

## Cooperation

## Join forces to fight corona : FM

## 'Kuwait determined to bolster business relations with China'

KUWAIT CITY, July 9, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah affirmed on Monday the State of Kuwait determination to expand cooperation with China as one of its key commercial partners.

The minister made the statement as he chaired the State of Kuwait delegation partaking in the 9th ministerial session of the Arab-Chinese Cooperation Forum, visually held recently.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement that the forum addressed the distinctive strategic bonds between Arab States and China, means of developing the forum, noting that the participants in the gathering discussed proposals regarding latest regional and international issues of common concern, namely those related to combating the novel coronavirus.

The ministry said the foreign minister addressed the conferees with greetings to eminent participants, namely Jordanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ayman Al-Safadi, the Chinese state advisor and foreign minister, Wang Yi, and Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Abul Gheit.

He expressed gratitude to Jordan for hosting the forum and praised Beijing for its keenness on organizing it regularly, despite current extraordinary circumstances worldwide. He also expressed identical sentiments to the Arab League for co-organizing the event.

Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser stated that the meeting was held in shadow of the special circumstances that have jolted the world due to spread of the coronavirus which has led to unprecedented social and economic repercussions, posing a real threat to States' security and stability.

One of the key lessons that can be derived from this pandemic experience is that no State, regardless how abundant its resources and capacities may be, can face it solely and that global cooperation is the option to face and contain the outbreak.



Dr Ahmad

In this vein, he pointed out, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah had ordered allotting USD 100 million for this purpose, adding that part of the allocation was dedicated for Arab States to face the pandemic, in addition to supporting the World Health Organization and research centers throughout the world to speed up search for a vaccine.

He lauded the regular holding of this forum, founded in 2004, noting that commercial exchanges between Arab countries and China reached USD 266 billion in 2019, growing by nine percent per year.

The State of Kuwait welcomes Saudi Arabia's planned hosting of the first Arab-Chinese summit, a step that would further bolster the strategic partnership between the Arabs and the Chinese.

Citing a tangible example of Kuwait's keenness on boosting the bonds with China, the foreign minister noted the Kuwait-Chinese summit, held in Beijing in 2018.

He has affirmed that China is one of the major trade partners with Kuwait with the trade volume estimated at USD 18.7 billion. Moreover, he has pointed out, that the Chinese-inspired "silk road initiative" constitutes a promising opportunity for both with respect of implementing Kuwait Vision 2035.

He affirmed the determination to continue to develop cooperation through economic, commercial, technical mechanisms as well as bilateral treaties, affirming the Arabs' policy of non-intervention in the Chinese domestic affairs.

The Kuwaiti foreign affairs ministry noted in its statement that an official statement was issued in the end of the meeting – including the topics that were discussed and a pledge for solidarity for fighting the novel coronavirus.

The Kuwaiti delegation at the meeting included the Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ali Al-Saeed, the Assistant Foreign Minister for the Arab World Affairs Ambassador Fahad Al-Awadhi, the Assistant Foreign Minister for the Minister's Bureau Affairs Ambassador Saleh Al-Loughani, the State of Kuwait Permanent Envoy at the Arab League Ahmad Al-Bakr and other senior officials of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



A view at the Salmiya beach as the sun goes down in the horizon.

Photo by Bassam Abu Shanab

## Case of Bangladeshi MP takes a new twist as MP queries if he has Kuwaiti nationality

Lawyer jailed for insulting neighboring country

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: MP Osama Al-Shaheen wants to know from the Ministry of Interior if the Bangladeshi resident, who is also known as 'Pablo' and is a Member of Parliament in Bangladesh and allegedly owns a cleaning company in partnership with a Kuwaiti, was given the Kuwaiti nationality, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

He based his desire for clarification based on what has been reported by some social media accounts.

The Bangladeshi, identified as MSI, is behind bars on charges of human trafficking and money laundering.

Al-Shaheen tweeted on his personal if what has been aforementioned is correct, it will unfold a new scandal involving the executive branch of the state, and those responsible should be held accountable administratively, judicially and politically.

It is noteworthy to make a mention that according to what has been published in the social media in Bangladesh, the Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has told the Parliament in her country that if MSI has been given the Kuwaiti citizenship, the parliamentary seat from which MSI is elected to the Bangladesh Parliament should be declared vacant.

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**Lawyer jailed:** The Court of Appeal, presided by Chancellor Abdel Rahman Al Darmi, upheld the verdict of a lower court and put behind bars Attorney Nasser Al-Duwailah for one year with hard labor for insulting Saudi Arabia on his Twitter account, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

It is noteworthy to mention the Criminal Court had sentenced the former MP to a one-year imprisonment with a bail of 1,000 dinars to stop the enforcement and the confiscation of his phone.

The public prosecution charged Al-Duwailah with insulting and taking hostile action against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the charge denied by the defendant.

The Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs had 'filed' the case against Al-Duwailah based on the complaints submitted the Saudi Embassy in Kuwait.

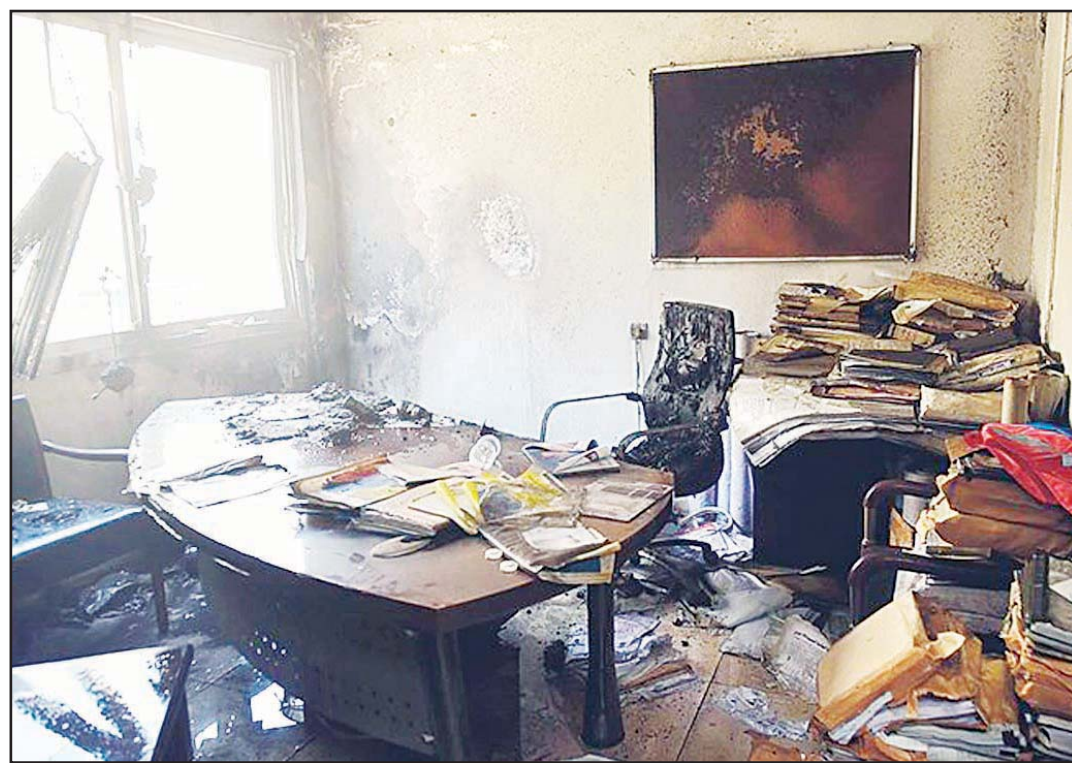
The Embassy considered the tweets by Al-Duwailah affected the relationship between the two countries following which the Ministry of Interior had submitted another complaint against him accusing him of posting abusive tweets and taking hostile attitude against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on his personal account.

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**Colonel to the court:** The Criminal Court set July 20, 2020, to look into the case of a Colonel working for the Ministry of Interior, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The daily added, involved in the case are five expatriates believed to be Egyptians who were running the company for the Colonel and the company is said to have brought into the country more than 1,300 workers.

According to case papers several employees sponsored by the company are said to have testified against the partners of the main accused for obtaining money from



Damage caused by the fire.

KFSD photo

## Building on fire, residents evacuated

Acting on information, firemen rushed to a two-floor residential apartment in Hawalli and put out fire, reports Al-Anba daily.

After the operations room of the Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (KFSD) received a

report about the fire firemen from the Salmiya and Hawalli fire-fighting stations rushed to the site and put out the fire after evacuating the residents of the building as a precautionary measure.

One of the firemen, suffering from asphyxiation was taken to the Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital.

An investigation was opened by the accident investigation department to find out the cause of the fire.

## Workers to get bonus

## MoCI rejects ration theft reports on social media

KUWAIT CITY, July 9: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry vehemently denied rumors spread on social media about the food ration theft, reports Al-Rai daily.

In a press statement, the ministry affirmed the automated food ration system used in the food ration branches is operated only for rightful beneficiaries whose identities are verified through their original civil identification cards or one of the ration card members who were added to the card and are more than 18 years old. The ministry pointed out the food ration items are distributed through the card reader device, asserting it is impossible to tamper the card once it is issued from the reader.

The ministry affirmed that

the Supply and Food Ration Department carries out inventories regularly and the Inventory Committee teams usually conduct surprise inventories in food ration branches throughout the country. It also asked the relevant authorities to 'Kuwaitize' the staff assigned in food ration branches.

The ministry added the inventory teams in the administration regularly audit data, particularly the quantities of received and disbursed items to compare them with the remaining items in the supply branches. It asserted that associations with discrepancies in quantities of items are referred to the commercial prosecution, indicating the new supply system allows the ministry to determine the actual stock in all branches

anytime.

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**Workers get bonus:** The Financial and Administrative Sector at Kuwait Municipality sent the list of employees entitled to the excellent performance bonus to the banks in order to deposit the bonus to these employees' accounts within the next few days, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting sources.

Sources revealed that about 2,100 employees assigned in different sectors will benefit from the bonus; indicating the total amount allocated for this purpose is around KD1.1 million. Sources affirmed the excellent performance bonus is granted to deserving employees according to the conditions set by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and recommendation of the heads of sectors.

this is considered as a crime against public funds.

Dashti said, "The citations were issued against the violation committed by these plots, and will first be submitted to the law enforcement committee No. 48/2005, then to undersecretary of the ministry, followed by minister of Electricity and Water in order to take legal measures, prior to referring this incident to the Public Prosecution to take legal action against the owner of these plots."

He highlighted the cooperation of the members of the Ministry of Interior with the ministry's inspectors, which took over the process of disconnecting electricity from these plots and to the 312 apartments.

them to give them jobs in Kuwait, but were left to fend for themselves without work, food and shelter.

The defendants have denied the charges against them, and said the workers who were caught for violating the residence law accused them of blackmail to obtain money before leaving Kuwait permanently.

The Public Prosecutor had listened to the testimony of 15 'violators' and referred to them to the Residence Investigations Department as witnesses and they confirmed that they were victims of human traffickers, and that some of them had paid in Egyptian currency more than 55 thousand Egyptian pounds, while others paid between 1,000 and 1500 dinars for their residence permit.

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The body of a man slumped in a wheelchair.

## Man dies in wheel chair...who cares ?

In the country of humanity an elderly man passed away seated in his chair at the entrance of the Farwaniya Hospital recently ,reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This happened amid silence by the Ministry of Health in spite of successive attempts by the daily after a clip was posted by Dr Nawaf Al-Obeisan on his Twitter account and then deleted it showing the man slumped in his chair dead.

The tweet read "The elderly was prevented from entering the hospital and remained (in his chair) for hours until he

died."

He added, the strange thing is that none of the passersby was surprised and did not provide help, and these are signs of the destruction of society.

For its part, local websites reported that an elderly Asian was treated for the coronavirus, and upon his discharge, his sponsor was called to receive him and he refused, so they placed the man in front of the hospital door in a wheelchair at two o'clock in the afternoon and he died four hours later.

house of a Kuwaiti in the Capital Governorate. Although the firemen managed to control the fire the vehicles have been damaged.

The CID men are investigating to know the cause of the fire, but have not ruled out arson.

**Four behind bars:** Police have arrested four persons, including a juvenile and put them behind bars at the Dasma Police Station, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily added, one of the suspects wanted by law to serve a five-year prison term managed to escape.

According to security sources the man behind the wheel of the luxury vehicle collided with a patrol car and attempted to run over a policeman.

The suspects are charged with attempting to escape from police, destroying public property, attempting to run over a security man and possessing a bottle of imported alcohol.

## News in Brief

**Israeli ink in market:** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced the closure of 3 shops yesterday, including two stores based on a complaint filed by a citizen who said the three outlets were selling printing ink imported from the Zionist entity, reports Al-Anba daily.

The Ministry clarified upon checking it was found that the material was in fact imported from the Zionist entity. The goods have been confiscated and necessary measures taken.

Meanwhile, the ministry in a press statement said the inspection teams have issued 9 citations against a number of shops for not adhering to the standards and regulations in force.

**Fire destroys cars:** Personnel from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) are investigating the cause of fire which destroyed 6 expensive vehicles – three cars and three motorbikes, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to a security house the vehicles were parked in front of the