

Local

# US highly eyes Kuwait's role for promoting peace: Blinken

## US State Secretary sheds light on agreement to deal with potential disease outbreaks

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that the United States of America places "tremendous value" on the role that Kuwait plays as an "advancer of peace." In an exclusive interview to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Blinken said, "We of course place tremendous value on the role that Kuwait plays, an almost unique role that it plays as a facilitator, mediator, advancer of peace and leading the way to resolve conflicts."

He added that "in many ways Kuwait has been an indispensable bridge to try to resolve challenges in the region and even beyond; the role that it has played in healing the Gulf rift was critical and essential, the role that it plays as well in Yemen in trying to end the war there is vital. We see that in Lebanon, we see that in the relationship it has developed with Iraq," Blinken said, affirming "it's something that we place tremendous value in."

### Strategic Dialogue

On the Fifth US-Kuwait Strategic Dialogue, Blinken said each dialogue "is building on the previous one and demonstrating in concrete ways how we are both deepening, strengthening, but also expanding our ties and the work we are doing together." "I think I come away from this fifth Strategic Dialogue convinced that this partnership continues to deepen but in ways that I think, benefiting both our peoples but also beyond people,

around the world," he added. He continued "I was in Kuwait last year; it coincided with the 30th anniversary of the liberation of Kuwait and the 60th anniversary of our (diplomatic) ties and what is so important, beyond the powerful symbolism of that is that day in day out," the two nations are working to further boost the collaboration and cooperation.

He affirmed that "ties in new areas, I think are quite extraordinary and powerful," shedding light on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the two countries "to deal with the potential outbreak of dangerous diseases and to make sure that we are working together, sharing information to detect the spread of dangerous pathogens and to be able to prevent that and deal with that." "That's exactly the kind of collaboration that is bringing us together not only to deal with traditional threats, but some ones that the entire world is facing," he stressed.

### Driving progress

He continued by saying that the strategic dialogue "even if it culminates or starts with a conversation between the (foreign) ministers, the critical work is done in the working groups, noting "that's how we actually make sure that we're driving concrete progress." He said that the work the working groups are doing "including the work that they do in between the dialogues, the communication they



WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah lead their respective countries' delegations at the Fifth US-Kuwait Strategic Dialogue. — KUNA

have, the efforts to advance the different initiatives that we're taking, that's what's important."

On the 18th anniversary of the designation of Kuwait as a major non-NATO ally of the US, Blinken said "it's a testimony to the importance of the partnership, the significant role that Kuwait plays, not only as a peacemaker, as a bridge, but also for example, in the coalition to counter Daesh, where Kuwait has played an essential role and con-

tinues to play one because unfortunately, even though the threat has been significantly reduced in recent years thanks to the good work that we have done together, it remains real and we remain very vigilant together." "It's a testimony to the, in many ways, unique role that Kuwait and our partnership plays both in trying to advance peace but also to deal with challenges to our common security," he remarked. — KUNA

## Kuwait FM, US official discuss ties, underscore liberation anniversary

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah conducted a telephone contact with Adam Smith, the head of the US House Armed Services Committee in the Congress. The two sides addressed the close bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and means of cementing the bonds in various sectors. Also during the conversation, the



Adam Smith



Sheikh Dr Ahmad

US historic role for the liberation of the State of Kuwait was recalled on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of the Desert Storm operation. Moreover, the Kuwaiti foreign minister and the US official discussed some regional and international topics. — KUNA

## Foreign Minister meets outgoing Hungary envoy



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah yesterday met the outgoing Hungarian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Istvan Gyula Soos. During the meeting, the Kuwaiti foreign minister commended the ambassador's efforts and contributions to the promotion of close bilateral relations between both friendly countries. —KUNA

## Kuwait prime minister hosts Amiri Diwan adviser

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday at Seif Palace received Adviser at the Amiri Diwan Mohammad Abdullah Abulhassan who awarded the premier a copy of his book, "Facts and Secrets of my Memories." The book chronicles the State of Kuwait's role at the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly during Abulhassan's service as its delegate at the international organization (1981-2003). — KUNA



KUWAIT: Waleed Al-Khashti and Anwar Al-Refaie with Zain and Bait Al-Othman Museum's teams.

## Zain keen on promoting Kuwaiti heritage

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced its main sponsorship of the Late Abdullah Abdullatif Al-Othman's first Carrom Competition. The event, hosted and organized by Bait Al Othman Museum from 8-10 February, comes under supervision from the Public Authority for Sports, and is set to feature over 113 teams and 226 players.

The announcement came during Zain's visit to Bait Al-Othman Museum in Hawalli with the attendance of Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Communications and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti, Head of Kuwaiti Heritage Team and Vice President of Volunteer Work Center Anwar Al-Refaie, as well as Zain's team and Bait Al-Othman Museum's officials.

Zain is proud to support this unique local event in collaboration with Bait Al Othman Museum, part

of the Kuwait Volunteer Work Center. The company's support springs from its corporate sustainability strategy towards supporting Kuwaiti sports, youth, and culture. Zain strongly believes in the private sector's vital and active role in supporting and progressing programs and initiatives that preserve Kuwait's rich history, culture, and heritage.

Bait Al-Othman Museum organizes the Late Abdullah Abdullatif Al-Othman's first Carrom Competition, which is set to feature over 113 teams and 226 players. The competition will be supervised and refereed by the Public Authority for Sports, and valuable cash prizes will be presented to the winners of the first four places. Many fun activities will also be held for visitors and spectators during the competition. Carrom is a traditional tabletop game that is wildly popular with Kuwaiti youth throughout the nation's history.

As a leading private sector company in Kuwait, Zain is constantly looking to identify and support the most unique community programs that directly support sports, youth, and culture. The company is proud to shoulder many initiatives that aim at introducing Kuwait's rich history and heritage to the nation's next generations.

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