

Local

Kuwait renews Arabs' commitment to Libya's unity: Foreign Minister

'Arabs reject external interference into Libya's affairs'

PARIS: Kuwait, as head of the Arab League Council for the 156th session, renewed the Arabs' commitment to Libya's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah said on Friday. This came during Sheikh Ahmad's speech at the international conference on backing Libya held in the French capital, Paris. He said that the Arabs reject all kinds of external interference into Libya's affairs, affirming the commitment of the Arab League to continuing fully support to Libya's presidential council and the government of national unity to help them implement the roadmap hold presidential and parliamentary elections as planned on December 24, 2021. They also support the outcomes of the Skhirat Agreement and Libya's stability initiative to implement the Security Council Resolutions 2510, 2570, 2571 and the results of the Berlin 1 and Berlin 2 conferences, he added.

He noted, "We welcome, in this context, Libyan High Elections Commission's announcement of opening the door for presidential and parliamentary elections to hold them as planned". The conference comes in continuation of the international efforts aiming to back Libya and reiterate commitment of the international community towards Libya to achieve its security and stability, he said. The inter-

national community renewed its full commitment to supporting everything that would lead to Libya's security and stability, he pointed out. "We followed with great attention the positive developments made over the past period that included the ceasefire, the unification of military and security institutions and others," he said.

In this context, Kuwait has lauded efforts, supported by the international community and made by brothers in Libya, aiming to end the split of institutions that threatens Libya's stability and its neighbors for more than a decade, he stated. "We extolled results of the joint military committee (5+5) held in Cairo earlier this month on establishing a communication and coordination mechanism to support the implementation of an action plan of the withdrawal of mercenaries, and foreign fighters and forces from Libya in a balanced gradual process," he said.

He expressed hope that security, prosperity and peace would prevail in Libya to meet aspirations of Libyans. The Kuwaiti minister conveyed greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah who wished a successful conference. He expressed appreciation to the French President Emanuel Macron and his people for the reception, hospitality and distinguished preparation for the conference. — KUNA



PARIS: Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah is seen in a group photo with world leaders at the international conference on backing Libya, held in Paris, France. — KUNA

First Kuwait PPP conference kicks off virtually tomorrow

KUWAIT: The proceedings and the accompanying exhibition of the '1st Kuwait PPP Conference' commence virtually tomorrow. "We are pleased that the efforts of NoufEXPO and the KFECH brought us successfully to commencement of the conference, which kicks off tomorrow, Monday and continues until Tuesday. The PPPKW will discuss issues related to the various aspects of public-private partnership projects," said Badr Al-Salman, President of the Kuwait Engineering Offices and Consultant Houses.

High-level sponsorship

Salman added, "On this occasion, we extend our gratitude and appreciation to the conference's patron, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait. We are also pleased to host Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah,

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, representing His Highness at the opening ceremony. We extend our sincere thanks for his support for the conference. It is also our pleasure that Dr Rana Al-Fares, Minister of Public Works, Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology, will share her opening keynote with the audience."

Conference proceedings

Speaking about the Conference proceedings, Salman said that the conference hosts speakers in various legislative, legal, financial, planning, and implementation aspects of partnership projects. In addition, PPPKW will discuss bidding mechanisms, dispute resolution methods and procedures, and transparency requirements. The conference will host many global, regional, and local leaders of partnership organizations, including the United Nations and institutions involved in implementing partnership projects. PPPKW represents a significant opportunity to bring together regulatory bodies, government institutions, and private sector institutions to contribute and develop an optimum road map towards implementing the new Kuwait Vision 2035.

Invitation specialists

Salman also invited academics and specialists to share

proposals or summaries of their research (up to two pages) related to partnership projects with the PPPKW's Scientific Committee on info@noufexpo.com.kw. Their input will help the Committee formulate the final conference's recommendations, which will be presented to related higher authorities.

Acknowledgment message

At the end of his statement, Salman thanked all the institutions that contributed to the conference: sponsors, government agencies, private sector organizations, speakers, and guests. In particular, he noted the sponsors: the Strategic Sponsors Burgan Bank and Kuwait Finance House (KFH), The Platinum Sponsors SSH and Ahmadiyah Contracting and Trading Co., the Gold Sponsors Boubyan Bank, Health Assurance Hospitals Company (DHAMAN), and Alghanim International, and the Silver Sponsor Gulf Consult. A thanks message also went to the participating organization in Kuwait: the Ministry of Public Works, the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, Kuwait



Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah



Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah



Badr Al-Salman

Municipality, and Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP). Salman also sent a gratitude message to the international, regional, and local specialists who shared extensive expertise during the event and all participants and attendees through cyberspace from inside and outside Kuwait. Finally, he thanked Al-Hamad Legal Group - PPPKW Knowledge Partner, Al-Anba Newspaper - the exclusive media sponsor, and the organizing teams from NoufEXPO and KFECH. Salman invited those wishing to participate and attend the conference to register via this link <https://events.meetworld.com/pro/login/97950651>.

5 protesters killed in Sudan...

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Madani, as well as in the states of Kassala and North Kordofan, witnesses said. "The military should not have anything to do with politics, they should safeguard the constitution which Burhan himself has turned against," said protester Ahmed Abdelrahman in Khartoum.

The military's Oct 25 takeover drew widespread international condemnation, as did a deadly crackdown on demonstrators demanding it restore Sudan's democratic transition. Any hopes the demonstrators had that the military would back down were dashed on Thursday, when Burhan named himself as the head

of a new ruling Sovereign Council that excludes the country's main civilian bloc, triggering more condemnation from the West.

The protests occurred despite the heavy presence of military, police and paramilitary forces in Khartoum, where bridges connecting the capital to neighboring cities were sealed off. The security forces also blocked roads in the capital leading to the army headquarters, the site of a 2019 mass sit-in that led to the ouster of autocrat Omar Al-Bashir.

Information Minister Hamza Baloul, who was briefly detained in the military takeover, took part in yesterday's protests in Khartoum. "The Sudanese people have decided to create a civilian nation and there is no will stronger than that of the Sudanese people's," he said in a video posted online, urging them to press on with "peaceful demonstrations until the fall" of the coup leaders.

Demonstrations were also organized elsewhere around the world. — AFP

decades. "The number of cancer cases has shot up." Even as the smell of tear gas dissipates, the stench of refuse still hangs over the town of 40,000. "During the summer and throughout the year, the mosquitos and the disgusting smell never leave us. We can't even open our windows," demonstrator Adel Ben Faraj said. The dump, situated in the middle of a nature reserve, receives more than 620 tons of waste every day, according to Ines Labiadh of the FTDES rights group.

Ben Ammar said the site was a destination for "waste of all kinds, including medical waste, amputated body parts and even fetuses". The environment ministry said medical waste was treated before going into the dump. — AFP

Amadou Sebory Toure, head of the G77+China negotiating bloc, told AFP the proposal was "put forward by the entire developing world, representing six of every seven people on Earth". Alden Meyer, senior associate at climate policy think tank E3G, said loss and damage talks were a "cliffhanger moment" that could jeopardize the UK's goal of wrapping the summit up.

Developing nations say it is unfair for the summit to produce an unbalanced agreement heavily weighted toward "mitigation" - how economies can ditch fossil fuels by 2050. They want specific instruction on how they can meet the bill of decarbonizing while also adapting to the natural disasters supercharged by global warming.

Another key sticking point are rules governing carbon markets. Countries that benefited from a global framework predating Paris want to be able to carry over credits into the new deal. There is still disagreement over rules preventing double counting of carbon savings and to what extent the private sector is governed by guidelines agreed between nations. — AFP

Sara Duterte to run for...

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"This is to confirm that Mayor Inday Sara Duterte through her representative, has filed her Certificate of Candidacy for Vice President under Lakas-CMD (party)," her spokeswoman Christina Garcia Frasco said on Facebook, confirming the Commission on Elections' announcement. For months, Sara had insisted she wanted to serve another term as Davao City mayor in the family's southern bailiwick - the position her father held before he was elected president in 2016 - despite leading in surveys of voter preferences for the next president.

Speculation about her plans intensified this week after she suddenly withdrew from the mayoral contest. She also quit her regional party and joined Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, the national political party of her close ally and former president Gloria Arroyo. Sara's decision to run for vice president leaves Marcos Jr in a strong position in the presidential race.

Qatar to handle US interests...

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blown out of the country in the waning days of the US military involvement transited through Qatar.

"Let me again say how grateful we are for your leadership, your support on Afghanistan, but also to note that our partnership is much broader than that," Blinken told Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani. "Qatar is a crucial partner in promoting regional stability," he said, pointing as well to Qatari assistance to the Palestinians.

Blinken said that the State Department has reached out to all verified US citizens or permanent residents still in Afghanistan with offers to leave, arranging the departure of more than 580 people since the Taliban victory. But the issue remains politically sensitive and has become the top US priority with the Taliban, although Washington says that any future relationship also would depend on the Islamists addressing concerns on the treatment of women and the role of Al-Qaeda.

The US pointman on Afghanistan, Thomas West, met Thursday in Islamabad with Taliban foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi alongside representatives of Pakistan, Russia and China - three nations that have

Popularly known as Bongbong, Marcos Jr has been a front runner in voter polls, ahead of celebrity mayor Francisco Domagoso, boxing great Manny Pacquiao and incumbent Vice President Leni Robredo. In the Philippines, the president and vice president are elected separately. There was speculation Sara had sought to persuade Marcos Jr to slide back into the vice presidential race, as the two clans sought to form a formidable alliance.

The Marcos family stronghold stretches across the country's north and center, while the Dutertes enjoy widespread support in the south. But Marcos Jr, who was seen walking arm-in-arm with Sara at a wedding south of Manila on Thursday, told reporters, "I will continue with my plan. I entered this race to run for president". Political analyst Richard Heydarian told AFP: "Duterte running for the vice presidency... more or less seals Bongbong Marcos' position as the top contender, the candidate to beat in these elections."

The elder Duterte had previously said he would contest the vice presidency, before changing his mind and announcing plans to retire from politics. But yesterday, Duterte accompanied his close aide Senator Christopher Go to the Commission on Elections office. Go officially entered the presidential contest, after previously registering for the vice presidential race. — AFP

encouraged greater cooperation with the militants. A joint statement called for continued engagement to encourage "moderate and prudent policies".

Qatar has sent 15 charter flights into Afghanistan since the Taliban victory and, along with Turkey, has offered to repair the Kabul airport, which officials warn may soon be in complete disrepair. "They have a dire need for help, especially when the winter is coming," Al-Thani said of Afghanistan. "Abandoning Afghanistan would be a big mistake," he said. "We believe engaging with the Taliban, since they are in power right now, is very important for us to ensure that our facilitation for humanitarian assistance is moving smoothly."

Qatar took on the expanded role on Afghanistan just as Saudi Arabia, backed by other Gulf Arab monarchies including the United Arab Emirates, was trying to isolate it over concerns that included Doha's relationship with Iran. Despite Qatar's historic support of engagement, Al-Thani voiced objections to another initiative also opposed by the United States - normalizing relations with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan on Tuesday met in Damascus with Assad, part of the momentum to restore relations amid a growing conclusion that Assad has won after a brutal, decade-long civil war that has left nearly half a million people dead. "We hope that countries will be discouraged from taking further steps with the Syrian regime," Al-Thani said, while saying that others had the "sovereign right" to their own decisions. — AFP

Tunisia town revolts over...

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hectares (85 acres), has become a public health disaster since it opened in 2008. "Two years after it was opened, we started seeing an increase in allergies, respiratory diseases and miscarriages as a direct result of burning of trash and the release of toxic gases" from the site, said Bassem Ben Ammar, a doctor who has worked in the town for two

COP26 nations urged to adopt...

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Saleemul Huq, director of the ICCCAD climate NGO, said the British COP26 presidency had been "bullied" overnight into rejecting specific loss and damage funding. "The UK's words to the vulnerable countries have been proven to be totally unreliable," he said. The delegates in Glasgow are trying to hammer out how to implement the 2015 Paris Agreement goals to limit temperature rises to 1.5-2 degrees Celsius.

Countries already battered by climate disasters such as record-breaking drought, flooding and storms are demanding they be compensated separately for loss and damage, and have made it a red line issue. However, a proposal to include the creation of a dedicated facility to administer financial support was quashed by the United States and EU, delegates said.