

# Lebanese FM confirms Kuwait's rejection of Beirut's ambassador

Bassil stresses need to find common ground

**KUWAIT CITY, Jan 25:** Lebanese Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil has affirmed that Kuwait rejected the diplomat who was nominated as the Lebanese ambassador to Kuwait, indicating that this is the right of Kuwait and is normally witnessed in diplomatic relations, reports Al-

jarida daily.

Bassil said, "Lebanon was hesitant to declare the new ambassador to Kuwait who needs the agreement of two-thirds of the Lebanese government. If that condition is not met, the decision to appoint the ambassador to Kuwait will not be made."

Concerning the issue of Kuwait's letter to protest Hezbollah's interference in

the affairs of Kuwait on the backdrop of the "Abdali Cell" case, the minister revealed that the concerned Lebanese authorities notified their Kuwaiti counterparts about the measures taken by the Lebanese government concerning the letter from Kuwait, adding that Kuwait has the right to take appropriate measures to thwart any threat to the country's security and sovereignty.

He insisted that Kuwait should take into account the circumstances in Lebanon, affirming that Kuwait does not believe this is a deliberate move by Lebanon and it does not hold the government accountable for the consequences.

Bassil stressed the need to find a common ground with the rest of the GCC countries, as the relations between these countries and Beirut have lately been strained.

He disclosed that his country responded to Saudi Arabia concerning the Hezbollah issue, adding that the dispute with GCC countries revolves around labeling the resistance operations being carried out by Hezbollah as terrorism.

Suleiman Bu Ghiath's photo, which was among the documents released by America's Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), came from the mobile phone of his wife - Fatma bint Osama bin Laden, reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources close to the family of Bu Ghiath.

Sources pointed out this does not mean Bu Ghiath held a leading position in al-Qaeda, clarifying that his relationship with al-Qaeda ended long ago and he was not involved in the military operations announced by the organization.

Sources said the CIA deliberately leaked information on some personalities believed to have ties with al-Qaeda even if they were not involved in the organization's activities.



KUNA photo

KFAED officials and Tunisian officials during a meeting.

## KFAED okays healthcare projects in Tunisia

A visit to Tunisia's central coastal cities of Monastir and Sousse by Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) experts and the Kuwaiti embassy on Wednesday resulted in the approval of several healthcare projects in the country.

KFAED discussed a \$17 million loan agreement with Monastir officials for emergency wards across 22 Tunisian governorates - some \$530,000 of which will target the renovation of a maternity hospital in the city.

In Sousse, local officials took Ku-

waiti Ambassador Ali Al-Dhefeeri on a tour of several hospitals in the city.

In November 2017, KFAED signed a loan worth KD 24 million (\$79.2 million) and a grant worth KD 300,000 (\$1 million) to build four hospitals and a cancer centre in the capital Tunis.

The Kuwaiti state-owned aid agency has been providing assistance to Tunisia since 1963 and is regarded one of the country's biggest contributors. Over the past three decades it has funded 33 projects worth a total KD 173 million (\$575 million).

## PAHW invites citizens to register for plots

### Turkish companies win tender to develop 9,769 plots in Mutla'a

**KUWAIT CITY, Jan 25:** Turkish companies specialized in construction projects and contracts have won tenders to develop the remaining 9,769 plots at Mutla'a residential city, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The daily quoting a reliable source said the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) earlier decided to split tenders of the four quarters of Al-Mutla'a project into two parts to facilitate setting up of infrastructure, the sewage network, and secondary power plants.

He explained that Cengiz Company, which earlier bid KD 49.335 million, will develop two areas N3 and N2.

It is worthy of note Cengiz competed with six local and international companies for implementation of the project.

Tender of areas N1 and N4 will be implemented by Bulat Company, which presented the lowest bid of KD 49.970 million among eight other com-

panies that competed for execution of the project.

Meanwhile, PAHW disclosed that the sector has started inviting the third batch of citizens that registered for plots in South Abdullah Mubarak City before Sept 27, 1998 to participate in the draw on 239 plots, indicating cards will be distributed to them on Thursday Jan 25, Sunday Jan 28 and Monday 29, 2018.

Criminal Investigations Department Director General Major General Mohamed Al-Sharhan went on leave after having differences with Assistant Undersecretary for Criminal Security Affairs Major General Khalid Al-Dein regarding e-crimes, reports Al-Rai daily quoting security sources.

Sources revealed Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khalid Al-Jarrah requested Al-Sharhan to go on vacation and take a rest due to rising tension over work-related issues.



KUNA photo

Kuwait's Ambassador to France Sami Al-Sulaiman during a luncheon.

## Kuwaiti Ambassador and French officials discuss ties

**KUWAIT'S AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE** Sami Al-Sulaiman and the chairman of the Parliamentary Friendship Committee of the French National Assembly discussed Thursday bilateral relations between the two countries.

During a luncheon held in honor

of the chairman and members of the committee, Ambassador Sulaiman stressed the deep ties between the two countries, especially parliamentary relations.

Both sides discussed the upcoming visits between Kuwait and France aimed at developing coop-

eration between the two friendly countries in all fields, especially parliamentary and political ones.

The committee, formed by the French National Assembly last March, has 14 members and is headed by the representative of the Republican Party.

## Info forms panel to deal with employees petitions

**KUWAIT CITY, Jan 25:** Minister of Information Mohammad Al-Jabri has formed a committee to deal with petitions from employees based on the announcement by the minister early this month that his office had commenced receiving petitions and complaints. He added the exercise would last two weeks, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The daily quoting a source noted the

minister set up the committee due to a multitude of complaints the office received within the previously stipulated period.

He said the action explains seriousness and significance the minister attaches to direct intervention into issues that affect employees, stressing the decision is accepted by employees in all sectors of the ministry due to its posi-

tive effect.

He hinted the vast majority of petitions were related to allowance, failure to attain supervisory position levels, and modification of job titles among others.

He indicated the minister has already directed the committee to communicate with concerned sectors over issues falling within their respective jurisdictions.

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