



KUNA photo

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalid Al-Jarallah receives his Afghan counterpart Hekmat Khalil Karzai and his team.

Bahrain King hails Kuwait, Saudi & UAE cash bailout

Afghan official commends support



Photo by Mahmoud Jadede

Afghan Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Hekmat Karzai talking to the press.

MANAMA, July 5, (KUNA): Bahraini King Hamad bin Issa Al-Khalifa lauded on Wednesday the supportive stances of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and UAE to support and enhance the stability of the financial situation in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

King Hamad said that during his reception of Saudi Ambassador to Bahrain Abdullah bin Abdul-Malik Al-Sheikh, UAE Ambassador Shaikh Sultan bin Hamdan bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, and Kuwaiti Charge d'affaires Abdullah Al-Shatti at Al-Sakhir Palace, Bahrain News Agency stated.

The Bahraini King pointed to the deep historical ties that unite the brotherly countries of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which have been confirmed in several situations to reflect the keenness to consolidate these fraternal ties, based on the belief in the unity of common destiny that brings them together.

He expressed his country's appreciation and gratitude to the three countries for their initiative to ensure Bahrain's financial stability, adding that the stances reflect the existing brotherly cooperation and coordination between Bahrain and the three countries.

The Bahraini King pointed out the importance of the great role that will contribute to the support of the brothers, which is one of the models of integration between the brothers in the support of a planned program aiming at serving national and public interests.

Historic

Meanwhile, a visiting senior Afghan official lauded Kuwait's "historic" backing to his country, especially during critical circumstances.

Speaking at a press conference at the Afghan Embassy in Kuwait, Deputy Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Hekmat Karzai hailed Afghan-Kuwaiti relations as having been developed since diplomatic relations were forged in 1963.

He hoped that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah would contribute to the peace process and humanitarian relief efforts in Afghanistan.

He said his visit to Kuwait is part of continuing talks and consultations between both sides, considering it an opportunity for him to see the Afghan community in the Gulf country.

The visit also aims at promoting and developing distinguished and positive cooperation between Kuwait and Afghanistan to broader horizons, he added.

Karzai went on to say that his country also seeks Kuwait's help in resolving the ongoing conflict there, along with economic backing in the sectors of energy, health and education.

In this context, he said he has already met with officials of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED).

He also held talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah and His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

He noted that KFAED officials have agreed to fund a main energy project in Afghanistan, adding that a fund delegation would visit the country soon in order to see the situation on the ground.

The Afghan official pointed to available major opportunities for Kuwaiti investors to have business in Afghanistan in the domains of transport, energy and mining.

On the current situation in Afghanistan, he said cities are safer than villages, reassuring that the situation in general is remarkably improving.



Citizens rush to get new e-passports.

'Old passports invalid'

Rush to get e-passports

KUWAIT CITY, July 5: The Directorate-General of Nationality, Passports and Travel Documents said there is coordination between the ministries of Interior in the GCC countries to allow travel between their countries using Civil IDs, reports Al-Anba daily quoting security sources.

The sources added, the GCC ministries of Interior were informed by Kuwait that June 30, 2018 was the last date for Kuwaitis to use their old passports and that any Kuwaiti who wants to travel to any GCC country must use the new e-passport.

The sources added, following this coordination with the GCC ministries of Interior and immigration officials at the border points Kuwaitis were

banned from travelling using their old passports and some of them were even sent back.

The sources said, any Kuwaiti who is wanted by law must modify his/her legal status before applying for the e-passport.

Speaking of people who still hold the old or expired passport and are outside the country can contact Kuwait's foreign missions where they will be given e-passport which is valid only to enter Kuwait and not to travel to any other country.

In the same context, sources said until now 800,000 e-passports have already been issued and the rush to acquire the new e-passport is expected to ease by end of August 2018.

News in Brief

Cleaning firms fined: Farwaniya Municipality imposed fines and financial penalties reaching a total of KD 472,410 on cleaning companies during the period from Nov 25, 2017 to May 31, 2018, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Director of Public Hygiene and Road Works Department in Farwaniya Municipality Saad Al-Khuranej explained that the fines and penalties were due to infringement of contract items by the cleaning companies, such as not collecting garbage or providing garbage collection tools and bins.

These companies failed to honor the contracts signed between them and the municipality. Last April and May, a sum of KD 75,000 and KD 71,315 were deducted for not collecting garbage and providing garbage collection tools respectively.

During that period, a total of 433,297 cubic meters of garbage was collected, 307,507 cubic meters of construction waste were lifted and 259,992 cubic meters of scrap load were removed.

Also, a total of 2,264 neglected

vehicles were lifted and referred to the municipality impound yard. So far, only 796 of these vehicles were released during this period. In addition, 2,796 citations were issued over various violations.

Two held with drugs: Two Kuwaiti citizens were arrested in Jahra Governorate in possession of narcotic pills, hashish and methamphetamine, says Al-Seyassah.

According to security sources, when the Operations Room of Ministry of Interior received information about two individuals who were seen either sitting on the hood of a parked vehicle or sleeping inside it, Jahra securitymen rushed to the location and checked the details of the two men to discover they are Kuwaitis, one of who is wanted by law for nonpayment of debt worth KD 7,000.

Securitymen checked the vehicle and found the abovementioned drugs. The two suspects were arrested and referred with the drugs to the Drugs Control General Department for necessary legal action.

DIWANIYA ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'We're firm on Palestinian stance'

'Reprisal against Kuwait begins'

"THE American newspaper 'The New York Post' in its editorial on June 29, 2018 said 'Kuwait better get ready with the program — or be prepared to face Trump's wrath,'" columnist, professor at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training's (PAAET) College of Technological Studies, the deputy chairman of the Islamic Heritage Revival Society (IHRIS) and the chairman of Ibn Khaldoun Center for Political Studies *Dr Wael Al-Hassawi* wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"However, what the newspaper means by the term 'program' what the US incumbent administration plan is for the formation of an alliance of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states and the Zionist entity against Iran.

"Meanwhile, 'The New York Post' newspaper referred to the Kuwaiti envoy to the United Nations who criticized Israel this month and accused it of equipping and using sophisticated and diverse weapons against an unarmed people (the Palestinian people).

"The newspaper said that one of the clerics in Kuwait denied the authenticity of the Holocaust at the hands of the Nazi forces during World War II (the Holocaust), and asked about the number of kilns needed by Hitler to burn six million Jews.

"The newspaper has blessed the steps of several Gulf countries to come closer to Israel and normalize relations with it, while Kuwait has been stubborn to this normalization and criticizes Israel on every occasion!

"The newspaper pointed out that Kuwait, unlike the Gulf countries that have shown a firm stance on Iran, has placed itself on the neutral path of the issue of relations with Iran and it does not need a partner to challenge the Iranian aggression that threatens the region.

"Furthermore, they also referred to the position of Parliament Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim towards the Israeli delegation (to the International Parliament Union (IPU) conference), calling them occupiers and killing the children.

"Not just that, he asked them to carry their bags and leave the meeting room, which led the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to give Al-Ghanim the title 'The Personality of the Year 2018' award.

"Likewise, the newspaper recalled the position of Dr Waleed Al-Tabtabaei (member of the Kuwaiti National Assembly) who attacked 'the Zionist dogs' after the bombing of an Iranian location by Israel in Syria.

"In the meantime, the newspaper recalled the attitude of the Salafis in Kuwait and their constant criticism of Israel, and indicated that they were the bumper to stop the opposition's attack during the Arab Spring in 2011 and beyond where Kuwait had benefited from them as well as from the Muslim Brotherhood Group for encountering the local opposition.

"Anyway, since Kuwait took firm positions against the Zionist aggressors and addressed their repeated attempts to humiliate Muslims, including Kuwait's position through its non-permanent membership in the Security Council and its persistent criticism of Israeli positions since the adoption by the State of Kuwait such an honorable attitude, we were realizing that the Zionist malicious machinery will not keep silent towards the honorable attitudes of the State of Kuwait.

"The series of retaliations against Kuwait has begun, including the New York Post's review of Trump's possible response to Kuwait over its honorable positions on Arab issues. If we recognize that what the newspaper reported about the positions of some Gulf states from Israel is true, Kuwait will face a diplomatic and political war that does not stop, and will witness incitement from the Zionist circles against it to subdue it and break its resolve!

"But there is no doubt that the position of His Highness the Amir on these issues of principle is clear and frank, which gives the Kuwaiti people confidence and adherence to the principles and willingness to challenge the world no matter what is conspired against it."

Also:

"In its Friday issue, corresponding to June 29, 2018, the US newspaper 'The New York Post' published two articles by two writers Jonathan Schanzer and Varasha Koduvayr which revolve around US President Donald Trump's plan to build an axis to contain Iran which will include Israel and some Arab states," columnist *Dr Mubarak Al-Wasmi* wrote for *Al-Shahed* daily.

"Meanwhile, the articles referred to the State of Kuwait as an obstacle in the formation of such a front where writers cited the attitudes of dignity and firmness that was adopted by Kuwait at international forums against the Israeli entity including the speech that was delivered by Speaker of Kuwait's Parliament Marzouq Al-Ghanim at the 137th conference of the International Parliament Union where he adamantly addressed the Israeli delegation to the conference, and told it to pack your bags and leave.

"Meanwhile, the two writers described the meeting that was held between the son-in-law of Trump, Jared Kushner and the ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Washington Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah as 'concise and stormy', adding that this is applicable to the attitudes of the State of Kuwait's envoy to the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi in dealing with the Arab/Israeli struggle.

"Apart from the above, the two writers in question had attempted to belittle the State of Kuwait by referring to the attitudes of some Kuwaiti MPs, hinting the Salafist method which prevails in the country shows the three Kuwaitis are currently subjected to US sanctions for financing al-Qaeda network, and singled them out as teaching staff members of the state financed Kuwait University.

"On the other hand, the two writers referred to some flexibility shown by some Gulf and Arab states towards Israel and the extent of these states acceptance to join the dialogue with Israel. They also added Kuwait shall face the wrath of the US president if it rejects to join this dialogue.

"Anyway, as long these articles shall take big dimension in terms of forming the US public opinion due to the cultural shortage and because they are not conversant with the backgrounds of the Arab- Israeli struggle or understating the Kuwaiti policy towards the Arab and regional issues, I call on the Kuwaiti official authorities and the academicians in the country to publish articles in the US newspapers to intensify campaigns in favor of the State of Kuwait and project

the Kuwaiti role which is seeking a fair peace that is capable of protecting the dignity of our Palestinians brothers.

"This is in addition to keeping abreast with the universal resolutions and ultimately projecting the role of the State of Kuwait in terms of its acceptance to the Arab Peace Initiative that was endorsed by the Arab summit which was held in the Lebanese capital Beirut in 2002."

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"Sheikh Jaber Al-Ali compared to many of the ministers of information is a difference between thought, vision and personality," columnist and former Deputy Director-General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) *Iqbal Al-Ahmad* wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"The Ministry of Information is the mother of all ministries, the spirit of the ministries, the facade of society and its interior. The Ministry of Information is a reflection and mirror of the society itself.

"When a minister assumes the responsibility of the Ministry of Information, his cultural depth reflects on the aspects of the ministry's work and its results on all levels of journalism, media, art, culture and literature.

"Sheikh Jaber Al-Ali — we pray to Almighty God to bless him and grant him peace — has all these qualities for varieties of arts and culture. This radiated Kuwait into prominence to an extent whereby the entire world talked about it at that period.

"The culture today, the arts of all kinds, and literature in their ramifications, do not deserve to follow a ministry headed by a minister who will oversee it according to his desires and scope of his prerogatives, whatever the personality of this minister and his affiliations.

"Regardless of who is the minister of information today or yesterday, the mere curtailment of culture, arts and literature, as a small branch in the responsibility of the media in all its forms, is an underestimation of this important aspect of life.

"Two huge edifices, the first of their kind, not at the Arab level, but perhaps globally, could be important and essential tributaries of Kuwait's non-oil sources of income when oil loses its luster.

"The cultural and artistic tourism in the Gulf region can be controlled by Kuwait through the cultural centers of Jaber Al-Ahmad and Abdullah Al-Salem, as well as the cultural and artistic movement that has been rooted in Kuwait since the 1950s and 1960s.

"This important aspect must not be at the mercy of the mood or thought of any minister, with all due respect for them.

"The journey of success and achievement of the culture, arts and literature can be erased through moody decisions, because of pressures or commitments from the minister of that era, and here I do not mean a minister in itself. As far as the trends continue their ups and downs, we must be aware of the seriousness about who the decision-maker is.

"The independence of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters from the Ministry of Information in its budget and responsibility through an independent body, headed by a high cultural official, and a council of conscious culture that sets plans and a strategy that promotes culture, arts and literature is the wise decision so that this edifice does not threaten intellect or cultural isolation.

"Our nation today, once again, must be in the forefront of the promotion of culture, the arts and literature, and the independence of its apparatus and its officials."

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"I am convinced that the standard leadership models and theories cannot be applied on our government officials because of their politicized nature, although some experts describe them as wet blankets (when I say some, I am being kind)," *Dr Turki Al-Azmi* wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"There are some basic aspects that determine the character of a good or a bad official. Some of these aspects are a must for an official to possess, such as good knowledge in his field of work, wisdom, relatively smart, go-getter, trustworthy and a high moral sense, especially after the 2008 financial crisis.

"Former minister of Justice and state minister for National Assembly Affairs *Dr Faleh Al-Azeb* was once asked — 'Why don't you open a legal consultancy office?' and he said in response, 'Considering that I am a former minister, I believe such a venture will conflict with my principles and values. It will also be considered like I am taking advantage of the position and relations I gained during my service in the Cabinet. I believe this is a conflict of interest and use of influence, which, in some sense, is hidden corruption.'"

"I believe the former minister briefly and transparently reflects the framework of moral responsibility in an official which I mentioned earlier. An effective official needs to be able to differentiate between self-employment that is pristine and self-employment that is based on contaminants which are regarded by many as 'normal,' choosing to ignore the repercussions of ineffective and bad leadership."

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"In the previous article, we discussed the need to control the prices of consumables either at the level of supermarkets or cooperative societies, and in both cases, Ministry of Commerce and Industry's presence in collaboration with Kuwait Union of Cooperative Societies and other relevant authorities will determine the level of seriousness in the monitoring activities," *Zayed Al-Zaid* wrote for *Annahar* daily.

"We registered our criticism over the lack of serious and real action from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in applying the right enshrined in the Constitution. The activities of its inspection teams should not be limited to a particular period, as witnessed during the last Ramadan. They should be up and doing with monitoring throughout the year and try to use the rule of law in favor of all consumers.

"Today, we were taken aback while reading in a local daily that some merchants have protested against what they called 'Inadequate response from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to their requests for price raise'.

"The surprise here is in two ways; the first is about lack of basic justifications to hike the prices amid reports indicating a crazy hike in prices of various goods up to a difference of 100 percent. The other one is about the exposure of Ministry of Commerce and Industry's laxity in performing its expected role toward such a request, because it should have responded with a clear objection while stating its reasons in line with the Constitution."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb