



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah welcomes His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah upon his return to Kuwait. — Amiri Diwan photos



JEDDAH: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (center), Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (left) and Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani attend the 16th consultative meeting of the GCC leaders.

AMIR RETURNS HOME AFTER ATTENDING GCC MEETING

KUWAIT/JEDDAH: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation arrived back to Kuwait yesterday evening after leading the country's delegation to the 16th consultative meeting of the GCC leaders in Jeddah. His Highness the Amir was received at the airport by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, senior sheikhs, Deputy Chief of Kuwait National Guards Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-

Sabah, Acting National Assembly Speaker Mubarak Salem Al-Harees, Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah and senior officials. The accompanying delegation included First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, director of the office of His Highness the Amir Ahmad Fahad Al-Fahad, head of the Amiri protocols Sheikh Khaled Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah Al-

Nasser Al-Sabah, chief of media and cultural affairs at the Amiri Diwan Youssef Al-Roumi, chief of political and economic affairs Sheikh Fawaz Saud Nasser Saud Al-Sabah, and senior officials at the Amiri Diwan and Foreign Ministry. His Highness the Amir was seen off at the King Abdulaziz International Airport by Saudi Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture Abdurrahman Abdul Mohsen Al-Fadli, Kuwait's Ambassador to the Kingdom Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Kuwait's Consul General in Jeddah and Permanent Delegate to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

(OIC) Saleh Ali Al-Saq'abi. Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir sent a cable to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud thanking him for warm reception and hospitality during the meeting. In the cable, His Highness the Amir lauded the results of the meeting aiming to enhance the bonds of historical and cordial relations among the GCC member states. His Highness the Amir said this would be in favor of meeting the aspirations of Gulf nations towards further prosperity and stability. His Highness the Amir wished King Salman good health and the Kingdom further progress and prosperity under his wise leadership.

During their meeting presided by King Salman, leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states discussed GCC integration and cooperation and ways of developing them in all fields as well as the current regional and international developments. His Highness the Amir was received upon arrival to Jeddah by King Salman and senior Saudi officials, in addition to GCC Secretary General Abdulattif Al-Zayani and Ambassador to the Kingdom Sheikh Thamer Al-Sabah. Later, His Highness the Amir attended a luncheon banquet held by King Salman in honor of the GCC leaders. —KUNA

KUWAIT'S HOSTING OF YEMENI PEACE TALKS DRAWS MORE WORLD ACCLAMATION

KUWAIT: Kuwait's hosting of Yemeni peace talks continues to draw international and Arab acclamation as a great effort to restore the stability of Yemen and end the suffering of its people. After a meeting with the UN Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, visiting UK Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond expressed his appreciation to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's efforts in the Yemen peace talks, stressing that "without his intervention they would have lasted long." He viewed that the UN-brokered Yemeni peace talks is "making progress" even though there was a cautious optimism prevailing over the discussions. Hammond said that all parties involved should be "cautiously optimistic". Even though the talks were moving slowly, "progress is being made," he added. He said that all sides should understand there should be a political solution to the crisis because Yemen is getting dangerously close to an economic collapse. He said that there were many details that were still being disputed, yet "a broad settlement of framework is being emerged." He urged to keep the talks going and "keep everybody at the table" and not allow the posturing of any side to derail the talks.



The UN Special Envoy to Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed

Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's efforts and ensuring success to the Yemeni peace talks. Khurainej expressed hopes that the dialogue would be successful and achieve the aspiration of the Yemeni people. Meanwhile, at the conclusion of the session, Arab Parliament and Kuwait Member of Parliament (MP) Dr Mohammad Al-Huwaila hailed the exceptional and huge role played by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah in hosting Yemeni peace talks and attempting to unify the Yemen people and find a political solution to the crisis. Huwaila made his statement after the Arab Parliament session conclusion, asserting that the Arab Parliament completely support Kuwait and its leadership in hosting the Yemeni talks. Al-Huwaila added that the Arab Parliament support efforts exerted by Kuwait in ensuring success to the Yemeni peace talks and negotiations to find a political solution to the crisis that would end the bloodshed.

Security issues

In the meantime, the UN Envoy to Yemen Cheikh Ahmed continued his bilateral meetings with Yemeni negotiating teams in Kuwait. Following the meeting, he noted that security issues have dominated the discussions in the Yemeni peace talks today. He pointed out that the delegation of Ansarullah and the General People's Congress (GPC) noted the challenges continuing to face Yemen. The Government of Yemen delegation presented a paper on security mechanisms including details relating to formation of security committees. Cheikh Ahmed, however, expressed concerns about violations of cessation of hostilities by some parties in Yemen. "Stabilizing the situation is a fundamental demand of the Yemeni people. Violations to the Cessation of Hostilities are unacceptable and security has an impact on all," Cheikh Ahmed stressed in a press statement. He underlined that political bickering would complicate the situation and urged Yemeni parties to do more to reach the aspired peaceful solution to the Yemeni crisis. "Economic decline, water and electricity shortages should motivate the parties to re-double their efforts towards reaching a comprehensive and peaceful solution," he said. "Political bickering will only complicate issues. Only a political solution will help resolve them." —KUNA

Wise diplomacy

Meanwhile, President of Arab Parliament (AP) Ahmad Al-Jarwan commended Kuwait's hosting of Yemeni peace talks and the wise diplomacy of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah aiming to support Yemen's dialogue. Addressing the fifth session of the first legislative term of AP, Jarwan expressed his hope that the current peace negotiations among Yemeni warring parties "would support Yemenis' will, and achieve security and stability and protect freedoms". Moreover, member of Arab Parliament and Deputy Speaker of National Assembly Mubarak Al-Khurainej stressed Monday the importance of adopting a political dialogue in ending disputes, in reference to Yemeni peace talks hosted by Kuwait, and sponsored by UN. Khurainej made his remarks on the sideline of the fifth session of the first legislative term of Arab Parliament. The lawmaker said the report by the political, foreign, and security affairs committee of the parliament praised His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad

GHANEM REASSERTS KUWAITI-SAUDI TIES

CAIRO: Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem underscored yesterday 'the distinguished and historic' relations binding Kuwait and Saudi Arabia under the wise leaderships of both countries. He made that affirmation after meeting with his Saudi counterpart President of the Shura Council Abdullah Al Sheikh, on the sideline of their participation in the 3rd Conference of the Arab Parliament, dealing this time with issues regarding childhood in the Arab world.

Speaker Ghanem said that work between the two countries on vital bilateral issues have been ongoing admirably and will continue in that manner in the future. Asked if the meeting with his Saudi counterpart dealt with condemning Iran for trying to politicize the Hajj pilgrimage this year, Ghanem said "this issue and other bilateral ones were discussed between us." He added that "what affects Saudi Arabia affects Kuwait as well as all the Gulf countries; this is totally axiomatic."

Meanwhile President of the Shura Council Abdullah Al Sheikh praised in a statement after meeting with his Kuwaiti counterpart the energy and enthusiasm Speaker Al-Ghanem exudes in parliamentary meetings and at official occasions. Al Sheikh noted that Ghanem's energy, enthusiasm, and hard work "are of benefit to our faith, our nations and all world countries that seek peace and amity for the human race, including GCC and Arab countries."

Protecting childhood

The Arab League has called for concerted efforts so as to enact legislations and laws aiming at the protection of childhood in the region. Deputy Secretary General of the Arab League Ahmed Bin Heli made the statement during the inauguration of the third conference of Arab



CAIRO: Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets with his Saudi counterpart President of the Shura Council Abdullah Al Sheikh. — KUNA

parliamentarians on childhood co-organized by the league, Arab Parliamentary and Egypt's National Council for Childhood and Motherhood.

He spoke about life-risking situations of childhood in countries, like Syria, Libya and Yemen, facing crises and conflicts, in addition to Palestine which has been suffering from Israeli aggressions. He warned against the growing rate of illiteracy in some Arab countries, calling for finding solutions to address this crisis which doubles suffering of children. Bin Heli stressed the league's keenness on addressing situations

of childhood in Arab countries and preparing the 2015-2030 investment agenda on this file.

Meanwhile, President of Arab Parliament (AP) Ahmad Al-Jarwan affirmed in a similar speech the importance of sharing expertise among Arab legislatures regarding enacting laws in this regard. He said the AP is eager to make Arab generations more aware and positive towards "our societies and nations." He added that the AP has launched, through the commission on social, cultural, women, youth and child affairs, an initiative to discuss means of protecting Arab children and maintaining their interests. — KUNA

KUWAITI ELECTED DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF UNESCO'S CULTURAL HERITAGE BODY

PARIS: Members of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage have elected Dr Waleed Al-Seif as a deputy chairman of the general assembly. Kuwait's delegate to UNESCO Ambassador Meshaal Hayat said that Al-Seif was unanimously elected by GA members in their meeting held Monday.

He noted that Al-Seif, an advisor at the technical bureau of the Secretary General of Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), was nominated as a representative of the Arab member states. "This is an appreciation from the member states to Kuwait's effective cultural role and its great contributions to the

UNESCO," Ambassador Hayat stated. He pointed out that Kuwait has joined the convention in 2015. Meanwhile, Seif expressed his pleasure for the election to this important cultural post. "This is a significant achievement for Kuwait and an evidence on its remarkable efforts to safeguard world intangible cultural heritage," he said. The General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention is the sovereign body of the Convention and meets in ordinary session every two years. The General Assembly gives strategic orientations for the implementation of the Convention and elects the 24 members of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. — KUNA



WASHINGTON: Kuwait Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah attends a Memorial Day ceremony in Washington, DC Monday. — KUNA

KUWAIT TAKES PART IN US MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

WASHINGTON: Kuwait joined the US late Monday in celebrating the country's Memorial Day, which marks past wars, including the 1991 Kuwait liberation war. Kuwait took part in the annual rally marking the Memorial Day in

Washington DC, an event covered live by TV channels across the nation, to express gratitude for the US for leading an international coalition in Operation 'Desert Storm' that led to the liberation of Kuwait from the Iraqi occupation. Kuwait

Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah expressed the embassy's keenness on participating in the event, which remembers victims of wars fought by the US, as well as veterans who fought in Desert Storm. — KUNA