

Amir briefs Cabinet on Second Arab Economic, Social Summit outcome

Cabinet endorses 13 agreements of cooperation with 9 countries

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Sunday presided over a Cabinet meeting at Bayan Palace in the presence of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Jassem Mohammed Al-Kharafi and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Sabah. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, said Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Roudhan Abdulaziz Al-Roudhan.

"The Amir briefed the Cabinet members on the outcomes of the Second Arab Economic, Social and Development Summit, held in Sharm El-Sheikh resort in Egypt last week," Al-Roudhan told reporters after the meeting.

The summit reviewed the progress made in the enforcement of the results of the first event, hosted by Kuwait, in Jan. 2009, particularly the Amir's initiative to launch a fund for bankrolling small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the Arab countries.

The fund has a great role to play in realizing the development targets, tackling the problems of unemployment and poverty and optimizing the use of human resources, Al-Roudhan pointed out.

The summit also dealt with other key projects such as the pan-Arab power grid hookup, the endeavors to improve healthcare, education, transportation, communication, labor market and food security as well as the WB's initiative to allocate funds for infrastructure projects in the



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah heading the cabinet meeting on Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011. (KUNA)

Arab countries. The Arab leaders renewed commitment to the plan for tackling the climate change and quest for realizing the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for 2015; they also agreed to build new partnerships with the international and regional economic blocs and activate

the Arab-African strategic partnership and the Arab-Latin American partnership.

They agreed to convene the third event in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Jan. 2013, Al-Roudhan went on to say, quoting His Highness the Amir.

Amir Sheikh Sabah appreciated the sincere efforts made by the host and chair of the summit Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to ensure the success of the event, noting that the summit translated into action the new philosophy of Arab joint action.

The Amir also briefed the Cabinet on the results of the meetings he had with Arab leaders on the sidelines of the summit to discuss a range of bilateral issues, Al-Roudhan noted.

On their part, the Crown Prince, National Assembly Speaker and the Prime Minister extolled the Amir and Arab leaders for the dedicated efforts they have made and the positive impact the results of the summit will have on the quest for sustainable socio-economic development across the Arab world.

The Cabinet members praised the keynote speech delivered by the Amir to the summit and his pioneering role in the inception of the chain of Arab development summits two years ago with a view to realizing the aspirations of the Arab citizens.

They voiced satisfaction with the headway made in the executive procedures aiming to bring to light the Amir's initiative for SMEs fund which was widely hailed by the Arab countries, noting that the initiative laid the groundwork of Arab economic integration and joint action.

The Minister of Cabinet for Cabinet Affairs Roudhan Al-Roudhan said in a press statement that the Cabinet has reviewed the cables addressed to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah pertaining to bilateral relations. Meanwhile, the Cabinet has endorsed 13 agreements of cooperation with 9 countries. The agreements cover trade, security and scientific cooperation with those countries. -KUNA

'31 percent of cancer patients in Kuwait are citizens'



An undated photo of the World Health Organization's headquarters in Geneva. (KUNA)

Mostafa Al-Basha
Staff Writer

KUWAIT: The Head of Specialist Surgery and Head of Tumor Surgery at Hussein Makki Jomaa Center Medhat Otaifa announced that recent statistics revealed that 31 percent of all cancer patients in Kuwait are Kuwaiti citizens.

He noted that the efforts exerted in the Arab region for preventing cancer coincides with the efforts of the World Health Organization, and added that early examinations are necessary to overcome the disease. He explained that cancer prevention depends on the

life style and health habits, such as not smoking, eating healthy food, drinking green tea and lemonade, practicing sports, and staying away from alcohol, according to the recommendations made by the American Center for Cancer Research. Moreover, he said that that thyroid cancer is one of the most common types of cancer, composing of 92 percent of all cancer cases. He added that breast cancer is the most common type in Kuwait, according to the recent statistics.

He noted that the Minister of Health Hilal Al-Sayer recommended holding continuous workshops that allow specialists to take part in them, thereby enriching the field with more specialists and experts.

24 stowaways caught in UK were Bedoun: British Embassy

Jameel W. Karaki
Staff Writer

KUWAIT: A spokesperson from the British embassy in Kuwait said, "The UK Border Agency caught twenty-four stowaways, claiming to be stateless 'Bedouns', hiding in the back of a lorry." The official added, "When officers opened the doors of the trailer they found them hiding amongst the mixed load of goods."

This statement was given to Al Watan Daily when asked about news published by a Kuwaiti daily paper regarding the arrest of 24 males said to be Kuwaiti a number of weeks ago.

The Spokesperson clarified that the officers were doing visual searches of freight and vehicles, by using carbon dioxide probes, heartbeat detectors and sniffing dogs to detect the presence of people hiding in these vehicles. The Spokesperson clarified that the Kuwaiti Embassy was not informed "because they were not Kuwaitis."

He concluded his statement by asserting, "The UK Border Agency works hard to combat illegal immigration and will take action to remove anyone found to have no legal right to be in the country."

Earlier this month, the UK reported that twenty four Kuwaiti nationals have been caught by the UK Border Agency at the Port of Harwich attempting to sneak into the country in the back of a lorry.

The stowaways, 23 men and one 17-year-old boy, were caught in the early hours of the morning when they arrived on a ferry from the Hook of Holland.

Brian Hill, UK Border Agency assistant director at Harwich, said: "When officers opened the doors of the trailer they found the stowaways hiding inside in amongst the mixed load of goods."

"This is the biggest single detection of clandestine at Harwich that I can recall."

"As well as carrying out visual searches of freight and vehicles, our officers use carbon dioxide probes, heartbeat detectors and sniffer dogs to detect the presence of people hiding in lorries."

The driver of the vehicle has been arrested on suspicion of facilitating illegal immigration and is currently being questioned by the UK Border Agency.

The 23 men were due to be transferred to Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre for their cases to be dealt with. The 17-year-old will be passed into the care of Essex Social Services.

Government responsible for keeping Disable Law idle: MP Al-Diqbasi

Mohammad Al-Khaledi
Staff Writer

KUWAIT: Head of the Disabled People Committee MP Ali Al-Diqbasi said that the committee is planning a meeting to looking into the reasons behind the continual delay in the application of the Disabled Law.

Speaking to the press, MP Al-Diqbasi said that the

law had been passed for nearly a year and yet it has not been enforced since, "which strongly suggests that the Dialect Law is not one of this government's top priorities. This is further consolidated by the fact that the Supreme Council has not met since it was established." MP Al-Diqbasi's statement came following the conclusion of a meeting held Sunday attended by the Director of the Public Authority for People with Disability.

Joint committee to discuss peaceful use of nuclear energy: Al-Khurainej

Staff Writer

KUWAIT: Following the meeting of the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee, Chairman MP Mubarak Al-Khurainej said that the committee discussed the issues on its agenda including a number of bills.

The committee also discussed a draft law in regards to a cooperative agreement between the Kuwaiti government and their French counterparts to develop uses of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The committee recommended the formation of a joint committee including the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Committee for Environment Affairs and Nuclear Energy and to invite officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Defense Ministry to discuss the agreement further.

Government expects huge surplus directed to development plan

Meterain Al-Shaman
Staff Writer

KUWAIT: The government plans to adopt a huge budget for investment within the year of 2011, as the Supreme Committee responsible for preparing the public budget increased the basic price for oil from 45 US dollars per barrel to \$50. The plan also includes infrastructure projects, public services and investments. The Ministry of Finance's follow up report pointed out that the returns for the year 2010 indicated that the public revenues increased to 15.1282 billion Kuwaiti dinars; with KD14 billion for oil revenue alone. Sources to Al Watan said that the current records, which end in March, will achieve a huge surplus, in which will be used to expand development. The source told Al-Watan that the committee is considering conservatism when basing the price of oil in order to avoid interrupting executing development due to any sudden drop of oil price. The source described this policy as wise one because government will be ready to counter any deterioration in oil price. It also contributes in rationalizing expenses on the different fields.

International Organization for Migration organizes human rights workshop for police officers

Jameel W. Karaki
Staff Writer

KUWAIT: The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Cooperation with the Ministry of Interior inaugurated on Sunday the a training workshop for "Police Officers on Human Rights and Contractual Labors" under the Patronage of the Interior Assistant Under Secretary for Education and Training Affairs Major General Shiekh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at the UN House in Mishref.

Iman Ereiqtat, Head of IOM Kuwait said that "the patronage of this workshop by Shiekh Ahmad proves that the government is keen on keeping up with international standards as well as developing the capabilities of the governmental cadres and human capital by seeking the help of international expertise and benefiting from the global experience for the sake of Kuwait."

She clarified that 26 officers and employees from the Ministry of Interior will be receiving training for five days from four international experts and two national experts.

On his part Major General Hameed Al-Samak General Manager of the General Department for Training said that the training course is the third and is considered as one of contractual courses between the IOM and Training Department at the Ministry of Interior.

He asserted that the Ministry of Interior was keen to enroll many of the policemen and civil employees believing and respecting in the public's freedom and human rights.

Ali Al-Baghali, Chairman of Kuwait Human Rights Society said, "In Kuwait Human Rights Society we are interested in developing the living conditions of expatriate labor according to laws that are harmonious with international standards, the universal declaration of human rights and the Kuwaiti Constitution"

He added, "Human rights violation can happen in the public and private sectors, but what prints in the people's minds are the governmental violations. By that I refer to the "local police" whom interact with the people daily." He noted that the police are one of the key stakeholders in being aware of human rights.

"Regarding the political fuss that happened because of the death of a Kuwaiti citizen due as a result of torture by some officers and members of the police body, I say that if they had the basic human rights

awareness about how to maintain human dignity, and not subject anyone to torture which is supported by our laws, Constitution and International agreements, they wouldn't have done it. Therefore, it is important to hold such workshops." He expressed his hope that police academies adopt in teaching basic human rights courses.

Al-Baghali noted that law No. 6 of the year 2010 concerning the Labor Law in the Private sector represents an important development in supporting the right of both national and foreign laborers. He hoped that a law would soon be law issued concerning domestic labor in order to protect them from violations and deprivations from the rights. Al-Baghali called for a law that determines the contractual rights between the lord of the house and the domestic worker such as minimum wage, holidays, and working hours. He highlighted the fact that the society received many complaints from laborers such as not receiving their wages, non renewal of Visa, low wages, and inadequate living conditions and lack of health care.

UN Resident Coordinator Representative Dr. Tarek El-Shiekh said that protecting human rights became part of the organization's priority ever since the adoption of the universal human rights declaration. He said that former UN Secretary General Kofi Anan mentioned dur-

ing the 50th anniversary of this declaration that "human rights don't represent any country as an alien phenomenon, but a rooted issue in all countries because without human rights there is no global prosperity or peace."

Major General Fahad Al-Sharkawi General Manager of Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences said that that the Ministry of Interior will continue organizing such training sessions.

Answering a question about the claims that Kuwait has no laws to protect laborers he said "I am not bias, but we develop our laws and human capital and we admit that when we do mistakes."

Concerning the incident of Al-Mutairi, he said "All officials in the Ministry of Interior don't accept such actions since it not a part of our tradition, customs and not a part of our training."

He added, "Compare Kuwait to other countries. If anyone in the Ministry of Interior commits a grave error he is punished. If this crime happened at another country no one would dare to discuss it public or write about it in the press."

Al Watan Daily asked Major General whether or not he supports enlisting a Human rights course at the Academy he said "the information of Mr. Ali was not accurate. We teach this course and now we are trying to intensify these types of courses."



Iman Ereiqtat, Head of IOM Kuwait during her inaugural speech on Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011 at the UN House in Mishref. (Al Watan)