



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and other top state officials attend the closing ceremony of the Kuwait international Quran contest. —Amiri Diwan photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah poses after receiving an artwork presented to him as a memento.



A participant recites verses from the Holy Quran.



Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri delivers a speech.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah honors participants during the ceremony.

## AMIR ATTENDS, PATRONIZES KUWAIT INT'L QURAN CONTEST CEREMONY

### 125 PARTICIPANTS FROM 70 COUNTRIES 'GATHERED FOR THE LOVE OF THE HOLY QURAN'

KUWAIT: The closing ceremony of the Kuwait international Quran contest was held in Bayan Palace yesterday, with the attendance and patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Upon arrival, His Highness Sheikh Sabah was received by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs

Mohammad Al-Jabri and members of the contest's committee.

The ceremony was attended by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, President of the Supreme Judicial Council, head of the Court

of Cassation and Constitutional Court Justice Yousef Al-Mutawa'a, Acting National Assembly Speaker Essa Al-Kandari, President of the Supreme Judicial Council, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah,

Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and senior military officials.

In a speech at the event, head of the contest's judging panel Mohammad Mandakar thanked His Highness the Amir for patronizing the competition. He noted that Al-Sabah ruling family had

always supported spreading the teaching of Islam and Quran memorization throughout the years. Meanwhile, Minister Jabri said the contest brought together 125 participants from 70 countries, gathering for the love of the Holy Quran. He added that the competition saw a large media coverage with about five million viewers and another 14 million followers on the internet. —KUNA



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the visiting Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and trade Peter Szijjarto exchange one of three documents they signed yesterday. —KUNA



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah (right) speaks during a joint press conference with his German counterpart Sigmar Gabriel. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## KUWAIT, HUNGARY INK 3 COOPERATION MEMOS

### AMIR RECEIVES LETTER FROM HUNGARIAN PRESIDENT

KUWAIT: The State of Kuwait and Hungary inked yesterday documents stipulating organization of high-level bilateral consultations, cooperation in sports and education and sciences. The inking of the documents came after First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah hosted the visiting Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and trade Peter Szijjarto, holding official talks on cementing cooperation in key sectors, issues of joint concern as well as regional and international affairs.

The two sides during the concluded talks signed three documents; a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on holding bilateral consultations

between the State of Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commerce, another memo for cooperation in the sports sectors in addition to a program for educational and scientific cooperation between the Kuwaiti Ministry of Higher Education and the Hungarian Ministry of Human Resources for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019. Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled held a luncheon in honor of the guests at the Foreign Ministry headquarters. Senior ministry officials attended it.

Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, accompanied by Szijjarto. The Hungarian Minister

handed His Highness the Amir a letter from President of Hungary Janos Ader regarding bilateral relations. The letter also included an invitation for His Highness Sheikh Sabah to visit Hungary. The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah.

Later, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Szijjarto and his accompanying delegation, in the presence of Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled. The meeting was attended by head of His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan Sheikhha Etimad Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Ambassador of Kuwait to Hungary Dr Hamad Bu-Rahama. —KUNA

## GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAILS ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH KUWAIT

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The German foreign minister hailed long-standing and distinguished economic relations between Germany and Kuwait, adding that Germany would like to strengthen this successful relationship. "Kuwait is important for the Federal Republic of Germany," Sigmar Gabriel said during a joint press conference with his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah at the foreign ministry on Tuesday, stressing the importance of selecting Kuwait as the first leg of his trip to the Middle East.

On bilateral talks with Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, he said opinions were exchanged on many issues in the region. "We have common positions regarding the Syrian crisis in finding a peaceful solution and involving all parties to the conflict," he said, referring to Russia and the United States, as well as Gulf-Iran consultations.

He stressed the great role and efforts exerted by Kuwait on the Yemeni crisis. He said Germany feels responsible for providing support, which would boost international and regional efforts to resolve the problem. "If the countries of the world contribute as much as Kuwait's contribution towards humanitarian action, progress would be significant," Gabriel said.

He said Germany wants to contribute to strengthening security in Iraq by training security and police forces to achieve stability in liberated areas and rebuilding and maintaining Iraq's unity. He revealed that there would be a chance during the Gulf consultative summit in mid-May to discuss means of creating a platform for this dialogue.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled lauded the strategic relations with Germany that were established more than 50 years ago. He also expressed appreciation for the key role by Germany in helping

Kuwait achieve development. He said Germany is Kuwait's strong trading partner in the European Union, where the average trading volume between Germany and Kuwait is about \$1.5 billion annually, while Kuwaiti investments in Germany hit \$31.5 billion. He stressed that Kuwaitis are looking forward to boosting cooperation in all sectors.

"Germany provided big contributions to help Syrians during the three conferences hosted by Kuwait in 2013, 2014 and 2015, in addition to the London and Brussels conferences," he noted. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled praised the German role in finding peaceful solutions to several regional and international issues. On Iran, he said: "We and GCC countries are convinced that Iran is a key country in the region, and the existence of normal relations between Iran and GCC states would benefit our countries and the region generally."