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KUWAIT, CHINA SIGN OIL JOINT MARKETING DEAL

Amir urges closer Arab-Sino ties

Practical steps taken to deepen partnership with China

BEIJING, July 10, (Agencies): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Tuesday called for pushing forward mechanisms of cooperation between Arab countries and China to attain mutual interests and strengthen historical ties.

Addressing the 8th session of the ministerial meeting of China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, held in Beijing today, His Highness the Amir said that Arab countries should work with China in order to overcome the crises

of some Arab nations thanks to China's international weight and influence as well as sincere commitment to the UN Charter.

"We believe that boosting mechanisms of cooperation between us will contribute to achieving supreme interests of our Arab nation and our friends, and to enhancing historical relations between the two sides, which we are keen to develop and promote in all fields," His Highness the Amir said.

He added that the promotion and development of cooperation with China would help achieve political consultations and coordination on ongoing issues and crises, thus maintaining regional and international security and stability.

MPs mull legislation on criticizing public figures

By Ahmed Al-Naqeeb
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 10: Although it falls within the social norm, criticizing a public figure through various media outlets will most likely be covered by legislation on safeguarding freedom of speech while protecting the integrity of the person.

MPs Ahmed Al-Fadel, Khaled Al-Shatti, Awda Al-Ruwai'i, Salah Khourshed and Khaleel Abul submitted a proposal to add Article 210 to Penal Code Number 16/1960 stipulating: "Excluding direct insults, groundless financial and moral accusations, it is allowed to criticize public figures including the Speaker of the Parliament and its members, prime minister, the Cabinet and any individual in a position of power whose action can be followed through any media outlet. The person criticized cannot take any legal action regardless of the severity of the criticism."

In their explanatory note, the MPs said a public figure should be criticized on matters related to his work, pointing out areas where he has fallen short and could have done better in addition to constructive criticism. Blatant insults and baseless direct accusations that could damage their reputation and well-being are unacceptable and will be punished by law.

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Kuwait 60 out of 126 in 'innovation index'

KUWAIT CITY, July 10, (Agencies): Kuwait ranked 60th out of 126 countries in the 2018 Global Innovation Index (GII) published Tuesday by Cornell University, INSEAD, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and GII Knowledge Partners.

This year, Kuwait's position dropped four spots as it ranked 56th in 2017.

The 2018 index is calculated as the average of two sub-indices: the Innovation Input Sub-Index measures elements of the national economy which embody innovative activities grouped in five pillars — (1) Institutions, (2) Human capital and research, (3) Infrastructure, (4) Market sophistication and (5) Business sophistication.

On the other hand, the Innovation Output Sub-Index captures actual evidence of innovation results divided in two pillars — (1) Knowledge and technology outputs and (2) Creative outputs.

Kuwait ranked 89th in Institutions with a score of 54.1, 81st in Human capital and research with a score of 25.5, 46th in Infrastructure with a score of 49.8, 63rd in Market sophistication with a score of 47.1, 111th in Business sophistication with a score of 21.0, 45th in Knowledge and technology outputs with a score of 30.2, and 63rd in Creative outputs with a score of 28.6.

Meanwhile, the United Arab Emirates ranked third among countries in Northern Africa and Western Asia and 38th globally.

China broke into the world's top 20 most-innovative economies as Switzerland retained its No. 1 spot in the Global Innovation Index (GII) ranking.

Rounding out the GII 2018 top 10: The Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Singapore, United States, Finland, Denmark, Germany and Ireland.

Now in its 11th edition, the GII is a detailed quantitative tool that helps global decision-makers better understand how to stimulate the innovative activity that drives economic and human development. The GII ranks 126 economies based on 80 indicators, ranging from intellectual property filing rates to mobile-application creation, education spending, and scientific and technical publications.

China's No. 17 ranking this year represents a breakthrough for an economy witnessing rapid transformation guided by government policy prioritizing research and development-intensive ingenuity. While the United States fell back to No. 6 in the GII 2018, it is an innovation powerhouse that has produced many of the world's leading high-tech firms and life-changing innovations.

"China's rapid rise reflects a strategic direction set by top leadership to develop world-class capacity in innovation and move the structural basis of the economy to more knowledge-intensive

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HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah delivering his address at the 8th Ministerial Meeting of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum in Beijing. KUNA photo



HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (left), and Chinese President Xi Jinping (front right), arrive for the opening session of the 8th Ministerial Meeting of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum in Beijing. (AP)

'Iran to sell as much oil as it can'

Top Khamenei aide to meet Putin

LONDON, July 10, (Agencies): A top adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei will visit Moscow on Wednesday to deliver a message to President Vladimir Putin, state television reported.

Ali Akbar Velayati's visit will be part of efforts to make Tehran's stance clear after the US withdrawal from the nuclear deal in May, Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi was quoted as saying by state television.

Meanwhile, Iranian vice-president Eshaq Jahangiri acknowledged on Tuesday that US sanctions would hurt the economy but promised to "sell as much oil as we can" and protect its banking system.

Jahangiri said Washington was trying to stop Iran's petrochemical, steel and copper exports, and to disrupt its ports and shipping services. "America

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Missile aimed at Jizan down

RIYADH, July 10, (Agencies): Saudi Arabia's air defence forces intercepted a missile launched towards the kingdom's southwestern Jizan region by Yemen's armed Houthis movement, state media said on Tuesday.

The Houthi-run al-Masirah TV said earlier that a Badr 1 missile had targeted Jizan Economic City, where Saudi Aramco is building a 400,000-barrel-per-day refinery that is expected to become fully operational in 2019.

There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties.

The Iran-aligned Houthi, who control Yemen's capital

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Rebels kill 27 regime fighters

BEIRUT, July 10, (Agencies): Syrian government forces bombed villages and towns in the northwestern province of Idlib on Tuesday after a surprise attack by insurgents that reportedly killed 27 soldiers, activists said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the government bombardment targeted half a dozen rebel-held villages in the northwestern Idlib province, killing at least five civilians. The activist-operated Idlib Media Center put the death toll at four.

The government assault came hours after rebels in Idlib seized the village of Ateera near the border with Turkey in a surprise attack. It was a rare advance for the armed opposition, which has suffered a series of major defeats across the country in recent months. The Observatory and other activist-operated platforms reported that over two dozen soldiers were killed, including a number of officers.

Damascus Now, a pro-government media group on social media, said armed groups attacked a government border post late Monday near Ateera, located in Latakia province, setting off clashes that involved artillery shelling. The attack resulted in deaths among the Syrian army, it said, without providing figures.

The government is waging a wide-scale offensive in southern Syria, where it recently retook a major crossing on the border with Jordan.

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Thanking Chinese President Xi Jinping for inviting him as a guest of honor, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad said Monday's meeting comes within the framework of the forum so as to complete the march of long and historical relations through which cooperation with China is viewed with broad horizons and unlimited optimism.

"This cooperation, which was forged a decade and a half ago, would see neither growth nor continuation, and would not even reach the desired goals, as long as we are living in tense and unstable situations in our Arab nation, since the Palestinian cause, which is our central issue, is still far from being given the due world attention and priority. Yet, all this poses a threat to our security and stability," he said.

Conditions

"The tragic conditions in Yemen, Syria, Libya and Somalia are still breaking the hearts of our Arab nation's sons as their destiny is still unknown, prompting us to resort to our Chinese friends so as to work together to overcome our challenges," he lamented.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad believed that China could play a role in this regard thanks to its international weight and influence as well as sincere commitment to the principles of the UN Charter.

His Highness the Amir called for pushing forward Arab-Sino cooperation to new horizons with a view to attaining mutual interests, stressing support for China's policy, territorial integrity and One-China Principle, along with its efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflicts over territories and territorial waters through friendly consultations and negotiations, and in line with bilateral agreements and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

His Highness the Amir said that there were talks with Chinese friends on gigantic future projects that reflect a real partnership with Beijing, referring to practical steps in this regard like the Silk project and Kuwait Islands, voicing absolute confidence in the Chinese leadership's directions and credibility.

On trade exchange, he elaborated that China is ranked the second importer of Kuwait's oil and its derivatives, adding that Kuwait's non-oil exports to Beijing reach USD 480 million, while China's exports to Kuwait hit USD 5.1 billion, pointing to Kuwaiti huge investments in China.

Cooperation

Bilateral cooperation, which is based on the fact that China is Kuwait's key trade partner, represents an essential dimension and important addition in line with mechanisms of cooperation with Beijing, His Highness the Amir pointed out.

Constructive and continuing Chinese-Gulf cooperation is a strong catalyst for bilateral cooperation within the Arab framework, as negotiations of a free trade zone between GCC member states and China are a reflection of this joint cooperation, he said, estimating Arab-Sino trade exchange at USD 191 billion in 2017.

Arab countries are looking forward to promising partnership in the Belt and Road Project which has strategic goals and unlimited opportunities for promoting cooperation and linkage, facilitating transportation, doubling investment openings and boosting global economy, His Highness the Amir noted.

He underlined the utmost importance of cooperation between the two sides in the energy sector through carrying

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US\$/KD 0.30235/40
Euro/KD 0.3553
Yen/KD 0.0027
British £/KD 0.4013
KSE +47.79 pts at closing July 10
See Page 29
DOW +157.61 pts at 21:10 July 10
See Page 30
Nasdaq +12.27 pts at 21:10 July 10
FTSE +4.05 pts at closing July 10
Nikkei +144.71 pts at closing July 10
Gold \$1,262.66 per oz (London)
NYMEX crude \$73.79 pb
Brent crude \$78.58 pb
3-month \$ LIBOR rate 2.33313%

NewsWatch

WASHINGTON: Efforts to build a Desert Storm war memorial are advancing while supporters of a new World War I memorial continue to face opposition, reports Arkansasonline.com.

The liberators of Kuwait will be honored on the National Mall; last month, the Commission of Fine Arts signed off on a location at 23rd Street and Constitution Avenue.

Organizers, including a couple of Arkansans, now need to raise about \$25 million to pay for the project. They hope to complete the monument sometime in 2021 — three decades after the war was won.

The Commission of Fine Arts will meet again July 19, this time to review the latest plans for a new

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