

His Highness the Crown Prince, Prime Minister sent congratulatory cables of identical sentiments

HH the Amir congratulates Burkina Faso on nat'l day

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 11, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on

Wednesday sent a cable to President of Burkina Faso Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, congratulating him on the oc-

casation of his country's national day. In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the president of Burkina Faso

wellbeing and the friendly country everlasting progress and prosperity. Two congratulatory cables of iden-

tical sentiments were also sent by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

'Delay in forming Cabinet does not bode well with govt's new directive'

State spent KD 23mln in court verdicts

By Ahmed Al-Naqeeb and Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 11: MP Khaleel Abdullah says the delay in forming a State Cabinet does not bode well with the government's new directive for increased transparency and cooperation.

He stressed that this delay has hindered proper execution of parliamentary responsibilities, as legislation are starting to pile up, and the parliamentary supervision over the government is practically suspend-

ed, due to which a Cabinet should be formed as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, MPs Abdullah Ahmed Al-Kandari and Dr Bader Hamed Al-Mulla sent a letter to the National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim, calling for holding the parliamentary session on Dec 14 following the resignation of the government.

Citing Article 97 of the Constitution, the MPs explained that the condition for holding a parliamentary session is that it must be attended by at least half of the total number of MPs. The context of that article is not bound by any other conditions.

They insisted that the parliamentary sessions must resume in order to avoid paralysis of the National Assembly through suspension of its sessions until a new government is formed, highlighting that suspending parliamentary sessions is the right of His Highness the Amir, as per Article 106 of the Constitution, and the pe-

riod of suspension should not exceed one month.

In another development, Head of Parliament's Committee for Budgets and Final Accounts Adnan Abdulsamad said the committee met to discuss the budget of Fatwa and Legislation Department for the 2018/2019 fiscal year, and the observations raised by State Audit Bureau and the Bureau of Financial Controllers.

He explained that the committee studied the conditions specified for appointing class B lawyers in Fatwa and Legislation Department. It discovered that 80 percent of the evaluation criteria are allocated for personal interviews, while passing the written test is not considered in the evaluation of the applicant. The other 20 percent of the evaluation criteria are allocated for the marks in the educational certificate.

The committee recommended reducing the percentage allocated for personal interviews, and restructure the distribution of the evaluation rates to all the criteria in a reasonable manner. The committee discussed the final accounts of the Fatwa and Legislation Department and discovered that the state spent about KD 23 million in court verdicts that were against the state. The amount recorded in the 2018/2019 fiscal year is 43 percent higher than that of the previous year.

Abdulsamad highlighted the report issued by State Audit Bureau which stressed the need to automate the department of lawsuits in Fatwa and Legislation Department, adding that the lack of an automated system has resulted in a loss of about KD 13 million.

He said the committee stressed the need to hold those responsible for such a loss accountable in order to preserve the public funds.

In addition, Abdulsamad explained that the committee discussed the final accounts of Kuwait Financial Intelligence Unit (KFUI).

Despite the limited number of employees in KFUI (48) and its low budget (about KD 3 million), the observations raised by the State Audit Bureau included financial violations. This indicates the weakness of the financial department within the unit.

The committee discovered that 43 percent of the items included in the budget were subjected to shifting, which implies that the estimated budget was not specified based on accurate studies. It stressed the need to activate the Audit and Inspection Office in order to avoid the repetition of such violations, and also insisted on the need to fill the vacancies especially the supervisory positions.



KUNA photos
Kuwaiti craftsmen in the Katara 9th Traditional Dhow Festival.

'State renowned for its traditions'

Scholars and craftsmen show Kuwait 'maritime' tradition at Katara festival

DOHA, Dec 11, (KUNA): Kuwait has always been renowned for its unique maritime tradition thanks to its sailors' well-established activities and brilliance in winter business journeys and summer pearl-diving trips.

Skipped by Kuwaiti skilled sailors, huge Kuwaiti ships carrying date used to sail off to India, Yemen and African coasts in winter, while bringing incense, timber, spices, tea and whatnots on return trips.

In fact, Kuwaiti shipbuilders, locally known as "Qalalifs", earned regional and international fame thanks to excellence in shipbuilding.

Shipbuilding usually involved a master (Qalaf) who had a number of Qalalifs under him. Usually commissioned by merchants and famous skippers, the Qalalifs made it their mission to construct the ships no matter how long or hard the tasks were.

To highlight Kuwait's maritime tradition, Nawaf Al-Asfour, together with several other Kuwaiti researchers and craftsmen, are partaking in the Katara 9th Traditional Dhow Festival held in Qatar between Dec 3-16.

Speaking to KUNA, Al-Asfour, the head of the Kuwaiti delegation to the event, said Kuwait is taking part in Katara Festival by showcasing Kuwait's old crafts, which is the core of trade in

the Arabian Gulf, in order to make new generations familiar with the business of their ancestors.

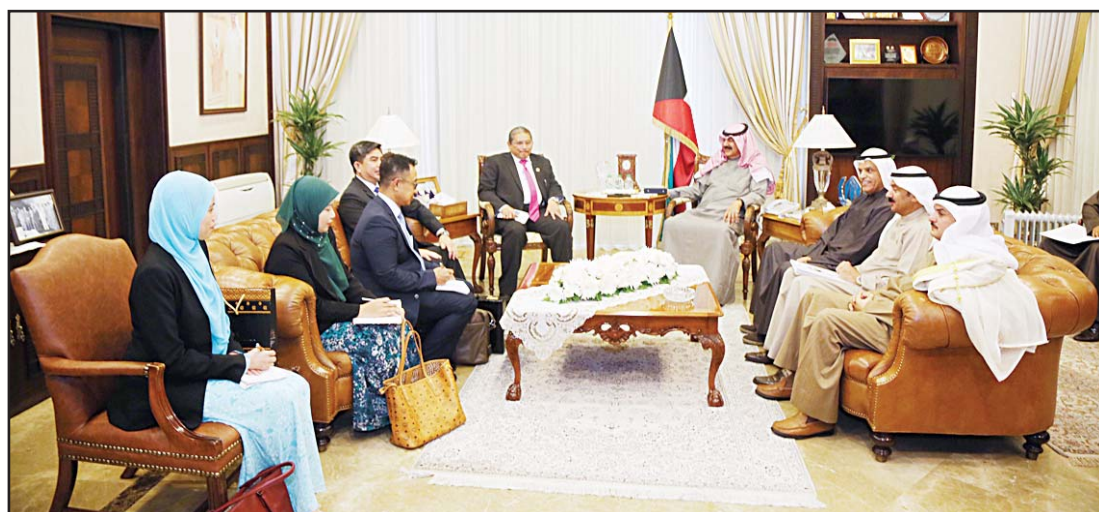
The Kuwaiti tradition scholar said that Kuwaiti exhibits encompass pearl-diving tools, ancient ship parts, old maritime pictures and historical documents.

He added that Kuwait's involvement in the traditional festival mainly aims at the promotion of its maritime tradition and its major privileges, stressing that such events are of paramount significance to protecting and safeguarding maritime tradition and ancient handicrafts.

Under the patronage of Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Katara organizes Katara 9th Traditional Dhow Festival kick-started in Doha on Dec 3 and runs until Dec 16.

Organized by Katara Cultural Village, the annual event is inspired by Qatar's rich maritime heritage and celebrates history through cultural events. This year, the festival has seen the participation of 11 countries including Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Iraq, Turkey, India, Greece, Italy, Spain, Iran, and Zanzibar.

Traditional music and dance performances from different troupes add color to the festival which features a program packed with activities and events including exhibitions, traditional art, competitions, and cultural and recreational activities.



KUNA photo
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Khaled Al-Jarallah with Brunei Darussalam's Second Minister of Foreign Affairs Erwan bin Pehin and his delegation.

Deputy FM meets Brunei Second Foreign Minister

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Khaled Al-Jarallah met Wednesday with Brunei Darussalam's visiting Second Minister of Foreign Affairs Erwan bin Pehin, who is in an official visit to the country.

During the meeting, the two tackled bilateral ties between both nations, and the latest developments in the regional and international arenas.

Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ambassador Ali Al-

Saad, Assistant Foreign Minister for Deputy Foreign Minister Office Affairs Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar, and Kuwait's Ambassador to Brunei Salah Mubarak Al-Mutairi attended the meeting. (KUNA)

Image taken during filming

Actress Hind denies 'marriage' reports

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 11: The actress Hind Al-Balushi denied recent news reports about her marriage, following the circulation of a photo of her with the popular artist Bilal Al-Shami, in which she wears the wedding dress, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Hind confirmed that the image circulated on social networking sites was taken during the filming of the wedding scene in her new series 'She and her daughters'.

Hind indicated during her interview on the program "3 Al Saif" via the atv channel, that she asked "MBC" channel not to show her episode in the program "Ramez in the waterfall" which was broadcasted during the past Ramadan, stressing that for the personality of the artist Ramez Jalal, he is a good person.

She pointed out that she had reached the stage of collapse during the filming of the paragraphs of the Ramez program, and out of which inappropri-



Al-Balushi and Al-Shami

ate speech came out and should not be presented to the viewers, as she was unaware that it was the Ramez Jalal program, which led her to categorically refuse to display the episode even if the voice would be obscured when it was launched Decent.

Meanwhile, the leader of the Arab Gulf Theater Group, artiste Maitham Badr, has expressed his happiness in organizing the opening and 20th closing sessions on Dec 15 of the local theatrical festival Kuwait on the stage of

Al-Dasma Theater with his colleague Nadia Al-Qenae, reports Al-Anba daily.

On the details of the participation, he told the daily, the presentation is an idea that talks about all the previous 19 sessions of the festival over the past years, in addition to having a part in the accompanying exhibition highlighting the 'Al Anba Award' for the most promising artiste and the best promising artiste presented by the 'Al Anba' on an annual basis.

This award has played a role in the discovery and encouragement of young artistes who are today stars in the artistic field and have their place.

He went on to say a group of artistes will participate in the show, including Ibrahim Al Sheikhly, Moudhi Al Dawoub, Aya Al Ghamdi and Ahmed Al Tammar. The show will also include a review and the media ceremony will be presented by Noura Abdullah

The mother

Continued from Page 1

Nonetheless, the deal received stiff opposition from the strongest faction within the National Assembly – the Popular Action Bloc – and others who said despicable things. However, no one in that bloc possessed technical or industrial or financial background to demand the cancellation of the contract.

The most amazing, and shocking too, aspect is that no one among the relevant officials and authorities explained to the Cabinet or Parliament or public or even protested about the catastrophic outcome which would follow if one of the contracted parties decided to pull out from the deal.

This meant that the party that cancels the deal will be demanded to compensate the other party under the "Penalty Clause" stipulated in the contract, which is one of most generous compensations in the world for such contracts.

I am not sure whether the concerned Kuwaiti company paid the astronomical amount, which is \$2.5 billion, to please the other party or as the consequence, or

to heed to the decision of the arbitrary panel. This was because defending the decision to cancel the contract has no legal hiccups, as the company submitted to the decision issued directly by Kuwait's Council of Ministers, which is the highest executive organ in the country, and the government that owns the companies involved in the deal.

This is known in French as "Fait de Roi" (the act of the authorities), and it can place a hurdle which cannot be overlooked when executing obligations.

This, and many other questions, resonate in the head. We wish our brothers in the Fatwa and Legislation Department will raise these questions before the Court of Cassation. We hope there will be no problem in seeking the assistance of legal consultants and experts of the Scottish law which governs the deal.

The mistake, or rather the heinous crime, committed in canceling the "Dow deal", and the huge financial losses incurred from such a cancellation, can be considered as the mother of every crimes committed against Kuwait, its government, people and public wealth.

Beirut to

Continued from Page 1

One demand common to those demonstrations is to restructure the political life, combat corruption or remove the political class that looted and starved the people. It is clear that the ruling cabals in Algeria, Baghdad and Beirut have been demobilized, and they are unable to repress the revolutions even with the style of the Revolutionary Guard.

Therefore, they should detect hidden meaning in the recent demonstration in Iran that incited the people's anger against the Mullah regime and forced it into deafening silence after killing 1,000 and arresting 20,000. What will happen to the condition of proxies in Iraq and Lebanon if the situation is this weak?

New US

Continued from Page 1

is serving a 10-year espionage sentence, as well as environmentalist Morad Tahbaz, an Iranian with US and British citizenship also initially sentenced to 10 years in prison, and Iranian-American father and son Siamak and Baquer Namazi. Former FBI agent Robert Levinson has been missing for 13 years since disappearing in Iran.

News watch

Continued from Page 1

In his cable, His Highness the Amir offered his deepest sympathy to the victims' families and wished the wounded a speedy recovery, hoping officials in the friendly country will overcome the effects of this natural disaster.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. (KUNA)

JEDDAH: The Chairman of the Board of Directors and Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah discussed on Wednesday with Saudi Minister of Information Turki Al-Shabanah, ways of boosting bilateral cooperation in all media forms.

On the sidelines of the special session of the General Assembly of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Islamic News Agencies (UNA), Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij confirmed in a statement to (KUNA). (KUNA)

Subscribe to our service "Arabtimes WhatsApp" to stay updated on the latest local and international news and events

To activate this Service:
1- Save our number on your contacts +965 55633483
2- Send #1 to the same number

www.arabtimesonline.com

arabtimeskuwait

arabtimeskuwait

arabtimeskuwait