

HH Amir attends 'Janadriyah 31' in Riyadh



His Highness the Amir and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques watching the camel race festival.



His Highness the Amir at the prize distribution ceremony.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.



King Salman shaking hands with Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad.



King Salman with Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid
Amiri Diwan photo

Sheikh Sabah thanks Saudi King for warm reception

RIYADH, Feb 1, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah attended Wednesday the opening ceremony of the National Festival for Heritage and Culture (Janadriyah 31), which was patronized by King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia.

The event is to see participations by Kuwait, Bahrain, UAE, Qatar and Oman, in addition to Egypt as this year's guest of honor.

The festival, organized by the National Guard, includes races and local music performances, is expected to draw over one million visitors.

The event highlights heritage and

modernity of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The opening ceremony kicked off with camel racing, which is one of the most prominent sport competitions at the event. The festival also includes cultural activities, symposiums, lectures, seminars, and dancing of Ardha (folk dance), in addition to an honoring of three Saudi distinguished personalities; Ahmad Mohammad Ali, a banker, Abdulrahman Al-Shebaili, media figure, and Sofia bint Said bin Zegar, a formative artist.

His Highness the Amir along with the accompanying officials, have since returned to Kuwait.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad was received upon his arrival at the airport by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and Deputy

Premier and Minister of Finance Anas Khaled Al-Saleh.

His Highness the Amir was accompanied during his visit to the Kingdom by Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Sheikh Faisal Al-Saud Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Director of His Highness the Amir's

Bureau Ahmad Fahad Al-Fahad, Chief of the Amiri Protocol Sheikh Khaled Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah and Chairman of Media and Cultural Affairs at the Amiri Diwan Yousef Hamad Al-Roumi.

His Highness the Amir cabled Saudi King Salman Bin Abdulaziz expressing deep gratitude for the warm and elaborate hospitality accorded to him and his accompanying delegation during the visit to the Kingdom.

He also expressed heartfelt satisfaction for the meeting he held, during the visit, with King Salman and Bahraini Monarch Hamad Bin Issa Al-Khalifa, as well leaders of other GCC member

States, saying these meetings were distinguished with cordial and brotherly atmosphere, depicting the historic bonds between the State of Kuwait and its people with the other GCC Arabian countries and peoples.

Moreover, His Highness the Amir praised noticeable order and good organization of the festival, namely well-prepared camel races.

His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad prayed to His Almighty Allah to empower Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques with life-long good health and wellness, hoping the Kingdom would witness further promotion and prosperity, under the sagacious leadership.



Photo from the event.

Photo by Mohammad Morsi

'New Kuwait' strategic vision ambitious

Social responsibility linchpin of development, says official

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 1, (KUNA): Social responsibility is a virtue that is incumbent upon the nation's public and private sectors to attain development, an official in the Ministry of Information (MoI) said on Wednesday.

In a speech to open Kuwait's second conference and exhibition on social responsibility, Assistant Undersecretary for the department of Media Services Yousef Mustafa said that this notion is embedded in Kuwait's national strategy for sustained development.

Moreover, he noted that the two-day conference, which is sponsored by Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, will delve into this virtue given how crucial it is for overall growth and development.

On social responsibility, Mustafa said that it is not limited to philanthropy and volunteerism, rather, it encompasses abidance by laws and respect of human rights. Meanwhile, Chairman of the Arab Society for Social Responsibility Sultan Al-Bazghi applauded Kuwait for hosting such events that center around admirable qualities.

He also described social responsibility as a form of conduct that is obligatory on all segments of society.

Meanwhile, Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan affirmed that the process of implementing the 2035 "New Kuwait" strategic vision is ambitious, in the sense that it has specific stages and programs with various effective implementation mechanisms that differ from the previous mechanisms, reports Annahar daily.

In an interview with the daily, Al-Roudhan indicated that launch of the plans and strategies for the projects will coincide with the inauguration of applications that will electronically link the state agencies in order to facilitate the development of business environment in the country and attract foreign investors.

The minister revealed that the delay Kuwait suffers in terms of execution of projects is what pushes the country to double its efforts in executing the next plans, which include establishment of companies to accomplish major projects, logistics, storage and airports.

He said, "There is a distinguished competitive aspect in Kuwait, which is the ability to use its geographical location as transit. There is a need to better the business environment, which has apparently started to take shape according to the World Bank. The country is also keen on developing and supporting small and medium enterprises and the operating environment".

The minister went on to say, "Geographically, Kuwait qualifies to become the regional commercial center. This is what distinguishes it for establishing transit and commercial projects in the border areas in terms of free zone areas that serve the Gulf marketing and contribute to increasing non-oil revenues".

He highlighted the fact that the transit business is not new to Kuwait, affirming that there are companies and projects that will work on accommodating the academic output and benefiting from the national labor force, especially since the coming stages will provide more than 100,000 jobs for Kuwaiti youths.

'Present clear vision to address lop-sided population structure'

Panel chair confirms Parliament to hold special session today

By Abubakar A. Ibrahim
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 1: Chairman of the parliamentary Affairs Committee MP Mohamed Al-Dalal has asked the government to present a clear vision to address the lopsided population structure issue, affirming that MPs have the right to demand and look for solutions to population-related problems like the rising number of marginal workers and visa traders.

He confirmed that the Parliament will hold a special session on Thursday to discuss these issues, including the need to balance the population structure without harming the expatriates.

He emphasized the need to confront visa traders because change is possible only if the lopsided population structure issue is addressed.

He pointed out this project must be implemented in a more organized manner in order to protect expatriates, especially those living with their families here.

Meanwhile, Parliament speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim adjourned Wednesday's regular session due to lack of quorum. Taking decisions during parliamentary sessions require the presence of at least 33 members. Items in the agenda of the session include the request to lift the immunity of MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei.



MPs engaged in a heated argument during Wednesday's parliamentary session.

Photo by Rizk Taufiq

Al-Ghanim adjourned the session until Feb 14, 2017 adding that Thursday's special session will be for the lopsided population structure issue and another special session is slated for next Wednesday to vote on the no-confidence motion against Minister of Information and State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

Commenting on the lack of quorum in Wednesday's session, Al-Dalal claimed the session was adjourned due to the behavior of MPs. He pointed out they were supposed to discuss a number of important issues such as the request to lift immunity, response to the Amiri address, government program and economic document.

He claimed some MPs hurled baseless accusations at the Legislative Committee whose tasks include reviewing a request to lift immunity to ensure there is no con-

spiracy to prevent the concerned lawmaker from performing his duties.

Explaining what happened in the previous Parliament, he said the committee's tasks include reviewing the request to lift immunity, listening to the views of the concerned lawmaker and submitting a report to the legislature.

He added, "We discussed the request to lift the immunity of Al-Tabtabaei. Members agreed on the urgency of the matter which was debated in the presence of Al-Tabtabaei so there was no malicious intent. Due to the sensitivity of the issue, the committee did not mention details in its report.

The same happened in 2014 with the report on the request to lift the immunity of MP Sadoun Al-Otaibi yet the latter is now opposing the rule.

This was also the case with the

request to lift the immunity of former MP Abdulhameed Dashti but no one voiced objection at the time."

He then unveiled his plan to refer these issues to the Parliament Office to prevent anyone from turning them into personal conflicts, asserting this might require amendment of parliamentary bylaws.

He went on to say the speaker took the right decision due to lack of quorum, alleging some MPs are trying to take revenge and embarrass Al-Tabtabaei.

In another development, Al-Tabtabaei said the prime minister will be next person to face grilling if no step is taken regarding increase in the prices of petrol and electricity.

He underscored the need for the government to prioritize the price hike issue, otherwise, it will be held accountable.