

Call to complete demarcation of Kuwait-Iraq maritime borders

Kuwait FM, Jordan Deputy PM discuss regional developments

KUWAIT: Kuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah met on Sunday Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriate Affairs Ayman Al-Safadi. Al-Safadi conveyed greetings of Jordanian King Abdullah II to 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 Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, reported KUNA.

The Jordanian top diplomat expressed King Abdullah II's keenness on boosting bilateral ties on various levels. During the meeting, the two sides shed light on deep-rooted relations, stressing importance of continuing consultation and coordination vis-a-vis regional issues and challenges.

Both sides also affirmed importance of completing the demarcation of maritime borders between Kuwait and Iraq beyond Mark 162, which contributes to strengthening relations between the two countries, KUNA added.

The meeting dealt with the strong relations between Kuwait and the brotherly Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the frameworks for expanding joint cooperation and deepening the existing coordination between the two brotherly countries at all levels.

They discussed various areas of cooperation, especially economic, investment, tourism, education, food security and defense, in a way that enhances the

common interest of the two countries and realizes the aspirations of their two brotherly peoples, added a press release issued by the Foreign Ministry.

The two ministers agreed on the importance of continuing consultations and coordinating stances towards regional issues and challenges and ways to deal with them in a way that contributes to resolving crises in the region and achieving security and stability in the region.

They discussed means of strengthening relations between the two brotherly countries, achieving common interests between them and taking them to broader horizons.

During the meeting, current developments on the regional and international arenas and joint coordination regarding them were discussed. They also touched upon developments related to the advanced talks on Palestinian cause, condemnation of the massive attacks carried out by the Zionist entity's occupation against the brotherly Palestinian people, and its violations of international legitimacy resolutions. In this context, the two sides emphasized the centrality of the Palestinian cause and the need for concerted Arab and international efforts to solve it on the basis of the two-state solution, in a way that guarantees the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. The talks also dealt with the situation in Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, Libya, support for Iraq and the fight against terrorism, the release added.



KUWAIT: Kuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriate Affairs Ayman Al-Safadi on Sunday. —KUNA

Ministries may raise tariffs for services

KUWAIT: Government sources revealed that the Council of Ministers received replies from some ministries regarding the issue of raising charges and tariffs for various services.

"Ministries, including Interior, Health and Electricity, responded in an official memo, that according to studies, fees must be raised based on a reasoning that current tariffs are too low in comparison with services offered and they are significantly lower than the tariffs that exist in the countries in the region," sources revealed to Kuwait Times.

"The Electricity Ministry intends to increase tariffs by 50 percent from current rates, especially since the production costs are too high and consumes much of the state's budget without positive return to the public storage. New prices, if implemented, will not exhaust citizens, but will halt some current negativities," sources added.

"The health ministry also intends to raise charges of medical tests such as X-rays and some medical equipment usages in hospitals, as well as charges of operations and rent for private rooms. Moreover, raising the charges of gynecological services are in the pipeline and they are only awaiting a final decision," the sources added. They said that the increase in charges does not need a parliamentary approval as it is within the ministry's authority.

"The Interior Ministry is also raising charges regarding the issuance of driving license, traffic violations, residency and other services by various departments," the sources added pointing out that the increase for each contract may be raised from KD 5 to KD 10 depending on the type of services given.

When asked if these hikes will affect general prices in the country in different fields, the sources said that the hikes in governmental charges are unlikely to have an impact on inflation. "Fixing the prices of commercial products is done by the Commerce and Industry Ministry and under strict supervision. These measures will deter businessmen from abusing the situation to jack up prices," the sources added.

Wet spell to continue in Kuwait

KUWAIT: Rainy weather is expected to start gradually Monday evening until Tuesday afternoon across the country, said Kuwait Meteorology Center on Sunday. The presence of a deep low pressure in the atmosphere mixed with high surface humidity creates the perfect conditions for low and mid-level clouds formation, as well as thunderstorms, indicated meteorologist Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi.

Light to moderate rainfall is expected with the possibility of some heavy downpours over the southern part of the country. High wind and low visibility make for bad sea condition as waves expected to reach up to six feet. Al-Qarawi said conditions will improve as a cold weather front is expected to arrive later on Tuesday bringing dry cold conditions.



KUWAIT: A thick blanket of fog covers skyscrapers in downtown Kuwait on Sunday. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Hawally Governor and Acting Governor of Asimah Ali Al-Asfar inaugurates the new bus waiting station in Hawally.

Hawally governor opens new bus waiting station

KUWAIT: Hawally Governor and Acting Governor of Asimah Ali Al-Asfar reiterated that

the governorate is keen on providing all necessary support to develop public places and beautify them in service of nationals and residents in the governorate. He made this statement during the inauguration of a new bus waiting station in Hawally.

"It is important to follow this example in all other areas of the governorate in order to develop public transport stations and reduce traffic con-

gestions on roads. The governorate also aims to gain the attention of private companies to sponsor ideas like this and to finance them for the service of the residents," Al-Asfar said.

The bust waiting station includes an electronic gate, air conditioning system which works on cooling the station during the summer, as well as a surveillance camera to maintain security.



KUWAIT: The free studio artists in Kuwait held on Sunday a unique art exhibition that includes plastic paintings alongside an awareness symposium it is organizing. The exhibition was organized to support the National Cancer Awareness Campaign (CAN). —KUNA photos