

## Local

# Amir receives First Deputy PM, Defense Minister at Bayan Palace

## Amir offers condolences to Congolese, Pakistani presidents



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. — Amir Diwan photo

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday. In other news, His Highness the Amir sent a cable to President of Congo Felix Tshisekedi, expressing condolences over the victims of a train derailment that led to a number of deaths and injuries. 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 sent similar cables to the Congolese President. Also yesterday, His Highness the Amir sent a cable of condolences to Pakistani President Arif Alvi, over the victims of a train blast that led to a number of deaths and injuries. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister sent similar cables to the Pakistani president. —KUNA

## Kuwait rejects shared supervision over Al-Aqsa Mosque

GENEVA: Kuwait yesterday stressed its full rejection of recent calls for sharing of supervision over Al-Aqsa Mosque and Israel's control over it. This came in a speech by Kuwait's permanent representative to the United Nations (UN) and other international organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim, during UN Human Rights Council of discussion of Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Sharing the supervision of the mosque could trigger off religious tensions, especially with continued intentional and unprecedented Israeli provocations, the last of which was the storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque, Ghunaim said. Kuwait is surprised at international silence toward Israel's policies in providing political and economic incentives to encourage its residents to settle illegally in the occupied territories, he added. Israel's continued Judaization of the city of Jerusalem,

changing its religious and historical landmarks, and the continuation of diggings beneath Al-Aqsa Mosque, are a clear and frank violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, Ghunaim stressed. He also expressed Kuwait's condemnation of the attacks on the Palestinian people, and the violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by the Israeli army.

Ghunaim affirmed Kuwait's keenness to grant legitimate rights for Palestinian citizens in establishing an independent and sovereign Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital under relevant UN resolutions. Kuwait also called on the international community to ensure respect for the principles and provisions of international law and international humanitarian law in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, especially as Israel insists on breaking international resolutions, he added. It also called for commitment to resolutions that include the release of

thousands of prisoners, lifting of the unjust siege imposed on the Gaza Strip and the re-opening of crossings, as well as the ending of military checkpoints inside the Palestinian territory, he said.

Last November, Kuwait provided an exceptional contribution of \$42.1 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), raising the total Kuwaiti contributions to the UNRWA budget to \$50 million in 2018, the Kuwaiti diplomat added. This donation reflects Kuwait's continued commitment to support UNRWA's work in protecting the rights of Palestinian refugees, he said. Some Western countries called for the cancellation of the seventh article on the agenda of the council, which aimed at discussing Israeli violations in the occupied Arab territories, including East Jerusalem, but the Islamic and Arab blocs in the council, supported by African, Asian and South American countries, always abort these attempts. —KUNA



KUWAIT: The Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammad Irani visited Kuwait Times yesterday and discussed matters of mutual concern with Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Northern zone to redress economic structural imbalances: Silk City chief

KUWAIT: One of the main objectives of New Kuwait Vision 2035 and its most important project of the northern economic zone was redressing the structural imbalances of the national economy, CEO of the Silk City and Boubayan Island Development Council Faisal Al-Medlej has stated. The ambitious mega project would turn the northern area into a regional commercial hub benefiting from its distinctive geographical location near a large market of up to 200 million people and huge economies whose production exceeds \$1 trillion a year, Al-Medlej projected in a joint news conference following a government and parliamentary meeting on the issue on Sunday.

The political stability in Kuwait and its reputation as a state of institutions would attract investors to the multi-billion dollars project. "We have great chances to turn this zone into a safe gateway for regional trade that ensures the freedom of movement of people, goods and money," he clarified. He stated that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah had pushed for teaming up with China to implement this strategic project. The northern economic zone comprises five islands: Boubayan, Failaka, Warba, Miskan and Awba, in addition to a considerable part of the Subiya area with a total area of nearly 1,700 square kilometers, he said.

### Job opportunities

Meanwhile, member of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development Dr Fahad Al-Rashed emphasized the importance of the project in creating new job opportunities and diversifying national economy. Kuwait in the coming 15 years would need 400,000 to 600,000 jobs for the new entrants of the labor market, he said in the new conference. He stressed that these jobs should be productive ones and with value added to the national economy. He added that



The proposed 'Silk City' project.

the plan would also help diversify Kuwaiti national economy and end dependence on oil revenues.

In the meantime, Chairman of the Parliament's Financial and Economic Affairs Committee MP Salah Khorshid noted that the meeting focused on exchanging viewpoints about the northern economic zone. He, however, stated this mega project still requires more studies and deliberations. The legislative authority is eager to find new sources for income other than oil and to see new strategic development projects provided that they were put forward in a transparent and clear way and they do not contradict the constitution.

Earlier, First Deputy Prime Minister and

Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said the northern economic zone bill does not violate Kuwait's constitution. He, however, said that the northern economic zone law must be flexible enough to attract investors. Sheikh Nasser hoped both executive and legislative authorities would complete the study of the law in the coming weeks. The meeting was also attended by National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Dr Fahad Al-Afasi and Central Bank of Kuwait Governor Mohammad Al-Hashel and several members of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development and board of trustees of the north economic zone. — KUNA

## Finance Minister meets Yemeni, Nicaraguan ministers



KUWAIT: Finance Minister Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf meets with Yemeni Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Dr Najeeb Al-Ouaj. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Finance Minister Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf met yesterday with Yemeni Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Dr Najeeb Al-Ouaj, on ways to enhance bilateral economic cooperation. The meeting also touched upon plans to implement development projects that are financed by

donor countries in Yemen, providing basic services and employment opportunities, according to a press statement by the Ministry of Finance. Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti minister met with his Nicaraguan counterpart Ivan Acosta, discussing with him ways of bolstering investment and financial cooperation. — KUNA

## Kuwait thanks New York for stepping up mosques' security

NEW YORK: Islamic Culture Center of New York's Chairman of Board of Trustees, and Kuwait's UN envoy Mansour Al-Otaibi has expressed gratitude to New York mayor and police chief for their quick response to calls for boosting mosques security after the New Zealand terrorist attacks. In a statement to the press on Sunday, Otaibi, the Permanent Representative to the UN, lauded New York security apparatuses for increasing police presence near mosques and taking all precautionary measures to ensure the safety and security of worshippers in wake of the horrible terrorist assaults on two mosques in New Zealand which claimed the lives of dozens of innocent people.

Otaibi was also appreciative for the sympathy and condolences expressed by Christian, Jewish religious leaders and ordinary people who sent flowers and messages to denounce the heinous crime against innocent Muslim worshippers in New Zealand. Equipped with a semi-automatic weapon, a shooter opened fire on prayer-goers during Friday prayers at two mosques in the city of Christchurch, killing at least 50 people and wounding many others.

On Friday, the UN Security Council adopted a statement, proposed by Kuwait and Indonesia, strongly condemning the New Zealand mosque terrorist attacks, as "heinous and cowardly." Terrorism "constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security," added the statement, describing these acts as "criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed." — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets with Qatar's Ambassador to Kuwait Bandar Al-Attiya. — KUNA

## Defense minister meets Qatari ambassador

KUWAIT: Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met yesterday with Qatar's Ambassador to Kuwait Bandar Al-Attiya. During the meeting, the two

sides discussed ways of enhancing bilateral relations and the latest developments of common concerns, the Defense Ministry's Directorate of Moral Guidance and Public Relations said in a press release. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem received yesterday in his office Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad Al-Saud. — KUNA