

Local

Kuwait Amir's envoy meets global officials on sidelines of Baku summit



BAKU: Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah meets with Algerian Interim President Abdelkader Bensalah. — KUNA Photos



Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah meets with Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad Al-Maliki.



Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah meets with Yemen's Foreign Minister Mohammad Al-Hadhrani.

BAKU: Representing His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, met Algerian Interim President Abdelkader Bensalah in Baku, Azerbaijan yesterday. During the meeting, which was held on sidelines of the 18th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit, both sides addressed distinguished relations between both friendly countries, ways of further developing them in various domains and recent regional developments. In the meantime, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled met with Yemen's Foreign Minister Mohammad Al-Hadhrani, where the two sides discussed brotherly ties between the two friendly countries. In addition, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled met yesterday with Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad Al-Maliki. During the meeting, both ministers discussed ways

of backing the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in relieving refugees' woes and discussed latest regional and international developments. Furthermore, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled met with President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani on Friday. The two discussed issues pertaining to the bolstering of bilateral relations as well as the latest developments within the region and the world. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled also met Mauritanian Foreign Minister Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, and both ministers addressed ways of promoting bilateral cooperation in various domains and the latest regional and international developments. Meanwhile, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled met Friday with Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Al-Hakim. Both ministers discussed distinguished relations between Kuwait and Iraq and ways of further devel-

oping them in various domains. Both sides also exchanged views on a host of issues and subjects that concern both Arab neighbors. On Friday as well, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled met Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, and both ministers addressed distinguished relations between both friendly countries and ways of further developing them in various domains. The two ministers also considered the latest regional and international developments. Earlier, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled met Azeri Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov, and both ministers addressed distinguished relations between both friendly countries and ways of further developing them in various domains. The Kuwaiti minister thanked his Azeri counterpart for hospitality and the distinguished organizing of the 18th NAM summit held in Baku. The Azeri minister meanwhile appre-



Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah meets with President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani.

ciated Kuwait's high-level participation in the gathering. Present at the meetings were Kuwaiti Ambassador to Azerbaijan Saud Al-Roumi, Deputy Assistant Minister for the

Affairs of Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's Office Ambassador Saleh Al-Lougani, and several other senior officials of the Foreign Ministry. — KUNA

Kuwait's ambassador to UK underlines national unity focus

LONDON: Kuwait's Ambassador to the UK Khaled Al-Duwaisan has underlined the importance of focusing on national interest and avoiding engaging in matters that provoke sectarian and tribal intolerance, instead committing to national unity. In a speech at the opening of the 55th annual conference of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students, the UK branch, Duwaisan said Kuwaitis have values of tolerance, coexistence and solidarity inherited from their parents and grandparents who have made great sacrifices to keep Kuwait free from danger. Kuwait has recently celebrated the return of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to his homeland, which was organized by Kuwaitis, he said.



Khaled Al-Duwaisan

Duwaisan pointed out to His Highness the Amir's protocol meeting with members of the parliament, which he stressed on the need to pay attention to regional situations and external dangers, along with exercising responsibility by learning about the countries of the region. Duwaisan urged the Kuwaiti students in the UK to work hard in their education to gain excellent qualifications, which will enable them upon their return to the country to contribute to the development plan and implement Kuwait's 2035 vision. The UK is one of the most prominent destinations for numerous students because of the reputation of universities and colleges for being advanced, which raised students' awareness in taking responsibility towards representing Kuwait, he pointed out.

Meanwhile, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Kuwaiti telecommunication company Zain Eman Al-Roudhan said in her speech that Zain will ensure the restoration and renovation of the headquarters of the Students' Union located in the core of London, opening soon. Zain's support for restoring the Students' Union building is a simple contribution towards the students, she said, noting that social contribution is vital part of the company's

work. Headquarters of the Students' Union is an official place for gathering members and a key meeting point for students studying in all regions of the UK, in which they will host huge gatherings, meetings and various student activities throughout the year, she added. The headquarters also occupies a special place for each Kuwaiti because it was the headquarters of the Free Kuwait Campaign during the days of the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and from which began the marches condemning the invasion inside the UK, she explained.

The private sector has a prominent role in supporting the educational system in the country, along with the state institutions concerned with education, Roudhan stressed. Zain's strategy is based on innovation, creativity and empowering young entrepreneurs, which is a dominant feature in their programs for the areas of sustainability, she noted. Preparing and qualifying young people to meet the challenges of the new millennium is an important step for them in empowering and pushing them towards new areas of innovation and creativity, especially as they are in dire need to develop the skills of children to create more opportunities amidst social and economic challenges. — KUNA

Ministry of Electricity improves in Ease of Doing Business index

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Electricity and Water improved its ranking by the criterion of access to electricity within the index (ease of doing business 2020) issued by the World Bank Group (WBG), a senior government official said yesterday. This improvement came after the ministry was ranked 66th out of 190 countries that entered the Business 2020 report, with a progression of 29 ranks for 2019, where it was 95th at the time and recorded a balance of 81.9 percent. The 2020 index is a notable increase of 10.1 points compared to last year, Kuwaiti Minister of Oil and Electricity and Water Dr Khaled Al-Fadhel said.

The minister noted that this improvement was the result of reducing the number of procedures related to the delivery

of electricity by 29 percent as stated in the report of the World Bank on (Ease of doing Business 2020) compared with the number of procedures in the report 2019. He stressed that the ministry has progressed through the concerted efforts of its employees to work to facilitate the procedures of access to electricity and take the necessary adjustments through re-engineering work procedures related to the delivery of electricity. Fadhel noted that this improvement in the standard of access to electricity with the improvement in the components and other criteria that are included in the ease of doing business index 2020, which covers the various phases of business for local institutions contributed to the advancement of Kuwait's position in the index. — KUNA

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