

## LOCAL



CAIT Director-General Al-Shatti during the opening of the 9th Kuwait Information Security Conference and Exhibition. Photo by Mahmoud Jaded

### 'Need to keep up with rapid dev in technology sector'

Director-General of the Central Agency for Information Technology Qusai Al-Shatti attended the 9th Kuwait Information Security Conference and Exhibition which was held at Radisson Blu Hotel.

He affirmed the need to keep up with the rapid de-

velopment in the technology sector and the information revolution to curb cybercrimes and security breaches.

Al-Shatti stressed the need to establish platforms for discussing cybercrimes and building defensive IT strategies.

## Kuwait's 'economic' success highlighted at Brussels forum

Investor confidence strong: diplomat

**BRUSSELS, May 11, (KUNA):** A one-day economic Forum in the Belgian capital on Wednesday emphasized the great leap taken by Kuwait in the economic and trade sectors in recent years.

"The State of Kuwait owes its success in large part to the stability and vision provided by the strong relationship between the Kuwaiti people and the ruling Al-Sabah family" Fahad Al-Jaimaz, counselor and Charge d'Affaires of the Kuwait embassy in Brussels told the forum.

"The current plan is to transform Kuwait into a world class financial and commercial center with the private sector leading economic activities," he said.

He announced that the Ambassador of Kuwait to Belgium, Jassem Al-Budaiwi, sends his warmest regards from Kuwait where he is attending official meetings.

Al-Jaimaz said the Kuwaiti government has set out to achieve this vision through pursuing five strategic goals, increasing GDP, investing in the private sector, supporting human and social development NS Improving population policies.

The State of Kuwait has one of the most vocal and vibrant democracies in the region; a heritage of governance that goes back centuries. The open and free discussion of politics and governance is a part of Kuwaiti society and of everyday life, he said.

The State of Kuwait emerged from the global financial crisis stronger than ever.

Despite a decline in oil prices the country was given an excellent financial health rating by international market analysts due to efficient government oversight and strong growth by the Kuwait Sovereign Wealth Fund, said the Kuwaiti diplomat.

Moreover, he said, investor confidence is strong in the State of Kuwait; recently the government attempted to raise \$8 billion in bonds. There was so much faith in the financial stability of Kuwait markets that investors immediately raised \$32 billion in bonds.

The State of Kuwait is currently in the midst of its second mega economic development plan, which includes investments of over \$103 billion in projects related to oil, gas, electricity, water, housing, health, education, transport, communications, tourism, and the environment, said Al Jaimaz.

He encouraged financiers, investors, investment institutions, and corporations in Europe to increase their activ-



KUNA photo  
Counselor and Charge d'Affaires of the Kuwait Embassy in Brussels Fahad Al-Jaimaz. (KUNA)

ity in Kuwait.

The economic forum devoted to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries was organized by the Arab-Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce (ABLCC) and hosted by the BNP Paribas-Fortis bank.

The Head of Kuwait Petroleum International's operating unit in North-west Europe, better known by its brand name Q8, Fadel Al-Faraj highlighted the brand's success in the Benelux countries.

He gave a presentation on Q8's activities in Belgium and Luxembourg, and shared the success stories his company has seen over the past three decades.

#### Expansion

Al-Faraj spoke about Q8's strides towards expansion in the retail and lubricant markets in the EU region and the company's keen interest in regional investment opportunities to strengthen its business.

He noted that Q8's success is owed to its diverse team of Belgian and Luxembourg workers who work hand in hand with their Kuwaiti counterparts to drive Q8's business success.

He also commented that the positive trade ties between Arab companies and the Belgian government have had a positive role in facilitating operations and strengthening relations between the Kuwaiti oil sector and its customers in Europe.

He further affirmed that Q8 will continue to play its role in real maximize the value of Kuwait's hydrocarbon resources through effective integrated value chain activities and international marketing.

The ABLCC Economic Forum was attended by a large number of Belgian

and Arab entrepreneurs, Arab ambassadors and diplomats posted to the Belgian capital, and members of various trade associations and journalists.

Ambassador of UAE in Belgium, Mohamed Issa Abushahab, said that the EU was UAE's top trading partner in 2015 with a total trade value of 62 billion euro (\$67 bn). He devoted much of his speech to inform the audience about the Dubai Expo 2020.

Peter Young, a high-ranking trade official of the European Commission, noted the EU represents 16 percent of total GCC trade.

The EU is the first trading partner of the GCC and the GCC is the fourth export market of the EU.

The GCC represents 5.7 of the EU exports.

Mineral fuels including petroleum products account for 65.9 percent of GCC exports to the EU. EU's most exported product to the GCC are machinery and transport equipment, he noted.

Young announced that the first ever conference on EU-GCC investment opportunities will be held in the Saudi capital Riyadh next week.

Peter Pollaert, head of cash management and global transactions at the BNP Paribas Fortis bank said the bank is represented in five Gulf countries Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

BNP Pribas was the first international bank in Kuwait to be granted a license by the Central Bank of Kuwait in 2004.

ABLCC Secretary General, Qaisar Hijazin said trade exchanges between the Arab world and Belgium and Luxembourg amounted to 18.5 billion (\$20 bn) euro last year despite the drop in oil price.

### Duo arrested for stealing cables

KUWAIT CITY, May 11: Two Asian expatriates were arrested for stealing electrical cables and construction materials from various construction sites.

In a press statement issued by Ministry of Interior, the General Department of Public Relations and Security Media revealed that Farwaniya Security Directorate, after receiving information about theft of construction materials and electrical cables from construction sites, formed a team for investigations.

After confirming the information, securitymen arrested one of the suspects. He admitted to the crime, revealing the identity of his main accomplice, whom securitymen eventually arrested.

The department affirmed that the suspects have been referred to the concerned authorities for necessary legal action.

# DIWANIYA ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

### Securitymen need to prevent crime before it occurs

## Macron win in Europe's interest

"THE first round of the French presidential elections took place on April 23, 2017. Two candidates, Emmanuel Macron and Marine Le Pen who contested the polls qualified for the second round. Macron won by 24 percent, while Le Pen, representing the National Front, which is a right-wing populist and nationalist political party, polled 21 percent of the votes. On Sunday, May 7, the second round was won by Mr Macron," columnist and former Ambassador Ahmad Al-Dawas wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"The founders of the electoral system in France put in place the two-round system to make it difficult for radical parties to win the election for the French presidency. For 59 years of the Fifth Republic, France is ruled either by the Socialists or the Republican Conservatives. Why do some people fear the victory for Le Pen?"

"Le Pen promotes extremism, her tendencies are violent targeting immigrants, Islam, globalization, multiculturalism, NATO, prominent politicians, the existing political system, markets and media, demanding the establishment of border checkpoints and the expulsion of foreigners and put the blame on the European Union for crises in France.

"If Le Pen had to win the French presidential elections, it would mean eliminating intellectual values which France has promoted and protected over the years.

"Seven million French are Africans, Arabs and Muslims. If Le Pen had won the elections, these people would have been subjected to constant psychological pressure, intolerance would have spread like wild fire, social fabric torn to pieces from time to time while terrorism would reign supreme. The French Jews said they will not vote for the extremist candidate and some of them even described her as 'candidate for hatred' and made a beeline to cast their ballots in favor of Macron.

"European politicians hoped and prayed that Le Pen does not win the elections because she was favoring France's exit from the European Union, discontinuation of the euro and fear was lurking all over Europe because this continent would crumble like a domino, markets would suffer and Europe would be swept away by abyss.

"This would mean flushing down the drain the political, economic and social achievements made by Europe over the past 60 years, investors would be scared away and the continent would witness economic chaos.

"Therefore the victory for Macron is in the interest of Europe because if Paris is weak economically compounded by destabilized political situation this will constitute a major threat to the entire European project. In order to achieve stability in the European arena, understanding between North and South Europe is a must because France and Germany are regarded as pillars (after the Brexit).

"Macron, who contested the elections as an independent, has pledged to reduce France's rate of unemployment, called for strengthening the EU and reforming the French economy.

"He is able to work with Germany to strengthen the euro. He has served the country in the area of economy and his tendencies are tinted with socialism. He has worked in the investment sector and has helped Greece resolve its financial crisis; therefore polls had predicted victory for Macron in the second round because voters who in the first round had cast their votes for other parties would vote for him.

"On Friday, May 5, when Le Pen was on a visit to a French area some French threw eggs at her, and shouted 'fascist.' The DAESH or the so-called Islamic group from time to time tried to carry out attacks in France to influence the French polls to mobilize voters behind Le Pen and then use the extremists to spread violence. This organization wants to tear France and the West.

"I would like to illustrate the anti-Muslim sentiment that has emerged in the Netherlands. Many mosques have been destroyed, set on fire or threatened, and Muslims have become victims of hatred and subjected to physical assault.

"Half of the Dutch feel Islam threatens society, so the fanatical and far-right politician Geert Wilders tried to make hay while the sun shines and promoted his anti-Islam campaign, but received a blow from the Dutch voters giving victory for the moderate Mark Rutte. Following the victory Europe rejoiced with satisfaction."

#### Also:

"The world has never been preoccupied with a First Lady as it did with the first French First Lady (the next), Brigitte Macron. Brigitte was 40 years old, already married with three children, when she met Emmanuel Macron, a 15-year-old student at that time. The young teenager fell in love with the theater teacher at his school and waited until he was seventeen to pronounce his love and told her: 'Whatever you do I will marry you,'" columnist Dala'a Al-Moufti wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"Indeed, in spite of attempts by the Macron family to take their son to Paris in an attempt to extinguish what they thought the spark of adolescent love, the young man remained connected to the woman he loved, joined the university and began his studies while his heart hung in hope that 'I will live the life I choose with the woman I love'. This is what he wrote in his book 'Revolution'.

"In 2007, Macron realized his dream and married his old love and wrote 'This love began secretly, often hidden, incomprehensible to many, before imposing itself on everyone'. Macron imposed his love on his beloved and on the French society, and reached hand in hand to the Élysée Palace, while he 39, she is 64.

"Unfortunately, Brigitte has become a rich source of ridicule through television programs, caricaturists and social media for no reason other than her age, not only in France but throughout the world.

"The question that arises here: 'Why is it bothering you that the wife of Macron is 25 years older than him, and does not bother you all those men who marry young girls — the age of their daughters? Why did not Trump's wife, younger in age with the same age difference, disturb you (Trump 70 and his wife, Melania, 47)? Or your lame and crossed-eyed criteria allow a man to marry a girl the age of his granddaughter and do not allow a mature adult woman to choose a man younger than her because she is a woman?"

"According to UN statistics, 14 million minor girls are married annually in the world. Despite the fact that many Arab countries prohibit this type of marriage 'legally', the law is being manipulated and the marriages are completed.

"Poverty, the need, wars, asylum, tribal customs, misunderstanding and erroneous interpretations of religion are forcing many parents to marry their minor

daughters to secure them and their lives.

"Sudan has the highest percentage of underage marriages among Arab women, 52 percent, Yemen 32 percent, Morocco 16 percent, Egypt 17 percent, Palestine 21 percent, and some Arab countries refrain from counting these marriages.

"The rape of girls under the pretext 'marriage,' affects the girl's physical health, leading to increase in the rate of the risk of developing uterine cancer, vaginal rupture and bleeding at birth, not to mention its profound psychological effect that might go to the extent of suicide to put an end to her sufferings.

"Brigitte Macron is a mature lady who married a man she loved. Brigitte is not a minor, so pay attention and concern to what is more important."

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"We respect and appreciate the honorable residents of Taima and Sulabiya areas who have self-respect and respect the laws of the country. However, security investigations have shown that there are some troublemakers and outlaws among the youths who are responsible for setting garbage containers on fire and keeping our securitymen busy. One of these incidents almost transformed into a disaster because it was close to an electric transformer, becoming a matter of concern for all honorable people living in the two areas," Talal Al-Saeed wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"The troublesome youths in this area have adopted a hobby of setting garbage containers on fire. Whenever securitymen arrest a gang, another one emerges to set fire to containers in order to divert the work of the competent agencies so that these gangs can carry out various criminal activities including drug peddling.

"There is a message to the securitymen which they must understand — It is their most important task to prevent crime before it occurs, and not after the fires that almost caused disasters! This requires special care for these two areas — Taima and Sulabiya. They could remove these two areas because, as per law, they are basically temporary housing cities, and are no longer required. An inspection campaign in the wee hours of the morning will bring everything that is illegal and hidden to light. Such a move will make the law-abiding citizens feel assured especially when the sources of crime are eradicated.

"The state's control on Taima and Sulabiya is so weak that these areas have become a state within the state. Security authorities do not move there until after a crime has been committed. Crimes are being repeated — from hooliganism and stabbing to the burning of garbage containers by youths. Our security apparatus should make sure things are in order."

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"The disputes that break out among the revolutionists after the success of their revolution could be because of greediness for some positions, influence or over change in the revolutionary course," Dr Wael Al-Hassawi wrote for Al-Rai daily.

"However, the ongoing disputes among the revolutionists in Syria cannot be explained especially when the revolution is passing through its most difficult stages and after the repeated defeats that have been facing from their common enemies.

"The recent dispute among the Syrian revolutionists reminded me of a group of cows gathered together inside a stable and surrounded by butchers who are randomly slaughtering them while the cows are kicking and butting each other.

"Such miserable stories reveal the extent to which the Syrian revolution has gone wrong. They also highlight the fact that a number of those who were pretending to support the revolution are not trustworthy. In addition, we thank God the revolution did not succeed with their support because they are not qualified for such a victory.

"The Libyan experience presented a good lesson for the Syrian revolutionists but they did not analyze that lesson carefully. In 2011, with the support of Western countries, the Libyans managed to topple Gaddafi. It was a great chance for them to reorganize their country and compensate the people. However, when those beneficiaries joined the field, they spoiled everything. The foreign interference and the continuous attempts aimed at preventing the Islamists from reaching power led to the revolution being aborted. Today, we witness the internal struggle among the different parties in Libya, and the same is being witnessed in Syria as well.

"In 2003, America conquered Iraq and paved way for Iran to control it. Dissolving the Iraqi army led to horrible consequences including the emergence and spread of Al-Qaeda and DAESH and their terrorism. The Sunnis of Iraq failed to form strong bodies to represent them and talk on their behalf.

"All in all, the experience we faced during the Arab Spring was very miserable and makes us feel deeply distressed."

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"I know well that every government in the world has some good and some bad qualities at varying rates. This does not mean we can compare the government of Sweden with the corrupt governments in the jungles of Africa," Qais Al-Ousta wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"In Kuwait, the past few years witnessed some mistakes which reduced the level of governmental achievements. We have a minister who is worried about the continuity of Kuwait. It is he who had promised to enforce the law on all, but we instead saw him enforcing the law on only the citizens who earn low-average incomes.

"We have a minister who insists on imposing travel ban on a man who died hundreds of years ago. Our Minister of Social Affairs and Labor does not meet the orphans, behaving as though it is the responsibility of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to meet them. We have another minister who claims the government pays for the coffee that we drink. It seems he forgot the fact that the government also pays for many other items that are much more expensive.

"In a previous article, I had requested the ministers not to give direct speeches to the media and to limit to only written press interviews. However, since it has already happened, there must be someone who questions those ministers. For example, His Highness the Prime Minister has to dismiss the ministers who cause embarrassment to the government or negatively impact Kuwait's currency value.

"The parliament has a major role to play in this regard. However, it seems the parliament was just content to overthrow Minister of Information Sheikh Salman Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, considering it the jewel of their utmost achievement crown, and everything else unimportant.

"Anyway, our wise government has managed to take us to the station of disappointment where no achievements, suitable releases and services can be expected. We thus dare to tell the government that — O' government, enough is enough!"

— Compiled by Ahmad Al-Shazi

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