

Amir receives Direct Investment Promotion Authority's annual report

Amir receives letter from Guinea-Bissau's President



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the annual report of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority. — KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives a letter from Guinea-Bissau's President Mario Vaz, delivered by President's Advisor Mamadou Sano.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Seif Palace Minister of Commerce and Industry as well as Acting Minister of Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudan, Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and members of the authority.

The KDIPA members handed His Highness Sheikh Sabah the authority's 2017 annual report. The KDIPA members later handed copies of the report to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir also received Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of State for Services Affairs Hassan Abul as well as Iraqi Minister of Transportation Kadem Al-Hamami and the accompanying delegation. Abul and Hamami later visited His Highness the Prime Minister as well.

His Highness the Amir also met with Minister of Justice and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Faleh Al-Azb, President of the Arab Lawyers

Union (ALU) Sameh Ashour, and participants in the recent conference for the union held in Kuwait. The meetings were attended by Deputy Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah, Minister Azb and the ALU chief later met with His Highness the Prime Minister as well.

His Highness the Amir also received Advisor to the President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Mamadou Sano. Advisor Sano handed His Highness the Amir a written letter on ways to enhance bilateral relations from Guinea-Bissau's President Jose Mario Vaz. Present at the reception was First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Separately, His Highness the Crown received Head of the Central Tenders Committee (CTC) Abdullah Saud Al-Abdulrazzaq, as well as CTC Deputy Head Faisal Humoud Al-Muzain. His Highness also received Director of Environmental Public Authority (EPA) Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the annual report of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority.

Foreign Minister hosts former UN chief



KUWAIT: Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with former United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah held talks yesterday with former United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. In his encounter with the visiting former UN chief, the Kuwaiti foreign minister said that he was appreciative of his profound contributions during his stint as UN secretary general.

Meanwhile, the former UN secretary general commended His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad

Al-Sabah for his efforts to ensure that peace and security around the world remain intact. The meeting brought together a number of senior Kuwaiti foreign ministry officials.

Earlier yesterday, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled met with President of the Swiss National Council Jurg Stahl and his accompanying delegation. Discussions between the two sides focused on ways to bolster ties, issues of mutual interest, as well as developments within the region and the world. Deputy Foreign Minister



President of the Swiss National Council Jurg Stahl arrives at the parliament's building yesterday for a meeting with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem.

Ambassador Khaled Al-Jarrah and top staff at the Foreign Ministry attended the meeting.

Stahl and his delegation also held talks with Speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem. They tackled bilateral ties between both nations, especially issues of parliamentary nature, as well as the latest developments in the regional and international arenas. They also discussed means of booting cooperation and coordination between the parliaments of both countries in the international parliamentary arenas.

The meeting was attended by National Assembly's Controller MP Nayef Merdas Al-Ajmi, Head of the accompanying honorary mission MP Askar Al-Enezi, and MP Humoud Al-Khedaur. It was also attended by Kuwait Ambassador to Switzerland Bader Al-Tunaib, and National Assembly's Secretary General Allam Al-Kandiri. Following the discussions, Ghanem held a lunch banquet for his Swiss counterpart and the accompanying delegation. Stahl and his delegation arrived to the country yesterday in an official two-day visit. — KUNA

'Kuwait mediation very important'

BRUSSELS: The chairperson of the European Parliament's Delegation for relations with the Arab Peninsula, Michele Alliot-Marie, underlined her full support to Kuwaiti mediation efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis. "Kuwait mediation is very important. First of all it is accepted by both parties. That is a real necessity for mediation," she said Monday evening.

"Secondly we in the European Union know that we cannot be in the first role for that. We can help if asked. But the solution is a local solution," she added. A French politician, Alliot-Marie has served as France's foreign and European affairs minister from 2010 to 2011, minister of justice from 2009 to 2010, and minister of defense from 2002 to 2007. — KUNA



Michele Alliot-Marie

UNRWA chief lauds support by Arab Gulf countries

BRUSSELS: The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) Commissioner-General Pierre Krahenbuhl heaped praise yesterday on Arab Gulf countries for their continued support to the Palestinian people. "We have been quite successful in reaching out in particular to Saudi Arabia, to the UAE and Kuwait who are active supporters of UNRWA. Saudi Arabia today is the third largest donor to the organizations after the US and the EU," he told the European Parliament's foreign affairs committee in Brussels.

"I think that is a very significant sign. They have traditionally supported a lot of the reconstruction work, rebuilding homes and installations for example in the Gaza strip, helping us to renovate schools from Jordan to the West Bank and elsewhere," he noted.

"We are seeing increased support by Saudi Arabia and the UAE to our core activities, education, healthcare and others which is a very welcome in that regard," said the UNRWA chief who briefed the EP committee on the activities of UNRWA. He said that today there are 5.3 million Palestine refugees between the Gaza Strip, West Bank, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. "This is a considerable number of people for whom we have direct responsibility to provide services," he said. He pointed out that UNRWA has 270,000 students in the Gaza strip in 260 schools. But 90 percent of those have never left the Gaza strip in their lives and 65 percent will not find a job in the Gaza strip.

"This is a time to create a political horizon for Palestinian youth in the region. There is an element of a time



BRUSSELS: UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krahenbuhl speaks after inaugurating an exhibition in the European Parliament which focuses on EU Support for UN Schools in the Middle East. — KUNA

bomb if one does not address many of the human consequences," warned Krahenbuhl. He thanked the EU for its strong support but added that UNRWA still has a shortfall of \$77 million. "We will be actively reaching to other countries in the Gulf and elsewhere to ensure that it will close this shortfall," he said. Meanwhile, David McAllister, Chair of the EP Committee, thanked

UNRWA for the important work to offer a decent life for the 5 million Palestinian refugees. He said that the EU considers UNRWA a crucial component for peace, security and development in the Middle East. The UNRWA chief also inaugurated a new exhibition in the European Parliament which focuses on EU Support for UN Schools in the Middle East. — KUNA