

## LOCAL

# NATO-GCC conference to talk security cooperation

Kuwait to ink deal on protecting information



The Bahraini Crown Prince being received at the Kuwait International Airport. KUNA photo

## Bahraini Crown Prince in Kuwait

Bahraini Crown Prince and Commander in Chief of the Bahraini Defense Force Sheikh Salman Bin Hamad Bin Issa Al-Khalifa and an accompanying delegation arrived at Kuwait International Airport Monday starting a visit in response to an invitation by HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Receiving the Bahraini Crown Prince at the airport was his Kuwaiti counterpart, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH Prime Minister

Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior and Minister of Defense, Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Dr. Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Cabinet Affairs Ismael Khudher Al-Shatti, Advisor at the Prime Minister's Diwan, Sheikh Salem Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Head of the Honorary Mission, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and ministers. (KUNA)

**KUWAIT, Dec 11, (KUNA):** Meetings of the "International Conference of Nato and Gulf Countries: Facing Common Challenges Through ICI" are to discuss here on Tuesday Nato-Kuwait and Nato-GCC security cooperation.

Participating in the conference, held under the auspices of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, is Nato Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and GCC Secretary General Abdulrahman Al-Attiyah, as well as Nato and GCC representatives.

Representatives will discuss in two closed-door sessions a number of security issues including border security, crisis management, counter terrorism, and military exercises and training.

Kuwait, represented by the National Security Apparatus, is to sign a security agreement with Nato on protecting information shared between the two sides.

Deputy Director of the National Security Apparatus Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah had asserted in a press conference last week Kuwait's keenness for benefiting from Nato's expertise in international missions it engaged in.

This is the second meeting that brings together the GCC and Nato, where a conference was held in Doha, Qatar, in December 2005. Both conferences fall within the framework of the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) declared during the 2004 Istanbul Summit.

The ICI aims to consolidate security and stability in the Middle East and North Africa through security and defense cooperation, and especially with the GCC member states that are of particular political and economic importance.

Meanwhile, the GCC-Nato cooperation conference due to be held in Kuwait reflects the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) growing security concerns, a prominent Omani journalist said on Monday.

Kuwait has been greatly affected with tensions in the region since the Iran-Iraq war. "Oman" daily Editor-in-Chief Mohammad bin Saif Al-Rahbi said in remarks to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

Security troubles in Iraq could spill over to any country in the region, he added. It is hard to predict eventual impact of the Iraqi chaos on the region, Al-Rahbi said.

The Iranian nuclear file carries great risks for the region's security as well, the editor said. But military action against Iran could be considered by world powers to limit its nuclear production capacities, he said.