

Exhibits include large collection of heritage, cultural, creative and artistic documents

Kuwait-Qatari relations exhibition kicks off in Doha

DOHA, July 5. (KUNA): The Cultural Village Foundation (CVF) inaugurated on Wednesday the Kuwaiti-Qatari relations exhibition, in cooperation with the 965 Expo Group for heritage and handicraft exhibitions.

General Manager of Cultural Village Foundation-Katara Khaled Al-Sulaiti lauded in an inaugural speech the opening of the exhibition for the first time at Katara, a cultural village in Doha.

He said that the exhibition "is the fruit of efforts and cultural cooperation that we and brothers in Kuwait have made over a long time".

Al-Sulaiti said that the exhibition includes a large collection of heritage, cultural, creative, valuable and artistic documents and possessions from owners of private museums, researchers, craftsmen and creative people of Kuwait.

He noted the support of Katara for holding such art exhibitions is part of its efforts to offer heritage, enrich the cultural scene and promote cultural cooperation between the two countries to push it to the highest levels as well as share experiences and common interests with the Qatari creative people.

Meanwhile, Mohamad Kamal, founder of 965 Expo for heritage and craftsmanship exhibitions, thanked Katara for its big support to the exhibition and attention to arts, culture, heritage as well as creative people.

He said the five-day exhibition includes rare and valuable pieces,



A group file photo of the participants of the Kuwaiti-Qatari Relations Exhibition organized by the Katara Village (Katara) in cooperation with the Expo 965 team for Kuwaiti Heritage, Crafts and Innovation exhibition.

documents and manuscripts provided by 17 members out of 130 of the Expo 965.

He explained that the exhibition was titled the "Kuwaiti-Qatari relations" as it contains many collectibles and documents

pertaining to the old Qatari-Kuwaiti trade.

The exhibition also contains a book on the founder of Qatar dating back to 1905 and a large collection of foreign and Arab books and magazines and

rare collectibles as well as others. It also has a car registration of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahamd Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, when he was serving as head of of Social Affairs Department in 1960, and a car registration of Qatar's ruler Sheikh Ahmad bin Ali Al Thani and the watch of Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani as well as cables of congratulations from Kuwait's rulers to Qatar's rulers, Kamal elaborated.

He went on to say that the exhibition involves documents in the 1930s pertaining to sheikhs and rulers of Kuwait and Qatar, trade, rare maps, number plates of cars, possessions of Kuwaiti and Gulf houses, banknote, the Indian rupee and others.

He pointed out that the show includes a collection of marine acquisitions, old ships, marine documents, metal making, jewelry industry and others.

It has manufacture of jewellery, knitting of textiles, calligraphy and painting, and the collection of rare artefacts such as original manuscripts, valuable books, medal, decorations, stamps and coins.

The show aims at preserving heritage and traditional handicrafts, and encouraging artists in both Qatar and Kuwait to excel in innovation and abide by authenticity.

Acting chargé d'affaires at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Qatar counselor Nasser Al-Ghanim and many of media people attended the inauguration of the event.

Britain agrees

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Mubarak Al-Sabah felt worried about foreign ambitions, mainly from the Ottoman empire.

In 1889, he sealed a protection treaty with Britain that became committed to defending Kuwait against any foreign attack.

The Kuwaiti-British links grew after oil was discovered in Kuwait in the 1930s. In 1961 the Anglo-Kuwaiti pact was annulled, establishing Kuwait as a sovereign, independent state.

Relations between the two countries deepened in the aftermath of Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Britain was a main partner to the US-led military alliance that liberated Kuwait from the Iraqi invaders the following year.

MPs take action

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They added Article 29 states that "people are equal in human dignity. In the eyes of the law, they have equal public rights and obligations. There shall be no discrimination between them because of race, origin, language or religion."

The MPs argued Article 39 of Ministerial Decree 66/1966 contravenes the Constitution; hence, it should be cancelled because human rights and equality must be upheld, considering some followers of Baha'i faith are Kuwaitis.

A Kuwaiti follower of Baha'i faith told the Arab Times that authentication of marriage certificates is not the only difficulty they have to deal with; but also personal status cases in general, including probate inventories.

Currently, the authentication of such certificates must be individually done in court as a case file, which usually takes up to six months to process. Since more than 500 Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis are following this faith, the MPs' proposal has been well received.

In another development, MP Safaa Al-Hashem lauded the inauguration of the new Al-Jahra Medical City. However, she was disappointed after finding out that the facility requires 12,000 employees - technical and managerial - for the hospital to be fully functional as such a number of manpower is not readily available.

She pointed out it would have been better if a contract was signed with a world leading hospital in the United Kingdom or the United States of America to train employees for one year before the inauguration to avoid delay in operations.

Although the MPs are happy to see completion of major projects such as the medical city and new airport terminal, they are putting political pressure on concerned authorities to improve the level of management and avoid falling behind in maintenance and development. Others such as MP Riyadh Al-Adani is pressuring the government to prioritize nationals in the recruitment of workers for these new facilities.

Taking it a step further, MP Majed Al-Mutairi submitted a proposal to prioritize nationals, children of Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis and Bedouins in the recruitment of workers for newly inaugurated mega projects.

He also suggested asking for help from international firms to train applicants in order to ensure that these new facilities will be fully operational upon inauguration.

Resistance to

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that does not have the full approval of the limited partners," one of the sources said.

Colony Capital declined to comment.

The deal would need the approval of the Cayman Court and investors, known as limited partners, in the four Abraaj funds.

Commercial discussions are con-

Customs officer urges passengers not to accept bags from unknown people

Travellers will be held legally liable for bags in their possession

KUWAIT CITY, July 5: Director of Air Customs Department at the General Administration of Customs, Walid Al-Nasser, has called on passengers to check their baggage only, not to accept bags from unknown people saying the passenger will be held legally liable for the bags in his/her possession, reports Al-Rai daily.

During a tour of the airport to get first hand information about the preparations being made by the General Administration of Customs for the travel season, Al-Nasser told the daily, if the passenger carries cash of up to \$10,000 or its equivalent in local currency, he must disclose it to the customs offi-

tinguing but the deal could fall through because Abraaj has not provided some of the information required by Colony, another source said without elaborating.

Abraaj's joint provisional liquidators, Deloitte and PWC, said negotiations are still under way.

"Commercial discussions around the sale of the group's fund management business continue. Any speculation to the contrary is without basis," they said in an emailed statement.

A Cayman Islands court will decide on July 11 whether to approve Colony Capital's deal, sources told Reuters last week.

One of those sources said that some fund investors had voiced concerns about the tight timeframe for closing the deal, which was announced on June 21.

Meanwhile, Abraaj founder Arif Naqvi is involved in a criminal case in the United Arab Emirates for issuing a cheque without sufficient funds. On Thursday a UAE court adjourned the case until July 11.

The court case in Sharjah, one of the United Arab Emirates, relates to a cheque for 177.1 million dirhams (\$48 million), signed by Naqvi and a fellow executive, and written to Hamid Jafar, another founding shareholder in Dubai-based Abraaj, according to a prosecution document.

Khalid al-Bannay, from Al Tamimi & Co, the law firm representing Jafar, said the court has adjourned the case until July 11.

Naqvi's lawyer told Reuters that the adjournment was an opportunity for both sides to reach an understanding.

"The adjournment has given an opportunity to reach a deal," Habib al-Mulla, the lawyer representing Naqvi, said.

"Before July 11 there could be a settlement agreed."

Jafar's lawyer al-Bannay said: "Until now there is no agreement and to have one, we need at least an initiative from the defendants."

The court case in Sharjah is another challenge for the founder of Abraaj, which is battling allegations that it misused investor money in a health-care fund. The firm has denied these allegations.

Naqvi is the single biggest shareholder of Abraaj Holdings which owns the investment management business, partly being sold to US buyout firm Colony Capital.

Abraaj, the Middle East and North Africa's biggest private equity firm, has filed for provisional liquidation in the Cayman Islands.

cers so as not to be held legally accountable under the law of smuggling or money laundering.

On the nature of the work of the Air Customs Administration, he said the work of the administration is to supervise and control all that comes in or leaves the State of Kuwait through the Kuwait International Airport and within the customs area specified in all airport buildings and border points irrespective whether they are accompanied by passengers or just goods according to the unified customs law of the GCC countries.

These include the Kuwait International Airport Terminal, the Sheikh Saad International Airport and the newly built airport terminal. The coverage area includes air cargo of all types of 'cargo, export, transit' as well as supervision of free market sales.

Asked about the number of customs inspectors working inside the airport terminal, Nasser said the ac-

Hezb aid

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Jordan, reestablishing his control over the Golan frontier, and crushing rebels once deemed a threat because of their proximity to Damascus.

The offensive has yet to face resistance from Assad's Western, Israeli or Arab foes. Washington has told rebels it once backed not to expect intervention. Some have surrendered.

Politically, the campaign has been one of the most complex yet for Assad. Israel has been pressing his Russian allies to keep Iranian-backed forces away from its frontier. Israel also wants them removed from Syria more widely, echoing Washington.

Recent Russian calls for non-Syrian forces to leave the south have been seen as partly directed at Iranian-backed forces.

White House national security adviser John Bolton said on Sunday President Donald Trump would discuss Syria with Russia's Vladimir Putin at a summit in Helsinki this month.

"There are possibilities for doing a larger negotiation on helping to get Iranian forces out of Syria and back into Iran, which would be a significant step forward," Bolton told CBS News "Face the Nation".

Seven years into the war which has killed hundreds of thousands of people, Assad now commands most of Syria with his allies' help, though most of the north and a chunk of the east remains out of his hands. The presence of Turkish and US forces in those areas will complicate further gains.

As Assad seeks military victory, there seems little hope of a negotiated peace, with some 6 million Syrians abroad as refugees and 6.5 million more internally displaced. The southwest offensive has uprooted 270,000 people.

Support from Iran and Hezbollah helped Assad survive rebel advances and plug manpower gaps early on, and then win back territory once Russia's air force arrived to help in 2015.

Iranian-backed Shi'ite militias have also been seen as critical in holding territory. On the ground, Russia has deployed some regular forces, military police and private contractors.

While Iran and Russia have worked closely together, differences have surfaced recently.

Notably, tension flared last month when Russian forces arrived unannounced in an area of Hezbollah deployment near the Lebanese border. The Russians withdrew the next day.

number is 145, including a customs inspectors, security inspectors, and administrative officers.

There are also 45 customs inspectors, bringing the total number to 190. He pointed out that their number is insufficient in light of the expansions and the future outlook of new Kuwait.

This has not been overlooked by senior management represented by General Manager of the General Administration of Customs Jamal Al-Jalawi and Deputy Director-General of Ports Affairs Adnan Al-Gudeibi.

He also talked about the new devices that have pressed into service and their usefulness. He said the airport uses latest state of the art technology to check the baggage to keep up with the latest technological developments.

It disclosed the suspect bags are tagged with a security tape which is unseen by the passenger. This is done to facilitate other passengers to leave the airport with their baggage

without being asked to open.

As for the number of arrests during the first half of this year, he put the number at 46 including those who attempted to smuggle drug of all kinds, pills, psychotropic substances, alcoholic beverages, smuggling of precious watches and jewelry, money and coins not disclosed to the customs officer.

Al-Nasser highlighted the obstacles and problems faced by customs inspectors during their work, whether from passengers or recipients of goods. He said that the most prominent is some customers' lack of knowledge about the customs areas, the customs law and the role of customs officers and their duties in those areas.

"We assure everyone that the customs officer is there to assist you in completing the procedures in accordance with the regulations and standards at the same time keeping in mind the safety and security of the country," he said.

"From last night until now, Russian airplanes are pursuing a scorched earth policy," said Hussein Abazeed, spokesman for the joint rebel command for the south.

Hormuz for

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Iranian accusations that it backs an exiled opposition group that was the possible target of a bomb plot near Paris last week, saying an investigation would determine the real sponsors of the planned attack.

Iran's foreign ministry on Tuesday summoned envoys from France, Germany and Belgium in protest at the arrest of an Iranian diplomat in Germany in connection with the alleged plan to bomb the annual National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) rally on the outskirts of Paris on June 30.

It also accused France of supporting the group, which seeks the overthrow of the Islamic Republic and is classified by Tehran as a terrorist organisation.

The French foreign ministry confirmed on Thursday that its ambassador had been summoned on July 3 following the rally, but dismissed any suggestion that it supported the NCRI.

Iranian authorities "were reminded that France supports neither the ideology, objectives nor activities of the PMOI. However, having been removed from the European list of terrorist organisations, this organisation can carry out, like any other association, activities, as long as they do not undermine public order", a French diplomatic source told Reuters.

French judicial sources said on Wednesday they had received a request from Belgium to extradite a man of Iranian origin who was arrested in Paris on suspicion of links to the plot.

Belgium is investigating two Belgians of Iranian origin arrested on Saturday. Five hundred grams of the homemade explosive TATP and a detonation device were found in their car, according to Belgian investigators.

An Austria-based Iranian diplomat is also being held in Germany in connection with the alleged bomb plot.

"On the planned attack at Villepinte (just outside Paris), an investigation is in progress. It will have to determine the real sponsors of this projected attack," the French diplomatic source said.

Iran has said it had nothing to do with the plot, which it called as a "false flag" operation staged by figures with-

in the NCRI, an umbrella bloc of opposition exiles that seek an end to almost 40 years of Shi'ite Muslim clerical rule in Iran.

French officials have declined comment on the matter saying its nature is unclear and extremely sensitive.

The People's Mujahideen Organization of Iran is the main component of NCRI. The group, also known by its Persian name Mujahideen-e-Khalq, was once listed as a terrorist organisation by the United States and the European Union but not since 2012.

Tehran has long called for a crackdown on the NCRI in Paris, Riyadh, and Washington. The group is regularly criticised in state media.

Iran could reduce its co-operation with the UN nuclear watchdog, President Hassan Rouhani told the body's head on Wednesday, after he warned US President Donald Trump of "consequences" of fresh sanctions against Iranian oil sales.

"Iran's nuclear activities have always been for peaceful purposes, but it is Iran that would decide on its level of cooperation with the IAEA," Iranian state news agency IRNA quoted Rouhani as saying after meeting IAEA head Yukiya Amano in Vienna.

Newswatch

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Police spokesman **Micky Rosenfeld** said 11 people were arrested in the "disturbance" including several for throwing stones at officers in **Khan al-Ahmar**. He said three officers were injured, including one evacuated to a hospital for treatment. (AP)

CAIRO: An Egyptian court on Thursday sentenced a former advisor to toppled Islamist president **Mohamed Morsi** along with 13 other people to life in prison for belonging to an illegal group.

Abdullah Shehata was an economic advisor to the Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated president, who was democratically elected in 2012 following the overthrow of longtime dictator **Hosni Mubarak**. (AFP)

ATHENS: A Greek committee granted asylum on Thursday to a Turkish soldier who fled to Greece with seven other officers after a failed coup attempt against Turkish President **Tayyip Erdogan** in 2016, judicial sources said.

The decision is expected to anger **Ankara**, which accuses the fugitives of involvement in the abortive coup and wants them all handed over. It says Athens is harbouring 'coupists'. The soldiers deny any wrongdoing and say they fear for their lives. (RTRS)

BRUSSELS: International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued a second warrant of arrest for **Mahmoud Mustafa Busayf Al Werfalli** for his alleged responsibility for murder as a war crime in the context of the armed conflict in **Libya**.

The ICC in a press release Thursday said there were reasonable grounds to believe that Al Werfalli directly committed murder as a war crime in the context of an eighth incident which took place on Jan 24, 2018, when he allegedly shot dead 10 persons in front of the Bi'at al-Radwan Mosque in **Benghazi**, Libya. (KUNA)

MOSCOW: The Amir of **Qatar** will attend the soccer World Cup final in **Russia**, the RIA news agency reported on Thursday, citing **Qatar** ambassador to Russia. When asked whether any bilateral meetings have been planned for the Amir so far, the ambassador said he could not confirm this, the RIA added. Russia is hosting the World Cup, which ends on July 15. (RTRS)