

Local

Kuwait's Amir receives senior state officials



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — Amiri Diwan photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Ministers of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Interior Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah and Foreign Affairs Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah.

First Kuwait PPP Conference convenes virtually Nov 15 and 16

KUWAIT: The 'First Kuwait PPP Conference' (PPPKW) will convene under the motto of 'Partnership towards Growth and Prosperity' for the first time in the State of Kuwait, President of KFECH Badr Al-Salman announced yesterday. KFECH calls for PPPKW in cooperation with and organization by NoufEXPO. The event will take place virtually on 15 and 16 November. His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, will patronize PPPKW. Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, will represent His Highness the Prime Minister during the opening ceremony. NoufEXPO will provide the necessary organizational and logistics services for PPPKW.

Remarkable presence

The conference will witness the remarkable presence of many leaders of public-private partnership institutions. Notably, leaders from the United Nations and Gulf, Arab, and foreign countries will be present. In addition, many industry experts and Kuwaiti government agencies will contribute to PPPKW.

Commenting on the support of KFECH, Salman said, "the support of the Federation of Kuwait Engineering Offices and Consultant

Houses of Kuwait's first public-private partnership conference reflects our belief in the need for public and private sector cooperation in implementing Kuwait's development and projects. The resort of various countries to this cooperation equation aims to make the most of each sector's possibilities enjoyed and provided. The vitality, transparency, and experience of the private sector complement and integrate with the governance, keenness, and experience of the public sector to help Kuwait achieve its development goals."

Salman commented on the value of partnerships and said, "Kuwait has been aware of the importance of public-private partnership for a long time. Kuwait developed its related legislations that kept it in pace with global trends in this area. The most recent is Law No 116 of 2014 and the related executive regulation issued by Decree No 78 of 2015. Through this Law, the regulator aimed to establish an integrated system for the tendering and execution of strategic partnership projects. Kuwait laws noted its plans to diversify the economy and direct it towards involving the private sector in development projects and create an investment climate that allows the attraction of private capital, modern technology, and knowledge."



Badr Al-Salman

PPPKW Objectives

Salman explained that PPPKW aims to assess the experience of Kuwait and neighboring countries in the field of public-private partnerships to identify the obstacles facing partnership projects and benefit from the successful experiences in these countries. It also aims at presenting the technical and legislative aspects of partnership contracts and the requirements of their success. And finally, PPPKW will come up with appropriate recommendations to push Kuwait's partnership program forward.

The press release confirmed that the conference coincides with Kuwait's 2035 Vision that aims to "transform Kuwait into a financial and trade hub, attractive to investors, where the private sector leads the economy, creating competition and promoting production efficiency, under the umbrella of enabling government institutions, which accentuates values, safeguards social identity, and achieves human resource development as well as balanced development, providing adequate infrastructure, advanced legislation, and inspiring business environment." Doing so supports Kuwait's tendency to actively engage with the private sector and provide the right environment, mainly since development plan 2035 includes many mega-infrastructure projects.

Speaking about PPPKW themes, Salman said that the conference will discuss partnership contracts' legislative and institutional framework and their financial and financing aspects. In addition, PPPKW will discuss the best practices and successful experiences in partner-

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. Furthermore, His Highness the Amir received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. In addition, His Highness the Amir received Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and the Interior Minister Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir received Deputy Prime Minister and Justice Minister and Minister for integrity promotion Abdullah Yousef Al-Roumi. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received yesterday Speaker Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, as well as ministers Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali, Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad, Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem and Roumi. — KUNA

ships, the impact of Public-Private risk distribution on contractual issues, and finally, the practical applications and international experiences of public sector engagement with the private sector.

Advanced platform

NoufEXPO, in turn, announced that it has collaborated with Vmeets to run PPPKW virtually through cyberspace. Vmeets platform provides a one-stop-shop for virtual events, including a 3D interactive auditorium for presentation, panel discussions, workshops, an exhibition hall to host exhibition pavilions for participants, and advanced technologies to manage the course of the forum electronically, including registrations and confirmations.

The electronic platform also provides sponsoring companies with advanced capabilities to display their projects, services, and technical capabilities through their display pavilions. They can speak directly with the audience and collect their contact details. They can also show videos, reports, and brochures of their companies. Sponsoring companies and attendees will have access to a full recording of PPPKW after it is over.

In conclusion, the press release urged all interested companies and institutions to present their specialized capabilities, expertise, and services to contact NoufEXPO on +965 22469924 or send their email messages to info@noufexpo.com.kw to reserve their spot in this unique and new event. More about PPPKW on its website www.noufexpo.com.kw/pppkw.

Residents face loss of driving licenses...

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Obtaining a driving license in Kuwait is already a difficult and lengthy process. Currently, driving licenses are issued to expatriates who meet a highly selective list of criteria, including being 18 years of age or older, having a college degree (attested) and earning at least KD 600 a month. They also must have lived in Kuwait for at least two years and hold a valid driving license from their country of origin.

For exemption from the abovementioned criteria, the driver must have one of the following job titles or roles: Engineer, journalist, doctor, lawyer, professor, mandoub, judge, prosecutor, university faculty

staff, librarian, pharmacist, teacher, social worker and a few other designations. Housewives who have children in school, university students and drivers (on domestic help visas) are also exempt.

Residents who do not meet the criteria or who have changed jobs/roles since their driving license was issued will lose their license (even if it is still unexpired). Under the new regulations, those caught driving with an expired or 'invalid' driving license won't be subject to the usual KD 5 fine, but instead may be deported for driving without a license.

How many people this regulation could impact remains unclear. Statistics quoted by interior ministry officials in local Arabic dailies in 2019 and 2020 claimed approximately 800,000 to 1.6 million driving licenses have been issued to foreign residents. Tawheed Al-Kandari, the Interior Ministry's PR and Media Director, told Kuwait Times that probably around one million driving licenses are held by foreign residents.

be announced later," Sabr said.

The courses are one to three months long, depending on the chosen field. "After concluding the course, female graduates will receive ranks depending on their degree. For non-commissioned officers, university graduates will receive the rank of staff sergeant, diploma holders will receive the rank of sergeant plus two allowances, and high school graduates will receive the rank of sergeant. For soldiers, those who have passed 11th grade will receive the rank of corporal with two allowances, those who have passed 10th grade will receive the rank of corporal and one allowance, those who have passed 9th grade will receive the rank of corporal, and those who have passed 8th grade or less will receive the rank of soldier," said Sabr.

Sabr also explained the steps for registration of women on the army's official website kuwaitarmy.gov.kw. The main conditions for enlistment include having Kuwaiti nationality, good health and good reputation (no criminal record), and passing the personal interview.

Gulf War hero Colin Powell...

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HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences yesterday to Biden on the demise of Powell. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

After engineering military victory in the 1991 Gulf War, Powell was so widely popular and respected that he was considered a strong candidate to become the first ever black US president. He ultimately decided against running for the White House, although he later broke with his Republican Party to endorse Barack Obama.

A son of Jamaican immigrants, Powell frequently shattered glass ceilings in a pioneering career that took him from combat in Vietnam to becoming America's first black national security advisor under then-president Ronald Reagan. He was also the first African American and youngest chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under Reagan's successor, George H W Bush. Serving four presidents, Powell made his reputation as a man of honor distant from the political fray - an asset in the corridors of power.

George W Bush described Powell as "an American hero, an American example, and a great American story" when he nominated the professional soldier to be secretary of state in 2000, making him fourth in the presidential line and, up to then, the highest-ranking black US public official ever. "He was highly respected at home and abroad. And, most important, Colin was a family man and a friend," the 43rd president said yesterday.

Powell had a reputation for bipartisanship, straight talk and integrity, and was praised for his officer's instincts of duty and honor. Former US president Jimmy Carter called the soldier a "true patriot" whose courage "will be an inspiration for generations to

come". US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin told reporters Powell was among the "greatest leaders that we have ever witnessed", lamenting the loss of "a tremendous personal friend and mentor".

But Powell found it hard to live down his infamous February 2003 speech to the United Nations Security Council about the alleged existence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq - evidence which was later proven to be false. "It's a blot... and will always be a part of my record. It was painful. It's painful now," Powell said in a 2005 interview with ABC News.

Tributes nevertheless poured in from Congress, where Democratic Senator Mark Warner praised Powell as "a patriot and a public servant", while centrist Republican Senator Mitt Romney mourned the loss of "a man of undaunted courage and a champion of character". Former British prime minister Tony Blair, who stood firmly behind US actions in Iraq and gave military backing to the war effort, described Powell as a "towering figure in American military and political leadership."

Born April 5, 1937 in Harlem, Colin Luther Powell's "American Journey" - the title of his autobiography - started in New York, where he grew up and earned a degree in geology. He received a commission as a second lieutenant in the US Army, and was posted in what was then West Germany. Powell completed two tours of duty in Vietnam - in 1962-63 as one of John F Kennedy's thousands of military advisors, and again in 1968-69 to investigate the My Lai massacre.

He earned a Purple Heart, but also faced questions about the tone of his report into the hundreds of deaths at My Lai, which to some seemed to dismiss any claims of wrongdoing. Back in Washington, he quickly rose through the ranks to the pinnacle of the national security establishment, serving Reagan as national security advisor, and both George H W Bush and Bill Clinton as Joint Chiefs chairman from 1989 to 1993.

Powell freely admitted his liberal social views made him a strange bedfellow for many Republicans, though the party was often happy to hold him up as an example of its inclusivity. But from 2008, he endorsed Democrats for the presidency, twice backing Obama, and then Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden. — Agencies

Up to 200 women expected to join...

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Col Tareq Al-Sabr, Director of the Public Mobilization Directorate, noted that the decision was accompanied by a media campaign spread over multiple phases. "Be one of them" is the slogan of the campaign. "The first phase was of registering Kuwaiti men in the army, which took place at The Avenues. The second phase was of registering children of Kuwaiti mothers as professional soldiers," he said.

"Currently, we are in the third phase of the campaign, which is for registering Kuwaiti women in the military's medical and paramedical fields. The fourth and final phase will be registering those listed in the 1965 or earlier censuses and children of officers as professional soldiers in special professions. This will