

Local



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah headed on Thursday to Italy on a private visit. His Highness the Amir was seen off at the airport by His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanim, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and senior state officials. —KUNA

Saudis, Bahrainis, Kuwaitis in UK electronic visa waivers

LONDON: The British government announced Wednesday that Saudi and Bahraini nationals would be included in the electronic visa waiver status scheme applied on GCC countries including Kuwait. A statement by the UK's Home Office said that decision would be effective on June 1, allowing citizens from Saudi Arabia and Bahrain to obtain a visa via an online waiver valid up to six months.

The waiver would be obtained online prior to entry to the UK, added the statement, noting that the procedures such as interviews, sending passports to the UK embassy, and biometric data would be annulled. A yet-to-be-specified small fee is required for such waiver, indicated the office. On the subject, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss affirmed that the step aimed at bolstering ties with Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. "Our friendships with both countries are of great importance, built on shared priorities such as trade, investment and security," said Truss.

In another development, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Peter Szijjar met on Wednesday in Marrakech, Morocco, on the sidelines of the global coalition against the so-called Islamic State (IS) ministerial meeting. The two officials discussed ways to enhance bilateral ties in all possible domains and also touched upon recent regional and international developments. Kuwaiti Foreign Minister also met Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares in Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco. The meeting tackled bilateral relations of both countries. —KUNA

Palestine Embassy opens a condolence register

KUWAIT: The Embassy of the state of Palestine to Kuwait expressed its greetings to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, all diplomatic & consular missions and international organizations accredited in the State of Kuwait, and to local and International Media. The Embassy will open a condolences book on Sunday 15/05/2022 (from 10:00 AM - 14:00 PM) for the Veteran Palestinian Martyr Journalist Shireen Abu Akleh who was executed by Zionist occupation forces on Wednesday 11/05/2022 while she was covering the raid in Jenin Refugee Camp. Embassy building is in Bayan, Block 13, Street 7, Villa 24.

Education minister stresses importance of cooperation

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Education Minister and Minister of Higher Education Dr Ali Al-Mudhaf has stressed the importance of cooperation between educational institutions in order to offer scholarships that meet needs of the workforce. Al-Mudhaf made remarks while chairing a coordination meeting between the ministry and higher educational and higher education institutions regarding scholarships in Kuwait and

Arab League affirms giving great priority to disaster risk reduction

CAIRO: The Arab League affirmed on Thursday that its member states give great priority to disaster risk reduction through the implementation of the work program - the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction - approved by the Arab League. This came in a speech by the Secretary-General of the Arab League, Ahmed Aboul Gheit delivered on his behalf by the Director of the Department of Housing, Water Resources and Disaster Reduction, Dr Jamal El-Din Jaballah before the work of the first ministerial meeting of Arab ministers.

The work is to provide the necessary capabilities to confront disasters if they occur - noting that "a collective Arab mechanism of solidarity and cooperation will be established when disasters occur in the Arab countries - providing material and financial assistance to

disaster-affected countries, whether inside or outside the Arab region."

He expressed hope that the first ministerial meeting would be a "real start" for the implementation of the Arab plan for disaster reduction approved by the Arab Summit. He called on the concerned national authorities to expedite the implementation of this plan to reduce disaster risks and confront challenges, indicating that the meeting discussed a number of "important" items related to monitoring natural disasters, as well as following up on the provisions of the Arab strategy for disaster risk reduction.

He also referred to the preparation of the global forum for disaster risk reduction and defining Arab and regional emergency plans for disaster risk reduction - pointing out that this ministerial session "is being held

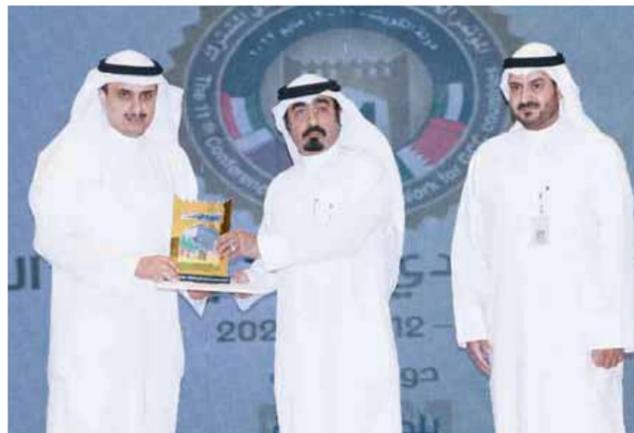


Head of Kuwait's delegation to the meeting, Deputy Permanent Representative at the Arab League, Falah Al-Mutairi.

in light of major repercussions facing the Arab region, climate and environmental changes and serious disasters that have greatly contributed to increasing rates of desertification, forest fires, water scarcity and other natural variables."

He also referred to humanitarian disasters such as armed conflicts that affected the Middle East and North Africa region "as the Arab region is considered one of the most

affected regions due to these changes." The Kuwaiti delegation to the meeting was headed by the Deputy Permanent Representative of the State to the League of Arab States, Counselor Falah Al-Mutairi. Representatives of Arab countries and a number of Arab, regional and international organizations specialized in the field of disaster reduction and minimizing their effects will participate in the meeting. —KUNA



Gulf conference recommends adopting twin town models

KUWAIT: Participants at the 11th session of the Joint Gulf Municipal Work Conference have recommended the adoption of latest digital models in twin towns in some Gulf council countries. The conference, hosted by Kuwait over three days and sponsored by Minister of Municipal Affairs and Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Dr Rana Al-Fares, under the slogan of "smart municipality," concluded its activities Thursday.

The conference highlighted the necessity of establishing a central body which specialized in civil information systems, to unify digital lan-

guage and connect concerned bodies with the municipality. It also called for increasing training courses to develop national cadres, exchange expertise and to encourage the use of platforms and smart applications to further facilitate procedures.

Additionally, the conference promoted a platform to observe and control sanitation services, and another platform for food safety to review the work of companies and ensure the highest quality. On the issue of voluntary work, it urged supporting the efforts of municipalities and concerned organizations to further voluntary humanitarian activities.

The conference called for boosting citizens' involvement in the development journey, and moti-



Ahmad Al-Manfouhi



vate the youth to contribute to servicing the community. Municipality General Director, Ahmad Al-Manfouhi, stated to the press after the concluding ceremony that the recommendations will be referred to GCC ministerial meeting scheduled to be held in September. Al-Manfouhi also commented that they are working on digitalizing the work of the municipality, especially relating to permits, indicating that 40 percent of permits can be issued in the same day. —KUNA

abroad for the year 2022-23.

Al-Mudhaf stated that the main goal is to expand scholarships in order to meet needs of the market with qualified students who would contribute to achieving Kuwait 2035 vision. This annual meeting takes place before announcing high schools' results in order to know the number of Kuwaiti students expected to graduate this year, he added.

The Minister assured that each student will have the opportunity to have a scholarship. He said that the goal is to expand the specializations in the process of admission and scholarships and reduce acceptance and scholarship in specialties that are less needed in the labor market. The aim is to prepare outstanding graduates for competitive market both locally and globally. —KUNA

