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Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani in talks with First Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Qatar Amir receives Sheikh Nasser

Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani received Kuwait's visiting First Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at his office in Al-Bahr Palace on Wednesday.

The Kuwaiti official relayed the greetings of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to his Qatari counterpart and stressed the depth of bilateral ties.

Sheikh Tamim proceeded to hold a banquet in honour of the Kuwaiti visitor and his accompanying delegation.

The First Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister's visit to Qatar comes in response to the Qatari Amir's invitation to attend the graduation ceremony

of Ahmed bin Mohammed Military College.

Meanwhile, Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation on Thursday attended the graduation ceremony of a new batch of students of Qatar's Ahmad Bin Mohammad Military College.

The graduated batch includes 17 Kuwaiti officers.

Sheikh Nasser Al-Sabah's participation in the graduation ceremony, which was patronized and attended by Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, is part of his two-day official visit to Doha at the invitation of the Qatari Amir. (KUNA)

Kuwait lauds 'IGAD' for new peace effort

Ceasefire deal reactivated

NEW YORK, Jan 25, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait affirmed its support for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) efforts to re-activate the conflict resolution agreement in Southern Sudan.

Kuwait is looking forward to the second round of high level talks expected to be held next month discussing the conflict in Sudan, said Kuwait Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi said in a speech delivered before the Security Council.

Ambassador Al-Otaibi said that the conflict resolution agreement reached last December aimed at building a broad reconciliation between the people of southern Sudan and reaching a political settlement that will build a safe and stable future for all.

Al-Otaibi recalled in this regard the presidential statement of the Security Council issued on Dec 14, which urged parties involved in southern Sudan to agree on mechanisms and to monitor violations.

"We express our support for the work of the Ceasefire Monitoring Mechanism and the Transitional Security Arrangements (STSAM) and their efforts to verify violations", he noted.

Al-Otaibi pointed out that the disastrous humanitarian situation in Southern Sudan is worsening day by day. About 60 percent or more of the 7 million people in Southern Sudan need help, where about 1.1 million child are in bad need of nutrition.

He said, "obstructing the arrival of humanitarian aid is unacceptable, and we welcome the presidential statement which ensures the arrival of humanitarian aid to

Docus forged Caught in UAE

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 25: The United Arab Emirates Interpol has arrested a Syrian businessman, identified only as B.K., who had been sentenced to a prison term in absentia for forging documents of a company, reports Al-Qabas daily.

A security source said the arrest came after Kuwait published the name of the suspect in the Interpol bulletin and he was found 'holed up' in the UAE.

According to Kuwaiti Interpol, a delegation left for UAE yesterday to bring the suspect back to the Kuwait.

In the meantime, the concerned authorities are investigating how the man left Kuwait in spite of the fact that there was a travel ban on him.

the needy people with no obstacles".

He noted that efforts done by peacekeepers from the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), Regional Protection Forces (RPF), and of other humanitarian workers deserves the full support and appreciation of the Security Council and the international community.

The ambassador called on all parties to facilitate their work, remove all obstacles before them, and abide Security Council resolutions and statements in this regard.

He also called on Sudanese Government to fulfill its commitment of implementing resolution 2304 on the deployment of the regional protection force with no further delay.

DIWANIYA ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Avoid falling in 'economy killers' trap

How the budget deficit will be covered?

"OVER the past three years, the State (the government of Kuwait) has decided to withdraw from the Public Reserve Fund to cover the deficit for fiscal 2014/2015, 2015/2016 and 2016/2017," columnist and former Minister of Planning *Dr Mohammad Al-Duwaihees* wrote for *Al-Shahed* daily.

"Yes, we know that withdrawal from the Public Reserve does not require the approval of the National Assembly, and that the withdrawal from the Future Generations Fund is the one that requires the approval of the National Assembly, which means a specific law to this effect must be issued by the MPs.

"The question is: How the budget deficit for 2017/2018 will be covered? According to officials, the Ministry of Finance decided to borrow from international banks and also decided to issue some bonds and borrow from local banks to fill the budget deficit.

"In this context, we say the political, economic, financial and business experts know their task and secret and the hidden role that will be played by the 'professional killers of the economy' and who aim to convince countries to borrow large amounts for building infrastructures and implementation of major projects and eventually hold these states hostage year after year drowned in accumulated debts.

"The 'professional killers of economy' achieve the greatest success when the amount of borrowing is large and the state is unable to pay and here begins the stage of controlling and dominating the directions of the borrower and its policies and decisions -- financial, economic and political -- and dominate the sources of wealth.

"Thus, the state loses its economic and financial freedom and its political prestige and becomes captive to the directives of the 'killers of the economy'.

"As a matter of fact, the Kuwaiti citizen possesses the necessary general and scientific culture as well as the technical knowledge and the wide information and data in the field of money and business to such an extent it would be difficult for the concerned authorities to conceal the data away from him.

"Hence, we say secrecy to conceal is something of the past in the world of digital technology and the eagerness of the younger generation to familiarize itself with and follow up the State run projects and how the public funds are being disbursed.

"Some financial analysts believe the deficit which has surfaced is the outcome of government mismanagement the financial and political manipulation backed by the legislature, but doesn't represent a real financial deficit.

"However, here I would like to reiterate as I have done in previous articles the necessity and importance of quality and efficiency of government administration and transparency in dealing with government works and projects and how to control the disbursement process, the financial expenditure and how to spend these funds, particularly in case the government was reluctant to withdraw from the State Public Reserve or in case if it had decided to borrow a huge sum from international banks and institutions.

"This measure shall require caution in order to avoid falling in the net and trap of the 'economy killers', the borrowing whirlpool and the financial deficit.

"In this connection, we cite the example of the Republic of Ecuador, the Latin American nation, in 1968 and Indonesia in 1971 as well as some other states which fell in the trap of borrowing from the international financial institutions.

"In this context, we say the social media quoted one of the clerics in Kuwait as saying the government resorting to borrow KD 25 billion is something against religion. He justified his opinion

by saying the State of Kuwait has not reached this state limit of borrowing and paying usury."

Also:

"When a country offers to borrow from countries or the World Bank (WB) or from any place this is evidence or indication that this country cannot carry out development or construction projects, and perhaps this borrowing is caused by a deficit in the public budget," columnist *Dr Yusuf Suleiman Al-Shuaib* wrote for *Al-Jarida* daily.

"However, if the concerned state has reached a level under which it is not capable of implementing its project or cover the deficit in its budget but can do so by resorting to borrowing, then this is the evidence of mismanagement and poor planning of the government.

"This situation does not apply to Kuwait in any way, because thanks to God, the State of Kuwait does not need to borrow. Hence, the banners of borrowing which loom over the financial future of Kuwait are a fake and have no basis.

"Here we would like to point out that the earnings from oil production and revenues from investments are sufficient to cover the budget of three African countries simultaneously and moreover, the budgets had been already been earmarked to meet the requirements of the future projects of the State.

"Such being the case, we wonder, what is the need that made the government think, and submit to the National Assembly the subject of borrowing and in amounts that will be sufficient to meet the requirement of more than one state?"

"However, the strange aspect in this connection is to suddenly detect that the government is currently thinking of borrowing billions of dinars, while tenders worth millions of dinars are awarded to some specific people without tenders being referred to the Central Tenders Committee or even without opening the bid packets.

"Strange enough, it is a coincidence that it depends on the mood of the government to award the tenders and find itself in a tight situation and opts to borrow money."

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"Seven years have passed since the launch of the Jasmine Revolution in Tunisia after Al-Buazizi set himself on fire. That revolution spread to Egypt, Libya, Syria and Yemen, and its flames touched all Arab capitals in varied levels," *Saad Fahad Al-Mojel* wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"After seven years, I must say that the Arab world is in need of a new revolution that perhaps would really fulfill the objectives of the Arab Spring. It will be a revolution conducted by unemployed starving citizens who are yearning to get rid of the era of corruption. They will highlight the need for abiding by the rules of uprightness and respecting the public funds.

"Today, the people of Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Sudan, Western Arab countries and some countries of our region are grumbling about the increase in prices and implementation of new taxes that are badly affecting their day-to-day life such as the prices of bread and fuel.

"In 1943, scientist Abraham Maslow presented his theory known as Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs which is centered on his observations of human intuition and curiosity. The theory puts the basic human needs in order based on their priority, as well as describes the human motivations.

"Maslow categorized the basic human needs as psychological, safety, love or sense of belonging (social), esteem and self-actualization.

"He said when people fulfill the most basic needs, they proceed to the next level that represents a basic need for them, and the whole process is just like the stairs.

"Arab Spring cannot be limited to one factor. In the beginning, the movement was against the pillars of corrupt and repressive regimes. The crowds were pushed by political pressure, but according to Maslow theory, the human demands do not stop at one level.

"The recent movement in Tunisia witnessed slogans based on human needs represented by the call for employment as well as elimination of

politicians who failed to put an end to the social differences which resulted from the spread of corruption.

"It seems history is repeating itself. The demonstrations that occurred in Tunisia are spreading to other Arab capitals just like it did seven years ago. Overthrowing the regimes is not an easy task, but it is easier than establishing civil and just societies that are capable of fulfilling the needs of people in accordance with Maslow's theory."

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"Kuwait, through its wise leadership has earned the commendation of major decision-makers from advanced countries, in addition to the United Nations and humanitarian groups, due to effects of the policy on international and regional affairs," Uncle *Ali Yousef Al-Marrouk* wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"The steps taken by Kuwaiti leadership include a proposed conference on Feb 14 for the reconstruction of Iraq, with global participation. Massive attendance of many countries across the world is anticipated.

"There are many projects that can be jointly executed by Kuwait and Iraq to make it possible for Kuwait to serve as the major gateway to Iraq from the Gulf and international community. It is possible to construct a railway line from Basra to Kuwait to transport GCC visitors.

"Kuwait could become a take-off point and headquarters for regional and international companies that will execute reconstruction projects in Iraq. Kuwaiti ports can also be useful for the import of goods to Iraq, while easing movement of people from the two countries to encourage inter-trading as observed in the past."

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"Is it true that Minister of Information has decided to ban some Arab artists from singing in Kuwait because they verbally attacked one of the ministers? If this is true, it spells disaster. However, it is not strange from either the government of repression or those who banned Jalal Al-Dein from entering Kuwait," *Abdullatif Al-Duajj* wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"It is a disaster for our government to put its head with the head of an unknown Twitter user. Issuance of such a decision is also a disaster for an individual or the Cabinet because such decisions require the support of laws and judicial sentences.

"The big disaster is that the decision of ban was issued after a verbal attack against a minister. This represents lack of freedom of opinion and freedom of expression. Those against freedoms and thoughts may cause an uprising, alleging that such kinds of insults are not freedom of opinion. That is 100 percent true and there is no doubt in that regard."

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"Day after day, the world has been recording new testimonies about Kuwait and its political leadership in terms of its humanitarianism. This wonderful country indeed deserves the title offered by the former Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki Moon when he said Kuwait is a small country but it is in the hearts of the whole world," *Abdulrahman Al-Awwad* wrote for *Al-Sabah* daily.

"Recently, Head of Iraqi National Wisdom Bloc Ammar Al-Hakim said Kuwait's initiative to hold the conference on reconstruction of Iraq next month will enhance the relations between Kuwait and Iraq. He praised the stances of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his sympathy towards Iraq which has been facing challenges and crises throughout the past decade.

"The statement of Iraqi Journalists Association is nothing less than a testimony that His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah cares for Iraq and its people just like the way he cares for his own country and people."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb

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News in Brief

Ex-daily's goods auctioned: Based on the decision of the Court of Cassation, all movables of Dar Al-Watan Press, Printing and Publishing Company were sold in a public auction held on Tuesday upon the company's failure to pay debts worth 19.69 million dinars, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Mohammad AbdulMohsin Al-Kharafi & Sons General Trading and Contracting Co presented the best bid to take the movables of Dar Al-Watan Press and Publishing Company, owner of Al-Watan Newspaper and TV Channel.

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Suspended fine for blogger: The Criminal Court recently ordered a liberal activist to pay fine KD 3,000 fine but later suspended the verdict, reports Al-Anba daily. He was accused of posting an abusive tweet concerning the ritual of sacrificing animals during the Eid Al-Adha in commemoration of the Mercy of God, which spared Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) from sacrificing his son Ismael.

The defendant had called that day as the 'Festival of Sadness' and mocked Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH).

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Mentally-ill in suicide bid: A mentally-challenged Kuwaiti citizen sustained minor burns in an attempt to commit suicide inside his house in Firdous area, says Al-Seyassah.

According to security sources, when the Operations Room of Ministry of Interior received information from a Kuwaiti woman that her son took a jerrican of petrol to his room and started a fire, firefighters, securitymen and paramedics were immediately dispatched to the location. Firefighters extinguished the fire, which resulted in minor damages to the citizen's room. Securitymen discovered that the citizen went to Farwaniya Hospital for treatment.

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Police arrest 'drifters': Ahmadi securitymen dispersed a gathering of youths in Fahad Al-Ahmad area and took eight of them into custody for drifting after impounding their vehicles, says Al-Seyassah.

The action followed a distress call security sector received about the activities of a group of reckless youths endangering life in the aforementioned area.

A security source said officers were dispatched to the scene to deal with the situation and necessary action was taken against the drifters.