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CROWN PRINCE MEETS GENEVA MAYOR AND TOP OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace yesterday, Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah and visit-

ing Geneva Mayor Guillaume Barazzone and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was also attended by head of the protocol of the Diwan of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-

Humoud Al-Sabah and ambassadors of both countries. Mayor Barazzone arrived in Kuwait yesterday on a three-day official visit, in response to an invitation by Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud. Meanwhile, His Highness the

Crown Prince received Deputy Head of Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, as well as National Security Apparatus Chief Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah. —KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet's meeting yesterday. —KUNA

CABINET CONGRATULATES US PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP

PALESTINE THANKS KUWAIT FOR RECOGNIZING PASSPORT

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Cabinet yesterday congratulated US President-Elect Donald Trump on the win of the recent presidential race, hoping that Kuwaiti-US relations would be further promoted and developed during his term of office.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet voiced much appreciation to the Ministry of Information for its good efforts in covering the upcoming parliamentary elections due on November 26th. The cabinet made the appreciation during its customary weekly meeting held at Seif Palace under chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The cabinet hoped that the electoral process would be held in an atmosphere of fair competition among all hopefuls contesting the coming race, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Minister of

Justice and Acting Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said in a statement following the meeting. It, further, voiced confidence that the next parliamentary elections would come up with results that would serve national and public interests, he pointed out.

Reports

The cabinet, then, reviewed a recommendation by the economic committee on the State Audit Bureau's biannual report that includes remarks on state bodies' employment system. Also reviewed was another recommendation by the quarterly report on the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Development during the period from May 1 to September 9, 2016, together with the

fund's goals and challenges. Furthermore, the cabinet was apprised of recommendations pertinent to educational, youth and entrepreneurship reports.

In this regard, the cabinet asked the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs and the National Fund to set out a permanent and effective mechanism for cooperation between them with a view to promoting entrepreneurship in Kuwait, especially regarding the youth sector.

Palestinian passport

At the onset of the weekly meeting, the ministers were briefed on a letter addressed to His Highness the Amir from Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, thanking Kuwait for officially recognizing the Palestinian passport.

They also reviewed two letters sent to His Highness the Amir from Turkish

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, inviting His Highness the Amir to attend the 32nd session of the COMCEC due in Istanbul on November 21-24, and hailing bilateral relations between both friendly nations.

Afterwards, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah briefed the meeting on the recent visit to Kuwait by Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdulmalik Al-Mekhlafi, who appreciated Kuwait's historic role in achieving peace and stability and stopping bloodshed in Yemen.

At the Gulf level, the Kuwaiti cabinet expressed sincere congratulation to Omani Sultan Qaboos bin Said on the occasion of his country's National Day, and appreciated distinguished accomplishments made under his leadership in all fields and domains. —KUNA

KUWAIT-POLISH TIES TO DEEPEN AFTER SIGNING OF VISA AGREEMENT: EXPERT

BRUSSELS: A visa waiver agreement between Kuwait and Poland, signed in Warsaw last Thursday, will deepen ties further as both countries expecting business ties to grow, an expert in Arab-Polish ties said. Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah signed with Polish Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Joanna Wroncka, a reciprocal visa exemption agreement for diplomatic passports' holders.

Kuwait was the first Arab state in the Arabian Gulf region which had allowed Poland to open its mission when Warsaw was still under communist rule, Surrender Bhutani said in a statement by phone from the Polish capital Sunday.

"The relations between the two countries remained very cordial. Kuwait also gave scholarships to Polish students in the 1970s. Professor Jerzy Zdanowski of the Polish Academy of Sciences was one of the first students who studied Arabic in Kuwait. Today, Zdanowski is one of the finest Arabists of Poland," said Bhutani, who hails from India and is a visiting professor to Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw for the last 22 years.

"Since the beginning of the 21st century, Kuwait has also opened its diplomatic mission in Warsaw. Now Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE are the other Gulf states who have opened their diplomatic missions in Warsaw," said Bhutani who is a renowned scholar, poet and writer.

He was a Research Associate and in charge of the Middle East Division, at Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, from 1973 to 1978. He was Executive Director with a rank of an Ambassador at the Arab Cultural Centre, New Delhi, from 1979 to 1982. Bhutani has authored and edited many books including "Contemporary Gulf" published in New Delhi 1980, and The UN and the Arab-Israeli Conflict published in 1977. —KUNA



ABU DHABI: Kuwait's former Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah (center) participates in the first session of the Third Abu Dhabi Strategic Debate. —KUNA

GCC LEADS ARAB ACTION, SECURES ARAB INTERESTS: KUWAITI EX-FM

ABU DHABI: The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) bears the responsibility of heading the Arab joint action to secure the basic Arabs' interests, and leading them to safety, said Kuwait's former First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. The GCC has to coordinate with the other Arab countries that are still united to avoid further disintegration and collapse in the region, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Sabah said after taking part in the first session of the Third Abu Dhabi Strategic Debate. The session was themed 'the Gulf in a changing international and regional system.' He noted that the new year would see several "uncertain" changes and conditions whose repercussions, on the

international politics of the strategic arena.

Sheikh Mohammad Al-Sabah referred to the potential approach to be adopted by the new US president Donald Trump, and its impact on the European politics, as well as the effect of the Brexit on the political and economic situation of the continent, beside selections in France and Germany.

The Arab World is facing numerous challenges on the national level, besides the regional hazards in the Middle East, namely the foreign interference in the internal affairs of the GCC states, terrorism, and Israel, he said. Sheikh Mohammad Al-Sabah pointed to the negative impact on the Palestinians who have been suffering non-stop injustice and persecu-

tion amid the critical conditions of the Arab World. According to the former senior official, the GCC is the only regional entity that with has stood the 'Tsunami' of events in the region. He said that the Arab system is in need to be revamped after the changes that hit it.

Developments

Meanwhile, Chairperson of the UAE Policies Center Dr Ibtisam Al-Ketbi, told the session that the Third Abu Dhabi Strategic Debate provides a review of the regional and international developments, on the political-security, and the economic-development levels.

The GCC states have turned into a fulcrum and a regional and international active player, that some Arab countries of strategic weight,

rely on for dissolving their crises and restoring their stability. The conference that wraps up discussions on Monday, cover extensively the complex political and security issues in the region and the world in light of the new administration's potential shifts in foreign policy.

The ADSD has gained a reputation as a prestigious platform at the international level to discuss policy and strategy, geopolitical shifts, regional and global political ends, national security issues in the Arab world, as well as threats posed by an unprecedented pattern of terrorist and extremist groups. The objective of the conference is to provide a clear vision of future trends of the international system, and to address these challenges in their various forms. —KUNA

KUWAIT, US ENJOY SOLID TIES: INFO MINISTER

KUWAIT: Kuwait's ties with the United States have always been cordial and close, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said yesterday.

Sheikh Salman made these remarks when he met with the US's new Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman, as the talks centered on strategies to boost bilateral cooperation, particularly, efforts to fight extremism. Moreover, a statement by the Ministry of

Information noted that the ministry and the US embassy are collaborating on a number of programs in the works.

"Kuwait possesses all the attributes of a modern and democratic nation," the US Ambassador said. He also commended recent headway made in the country's media sector, attributing it to the efforts of Sheikh Salman. Elsewhere, Sheikh Salman also met with South Sudan's new Ambassador to Kuwait Barmina Rayak, where the two discussed bilateral ties in the youth, media and culture sectors. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah meets with the US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman. —KUNA