



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah is seen on the sidelines of the signing ceremony. — KUNA

## FOURTH STRUCTURAL PLAN TURNS KUWAIT INTO COMMERCIAL, FINANCIAL HUB: PM PLAN PROVIDES ROADMAP FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah stressed that Kuwait's fourth structural plan would further transform the nation into a commercial and financial hub. Patronizing and attending a ceremony to sign the plan, His Highness the Prime Minister expressed his appreciation to the efforts exerted in preparing this new strategy.

His Highness the Prime Minister also praised officials in charge of the fourth structural plan, saying that they took into consideration the current population growth in Kuwait which in return required more projects focusing on economic and financial development.

The plan will contribute to the vision set by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad

Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on transforming the country into a regional and an international commercial and financial hub, said the Prime Minister.

### Noble goal

Meanwhile, Kuwait Municipality's Director General Ahmad Al-Manfohi reiterated commitment on achieving the Amiri noble goal of turning the country into a global financial and commercial hub. He made the statement during the signing ceremony of the contract for the Fourth Structural Plan 2040, with the international leading consultancy office of Perkins and Will Global, jointly with the Dar Al-Handasah for design and consultancy.

The Municipality has embarked on steps, in

cooperation with the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), for identifying the financial areas in the country where foreign firms will be allowed to operate with no local agents, and permitted to own these areas with tax and customs exemptions, Manfohi said.

He added that there are other government bodies involved in the process, like the Ministries of Commerce and Industry, and Finance, offering administrative facilities to the foreign firms in these areas.

According to Manfohi, the Municipality has submitted a report to the Higher Committee for the Structural Plan and Great Construction Projects on the irregularities of the Third Plan, and how to avoid them in the new one. He boasted the fact that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretariat had entrusted the Municipality with designing the bloc's unified structural plan, focusing on the border areas of the member states.

### Urban constitution

Head of structural planning at the Kuwait Municipality, Saad Al-Muhilbi referred to the Fourth Structural Plan 2040 as the country's "urban constitution and roadmap for development projects." Kuwait has been among the first countries of the region that adopted structural plans, which made it free of slums. In the meantime, Perkins and Will Global representative David Green stressed the importance of the Fourth Plan that will turn Kuwait into an innovation center. He added that the development plan set by the Kuwaiti Government that reflects the state's clear vision for the future. — KUNA



**Kuwait Municipality's Director General Ahmad Al-Manfohi (left) signs the agreement.**

## KUWAIT, SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE SIGN AGREEMENT KFAED OFFERS GAMBIA \$17 MILLION LOAN

**MALABO:** Kuwait yesterday signed an agreement with the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe over a project to finance a hospital in the African archipelago. The agreement worth KD 5 million (\$17 million) was signed by Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Sao Tome and Principe's Minister of Economy and Finance Americo d'Oliveira dos Ramos. Moreover, both officials

Saleh Al-Loughani, Kuwait's Ambassador to Equatorial Guinea Assad Al-Bahar, Kuwait's Ambassador to Ethiopia Rashid Faleh and other foreign ministry officials.

### Basic education

Meanwhile, the Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) has signed a loan agreement worth KD 5 million (\$17 million) with Gambia to finance a project for supporting

The project aims to support social and economic development in Gambia, as part of the efforts to back the government's strategic plan for the education sector (2016-2030), through expanding and developing 39 schools in six education directorates.

KFAED said the project would contribute to improving the output of education in the republic, and would also enhance the sustainable social and economic development. The fund fully depends on its own resources for the loans and aid it offers, it stressed. The previous 12 loans, totaling about KD 40 million, benefited various sectors in the country, besides technical assistance worth KD 869,000.

### Meetings

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled also met with Eritrean Foreign Minister Othman Saleh Mohamed and Palestinian Minister of Foreign Affairs Riyad Al-Malki in Malabo. The meetings were held on the sidelines of the Africa-Arab Summit currently hosted by the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. They mainly discussed ways of promoting relations between both friendly nations in all fields, together with issues and topics of mutual interest.

The meetings were attended by Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Acting Oil Minister Anas Al-Saleh, and Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah as well as Director-General of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development Abdulwahab Al-Bader.

Also in attendance were CEO of Kuwait Public Authority for Investment Bader Mohammad Al-Saad, Acting Assistant Foreign Minister for Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's Office Affairs Ambassador Saleh Al-Loughani, Kuwait's Ambassador to Gabon and Non-Resident Ambassador to Equatorial Guinea Asaad Al-Bahar, Kuwait's Ambassador to Ethiopia Rashed Al-Hajri and Acting Assistant Foreign Minister for Africa Hamad Al-Mashaan. — KUNA



**MALABO:** Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Minister of Economy and Finance of Sao Tome and Principe Americo d'Oliveira dos Ramos sign the agreement. — KUNA

discussed bilateral ties in addition to issues of mutual concern.

The meeting was attended by Kuwait's Deputy Premier, Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil Anas Al-Saleh, Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Khaled Al-Jarallah, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador

basic education and secondary schools in the West African republic, KFAED said yesterday. The agreement was signed by Sabah Al-Khaled, on behalf of the fund, and Gambia's Minister of Finance and Economy Abdou Kolley, KFAED added in a statement. This is the 13th loan the KFAED offers to Gambia.

## PREMIER OPENS NEW BOWLING CLUB BUILDING

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah the Kuwaiti sportspeople, thanks to their perseverance, were able to make outstanding achievements. "At the behest of His Highness the Amir the government continues to offer limitless support to the sportspeople in order to help them hoist Kuwait's flag high at international sports events," he said.

The Prime Minister made the press remarks at the inauguration ceremony of the new premises of Kuwait Bowling Sporting Club Monday held under his auspices. The event gathered Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, a number of ministers, and senior officials of His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan, the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, the Public Authority for Youth and the Public Authority for Sport.

"The inauguration of the new building of the club falls in the framework of the government support for sports activities," Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak said, noting that the building adds to the list of sporting edifices opened in Kuwait in the recent years. He promised that the government will continue supporting Kuwaiti youth and meet their aspirations in the coming years, commending the role of the Public Authority for Sport (PAS) in promoting the sports movement in Kuwait.

Meanwhile, PAS Director-General Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Sabah said the state-of-the-art sports facilities will give a quantum leap forward to the sports movement in the country. "PAS is keen on implementing the sports projects in keeping with the world's latest standards with a view to fostering the talents of the young generation," he said. "The executive board of PAS is working on a number of key projects, notably the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah indoor complex which will be a model venue for basketball and volleyball games," he said. Sheikh Ahmad thanked the political leadership for supporting PAS and the premier for attending the inauguration of the bowling club.

Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, president of the Asian Bowling Federation (ABF) and Kuwait Bowling Federation (KBF), said the new building of the club will encourage the Club's members to make new achievements in the coming period. "The Club will host the world bowling championship, which will be held for the first time in the Middle East, in 2017, and the Asian championship the following year," Sheikh Talal pointed out. After the ceremony, the premier and his entourage toured the facilities and was briefed on the services it will offer to bowlers and the preparations for the coming sports events. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah poses for a group photo with officials during the opening of the new bowling club. — KUNA

## KUWAITI-BANGLADESHI MILITARY TIES DISTINCTIVE: SENIOR OFFICER

**KUWAIT:** The military cooperation between Kuwait and Bangladesh is very distinctive, particularly in fields of training courses, a senior Kuwaiti army officer said Monday. The bilateral military ties date back to 1990 when the Bangladeshi forces took part in the war to liberate Kuwait from the Iraqi invasion, Brigadier Ghazi Al-Shammari, Assistant Commandant of Signal Corps in the Kuwaiti Army, told reporters.

Shammari made his remarks during a reception held at the Bangladesh Embassy to mark Bangladesh Armed Forces' 45th anniversary. The Bangladeshi forces' efforts during the post-Gulf War period in 1991 were so memorable, especially their effective participation in inspecting and clearing the landmines that the Iraqi army planted inside Kuwait during their invasion, he noted.

He also valued the Bangladeshi army's great sacrifices during the demining process, in which 270 soldiers lost their lives and 56 others were wounded, reiterating the Kuwaiti army's constant readiness to preserve security and safety in the Kuwait and the region.

Meanwhile, Brigadier Mohammad Nasim Al-Ghani, Military Attache at the Bangladesh Embassy, commended the deep cooperation and coordination between his country's armed forces and the Kuwaiti army since the liberation of Kuwait. Currently, there are around 147,000 Bangladeshi soldiers in 40 countries working to spread peace around the world, Ghani said, expressing his pride in his countrymen for being 'peace promoters'. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Brigadier Ghazi Al-Shammari, Brigadier Mohammad Nasim Al-Ghani and other officials cut the ceremony's cake. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

