

## LOCAL

**'National Council on US-Arab Relations honored to welcome Tim Lenderking'****National Council, Reconnaissance Research to host US Special Envoy for Yemen**

KUWAIT CITY, June 23: The National Council on US-Arab Relations, and Reconnaissance Research, have announced they will host an exclusive briefing program with US Special Envoy for Yemen Tim Lenderking, US-AID Assistant to the Administrator Sarah Charles and U.N. Resident Coordinator in Yemen David Gressly on Thursday, 24 June 2021, from 10a.m. Washington, D.C. time / Eastern Standard Time and 4p.m. - Kuwait City time / Arabia Standard Time.

The event will be broadcast on the National Council's YouTube channel, on social media, and on the Council's website.

Timothy A. Lenderking is the US Special Envoy for Yemen (February 4, 2021 - Present); Former US Department of State Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs Deputy Assistant Secretary for Arabian Peninsula Affairs; Former US Department of State Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Sarah Charles is the US Agency for International Development Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance Assistant to the Administrator; Former International Rescue Committee Senior Director for Policy and Advocacy; Former White House National Security Council Director for Humanitarian Affairs, and Director and Acting Senior Director for Strategic Planning.

David Gressly is the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Yemen (February 15, 2021 - Present); Former Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Protection and Operations for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The event will be moderated by Col (Ret.) Abbas Dahouk, former USA Defense and Army Attaché to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Military Advisor to the Bureau of Near East Affairs at the USA Department of State.

In announcing the upcoming National Council and Reconnaissance Research program, Council Founding President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony said that, "the Council is honored to welcome Tim Lenderking



to speak about his important new role as the focal point of US diplomacy engaged in ending the fighting and suffering in Yemen. He is a talented and experienced diplomat who has been engaged in the Arab region, the Middle East, and the Islamic world for a long time."

Multiple armed conflicts for over a decade have eroded governance in Yemen and created what is now considered the world's worst humanitarian crisis. In addition to the humanitarian suffering, the conflict has killed tens of thousands and damaged the infrastructure of what has long been considered the most impoverished Arab country. One US- and European-funded organization, the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, estimated that 130,000 people have died from the violence in Yemen since 2015, including over 13,000 civilians killed in targeted attacks. A recent report from four United Nations agencies projected that nearly 2.3 million children under the age of five in Yemen will suffer from acute malnutrition in 2021, with 400,000 of those expected to suffer from severe acute malnutrition who could die without urgent treatment.



Defense Minister with UK and North Ireland Ambassador to Kuwait.



Defense Minister with the Ambassador of the Vatican

**Defense minister meets envoys**

Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah received Wednesday the new UK and North Ireland Ambassador to Kuwait, Belinda Lewis on the occasion of her new appointment.

During the reception, both sides discussed issues of common interest and ways to enhance bilateral cooperation, said the Ministry of

Defense in a press statement. The meeting was attended by British military attaché to the country, Col. Paul Mulvaney.

The Defense Minister, separately, then met the newly appointed ambassador of the Vatican Eugene Martin Nugent, discussing issues of mutual concern. Both receptions were attended by Army Chief-of-Staff Lieu Gen Khaled Saleh Al-Sabah. (KUNA)

**KD 5 mln total value****Kuwait Ports awards three tenders**

KUWAIT CITY, June 23, (KUNA): The Kuwait Ports Corporation announced on Wednesday the award of three tenders for development projects that fall under the projects of the "New Kuwait 2035" development plan, with a total value of about 5 million Kuwaiti dinars (about 16.6 million USD).

The Corporation said in a press statement that the first project deals with the study and design of the Shuaiba Port Development project with a total value of about 1,480 million dinars (about \$5 million). She added that the second tender is a study and design of the project Naqqaat Fintas - Marinas Fintas with a total value of about 2.3 million Kuwaiti dinars, approximately 7.6 million dollars, noting that the third tender is a study and design of Naqqaat al-Mahboula project, with a value of up to approximately 1,250 million dinars (about 1.4 million USD).

The Corporation explained that the tenders for these projects, which are being approved by the competent regulatory authorities, come within 12 development projects that contribute to supporting the basic pillars to achieve the standards of the development plan, which are the project to develop and

**'Security'****Kuwait, the Vatican tackle 'cooperation'**

KUWAIT CITY, June 23, (KUNA): Minister of Interior Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah held talks on Wednesday with the Vatican Ambassador to Kuwait Eugene Martin Nugent.

The two sides tackled several issues of common interest, especially related to security cooperation and ways to enhance it within the deep relations between the State of Kuwait and the Vatican.

On his part, Ambassador Nugent expressed gratitude to the Kuwaiti minister for his hospitality, assuring the importance of topics they have discussed.

expand its Shuaiba port, and the project to implement works to modernize and develop infrastructure and electricity works in the port.

**AUK signs agreement with Ministry of Defense**

KUWAIT CITY, June 23: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) signed an agreement with the Ministry of Defense — the Military Education that ensures the cooperation between both parties in future academic collaborations.

Through this contract, academic cooperation within the legal framework will be established between AUK and the Ministry of Defense. It allows the Ministry to benefit from the experiences, specialties, scientific and technological programs that AUK offers, whether in establishing training courses, preparing academic syllabi, or consultations.

Both parties are set to plan annual joint activities to implement this agreement in terms of finances and scholarship preparations, includ-



Major General Fahad Al-Turajji, head of the Military Education Sector, and AUK President Dr Rawda Awwad.

ing setting criteria and categories in which these scholarships will be offered.

To ensure ease of coordination, ambassadors will be appointed from both sides to form a joint committee that ensures the coordination and execution of the signed agreement and any necessary follow-ups that will be required.

Signed by Major General Fahad Al-Turajji, head of the Military Education Sector, and AUK president Dr. Rawda Awwad, the contract between AUK and the Ministry of Defense is valid for 5 years and is renewable for the same period of time.

Supported by this agreement, the Ministry can utilize AUK's unique liberal arts model of education for a holistic and valuable academic experience.

**UNRWA Chief Lazzarini to visit Kuwait, seeks 'stronger co-op'**

'Many challenges UN agency is confronted with'

By Nawab Khan

BRUSSELS, June 23, (KUNA): The Commissioner General of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Philippe Lazzarini, is to visit Kuwait soon with the aim to strengthen the partnership for the benefit of Palestinian refugees.

"I will soon be visiting Kuwait. I am in discussions with Kuwaiti authorities for an official visit, which will take place this summer or beginning of the fall," he told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) in an interview in Brussels Wednesday.

"I look forward to discuss more in details the partnership between Kuwait and UNRWA. I know that in Kuwait there is a lot of support for the Palestinian refugees and I hope this will be translated also into a continuous partnership with UNRWA," he said.

Commenting on Kuwait's initiative to promote vaccination among Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, he said "the initiative to promote vaccination among the refugees is definitely a welcomed initiative. As we know in the region the vaccination rate is still lagging behind. So any effort to increase vaccination rate is more welcome."

On March 18, 2020, Lazzarini, a Swiss-Italian national, was appointed Undersecretary General and Commissioner General of UNRWA by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

On the current situation of UNRWA, he told KUNA that there are many challenges the UN agency is confronted with.

**Contribution**

"One of them is the financial situation. The Agency has been in financial crisis for many years because there has been a discrepancy on what the Agency is supposed to deliver for the Palestinian refugees and what the voluntary contribution of certain member states have been, which has led to constant cash-flow crisis," he said.

This has been highly unsettling for Palestinian refugees and for our 28,000 staff and for the countries hosting the refugees, he noted.

For this reason, UNRWA together with a number of supporter countries have decided to organise an international conference by the end of this October, during which the Agency will be presenting a blueprint in terms of what is expected from it in services delivery.

"The idea behind this is to promote better predictability so that UNRWA becomes a predictable partner in the region," he said. The decision on the venue of this conference will be taken by Jordan and Sweden as co-hosts in July.

He noted that on Monday, June 21st, UNRWA launched a US\$164-million humanitarian and early recovery appeal following the Israeli bombardments of Gaza in May.

The 11-day Israeli air strikes have caused substantial damage to physical infrastructure, including homes and UNRWA installations, as well as water and sanitation networks in refugee camps, he pointed out.

Commenting on his current visit to Brussels, Lazzarini said he is meeting with members of the European Parliament and European Commission officials.



Philippe Lazzarini, UNRWA Chief



Chamber of Commerce building illuminated with the flag of the State of Kuwait in gratitude and appreciation for its humanitarian role.



Laying of the foundation stone for housing the families of children with cancer.

KUNA photos

**'Gratitude for Kuwait's humanitarian role'****Bosnia illuminates commerce chamber with Kuwaiti flag**

VIENNA, June 23, (KUNA): The Bosnian city of Tuzla in the Chamber of Commerce building in Freedom Square on Wednesday with the Kuwaiti flag, in gratitude for Kuwait's humanitarian role.

and various countries of the world.

Hodzic stressed that Kuwait has always been a pioneer in supporting the needy wherever they are, which reaffirms its great humanitarian role.

This came on the occasion of laying the foundation stone for housing the families of children with cancer, with a donation from the General Secretariat of Kuwaiti Endowments.

During the event, the Prime Minister of Tuzla Province, Kadrija Hodzic, praised in his speech the great charitable role played by the State of Kuwait in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Children's Cancer Center, which is intended for their families who come from distant regions to be near their children, adding that many families from different regions in Bosnia will benefit from this humanitarian project.

He pointed out that the building will be equipped with all necessities to provide maximum comfort for the families.

Kuwaiti official institutions and charities have; and are implementing many educational, developmental, humanitarian, health and social projects in Bosnia and the Balkan countries.