

Local

Amir phones Abu Dhabi Crown Prince to condemn sabotage acts against oil tankers

Sheikh Sabah receives water association, conference committee members

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah phoned Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan on Monday to condemn the sabotage acts carried out against four oil tankers near UAE territorial waters on Sunday. In his call, His Highness the Amir denounced the sabotage acts and hoped the investigations launched by the UAE authorities would reveal the perpetrators of those acts that threaten the maritime navigation, international trade, and world energy supplies. His Highness the Amir wished the UAE and the whole region everlasting stability and security.

In other news, His Highness the Amir received yesterday at Bayan Palace Minister of Social Affairs Saad Ibrahim Al-Kharraz and Chairman of the Kuwait Water Association Dr Saleh Mohammad Al-Muzaini and its members. His Highness also received head of the supervisory committee of a conference dubbed 'Our Unity is Our Strength' Yousef Muhalhal Al-Yassin and members of the committee. The meeting was attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received separately at Bayan Palace His

Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir sent yesterday cables of condolences to the Lebanese President Michel Aoun and the Maronite Patriarch for Antioch and the East Cardinal Bechara Boutros Al-Rahi on the demise of former Cardinal Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir, Maronite Patriarch of Antiochia. In the cables, His Highness the Amir underlined Sfeir's pivotal role in the service of Lebanon and his distinguished national contributions to consolidating the bonds of the Lebanese nation and promoting the unity of the Lebanese people throughout his life. 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.

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir praised the strong bilateral relations with Algeria. In a letter to Algeria's interim president Abdelkader Ben Saleh on Monday night, His Highness the Amir asserted both countries' everlasting keenness to bolster frameworks of cooperation in various spheres so as to serve joint interests of both countries, according to a statement by the Algerian Presidency. The statement pointed out that Ben Saleh expressed his country's support of Kuwait's efforts aimed at consolidating ties among Arab states. "His Highness the



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Minister of Social Affairs Saad Ibrahim Al-Kharraz and members of the Kuwait Water Association. — Amiri Diwan photo

Amir expressed to the Head of State his views on the importance of continuing consultations and coordination between the two brotherly countries on all issues at the regional and international levels as

well as its efforts on resolving disputes and bridging the gap between brothers," the statement said. On May 5, Foreign Minister Sabri Boukadoum paid a working visit to Kuwait at the invitation of his

counterpart Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, during which he was received by His Highness the Amir and handed him a letter from the Head of State, Abdelkader Ben Saleh. — KUNA

Legalese

Kuwait's diversity is a blessing



By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

I strongly believe that there are so many reasons to be grateful for when living in Kuwait, and one of the things to be most grateful about is the diversity of our society. Kuwait is a really small country, and unlike other countries in the region of a similar size as ours - for example Lebanon that has 18 different religious sects - Kuwait is very homogeneous. And I strongly believe that we are very blessed to have a diverse culture even though we are homogeneous. We have so many different nationalities, religions and languages, and so many Kuwaitis that have mixed-race parents because of this diversity. There is so much to learn from other cultures and religions and there is so much culture to embrace.

The laws unfortunately sometimes do not embrace these differences. I am not sure if the laws are a reflection of society or if the laws are affecting society, or both. One thing is for sure though - that regardless of what some people say against expats, especially those with power to change the law, they should not be considered as the society as a whole, because in reality there is no way that we can differentiate "expats" from non-expats. It is not us against them - non-Kuwaitis and Kuwaitis are an integral part of our society. Not only are we dependent on each other, we are part of each other, something that I am sure the general public is very aware of.

Here are a few things to consider from a legal point of view:

- Although it is illegal to eat in public, we might consider what other neighboring countries are doing, which is allowing cafes and restaurants to have the choice whether to serve food or not. They are asked by law to put curtains up, so if anyone is fasting and passing by, they do not have to see people eating.

- I have spoken about this for years and will continue to speak about this - I cannot explain the amount of emails that I have received since the start of Ramadan with people asking if their hours should be less because it is Ramadan. The answer is you should not be working more than 36 hours a week, for Muslims or non-Muslims alike.

Again, Ramadan Mubarak to those that adhere to such practices, and let's all remember that Ramadan is not just about abstaining from drinking and eating, but also about being kind. So let's be kind to one another.

For questions or queries, please email us at info@fil-legal.com.

Defense Minister visits Mohammad Al-Ahmad Naval Base

KUWAIT: First Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah visited the Mohammad Al-Ahmad Naval Base on Monday, the Ministry of Defense said in a statement. Sheikh Nasser, accompanied by Army chief of Staff General Mohammad Al-Khodhr and his deputy General Abdullah Nawaf Al-Sabah, was briefed about missions and tasks of the naval forces, said the ministry. He also got acquainted first-hand on the armament and technical capabilities of the forces. Sheikh Nasser Al-Sabah conveyed Ramadan greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. He expressed pride and gratitude for the naval forces for their dedication in defending the country. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah visits the Mohammad Al-Ahmad Naval Base. — KUNA

Medics drill at Jaber Causeway

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The health ministry's medical emergencies department carried out an exercise on Jaber Causeway in coordination the Public Authority for Roads and Transport (PART) and the interior ministry's traffic department. Health Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Allied Medical Services Dr Fawaz Al-Refai said the aim of the exercise is to train paramedics and emergency teams on the shortest roads to exits and entrances of the bridge and the nearest emergency rooms and hospitals during rescue operations. He said there were 10 cases during the simulation and eight ambulances, in addition to back-up vehicles and air ambulances, as cases were sorted and sent to hospitals accordingly.

Farmers' demands

Official spokesman of the social affairs ministry, assistant undersecretary for cooperation affairs Abdul Aziz Shuaib announced an initiative by the social affairs ministry to hold a meeting between the social affairs and commerce ministries, Kuwait Farmers Union and

Jaber Causeway islands put up for investment

KUWAIT: Upon instructions from His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to put up the two artificial islands attached to the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Causeway for investment for touristic and entertainment purposes, the Cabinet formed a ministerial team including representatives of the concerned bodies to accelerate the procedures for developing the two islands.

The Cabinet also reviewed the recommendation of the Public Services Committee concerning the request of the Ministry of Public Works from the General Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries to utilize the water produced by the new Al-Wafra and Al-Khairan water treatment plants and the



Medivac used in the drill.

the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources in response to farmers' demands on social media expressing their displeasure on the lack of cooperation by cooperative societies with regards to their produce despite its quality and reasonable prices. Shuaib said in a press statement that the reasons behind the farmers' displeasure were discussed, besides the reasons for the lack of cooperation and not supporting and allowing national products in cooperatives.

treated waters of Sabah Al-Ahmad and Al-Naseem residential areas for floriculture purposes.

During its weekly meeting on Monday, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed the Cabinet on the results of the recent visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq Dr Mohammad Al-Hakim and his accompanying delegation to attend the seventh session of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi Joint Committee.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet expressed its strong condemnation of the sabotage operations against four ships near the territorial waters of the sisterly United Arab Emirates, which is a flagrant violation of international law and a threat to the safety of maritime navigation and the movement of world trade. It also expressed sincere condolences to the Iraqi President Barham Salih, following the recent suicide bombing in Al-Sadr City, east of Baghdad, which resulted in a number of casualties and injuries. The Cabinet voiced sincere condolences to the Pakistani President Arif Alavi, for the recent bombing of a security point in the city of Lahore, which resulted in a number of casualties. — KUNA

SME Fund paid KD 177.1 million for 1,035 projects

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Services Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan said the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development (SME Fund) had funded 1,035 projects with the total of KD 177.1 million over the past three years - 2016-2019. Responding to a parliamentary inquiry by MP Mubarak Al-Hajraf, Roudhan said commercial enterprises took the lion's share with KD 61.2 million funded to finance 411 projects, followed by service projects with KD 64.8 million for over 406 projects, 147 industrial projects funded with KD 38.2 million, 43 craft projects funded with KD 5.2 million and 28 agricultural projects funded with KD 7.5 million. Roudhan said the fund had rejected 1,807 projects in the same period for various reasons including lack of financial and technical studies, inaccurate or exaggerated assessment of total cost, unclear sale, marketing and pricing policies, lack of experience and many other reasons.

New subsidized foods

A study by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed that the ministry is about to add new supply items to the subsidized rations given to Kuwaitis including frozen meat, cereals (cornflakes), new brands of milk and burgers.

Temporary tents

Kuwait Municipality has prepared a draft ministerial resolution pertaining with regulating the use of marquees and temporary tents, said informed sources, noting that the resolution will include eight articles. The sources added that the conditions include banning pitching any tent or marquee on government property without prior license from the municipality, limiting the license validity to one month renewable for a further one month, paying a KD 500 insurance deposit to be refunded only after the site is handed over the way it was before using it, collecting fees of KD 1,000 for areas up to 500 sq m, KD 2,000 for areas between 500-1,500 sq m and KD 3,000 for areas larger than 1,500 sq m.

12 assessment factors

The Ministry of Social Affairs has over the past few months been setting the standards needed to transparently select outstanding cooperative societies before holding an honoring ceremony, assistant undersecretary for cooperation affairs Abdul Aziz Shuaib said. Shuaib said the honoring was done using 12 assessment factors including hiring more citizens, entrepreneurship, facilities for people with disabilities, profitability and others.