

Local

Deputy Amir receives top officials



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince receives His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh. — KUNA photos



HH the Deputy Amir receives Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem.



HH the Deputy Amir receives Oil Minister Dr Khaled Al-Fadhel.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem. His Highness the Deputy Amir also received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs as well as Acting Minister of Interior Anas Al-Saleh yesterday at Seif Palace. Minister of Oil, Electricity and Water Dr Khaled Al-Fadhel was also received by the Deputy Amir. HH met Al-Fadhel after the latter attended on the Crown Prince's behalf the opening ceremony of the 24th World Energy

Congress "Energy for Prosperity" held in Abu Dhabi from 9th to 12th of September. Minister Al-Fadhel briefed HH on the results and recommendations of the conference, recent developments in the global energy field, as part of the approach to face challenges and draw up a "roadmap for future generations." —KUNA

Indian minister holds talks with Kuwaiti ministers

By Sajeev K Peter

KUWAIT: India's Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs V Muraleedharan called on Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah yesterday. The minister discussed bilateral issues and other regional issues of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for Asia Affairs Ambassador Ali Al-Saeed, Deputy Foreign Minister for Bureau Affairs of the Deputy Foreign Minister Counselor Talal Al-Shatti, Indian Ambassador K Jeeva Sagar, along with officials accompanying the visiting Indian state minister, according to KUNA.

The Indian minister who arrived in Kuwait on Saturday on a two-day visit also met with the Minister of State for Economic Affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel. Addressing the Indian community during a community reception hosted by the Indian embassy at Millennium Hotel on Saturday, the minister said as the largest expatriate community in the region, Indians have represented their country very well in the Gulf. The minister said Kuwait has become an adopted home for more than 100,000 Indians. "As the largest expat community, the people and the government of the state of Kuwait have a special place in our hearts. No wonder, India's relations with Kuwait have transformed over the years to a multi-faceted partnership, encompassing the entire gamut of bilateral issues such as economy, energy, infrastructure, security, defense and education, among others," he said.

"However, our greatest strength has been and will be the 'great connect' that exists between our Kuwaiti brothers and sisters with us. We deeply value and cherish this relation and we should enhance it further," he said. The minister said the Narendra Modi government acknowledges the contribution being made by the non-resident Indian community and the positive image the community has built for India abroad.

"Over the last five years, the government has been seeking to reach out to the Indian diaspora. Recalling Prime Minister Modi's recent visit to Bahrain, he said it was the first-ever visit by an Indian prime minister to Bahrain. Muraleedharan said the Indian



KUWAIT: India's Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs V Muraleedharan meets Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah as Indian Ambassador Jeeva Sagar and other officials look on.



KUWAIT: Minister of State for Economic Affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel holds talks with India's Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan.

government has set an ambitious goal to transform India into \$5 trillion economy which is currently a \$2.82 trillion economy. He beckoned all Indians to join the government in transforming the country into a resurgent India.

Diaspora support

The India government has opened a one-stop resource center at Pravasi Center in New Delhi to help Indians overseas. It has also opened 300 new passport offices to make the processing of passports more easier and less cumbersome. The minister informed that the government will soon begin to issue Aadhaar cards to NRIs on their arrival in India. The minister said he is aware of the problems being faced by the Indian engineers in Kuwait as well as the issues of nurses. "We

are constantly pursuing the matter and we will continue to do so until the problems are resolved," he said.

Earlier, in his welcome remarks, Ambassador Jeeva Sagar underscored the deep-rooted bilateral relations between Kuwait and India saying, "We want to further expand and strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries through such high-level visits." He recalled the high-ranking visits of former External Affairs Minister late Sushma Swaraj, former ministers of state for External Affairs Dr V K Singh and M J Akbar to Kuwait in the last two years. The visiting minister interacted with the representatives of the Indian community members following during the reception. Muraleedharan wound up his two-day visit yesterday.

Parliament Speaker heads to Cairo for official visit

KUWAIT: Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem headed to Egypt yesterday on a two-day official visit. In a statement, "Al-Dostour" news network said the speaker would meet during his visit with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi and hold talks with President of the Egyptian Senate Dr Ali Abdelaal. At his departure, Al-Ghanem was seen off by

Deputy Speaker Issa Al-Kanderi, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Dr Fahad Al-Afasi, National Assembly Secretary General Allam Al-Kanderi and Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Tariq Al-Qoni.

In related news, Al-Ghanem sent cable of congratulations to President of the National Congress of Honduras, Mauricio Oliva Herrera, on the occasion of her country's national day. In a press statement, "Al-Dostour" news network said the parliament speaker Al-Ghanem sent a cable of congratulations to the head of the Nicaraguan National Assembly Gustavo Cortes on the same occasion. Al-Ghanem had also addressed a similar cable to President of the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala, Alvaro Arzu Escobar. — KUNA



Kuwaiti lawmaker calls for more cooperation amid 'trying times'

AMMAN: It is imperative to step up cooperation on the parliamentary sphere and beyond in order to cope with the pressing challenges facing the region, said a Kuwaiti lawmaker Dr Ouda Al-Ruwaie. The Kuwaiti MP's remarks came on the sidelines of talks involving parliamentary committees on legal affairs from across the wider Arab region, which mainly focus on internal organization.

The Kuwaiti delegation to the talks pitched several suggestions germane to the matter, which are pending further discussion and subsequent approval by the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), he revealed. On the purpose of the two-day talks, Al-Ruwaie said any amendments to existential legislation would be taken into consideration, in addition to any suggestions over establishing a common framework as part of

efforts to bring Arab parliaments closer together.

On whether the talks would cover the Palestinian cause in the midst of "Israel's latest transgressions," he said such atrocities on Israel's part could only cease when Arab nations "take a united stand." Expressing hope that the talks would yield fruitful results, Jordanian lawmaker Mustafa Yaghi told KUNA that such gatherings bode well for parliaments across the Arab region.

On the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, he said the issue is "entrenched in the minds of all Arabs," underlining the Arab world's vehement condemnation of "Israel's violent tendencies." The AIPU's internal organization is in need of a major overhaul, according to the bloc's secretary general Fayez Al-Shawabka, who said he was impressed with the turnout for the talks. — KUNA



AMMAN: The Kuwaiti delegation at the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union's meeting.

FM affirms rejection of Israel's actions

JEDDAH: Kuwait Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday affirmed Kuwait's rejection in the strongest possible terms to the provocative statements and practices by the "Israeli authority that has been established upon occupation due to its settlement and expansionist nature." The Kuwaiti minister was addressing the extraordinary ministerial meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for discussing the declaration by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu about his intention to annex territories in the occupied West Bank if he wins forthcoming elections.

The Israeli authority is seeking to alter historic, demographic and legal status of the State of Palestine including the holy Jerusalem, he said, affirming that such an approach is tantamount to flagrant violation and dangerous offensive on the rights and potentials of the Palestinian people. Moreover, they are designed to undermine and threaten international efforts aimed at establishing just and comprehensive peace in



JEDDAH: Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah during the OIC extraordinary ministerial meeting. — KUNA

the Middle East. He also affirmed Kuwait's condemnation of the Israeli attacks and violent acts against civilians, namely recurring raids and air strikes on posts in north and center of Gaza Strip, targeting the unarmed Palestinian people.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's delegation consists of Assistant Foreign Minister for the Affairs of the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister's office Dr Ahmad Nasser

Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Affairs Minister Plenipotentiary Nasser Al-Hayen, Kuwaiti Consul in Jeddah and Permanent Representative at OIC Wael Al-Enezi, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled was received by the Consul General of the State of Kuwait in Jeddah, Permanent Representative at OIC Wael Al-Enezi, and members of the Kuwaiti Consulate in Jeddah. — KUNA