



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace Wednesday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness Sheikh Sabah also received First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. (KUNA)



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace on Wednesday. His Highness the Crown Prince also received First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. (KUNA)



Al-Mansour with his colleague Nayef Al-Shimeri. Al-Shahed daily photo

### Top Kuwaiti actor praises Al-Sharq Festival

Well-known Kuwaiti actor Mohammad Al-Mansour praised Al-Sharq Festival of the Gulf Theater, highlighting the significance of such theatrical works for creating strong competition among GCC and Arab artistes to display high-level skills instead of low-level comedy, reports Al-

Shahed daily.

On the sidelines of the festival, Al-Mansour said it is one of the most distinguished theatrical festivals in the Gulf region and aims to feed the region with timeless and outstanding artistic masterpieces.

### Embassy officers to address students' queries

## US Educational Group University Fair set for February 19 in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 15: The US Educational Group (USEG) will return to Kuwait to promote US colleges and universities, at the Marina Hotel in Salmiya on Sunday, Feb 19, 2017, from 6:00-9:00 pm. US Embassy Cultural and Consular officers will be present to address students' questions about education in the United States and the student visa process. The university fair is free of charge and open to the public. Cultural Attaché Dr Zennia Paganini will open the event with remarks.

Representatives from USEG will provide information about admission standards, financial aid opportunities, summer programs, and student life at American universities. The universities that will be represented at the event are the following: DePaul University, Fairleigh Dick-

inson University, Hofstra University, Kent State University, Marquette University, McNeese State University, Middle Tennessee State University, North Carolina State University, Shoreline Community College, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, State University of New York at Buffalo, University of California at San Diego, University of Evansville, University of Missouri, University of Portland, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) and West Virginia University.

Additional information about the fair can be found at: [www.aljamaifairs.com](http://www.aljamaifairs.com)

For more information about studying in the United States, visit: <http://www.educationusa.state.gov/> Visit us online at [kuwait.usembassy.gov](http://kuwait.usembassy.gov)

### News in Brief

#### Amir congratulates Serbia:

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent Wednesday a cable of congratulations to the President of Serbia Tomislav Nikolic, congratulating him on his country National Day.

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

#### Speaker sends congratulations:

National Assembly Speaker Marzuq Al-Ghanim sent a cable of congratulation to President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia Maya Goykovich on the occasion of her country's National Day. (KUNA)

#### AL condemns Israeli 'muezzin bill':

The Arab League deplored Tuesday the

Israeli government's recent approval of the so-called "muezzin bill", and imposition of the fat accompli on the ground by force.

The league said in a statement that these Israeli policies would undoubtedly undermine efforts to find a peaceful and just solution in the region, based on the two-state solution.

It even held Israel fully responsible for the reflections of the so-called "muezzin bill", while calling on the international community, primarily the United Nations (UN), to move to force Israel to comply with international legitimacy resolutions which ensure the freedom of all religions.

The league further demanded an immediate halt of Israel's racist policies, including continuing settlement policies that are meant to take control of more Palestinian lands.

Earlier Sunday, the Israeli government had approved the bill banning the Azan or Muslim call to prayers broadcast at mosques. (KUNA)

# Salwa center to 'conduct' stem cell research: KIPCO

'70 pc of construction of building completed'

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 15, (KUNA): Sheikha Salwa Al-Sabah Center for Stem Cell and Umbilical Cord will pave the way forward to develop services and researches in the healthcare sector, said Kuwait Holding Projects Company (KIPCO) Wednesday.

Speaking to KUNA, KIPCO Vice - Chairman Faisal Hamad Al-Ayyar said that the center will help advance research within the stem cell and umbilical cord domains and will aid in developing a strong partnership between the public and private sectors within health services.

Hopefully, this facility will make it easy for the public to access necessary healthcare in Kuwait, said Al-Ayyar who affirmed stem cell and umbilical cord researches will be crucial to the treatment of various intractable diseases.

### Construction

According to the company, KIPCO and its group companies will hand over the Sheikha Salwa Sabah Al-Ahmad Stem Cell and Umbilical Cord Center in mid-September 2017, with 70 per cent of the construction of the building now complete.

The center, financed through a KD seven million donation made to the Ministry of Health by Masharee Al-Khair Charity Organization on behalf of KIPCO Group, is the Gulf region's first-ever center to be dedicated to stem cell research and the storage of umbilical cords.

The Sheikha Salwa Sabah Al-Ahmad Stem Cell and Umbilical Cord Center is being built over a 12,000 m sq plot of land in the Al-Sabah Health Zone, opposite the Maternity Hospital.

It has a total built up area of 7,800 m sq and includes a three-floor main building, a utilities building, in addition to external landscaping and parking. The facility includes testing and research laboratories, blood and cord storage banks, research and medical libraries, as well as a lecture theater.

In addition to KD 7 million donation, the Advanced Technology Company, a member of the KIPCO Group, has pledged to provide state-of-the-art equipment for the center's specialized laboratories, cooling systems and stem cell storage facilities. ATC's contribution is valued at KD one million.



Al-Ayyar



The Construction Program of Kuwait University ended a field training program for civil engineering experts from Ministry of Justice. The training program was held from Feb 5-9 at the Sabah Al-Salem University City. In this context, Coordinator of the Field Training Office at the Construction Program

Rema Al-Samsam said the training is part of the cooperation between the Construction Program and all state institutions with the aim of taking utmost advantage of the Sabah Al-Salem University City project due to presence of many international consultants and contractors.



A photo from the business forum.

### ABCK hosts business forum

## Light shed on privatization in Kuwait economy

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 15: The American Business Council of Kuwait (ABCK) hosted the 1st Annual Business Forum on Privatization in the Kuwait Economy and its Impact on Entrepreneurship at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) on Tuesday, Feb 14.

Top business executives, distinguished Kuwaiti guests and US government officials participated in the event. The panel consisted of Manaf Al Hajeri, Chief Executive Officer, Markaz Investment Banking and Asset Management Company, Dr Bader Al Hashel, Assistant Professor of Finance at Kuwait University, Jared Willis, General Manager, Berkeley Group for Research and Management Consulting, and Abdulaziz Alotman, Advisory Consultant, Ernst & Young. The panel moderator

was Jack Montgomery of Montgomery Executive Search.

The highlight of the panel discussion was how PPP is gaining traction in the economy and where future opportunities are across the infrastructure space. Dr Bader Al Hashel highlighted how privatization can create a competitive product and security markets and enhance corporate governance. Manaf Al Hajeri discussed the success of the Az Zour project as an example of the first PPP project to be tendered and completed. Jared Willis further stated "Kuwait can build a dynamically capable economic system that can thrive in an uncertain and competitive world and preserve Kuwait's standard of living in a post-oil scenario."

Since 1985, the American Business Council of Kuwait Ltd. (ABCK) has acted as an advocate

for American companies in the State of Kuwait. ABCK is a non-profit organization comprised of American corporations, small and medium sized companies, and prominent business leaders and entrepreneurs, both American and Kuwaiti. Through the support of its members, ABCK has become the recognized voice of US business in Kuwait.

ABCK provides a platform through which executives pursue and discuss issues impacting business operations between the US and Kuwait. As a founding member of the Middle East Council of American Chambers of Commerce (MECACC), ABCK recognizes the importance of proactively encouraging an exchange of ideas between our members and Kuwaiti businesses.