

## Local

# Amir, Crown Prince meet Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah met His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad, as well as Deputy Chief of the Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace. — KUNA

## Somalia's 59th Independence Day Festival in Kuwait

By Somalia's Ambassador to Kuwait Abdullahi Mohammed Odowa

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Somalia and the Somali Community in Kuwait celebrate the 59th Independence and Unification Days. Perhaps unlike other countries, the government and the Somali people both inside and in diaspora celebrate a week-long annual Independence Day Festival; this is because three significant events took place during the last few days of colonial history in the Somali territories in the Horn of Africa. First, on June 26, 1960, former British Somaliland got its Independence from Great Britain. Secondly, four days after and on July 1, 1960, the former Italian Somaliland got its Independence from Italy. Thirdly, on the same day on July 1, 1960, the British and Italian Somali colonies have united to form the Republic of Somalia. After 59 years of Independence, the Somali experience shows mixed results of success and challenges concerning state-building endeavors.

The first nine years following Independence, Somalia was one of the first countries in Africa to successfully establish a vibrant multi-party democracy and the rule of law. Unfortunately, the military coup in October 1969 and subsequent years of military rule and dictatorship has resulted in a civil war and state collapse in the country. However, after years of national reconciliation efforts, and to address the grievances of different regions and districts across the country, the Somali people have opted to adopt a federal system of government, and as a result, the country was renamed as Federal Government of Somalia. Furthermore, endowed with the enormous economic potential of untapped natural resources and an essential strategic geopolitical location on the Gulf of Aden, which includes one of the longest coastlines of mainland Africa, and a large population of the Somali diaspora in almost all parts of the world- including North America, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Middle East and Africa- the future of Somali, is one full of hope and brightness.

The Somali community in Kuwait is one of the oldest community in the country with the first members of the community arriving in the late 1940th and 1950th. However, the majority of the Somali families and experts have arrived in the late 70th. Since then Somali community has been part and partial of the magnificent transformation and development that has been taken places in Kuwait under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. It is important to note that two brotherly people of Kuwait and Somalis share many cultural and traditional norms in common, hence Kuwait has become home far from home for many Somalis who are born and educated in Kuwait.

## Palestinian Ambassador thanks Kuwait for their 'pivotal stances'

KUWAIT: The Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Rami Tahboub expressed gratitude to Kuwait and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for the pivotal stances Kuwait had been making since the Palestinian dilemma started. Tahboub issued a special statement in which he expressed his own gratitude and "that of each and every Palestinian living in Kuwait" to the Kuwaiti National Assembly and Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem for their support to the Palestinian cause.



Palestinian Ambassador Rami Tahboub

## ATO conference supports right of productive life

AMMAN: The 18th General Conference of the Arab Towns Organization (ATO) yesterday acknowledged the right to a healthy and productive life in cities and human settlements, in accordance with social values and religious principles of justice, peace and respect. The conference suggested the contribution of mayors and secretaries of Arab capitals to build local capacities as part of national development plans, underlining the job-intensive growth that integrates all sectors. They also recommended to adopt voluntary work within programs and strategies by ATO and its institutions, considering that cities are essential for community service and platforms for innovation.

### Effective role

Local administrations played an effective role in reviving economic development, providing the best services, achieving sustainable development, strengthening social cohesion and establishing real partnerships that benefits the communities and cities. Cities were also encouraged to invest in technology and the digital economy through cooperation between the public and private sectors to contribute to the development of knowledge in the shadow of the huge

technological development in order to intellectualize cities.

Arab cities have become the focus of achievements and competition to major cities in the world, with plans and programs that are consistent with the sustainable development agenda until 2030, said ATO Secretary-General Ahmad Hamad Al-Sabeeh. Sabeeh said the development process can be achieved through joining efforts, openness to gain experience and benefitting from successful experiences to cope with the rapid changes surrounding social, environmental and economic transformations. The teamwork of Arab cities and municipalities will achieve sustainability, prosperity, security and stability, making it safe and livable, he said.

### Executive plans

On another point, Amman's Mayor Yousef Al-Shawarbeh underlined the importance of adopting executive plans to promote Arab cities and services provided to inhabitants, pointing out the role of the ATO as an example of Arab cooperation and partnership with the private sector. On the sidelines of the conference, ATO's Secretary-General said that the results of the conference are consistent with the vision and



AMMAN: Arab Towns Organization Secretary-General Ahmad Al-Sabeeh (right) and Amman's Mayor Yousef Al-Shawarbeh are seen during the conference. —KUNA

agenda of the sustainable development until 2030, which Arab cities will follow-up this methodology. Partakers discussed issues of Arab cities, especially regarding the objectives of sustainable development, challenges and changes facing towns, as well as two workshops on topics such as artificial intelligence and the Internet to sustain cities through knowledge management.

ATO is a regional non-profit, governmental organization, specializing in matters of cities and municipalities, established in Kuwait in 1967 to preserve the heritage of Arab cities, modernizing municipal and local institutions, seeking to improve services and facilities to develop them and help member cities on achieving their development projects by providing them with loans and aid.—KUNA



## Arabian oryx thrives in Jordan wildlife reserve

AMMAN: The Shaumari Wildlife Reserve in Zarqa Governorate, Jordan, is a safe haven for the thriving Arabian oryx. The reserve, built in 1975 and stretching around 22 square kilometers, is mostly dedicated to the distinctively Arabian deer. The facility had earned the trust of regional and international Arabian Oryx protection organizations, leading to the increase of herds from 11 to around 200.

—Photos by Ghazi Qafaf (KUNA)

