

Human rights diwan chief meets World Bank representative

KUWAIT: Chairman of Kuwait's Diwan of Human Rights Jassem Al-Mubarak said his agency attaches significance to strategic partnerships with international sustainable development agencies to achieve the 'Kuwait Vision 2035' goals, create a sustainable living environment and brush up Kuwait's international status.

Following a meeting with the World Bank's Resident Representative in Kuwait Ghassan Khoja, Mubarak said in a press statement yesterday that they had reviewed the diwan's role in realizing the vision of partnership between Kuwait and the bank to revamp the business climate and workers' conditions in the country. He added that his organization had monitored and followed the efforts of concerned bodies in giving workers a midday break in open places during summer.

Furthermore, he maintained that the diwan had requested health and preventive measures for workers amid the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Meanwhile, the World Bank's official said the bank closely monitors labor laws and legislation adopted in Kuwait and attentively looks at the principles of equal opportunities and gender equity in both public and private sectors in the country. He hoped that obstacles the Kuwaiti labor market is facing would be removed. —KUNA

WHO commends Kuwait's backing to Lebanon

BEIRUT: Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus on Friday touted Kuwait as a strategic partner to Lebanon in the health sector, citing its unremitting assistance to Lebanon to overcome its crises. Speaking while visiting Beirut, he said the State of Kuwait has provided immediate support to Lebanon in a bid to ease out the ramifications of its crises, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. In this context, Ghebreyesus appreciated Kuwait Red Crescent Society for having offered \$500,000 for providing virus vaccines to Lebanese people, and Syrian and Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. He added that Kuwait had contributed to the restoration of a public medicine store and several hospitals that were affected by the 2020 Beirut Port explosion, and to supplying medical equipment and serums to 11 laboratories. The WHO chief noted that Kuwait's unyielding backing to the needy people worldwide comes at a time when everyone needs to help each other. He emphasized that the WHO and other donors were working hard to respond to crises like the refugee problem, the Coronavirus pandemic, Beirut Port blast and the economic crisis in Lebanon. Ghebreyesus pointed out that the organization has provided public hospitals in Lebanon with over 500 nurses to attend to patients languishing in intensive care units. —KUNA

GCC foreign ministers firmly back Palestine's right for statehood

JEDDAH: Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers stressed their countries' firm position toward Palestine's right to have its own free state, with 1967 borders and East Jerusalem as its capital. In the final statement for GCC ministerial meeting held in Riyadh on Thursday, Secretary General Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf said, the Palestinian issue comes on top of all priorities for Arabs and Muslims, demanding the right to return for Palestinian refugees, along with accepting the two-state solution to resume the peace process negotiation.

The GCC ministerial meeting, chaired by Bahrain's Foreign Minister Dr Abdullah Al-Zayani, condemned the Zionist ongoing violations of the international law towards Palestinians, calling on the international community to take a firm action against the Zionist cruelties, the statement added. The GCC agreed to form an international investigation committee, according to UN's Human Right council resolution on July 22, 2021, regarding violations committed by the Zionist entity against Palestinians, the statement said.

Peace in Afghanistan

Meanwhile, the GCC foreign ministers voiced backing to the peace process in Afghanistan and the vital role of some Gulf states in facilitating the evacuation operations carried out, along with the concerned countries, from that country. The conferees affirmed GCC solidarity with Afghan people, urging the international community to shoulder its responsibilities in providing humanitarian support to Afghanistan, the communique said. They also extolled Qatar's contribution to re-open-

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: This picture taken on September 15, 2021 from Kuwait City shows a view of the moon in its waxing gibbous phase. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat (To have your picture featured in the Kuwait Times' 'Photo of the Day' section, please send your high resolution, unedited photos to local@kuwaittimes.com, along with the full name and Instagram account, in addition to a description showing the picture's location and date taken)

Prime Minister leaves to attend UN General Assembly meeting

KUWAIT: The Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation left yesterday for New York to head Kuwait's delegation at the meetings of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. His Highness the Prime Minister was accompanied by a high-level delegation that includes Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, as well as several senior officials from the Diwan of His Highness the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

His Highness was bid farewell at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Nazaha (Integrity) Enhancement Abdullah Yusef Al-Roumi, Head of the Prime Minister's Diwan Abdulaziz Dakheel Al-Dakheel and a number of senior state officials. —KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah prepares to leave yesterday for New York where he is set to head Kuwait's delegation at the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. —KUNA

AUB concludes internship program for LOYAC students

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) concluded its summer internship program for LOYAC students for 2021, which is held annually in the bank's head office. The program includes a variety of specialized training and educational courses. AUB holds this program as part of its policy aimed at developing the skills of young and enhancing their expertise in the banking fields.

On this occasion, Naqeeb Amin, AUB's Human Resources General Manager said, "We have a close cooperation relationship with LOYAC, and in this context, we organized a summer internship program for LOYAC students, whereby we designed for them an intensive training program to help them gain practical experience by engaging in the actual environment of banking business and getting familiar with the work mechanism within the bank different departments. At the conclusion of the program, we grant certificates of appreciation to the students who exhibited commitment and willingness to learn and

ing Kabul airport. The council emphasized that the crisis in Afghanistan will be solved by the Afghans themselves. The ministers called on all countries to avoid interfering into Afghanistan's domestic affairs, stressing the importance of not using the country by any international terrorist group or exploiting its territories in smuggling drugs, according to the communique.

In the meantime, the ministers denounced the Houthi militia's ongoing drone and missile attacks on Saudi Arabia alongside attempts to disrupt maritime navigation off the Sea of Oman. The ministers particularly denounced the recent Iran-aligned Houthi attacks on the Saudi Arabia's Abha airport on August 30 and 31 as well as the Houthi targeting of residential areas in the eastern Saudi city of Dammam on September 4. They described the Houthi military escalation as a blatant violation of the international norms and laws.

The non-stop hostilities show Houthis' clear defiance of the international community and relevant international laws as well as their rejection of all international efforts to reach a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Yemen, the foreign minister suggested. They also urged the international community to shoulder its responsibility and take a decisive action towards the Houthi militia to stop the continued terrorist acts. The top diplomats expressed solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in face of all these threats and their countries' backing to all the measures the Kingdom takes to defend its security, stability, territories and people. They hailed the vigilance, high performance of Saudi Royal Air Defense Forces and the Saudi-Arab coalition to support legitimacy in Yemen and their role in intercepting and shooting down the drones and missiles fired by Houthis towards the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The ministers reiterated their condemnation of terrorism, extremism and violence in all forms and their determination to continue their effective role in the global coalition to defeat the so-called Islamic State group as well as their contributions to the regional and international endeavors to counter extremist groups and dry up their financial



KUWAIT: Naqeeb Amin and a group of HR employees during the LOYAC students' honoring.

work during the training course."

Naqeeb emphasized that summer internship programs are of great importance as they help develop the theoretical aspect delivered at universities through exercise and practical training, to enable students to better understand the nature of work in banking and financial sector.

Naqeeb added, "At AUB, we are committed to support youth through all means, within the framework our integrated training plan, which is concerned with training young national personnel and preparing them to hold specialized positions in banking business. The bank also

resources. They assailed the attack on an oil tanker off the Oman Sea coast on July 29, 2021, and the attempt to hijack another tanker near the coasts of the United Arab Emirates of Fujairah on August 3. The GCC ministers urged the international community to stop such acts and ensure unimpeded and safe navigation of commercial ships and oil tankers. They reaffirmed the GCC call for guaranteeing the safety of the international maritime movement and standing up against all attempts to disrupt navigation.

UAE islands

Furthermore, the GCC ministers reiterated firm opposition to Iran's continued occupation of three UAE islands. The final statement of the 149th session of the GCC foreign ministers' council renewed the GCC unwavering support to the UAE sovereignty over the three islands of Abu Musa, and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs. The UAE has unequivocal sovereignty over these islands, including their territorial waters, airspace and continental shelf, according to the statement. The council maintain its stance that the three islands are integral part of the UAE territories, and thereby deeming null and void any acts or practices by Iran on these islands, the statement stressed. It called on Iran to respond positively to the UAE endeavors to solve the dispute through direct negotiations or refer it to the International Court of Justice.

Regarding the relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, the council reminded of its previous resolutions and basic principles of neighborliness, mutual respect and non-interference in the domestic affairs of others. It also highlighted the need of resolving any differences through peaceful means and avoiding use of, or threatening to use, force, and rejecting all acts of terrorism or sectarianism, based on the UN Charter and international law. The statement expressed hope that the new President of Iran Ebrahim Raisi would play a positive role in alleviating the tension and building trust between the GCC states, on one hand, and his country on the other in keeping with the stances of the GCC of which Iran was informed.

aims through its prominent role in providing excellent training programs for young people, to maintain its position as a leading banking institution, where it managed to produce many distinguished banking personnel over the course of its years of work since its establishment."

It is worth noting that AUB launches several initiatives that spread banking knowledge among school and university students. The bank also seeks to interact with young national skilled and talented personnel, develop their knowledge, attract promising elements from them, and encourage them to join the bank's teamwork in the next few years.

It also voiced hope that the talks on Iran's nuclear program would tackle Iran's destabilizing role in the region and its sponsorship of terrorist and sectarian militias as well as the country's missile program, and the safety of international navigation and oil facilities. The ministerial meeting denounced Iran's failure to meet its nuclear obligations through accelerating uranium enrichment above the level needed for peaceful purposes. It urged Iran to back down from this move and cooperate fully with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Water security

On the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), the communique confirmed that water security of Egypt and Sudan is an integrated part of the Arab national security, rejecting any action or measure taken to negatively affect those countries' rights to the Nile River. The council renewed GCC support to all endeavors aiming to contribute to solving the dam's crisis, taking into consideration the interests of all parties. The communique further affirmed the importance of continuing talks amongst the three countries -Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia - to reach a fair and binding deal as soon as possible in accordance with the international laws and criteria.

In addition, the council showed GCC firm solidarity with Lebanese people to maintain Lebanon's security and stability amid these difficult exceptional conditions the country is going through. It called on Lebanese politicians to assume their responsibilities in restoring security, stability and development in Lebanon, and to cooperate with international organizations in carrying out required economic reforms.

On Libya's crisis, the ministerial meeting commended the efforts of the presidential council, the government of national unity and the joint military committee (5+5) in re-opening the coastal road between east and west of Libya. The conferees lauded endeavors of the Libyan political forum in ensuring the legal and constitutional frameworks and bases in preparation for holding the national polls due on December 24, the communique concluded. —KUNA