

KNG's Deputy Chief sends congratulations to HH the Amir

Interior minister congratulates HH Amir on World Bank award

KUWAIT CITY, April 15, (KUNA): Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Lt-Gen Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, on Monday, conveyed congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

over a World Bank's award presented to His Highness for his support to socio-economic development and peacemaking on regional and global scales.

In the cable, Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah said the award is another

world recognition to His Highness the Amir's enormous humanitarian initiatives to support development, as well as His Highness' ongoing endeavors to lessen the suffering of those in need, wishing His Highness everlasting health and prosperity.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received on Sunday a cable from Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Deputy Chief Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to congratulate him on a World Bank award, extended for his support to socio-economic

development. In the cable, Sheikh Mishal stressed that this award reflects the great admiration that His Highness the Amir has earned through his enormous humanitarian initiatives to support development at regional and international levels.

His Highness the Amir responded in a cable, thanking Sheikh Mishal on the sentiments, and pointing out that this recognition is due to the Kuwaiti people's quest to ease the suffering of victimized people around the world.

Kurdish officials commend Kuwait's humanitarian role

Kuwait's IICO team discusses several files with Kurdish officials

IRBIL, April 15, (KUNA): Officials in the Kurdistan region of Iraq praised on Sunday the pioneering role of Kuwait in providing humanitarian assistance to displaced people and refugees in their country. This came during a meeting with a delegation of the International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) headed by Dr Abdullah Al-Maatouq, who is currently visiting the

region to meet the competent authorities and inspect the projects implemented by Kuwait for the displaced Iraqis, in addition to the implementation of pledges of non-governmental organizations at the Kuwait International Conference held in February 2018.

The Kurdistan Region needs the help of the international community and the Iraqi government to help displaced people and refugees, especially in the fields of education, health and psycho-

logical treatment, a statement by the Kurdistan Regional Government quoted Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani as saying.

Barzani stressed the need to increase assistance to displaced people and refugees in the Kurdistan region by institutions and charitable organizations, and the international community.

For his part, according to an official statement, the Minister of Interior of the Kurdistan Regional Government Karim Sinjari hailed the leading role of Kuwait and its humanitarian organizations in assisting Iraqi displaced and Syrian refugees in the region.

Sinjari said that the assistance provided by Kuwait has contributed significantly to alleviate the suffering of the displaced and facilitated the task of the provincial government.

The Kurdish foreign relations official Falah Mustafa praised His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, who has always been a close friend to the people of Kurdistan, who played a role in the past few years in providing humanitarian assistance to refugees, and displaced residents in the Kurdistan region.

IICO is considered as one of the most important charitable organizations in the Arab and Islamic world, which works in the humanitarian aspect.

It was established in Kuwait in 1984 and aims to address poverty, illiteracy eradication and disease.

Assistance

A statement issued by the Security Council of Kurdistan Region said that Al-Maatouq and his accompanying delegation met with the President of the Council, Massrouf Barzani, in the presence of the Kuwaiti Consul General in Irbil, Dr Omar Al-Kandari, where Al-Maatouq pointed on the assistance provided by the IICO to internally-displaced persons' (IDPs) camps.

According to the statement, Al-Maatouq noted that the organization provides assistance to those in need, especially children who have lost their parents.

He expressed thanks to the Kurdistan region, which welcomed the displaced from the rest of the Iraqi cities and refugees from neighboring countries.

For his part, Barzani stressed the readiness of the Kurdistan region to provide the necessary facilities for any charitable work, praising the efforts of the IICO for its humanitarian work.

"The Kurdistan region, despite the heavy burden on its budget and the war against the so-called Islamic State (IS), has welcomed displaced people and migrants, as well as refugees from neighboring countries," he added.

The two sides also discussed the mechanism of expediting the provision of aid and securing the necessary and primary requirements by the relevant international bodies and charitable institutions to refugee camps and displaced people in the Kurdistan region, the statement said. IICO has provided much assistance to displaced Iraqis throughout Iraq and diversified its aid.

It also organized an international conference, in February 2018, over NGOs' support of the humanitarian situation in Iraq, on sidelines of International Conference Reconstruction of Iraq that was held in Kuwait in the same period.



KUNA photo HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Nasser Al-Jabri, who presented to His Highness Munira Sulaiman Al-Huwaidi after being appointed Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information.



KUNA photo Deputy Foreign Minister Khalid Al-Jarallah during a meeting with UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Saqr Al-Risi



KUNA photo First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Chief of the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, chaired Sunday the Supreme Council's seventh meeting. The General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development said in statement that the seventh meeting tackled the education strategy in Kuwait with participation of representatives of the strategy joint committee. (KUNA)

MoH prepares rules over security cameras

Measures taken to restructure state administrative apparatus

KUWAIT CITY, April 15: The government has begun to take measures aimed at restructuring the administrative apparatus of the state and setting a clear strategy for determining competencies in coordination with the Civil Service Commission, reports Annahar daily.

In this context, the Council of Ministers has commissioned the Ministerial Committee for Economic Affairs to prepare a detailed report to deal with the observations contained in the report of the Budget and Final Account Committee of the National Assembly, as a matter of urgency.

Among the observations mentioned in the report is the need to address the inflation of the government apparatus, in addition to controlling the labor market in light of the rising salaries and the like.

The report pointed out that Kuwait is concentrated in the government sector, 161,000 graduates are expected to queue up for suitable jobs over the next four years. The report called on the government to improve the efficiency of its financial management and coordination with the Financial Supervisory Authority so that the budget implementation procedures conform to the laws.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health has prepared regulations and conditions related to the supply and installation of security systems, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to these regulations, the systems should meet the necessary standards related to supply and installation of security cameras in line with the latest developments in this field. No security systems can be supplied or installed without the approval of the Engineering Affairs Department of Ministry of Health.

Total public debt fell to KD 5.98b by '18 end

Asset revenues in general reserve fund 'declines' to 1.2 pct - report

KUWAIT CITY, April 15: Liquid and semi-liquid asset revenues in the general reserve fund declined to 1.2 percent during the period from April 1, 2018 to Dec 31, 2018, compared to 1.6 percent for fiscal 2017/2018, and external borrowings of 2.75 and 3.5 percent for bonds maturing 5 years and 10 years respectively, reports Al-Rai daily.

The report pointed out that the general liquid and semi-liquid assets decreased to KD 11.8 billion at the end of last December, a decrease of KD 1.64 billion or 12.2 percent of the net assets at the end of March 2018, amounting to KD 13.48 billion.

The report showed that the total public debt fell to 5.98 billion dinars by the end of 2018, a decrease of 450 million dinars from the total public debt by the end of June 2018 of 6.44 billion dinars, as a result of the expiration of the duration of the law of public debt, and the maturity of local bonds during the period from July 1, 2018 until Sept 30, of the same year.

The public debt represented 51.3 percent of the total liquid and semi-liquid assets in the general reserve at the end of March 2018. The ratio fell to 50.5 percent by the end of December, taking into account that the maturity of public debt extends to 10 years starting from

the fiscal year 2016/2017. The ratio of liquid and semi-liquid assets to the public debt balance is approximately 1.9 and 2 times as of March and December of 2018. This indicates that the public debt situation is currently considered safe.

On the other hand, the ratio of the total balance of external public debt and short-term liabilities amounted to 18.7 percent of total liquid and semi-liquid assets in the general reserve at the end of March 2018.

The ratio rose to 21.3 percent at the end of December, while the ratio of liquid and semi-liquid 5.4 and 4.7 times in March and December 2018, indicating the ability of the State to pay its obligations.

The indicators of financial sustainability measured by the end of December indicate that the state's finances are not sustainable due to recorded high budget deficits in previous years, taking into account GDP growth rates, interest rates for public debt, population growth rates and reserves, which requires the adoption of measures to address the state budget, and raise the rates of real growth of the economy while maintaining the credit rating, and reduce the increase in public debt costs.

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