



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Chief Justice of the Republic of Sudan and President of the national Supreme Court, Justice Haider Ahmed Dafalla.—KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Ahmad Abdulmohsen Al-Mulaifi.

AMIR MEETS SUDANESE CHIEF JUSTICE

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday Chairman of Kuwait's Supreme Judicial Council, the Cassation Court, and President of the Constitutional Court, Justice Yousef Jassem Al-Mutawaa and visiting Chief Justice of the Republic of Sudan and President of the national Supreme Court, Justice Haider Ahmed Dafalla. The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. He also received Ahmad Abdulmohsen Al-Mulaifi. Separately, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Chairman of the Municipal Council Mhalhel Nasser Al-Khaled. — KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Chairman of the Municipal Council Mhalhel Nasser Al-Khaled.



KUWAIT: Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah tours a photo exhibition held during the ceremony. —KUNA

KUWAIT RELEASES BOOK ON LIFE OF MOHAMMAD MARAFI



Abdulfattah Marafi speaks during the ceremony.

KUWAIT: Under patronage and attendance of Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah, a ceremony was held to release a book titled "a man of humanitarian trade and politics," in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the death of Mohammad Marafi, at Radisson Blu Hotel yesterday. During the ceremony, Sheikh Ali honored a number of humanitarian activists, followed by an award presented to Sheikh Ali himself.

The ceremony also involved a photo exhibition on Marafi's charitable work. In his speech at the event, Sheikh Ali said the deceased had exerted great efforts to serve his country and people. Meanwhile, Marafi's son Abdulfattah Marafi said the book showcases different aspects of his father's life and prominent humanitarian role. —KUNA

KUWAIT CONDEMNS TARGETING OF CIVILIANS, VITAL FACILITIES

NEW YORK: The State of Kuwait condemns all terror attacks that targeted civilians and vital facilities, said Kuwaiti permanent delegate to the UN headquarters in New York Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi late Monday. In a speech to a UNSC meeting on protecting facilities from terrorist attacks, the Ambassador said that it was a cowardice act to target facilities aimed at serving civilians and the general populace.

Kuwait have suffered from this act of terror that targeted a public facility, said Otaibi, pointing to the 2015 bombing of a mosque in his country. He also mentioned the Iraqi army's burning of Kuwaiti oil fields during the liberation of Kuwait in 1991, affirming that the Gulf country was well acquainted with such acts of terror.

Ambassador Otaibi said that UNSC resolutions regarding the protection of the innocent and vital facilities must be respected, affirming that this was an international obligation that should be carried out by all global players. He encouraged more cooperation amongst world intelligence, security, and military agencies to



Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi

defend of terrorism in all its forms, saying that such will ensure world peace.

The presence of the so-called Islamic State (IS), Al-Qaeda, and other terror groups required an intense collaboration between national security forces around the world to make sure that these organizations would not harm people, said the Ambassador who also called for partaking in reconstruction and peace efforts after terror attacks take place. —KUNA

STOLTENBERG WELCOMES OPENING OF REGIONAL CENTER IN KUWAIT

BRUSSELS: NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg warmly re-welcomed yesterday the opening of the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) - NATO regional center in Kuwait last month in January, saying it is an important platform for enhanced cooperation with the Gulf countries.

"I very much welcome that we established recently the regional center in Kuwait which provides an excellent platform for enhanced cooperation and also support capacity building for different partner countries in the region which is an important tool to fight terrorism," he told a news conference ahead of a meeting of NATO defense ministers.

He noted that the 28-member Alliance is working with countries in the Gulf region to address the challenges in the region itself. The ICI, launched in 2004, aims to boost cooperation between NATO and four Gulf countries Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and UAE.

Stoltenberg said NATO has played a key role

in the fight against terrorism for many years, in particular in Afghanistan. The reason that NATO decided to stay in Afghanistan with 13,000 troops is to train assist and advise Afghan troops to enable them to fight terrorism, he said. "The best weapon to fight terrorism is to train local forces to enable them to fight terrorism," he stressed. Stoltenberg briefed media here today on the agenda of this week's meetings of NATO Defense Ministers. On Wednesday and Thursday, ministers will address the Alliance's response to a more challenging world. "We will stress the importance of fair burden-sharing and higher defense spending," he said.

The NATO chief welcomed that defense spending among European Allies and Canada has increased by 3.8 percent in real terms in 2016, higher than expected. Ministers will also focus on the fight against terrorism, and threats stemming from the Middle East and North Africa. "During this ministerial, we will also focus



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg

on the fight against terrorism, and threats stemming from the Middle East and North Africa. NATO is providing support to the Counter-IS Coalition and working to train partners like Iraq, Jordan and Tunisia. But we can and should do more," he added. — KUNA

EMBASSY HANDS \$30,000 TO AL-QUDS UNIVERSITY

AMMAN: Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan Dr Hamad Al-Duaij handed yesterday a donation worth \$30,000 to the Al-Quds University's Nabuls Branch as a gesture of support to the Palestinian people.

The money, offered by Kuwait's Zakat House, will be used to erect a medical center in the university which has around 8,500 registered students in addition to staff, the Ambassador said in a statement.

Kuwait will support Palestine during any possible occasion and this current donation is part of the efforts to help Palestinians pursue knowledge and education, said the Ambassador. Meanwhile, head of the University's Nabuls Branch Dr Yousef Awad thanked Kuwait's leadership and people for their continuous support to the Palestinians, saying that this gesture was expected from the fellow Arab country.

Massive influx

On Monday, Jordanian Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Imad Fakhoury has commended Kuwait's support for his country to address burdens arising from a massive influx of Syrian refugees.

Speaking during a joint press conference with the ambassadors of the European Union (EU), Britain, Germany and Norway, and the United Nation's (UN) Resident Representative, Fakhoury said Jordan has received about 60 per cent of the total value of pledges donors made during a 2016 conference in London.

He expressed his appreciation to donors, mainly the State of Kuwait, the United Kingdom, Germany, Norway and the United Nations, for their commitments to supporting Jordan. There are some agreements of additional commitments for 2016 amounting to \$522 million that are being negotiated and will be signed during the first half of 2017, he added. He noted that his country has received

an amount of \$923.6 million in the form of soft loans in 2016.

He pointed out that \$834.6 million of the sum is directed to support the state's budget and \$89 million to finance developmental projects. This soft financing was pledged by donors and banks during the London conference, he told reporters. The minister underlined the importance of this funding to cover a gap in the budget and to take required measures so as to increase the number of male and female students of Syrian refugee.

He said Jordan is pinning its hopes on the next conference to be held in Brussels this year, as part of the continued support provided by international donors. He said the Jordan Response Plan acknowledges that the Syrian refugees deserve a decent life and it recognizes the exorbitant price Jordan and its

citizens shoulder in order to provide such a global benefit so generously, according to Jordan News Agency (Petra).

Donor conferences

Meanwhile, a statement distributed by the embassy of Kuwait in Amman during the press conference said that the total value of pledges the State of Kuwait made at four donor conferences on Syria amounted to \$1.6 billion, of which \$1.4 billion had been already paid. The statement stressed Kuwait's commitment to fulfilling the remainder of pledges it made to Jordan to help the Kingdom cope with the burden of Syrian refugee crisis. According to official figures by Jordan, the total value of pledges made during the conference for Syrian held in London last year reached \$12 billion. —KUNA



AMMAN: Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan Dr Hamad Al-Duaij hands in a donation to the Al-Quds University's Nabuls Branch. —KUNA