



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Dr Saleh Al-Mutlaq, President of the Arab bloc and the Secretary General of Dialogue Front of the Republic of Iraq.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives a memorabilia shield from Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. — Amiri Diwan photos

## AMIR CHAIRS KUWAIT'S DELEGATION TO DONOR CONFERENCE ON SYRIA, REGION

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah leaves Kuwait today accompanied by an official delegation, heading to the United Kingdom, where he is set to chair Kuwait's delegation and participate in the 4th international donor conference on Syria and the region.

In other news, His Highness the Amir received Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at Seif Palace yesterday. Sheikh Fawaz delivered a memorabilia shield marking the 10th anniversary of His Highness the Amir's ascension to power.

His Highness the Amir also received Minister of State

for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Electricity and Water Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, accompanied by Dr Saleh Al-Mutlaq, President of the Arab bloc and the Secretary General of Dialogue Front of the Republic of Iraq. Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah attended the meeting. Later, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah separately received Mutlaq.

Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-

Jaber Al-Sabah, Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak and Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Jarrah Al-Sabah. His Highness also received Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah, as well as Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Chairman of the UK All Party Parliamentary Group and member of British Conservatives Party Dr Phillip Lee (third from left) leads a UK delegation during a press conference at the National Assembly yesterday. — KUNA

## BRITISH OFFICIAL PRAISES AMIR'S HUMANITARIAN ROLE

### SPEAKER GHANEM RECEIVES BRITISH LAWMAKERS

LONDON/KUWAIT: British Minister of State for International Development Desmond Swayne lauded His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as a humanitarian leader who has transformed Kuwait into an international hub for humanitarian giving.

Swayne expressed his appreciation, in a statement to (KUNA) yesterday, for planned participation of His Highness the Amir and the accompanying official delegation at the Fourth Syria Donors Conference, due in London on Thursday, to support the humanitarian situation in the war-stricken country in cooperation with Britain, Norway, Germany and United Nations leaders.

He recalled the significant role played by Kuwait for hosting the three previous conferences at this level, noting that the resulting commitments have contributed to alleviation of the humanitarian crisis in Syria and its neighboring countries.

The British official urged the international community to contribute generously to avoid last year's problems when the United Nations World Food Program announced that it will limit the services provided to refugees due to lack of financial support.

He also called on the participants in the London conference to ensure that all children and young people, affected by the conflict, have sustainable access to safe, qualitative and relevant educational opportunities during the 2016/2017 academic year.

"The UK has committed more than 1.1 billion sterling pounds in aid for the region," he added, noting that Britain is doing its moral duty in terms of funding the refugees to alleviate their humanitarian suffering. Kuwait hosted the previous three donation conferences to support the humanitarian situation in Syria, gathering pledges of more than \$7.7 billion, of them \$1.3 billion by Kuwait.

#### Historic relations

Meanwhile, Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem received yesterday the delegation of the British-Kuwaiti membership committee in House of Commons. During the meeting, Ghanem and the delegation's head, Philippe Lee, discussed relations between the two countries and means of promoting them in all fields, mainly in the parliamentary sector.

The delegation stressed the status of

historic relations between the two countries, reaffirming Britain's commitment to maintaining security of Kuwait and all GCC member states, as well as stability in the region. The delegation also emphasized that the agreement between the two countries on extradition of those wanted has reached its final phases, to be approved as soon as possible.

The delegation included Chris Leslie, Stephen Phillips, Chris Evans and Kevan Jones. The meeting was attended by MPs Adel Al-Kharafi, Yousef Al-Zalzalah, Faisal Al-Shaya, Mubarak Al-Herai, Mohammad Al-Jabri, Ahmed Al-Qudabi, Rakan Al-Nisf and the parliament's Secretary General Allam Al-Kandari.

#### Significant part

Dr Lee meanwhile praised the bilateral relations between Kuwait and Britain describing the ties as "strong and historic." After meeting the head of Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee MP Kamel Al-Awadhi at the National Assembly, Lee spoke to the press saying that this visit is aiming to reinforce the relations between the two countries, especially on the 55th anniversary of Kuwait's independence from Britain, and the 25th anniversary of Kuwait's Liberation "in which the British forces took a significant part."

About the Syrian Refugee cause, he mentioned that Britain plans to receive 20,000 Syrian refugees, mostly orphan children. He said Britain is pleased to host the fourth donors' conference for Syria in London this week, with co-host from Kuwait, noting that Britain is playing a big role currently as the second largest donor in the region, helping Syrian refugees in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon. Meanwhile, British MP Jones talked about the British visa for Kuwaitis, saying that easing the visa procedures is a very important step, due to the large flow of Kuwaitis visiting Britain for different reasons.

#### Diplomatic Institute

Also yesterday, Director General of Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute Ambassador Abdulaziz Al-Sharekh met with the British delegation to discuss ways to enhance cooperation. A press statement issued by the institute said that Sharekh briefed the visiting delegation on recent activities the institute has conducted in the diplomatic realm.

Both parties reviewed historic relations between Kuwait and Britain as Al-Sharekh acknowledged British efforts of upholding security and eliminating all threats that Kuwait had encountered during the last

century, the statement noted. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Director General of the institute Abdullah Al-Yahya and the British Ambassador to Kuwait Matthew Lodge. —KUNA



KUWAIT: The Ambassador of the Socialist Republic Vietnam Nguyen Hong Thao hosted a reception on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and Kuwait. Higher officials, diplomats and media persons attended the event, which took place recently at Crowne Plaza hotel. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

In my view

## VIETNAM-KUWAIT RELATIONS



By Javaid Ahmad

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The Vietnamese Embassy in Kuwait celebrated the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the State of Kuwait. It was held at the same time as Vietnam's 12th national party congress of the Communist party. The congress has already approved Vietnam's foreign and economic policies for the next five years. The main features of these policies are:

1. Vietnam shall relay its policies based on the principles of independence, self-reliance, multilateralism and diversification of external relations. In addition to this, a positive posture for international integration and looking forward to playing an active and responsible role among the international community. These relationships are based on the fundamental principles of law and international commitments and the new free trade agreements that Vietnam has already signed.

2. Vietnam shall strengthen its relations with partner countries, especially strategic ones, as well as with major countries that can play an important role in the development of the country.

3. Vietnam is determined to play an active role in multilateral forums, particularly at the forum of regional ASEAN bloc, as well as on the forums of the United Nations. The country shall enhance its participation in multilateral mechanism of defense and security related issues including intensive cooperative activities such as peace operations with the UN, military exercises/drills and non-traditional security and other related activities.

4. Apart from the key role in the field of culture, society, science, technology, education and training, Vietnam is likely to play a proactive role by taking further steps towards greater integration of the country towards multilateral trade agreements within the World Trade Organization's mechanisms. Vietnam has signed 11 free trade agreements and has established extensive trade relations with more than 55 partner countries including 15 out of 20 G20 members that account for 65 percent of its GDP and 50 percent of global trade amongst member countries.

When it comes to the ASEAN economic community, Vietnam has been considered as one of the important and effective members of ASEAN. Vietnam has gradually consolidated its position towards reforming its economy based on liberal economic principles and has integrated itself with almost 59 official partner countries. Over time, the country has attracted a total of more than \$250 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) since it has started reforms. Vietnam has been considered as one of the most open economy and has been ranked fifth in the world in terms of trade openness by more than 100 top multinational corporations.

Middle East economies are paying close attention to an emerging Vietnam and the region is likely to take concrete steps towards further promoting trade and economic relations with this emerging South Asian nation.

Nguyen Phu Thong was re-elected as Secretary General of the Communist Party of Vietnam for the next five years at the end of 12th congress. The congress, which usually meets every five years in the one-party state, brings together 1,510 delegates from around the country. These delegates elect the Central Committee, which in turn elects the party's General Secretary (who used to be the country's supreme leader) and Politburo members. The outgoing central committee usually elects the next party chief, politburo members, the next prime minister and the next state president, the next national assembly chair and the next cabinet members.

Vietnamese people elect their legislature - the National Assembly - via a direct voting system. The national assembly is being elected for a five-year term by more than 500 delegates countrywide. This assembly elects the President of Vietnam. The president in turn appoints the Prime Minister of Vietnam and the Chief Justice of Vietnam, which is likely to be approved by the National Assembly. The ministers are then appointed by the Prime Minister who are supposed to be approved by the National Assembly.

Forty years ago, on Jan 10, 1976, Vietnam and Kuwait established their bilateral diplomatic relations. Kuwait was the first country among GCC countries which allowed Vietnam to open its embassy. Kuwait was also the first country in the GCC that Vietnam chose to establish its trade representative office in 1993, and embassy in 2003. Both countries have officially concluded friendly visits to each other. The former Prime Minister of Kuwait HE Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and his Vietnamese counterpart Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung in 2009 visited each other's countries.

The bilateral trade and economic relationship is well established between the two countries since 1979. Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development has provided about \$140 million for 13 infrastructure projects. Beside this, Vietnam and Kuwait are now cooperating closely and effectively towards establishing an oil refinery and petrochemical projects in Vietnam. Kuwait has one of the largest investments in Vietnam with a capital of \$9 billion. It is expected that once the commercial operations of the projects commence, the total trade volume may reach \$2 billion a year by 2020. Vietnam has tripled its per capita GDP to \$2,100 over the past 10 years. With a stable political system, Vietnam is likely to emerge as one of the most attractive, stable, secure and emerging destination for foreign investment.