

## Local

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## Indian embassy in Kuwait celebrates National Youth Day

**KUWAIT:** Embassy of India in Kuwait celebrated National Youth Day yesterday on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

V Muralaeeharan, Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs was the Chief Guest at the celebrations and delivered the 'Annual Swami Vivekananda Address' virtually. In his address on the theme 'Swami Vivekananda: An Eternal Youth Icon', the minister recalled that Swami Vivekananda through his life and teachings energized the youth of India, made them aware of India's civilizational ethos and unleashed their creative energies. He stressed on Swamiji's open, rationalist and optimistic outlook of world and urged the Indian youth and children in Kuwait to follow Swamiji's inspiring example. He also highlighted that with the vision and leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, it is the constant endeavor of the Government of India to extend all support to Indian diaspora in these difficult times of COVID-19 pandemic and at the same time continue to connect with them to be stakeholders in our efforts to create an Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Ambassador Sibi George delivered the welcome address and paid rich tributes to the inspiring life of Swami Vivekananda. He also paid floral tributes at the portrait of Swamiji. Ambassador thanked the minister for his address to the community and also for the care and support he extends to the Indian community in Kuwait particularly during the difficult times of COVID-19 pandemic. The ambassador also thanked Minister Muralaeeharan for his support to the Indian students in Kuwait and for allotting Kuwait as the first center outside India for NEET examination which helped many students. The event was live streamed on Embassy's social media platforms, which saw participation of large numbers of community members.



Indian Ambassador Sibi George

## Photo of the Day



**KUWAIT:** This picture taken yesterday shows an aerial view of the Green Island in Kuwait City. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Kuwait, China hold talks on bilateral cooperation, coordination in vital domains

### Chinese Foreign Minister praises Kuwait's political, diplomatic approach

**BEIJING:** Kuwait and China held official talks in the Chinese city of Wuxi yesterday, co-presided over by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. The talks came within the framework of the Kuwaiti minister's official visit to China, heading a Kuwaiti delegation that comprised several senior officials.

During the meeting, Sheikh Dr Ahmad conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to the government and people of China. He touted the firm and close relations between Kuwait and China, underlining that it is important to promote bilateral cooperation and mutual coordination to serve common interests, while upgrading relations to new horizons.

He added that Kuwaiti-Sino relations have been greatly developed over 50 years in various cooperative domains, pointing out harmony between Kuwait Vision 2035 and China's Belt and Road Initiative. The foreign minister boasted that Kuwait is the first Gulf and Arab country to have signed a memo of understanding for cooperation with China in the Belt and Road Initiative, which was launched in September 2013. He also spoke highly of existing cooperation between both nations at international fora, hoping that this could continue at all levels.

Meanwhile, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign



**BEIJING:** Officials from Kuwait and China hold official talks in the Chinese city of Wuxi yesterday. —KUNA photos



**Kuwaiti Foreign Minister and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi.**

Minister Wang Yi conveyed the greetings of Chinese President Xi Jinping to His Highness the Amir, as well as the government and people of Kuwait. He said his country is proud of close friendly relations and existing strategic partnership with Kuwait in all fields. He added that amid the multiple and major changes the world is undergoing, Sino-Kuwaiti relations of all-out strategic partnership have been becoming firmer and closer.

During the official talks, both sides considered close ties and mutual high-level visits and meetings, the last of which was by Yang Jiechi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, to Kuwait in February 2021 and the meeting between both Kuwaiti and Chinese foreign ministers in the Uzbekistan capital of Tashkent on July 16, 2021. They also looked into ways of creating fresh horizons for joint cooperation in various sectors at the behest of both countries' leaderships, in addition to response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Both sides finally discussed the latest regional and international developments and exchanged views on a set of issues and subjects that concern both nations.

### Vital role

In his statement during talks with his Kuwaiti counterpart, Minister Yi praised Kuwait's political and diplomatic ties with all countries, especially with China. According to the statement, the Chinese minister hailed Kuwait's vital role in maintaining peace and stability regionally and globally. The minister stressed that the leaderships of the two countries had established a high degree of mutual trust and friendship, which provided

security and political stability for the Sino-Kuwaiti relations, and their development and advancement.

Furthermore, he touched on the historic and friendly ties between the two countries, saying that Kuwait was the first Gulf country to establish diplomatic relations with China, and it was the first to respond to the Belt and Road Initiative. The statement also said that the two sides agreed on the need to enhance compatibility between the Belt and Road Initiative and Kuwait Vision 2035 and speed up the formulation of a five-year cooperation plan and the establishment of a work mechanism in this regard. Both sides also shed light on regional and international issues, such as Palestine, Yemen and the Iranian nuclear file, in addition to the situation in Iraq and Syria, it added.

### China backs GCC

Earlier yesterday, Minister Yi said that China firmly supports GCC countries in safeguarding their national independence, security and stability. The Chinese minister made the remark while meeting with the visiting Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary-General Nayef Al-Hajraf in Wuxi, China's Foreign Ministry said in a statement carried by Xinhua news agency. He said that, in recent years, China and the GCC have consolidated their political mutual trust and deepened practical cooperation, adding that China appreciates the GCC's

understanding of and support for China's propositions on issues concerning China's core interests and major concerns. He said that China will continue to oppose any country's interference in the internal affairs of GCC countries under the pretext of "human rights" and oppose linking terrorism with any particular religion or ethnic group.

Both China and the GCC are important forces for stability, Wang said, adding that in the face of uncertainties caused by profound changes of a scale unseen in a century and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, both sides should work together to play a more positive role in promoting regional peace and stability as well as world peace and development. The two sides agreed that the conditions for China and the GCC to establish a strategic partnership are ripe, and they will accelerate this process. They will also work together to formulate and sign an action plan for strategic dialogue in the next three years. The two sides agreed to complete negotiations on a free-trade agreement between China and the GCC at an early date, and agreed to strengthen coordination and cooperation on international and regional affairs to jointly address global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. The Chinese foreign minister and the GCC chief also exchanged views and coordinated their positions on the Iranian nuclear issue and the Yemen issue. —KUNA

### News in brief

#### Education Ministry, ICESCO discuss cooperation

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti Undersecretary of the Education Ministry Dr Ali Al-Yaqoub held a meeting with the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) Director-General Dr Salim Al-Malik to exchange views and aspects of cooperation between the two parties. In a press statement yesterday, Malik praised Kuwait's efforts and humanitarian initiatives throughout history. He also noted that the aim of the visit is to benefit from Kuwaiti expertise and competencies, in addition to building partnerships and agreements with different Kuwaiti institutions. ICESCO's General Supervisor of the Committees and Conferences Dr Ahmad Saeed extended his gratitude to the competent authorities for this kind invitation, wishing the relations between Kuwait and the organization further excellence and success.

#### Kuwait oil price down to \$82.78 pb

**KUWAIT:** The price of Kuwaiti crude oil went down by 38 cents to settle at \$82.78 pb on Tuesday, compared with the previous day's \$83.16 pb. Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) announced yesterday. Globally, the Brent crude hiked by \$2.85 to \$83.72 pb and West Texas Intermediate also rose by \$2.99 to \$81.22 pb.

#### Arab cooperation with Gulf States

**CAIRO:** Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Abul-Gheit affirmed the need to boost cooperation with the Arab Gulf Program for Development (AGFUND), to support Arab states' recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Abul-Gheit made the statement during his meeting with head of AGFUND Prince Abdulaziz bin Talal, for the occasion of launching the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development (AFSD), the League said in a statement yesterday. He also underlined the importance of working on achieving the 2030 sustainable development goals by both sides. Meanwhile, Prince Abdulaziz presented some of AGFUND's initiatives including the poverty bank, education for refugees in Zaatar camp and other initiatives aiming to ease the suffering of people in conflict-zones, the League added.



**China reiterates backing for GCC**