

German FM extols Kuwait's role in int'l response to challenges

'HH the Amir has shown admirable leadership'

BERLIN, Oct 5, (KUNA): German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier has reiterated that the State of Kuwait has succeeded, through its leading capabilities, to rally the international community to face unprecedented threats that have emerged in the region, thus, affecting Europe.

In an exclusive interview with Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) ahead of his prospective visit to Kuwait to meet with the political leadership in the coming few days, Steinmeier asserted that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has shown admirable leadership in rallying the international community, and especially the Gulf countries, to jointly shoulder this unprecedented challenge.



A photo from the meeting

Society's goals, ideas being conveyed to new members

AASK holds 4th general meeting

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: Aam Aadmi Society Kuwait (AASK) held its 4th general meeting in Abu-Halifa on Sept 25 from 5-8pm. Aam Aadmi means common man. As such, this society is open to everyone. The purpose of the meeting was to convey the society's ideas and goals to new members. Thomas Mathai welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Convener, Mubarak Kambrath, gave a speech on the need of supporting the needy society, and the responsibility of each Indian to help develop India. He also insisted that caste, creed, colour and social status shouldn't and wouldn't be a barrier among AASK members and their family abroad in relation to the social and cultural support to society.

Digant Kapoor shared his experience of working in a political campaign during the New Delhi 2015 elections, and emphasized the importance of being conscious about India's development. Fakhruddin shared highlights of the Delhi government's work thus far which is reflecting the success of anti-corruption movements in India.

AASK is a cultural organization that supports the free exchange of ideas, and seeks to foster active citizenship among the Indian community in Kuwait. It was founded to help improve the lives of Indians in Kuwait and in India. The society believes that the best way to do this is through greater interconnectedness among the Indian community, and by increasing people's awareness of their role in society. AASK has collected donations on behalf of Indian labourers in Kuwait when they suffer medical emergencies. For example, over KD 200 was donated to Faisal in July 2015 who returned to India because of a failed kidney. Another patient from India, Ratheesh was supported for cell transplantation surgery. The society also collects donations to fund education among India's low-income youth. AASK is sponsoring economically backward students in India

on education support, earning facilities, and also on promoting organic agriculture production. Attendees were encouraged to introduce themselves and share their views on what role AASK should play. One attendee recommended starting a dedicated helpline for Indians in Kuwait. The society appreciated everyone's inputs and will strive to provide legal help, blood donations, and boost charitable activities. Any Indian who is interested in supporting weaker part of society may get in touch with AASK. Sebastian Vathukkadan, AASK secretary explained them the future activities and programs AASK is planning to carryout in forthcoming years. Rachpal Singh, Shahul Hameed, Faisal Kambrath, Arun, Salu were few among the attendees who gave motivating complimentary speech and appreciations for AASK activities. Meeting was adjourned with a thanksgiving speech by AASK Treasurer Seby Sebastian.

"At the same time, I think Kuwait's political experience could be an important inspiration for the region. Since its independence, Kuwait has shown that political and religious pluralism, the ability to tolerate divergent views and the spirit of compromise and consensus-building — despite its difficulties or occasional setbacks — are a source of strength and stability. Only in this spirit will we be able to overcome the current crises", he added. He pointed out that the friendship between Kuwait and Germany goes back a long time. Last year, His Highness Kuwait's Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah visited Germany on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Kuwait's participation in Daimler AG, Kuwait's earliest big foreign investment at the time, saying that this goes to show Kuwait's valued role as a reliable, long-term partner.

"We have a strong and growing cooperation in the health sector. After January's horrible terrorist attacks on the Imam Jaafar Al-Sadeq Mosque, German doctors treated many of the injured. We are open to expanding our engagement. There are many fields where we could strengthen our cooperation, such as vocational training, environmental and transportation technology, renewable energies and, of course, cultural cooperation", he noted. As the third largest humanitarian donor in the Syrian refugee crisis, Germany, too, is bearing its part of the burden. Nonetheless, the truth of the matter is that the international aid efforts for both Syria and Yemen remain woefully underfunded, Steinmeier asserted, noting that "We must all step up our efforts to not only provide for the refugees' survival but also to offer young people education and hope for a better future". "It is true that, in both Syria and Yemen, all attempts by the international community to bring the parties to the negotiating table have failed thus far — due in no small part to the inability of crucial international and regional actors to put their differences aside. In both countries, millions of innocent men, women and children are suffering unspeakable violence and deprivation. And yet, I am convinced that neither Syria nor Yemen will find stability and peace by military means, but only through a political settlement", he said. "My hope is that the nuclear agreement with Iran provides an opportunity for opening new channels of dialogue. The recent Russian intervention in Syria has shown that this will by no means be a smooth process. But that must not stop us from doing everything in our power to help create the conditions for peace talks. We owe that much to the Syrian and Yemeni people", he clarified. The German minister said the region is currently facing the worst humanitarian crisis of "our time. More than 15 million Syrians depend on humanitarian aid, as do millions of Yemenis". "Let me be perfectly honest: Europe's response to the refugee crisis so far does not meet the standards that Europe must set for itself. We have therefore made proposals for a new, much more ambitious integration of European asylum policy, founded on the principle of solidarity and our shared values of humanity. "In recent weeks, we have made some progress towards this goal, with an agreement on the distribution of 120,000 refugees among member states. But much more work remains to be done. The refugee crisis is one of the greatest challenges facing Europe in our generation. There will be no quick fixes. But I am convinced that only together and only at the European level will we be able at all to find rational solutions", said the minister. He went on saying: "In these turbulent times my first priority is to discuss the urgent political agenda with our Kuwaiti partners in depth. I am much honored to be received both by His Highness the Crown Prince, as well as my dear colleague Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah."

'Cause of 50 pc of cholera cases unclear'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: The cause of about 50 percent of the cholera cases in the country is unclear, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting a reliable source from Ministry of Health. He revealed that one of the main reasons for the spread of cholera is the use of some farms for drainage and irrigation of crops, indicating that the Ministry of Health perceives the bacteria could have reached the country from Iraq.

The source affirmed that cholera is spreading in the country via spoiled food and not from one person to another. He indicated that the ministry recently announced its preparation to deal with the cases of cholera patients particularly after discovering two cases that came from Iraq, affirming that these two cases were not referred to the Infectious Diseases Hospital as they are under control.

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News in Brief

Mol promotes 150 officers: Ministry of Interior issued a decision promoting 150 officers from the rank of lieutenant colonel to colonel, reports Al-Shahid daily. The daily explained that the step is part of the ministry's plan to prepare a new generation of young leaders, indicating many colonels will be raised to the rank of brigadier and several others from brigadier to major general to fill vacant positions. He reiterated the general security sector will witness a comprehensive reshuffle in the coming phase.

MoCI to amend status of 40 employees: Ministry of Commerce and Industry seeks to amend the status of over 40 employees of the technical office to occupy vacant supervisory positions, and ministerial decisions will be issued in the course of the week to fill vacancies in the ministry, reports Al-Anba daily quoting a source.

'Total confidence in union of students': Dean of Student Affairs at Kuwait University Dr Abdulrahman Al-Theyab affirmed that the institution will not be the yard of sectarian or tribal instigations, reports Al-Rai daily. In an interview, Dr Theyab noted the deanship has total confidence in the union of students at the university and seminars will be organized to discourage violence and sectarianism. He warned "any student who spurs or engages in violence on campus will be reprimanded to the extent of facing dismissal".

Info decision to shift official: Minister of Information, the State Minister for Youth and Sports, Head of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters recently issued ministerial decision No.49/2015 to shift deputy general secretary of Culture Dr Bader Faisal Al-Duwaish to the Arts sector covering the Department of Plastic Arts, Department of Theater, Department of Music and Popular Heritage, reports Al-Anba daily. The decision also shifted deputy general secretary of Arts sector Mohamed Saleh Al-Asousi to Culture sector, which covers Publishing and Distribution, and Book fairs.

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