



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Canadian Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan. — KUNA photos



**His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with US Ambassador to Kuwait Douglas A Silliman.**

## CROWN PRINCE RECEIVES TOP OFFICIALS, AMBASSADORS



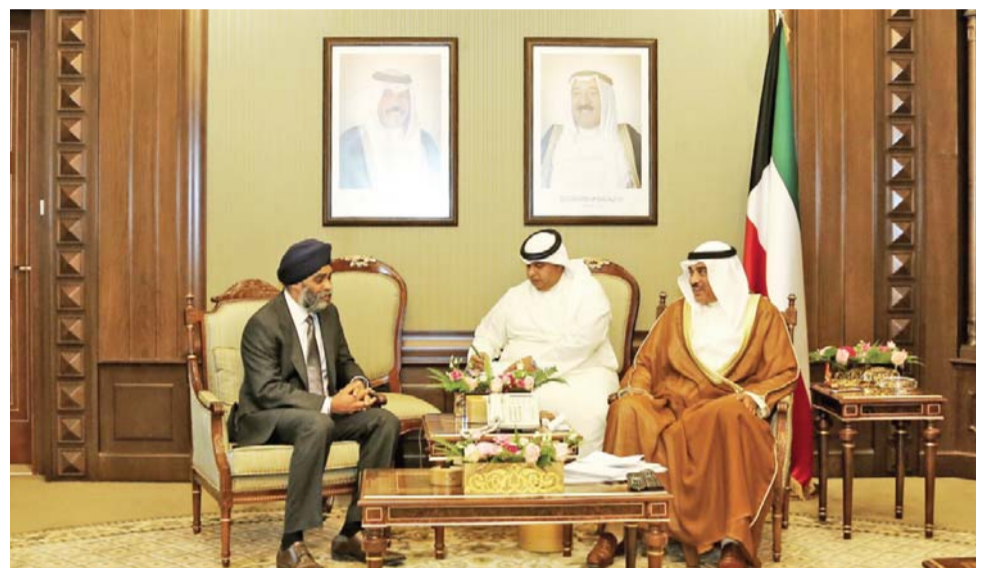
**His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Bulgarian ambassador in the country Alexandar Olshevski.**

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness also received Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister and acting Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah accompanied by visiting Canadian Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan and delegation accompanying him.

The meeting was attended by head of the protocol at the Diwan of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Army's Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Khuder. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled later met with the visiting Canadian Defense Minister and his delegation, in presence of Lt Gen Khuder.

Meanwhile, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf received US Ambassador to Kuwait Douglas A Silliman. His Highness also received the outgoing Bulgarian ambassador in the country Alexandar Olshevski. — KUNA



**Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Canadian Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan.**

## US ENVOY VISITS SHELTER, LAUDS KUWAIT FOR PROTECTING VULNERABLE WORKFORCE

KUWAIT NOW AT TIER 2 FROM TIER 3 IN PROTECTING EXPATS

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** The United States' Ambassador to Kuwait lauded the Kuwaiti government yesterday on its continuing efforts to protect the most vulnerable workers in Kuwait and combat human trafficking issues in the country. Speaking to reporters during a brief tour of the 'Expatriate Manpower Lodging Center' in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Douglas Silliman hailed Kuwait's efforts to protect the rights of expatriate workers and fight human trafficking.

Silliman noted the importance of this shelter for many workers, which ultimately helped resolve some issues. "I want to congratulate the government of Kuwait, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor and the leadership of the shelter's chairman Falah Al-Mutairi for operating this shelter to help the most vulnerable workforce in Kuwait," he said.

"Many people come to Kuwait from other countries hoping to improve their lives. Most of them have a good experience working with their employers, but there are people who are not lucky enough, so the shelter is a really good place for them. The shelter is clean, and they have done a very good job helping women with problems in Kuwait to resolve them and get back to their countries," he added.

Silliman noted that he was especially happy that the center provides medical and psychological care to expats, as well as suitable sleeping areas and means of entertainment. He said Kuwait has taken a huge step in moving from third to second place in the US' list of the top countries protecting expat workers' rights. "Kuwait was at Tier 3 since 2009 - the lowest status when it comes to the treatment of workers. In 2016, we raised it to Tier 2. This is in recognition of its effort made recently, most especially the practical steps taken to protect the most vulnerable workers. We have witnessed the progress so far," he noted.

### Domestic helpers

The envoy also applauded the recent laws issued with regards to domestic helpers. "It provides shelter and legal options for women. This shelter is one example of what the government can do to help this vulnerable population. New laws have been passed for domestic helpers to give them more rights - this is very positive," he said. He also urged the Kuwaiti government to implement the laws recently passed, including a new anti-trafficking law, with the help of the ministry of inter-



**United States' Ambassador to Kuwait Douglas Silliman tours the facility.**



**KUWAIT:** The Expatriate Manpower Lodging Center. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

or to enforce the law. "We have provided consultation and some training for their staff. This is just one priority in our policy, but the action must be from the Kuwaiti government," he concluded.

Mutairi said the shelter was established to host female workers and is the first of its kind

in the Middle East, with a capacity to receive 500 people. Kuwait is also planning on establishing a second shelter to host male workers, he added. Mutairi also noted that Kuwait has helped about 4,800 victims of human trafficking in cooperation with international humanitarian organizations and the UN.

## KRCS CONTINUES DISTRIBUTION OF AID TO DISPLACED SYRIANS IN LEBANON



**BEIRUT:** Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) continued yesterday distribution of aid to the displaced Syrian families in northern Lebanon. Head of the society's field team Yousef Al-Najjar said in a statement that food rations and detergents were distributed on some 250 displaced Syrian families in the towns of Manara, Khirbat Roha and the Western Bekaa valley in east Lebanon.

He stressed the commitment of KRCS to continue offering all sorts of help and assistance to the displaced Syrians in Lebanon and elsewhere, in addition to the host countries. He stressed keenness of the KRCS to deliver the aid by hand to the needy people in Syria, adding that the Syrians conveyed their thanks and gratitude to His Highness the Amir, government and people of Kuwait for all their help and assistance. — KUNA

