kuwaiti programs of EUR 600,000 (KD 215,000 approximately).

### Implemented programs

On the currently implemented program, she clarified that the presently implemented programs are the application of nuclear techniques to improve water production and efficiency to feed fodder crops and the application of genetic mutation events to improve barley yield in harsh environmental conditions in addition to developing the dosimetry laboratory for patients in nuclear medicine project. Dr Samira also mentioned the additional programs like the Comprehensive nuclear medicine education program, the study of carbon acidification and transfer in marine waters, groundwater management project, sub-surface groundwater assessment project, project for monitoring harmful viral reproduction, and a project for the establishment of the national laboratory for measurement of radiation doses and development of national analytical capabilities for the monitoring of radiation and environmental activity. On the five projects presented by Kuwait to the IAEA, she clarified that they are dispersed among all bodies and institutions of the country, which are the development of nuclear techniques in the petroleum industry, radioactive waste management, reducing the radiation risks of atomic medicine workers, improving production and efficiency of chemical fertilizer for fodders crops, and the second stage of applying genetic mutation events to strengthen the barley harvest in harsh environments. She also added the suggestions for five additional projects presented by Kuwait for



**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah departs to New York to participate in the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly. — KUNA

Mezsysan, assistant Foreign Minister for GCC affairs. The delegation also includes Ambassador Otaibi, Faisal Ibrahim Al-Houli, Kuwait's Consul General in Los Angeles, and Nasser Abdullah Al-Hain, Assistant Foreign Minister for international organizations. On the departure, Ambassador

Dhari Al-Ajran, the Assistant Foreign Minister for Ceremonial affairs along with Ambassador Saleh Salem Al-Logani, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for the office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign affairs were at the airport bidding farewell. — KUNA



**Dr Samira Omar**

the years 2020-2022, are currently under development with the help of the agency's experts. She praised the efforts of the Kuwaiti ambassador to Austria and permanent representative of the state to international organizations Sadeq Marafie who lead the Kuwaiti delegation in this five-day conference, all present with the commission, and the embassy's staff in a consolidation of cooperation with the IAEA.

### Obligations fulfilled

Meanwhile, Kuwait-IAEA liaison officer Dr Nader Al-Awadhi said yesterday that Kuwait has fulfilled its obligations to the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Convention on Nuclear Safety. Speaking on the sideline of his participation in the 62nd IAEA General Conference, Dr Awadhi said that Kuwait's national report on nuclear safety was in compliance with IAEA's standards.

The national Kuwait plan within nuclear safety focused on development of institutional, human, and technical resources to monitor and secure radioactive materials, safeguarding it against mal-use and illicit trading. Kuwait and the IAEA are looking into means to further bolster the Kuwaiti national nuclear safety plan, training various institutes and ministries in the GCC country to implement nuclear safety procedures, said Awadhi who praised the current level of cooperation between the two sides. He indicated that the two entities did meet recently to focus on the Kuwaiti plans and programs and they agreed to hold various activities within this frame in Kuwait and elsewhere. The 62nd IAEA General Conference concluded recently in Vienna, adopting several resolutions to bolster cooperation amongst the agency's members and enhancing global nuclear security and safety measures. — KUNA