

## MORE THAN 30 COUNTRIES TAKE PART IN OIL, GAS CONFERENCE

**KUWAIT:** More than 30 countries and representatives from governments and international organizations will be participating in the Kuwait Oil and Gas Conference, said Hosnia Hashim, Vice President of Operations for Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC).



Hosnia Hashim

In a statement yesterday, Hashim said the conference, which will cover vital issues on oil and gas sectors next October 11-14, will be under the auspices of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The statement noted that activities will include seminars and 27 discussion sessions which will

see participation of a number of local and international academic experts.

Established in April 1981 by its parent company KPC, KUFPEC is an international oil company which engages in exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas outside Kuwait and is active in Africa, Middle East, Asia, UK, Norway, Canada and Australia. KUFPEC participates in joint ventures with similar companies of Oil and Gas both as an operator and partner.—KUNA

## AL-FINTAS KUWAIT'S HISTORICALLY CHARMING VILLAGE

By Sarah Al-Mukhaizeem

**KUWAIT:** Al-Fintas, the wonderful village almost 26 kilometers south of Kuwait City, carries the Arabic equivalent of a 'water tank'. The name implies that this coastal area once had dozens of water wells, where sailors used to fill their tanks before embarking on sea voyages.

Al-Fintas was well-known for agricultural activities and pearl diving. It was inhabited by the Arab famous tribe of 'Banu Khalid', who used to live in Kuwait before Al-Sabah family came to power.

Under Al-Sabah family, Al-Fintas, located on Al-Adan coast on the Arabian Gulf, acquired more significance as a water supplying station. Thanks to its fantastic farms and shores, as well as moderate weather and the surrounding Sidr and palm trees, the area was a refuge for Kuwaitis who used to spend some quality outdoor times, especially during spring and summer.

Historians wrote that Al-Fintas used to have up to 30 wells, the most known of them were Al-Beldani, in addition to Suleisel, the latter mainly provided water for cattle.

The village has had artistic features that distinguished it from other Kuwaiti villages, and was famous for 'Al-Samri', researcher in Kuwait history Yaqoub Al-Ghuneim told KUNA in a previous interview. Al-Samri is singing poetry while the drum is being played. Two rows of men, seated on the knees, sway to the rhythm. In 1945, a boys' school was built there, and students reached 45 in 1951, when a girls' school was built.

Medical services were offered in Al-Fintas through a vehicle that served like a mobile clinic, with a doctor and a nurse, provided with necessary tools and supplies available then. A medical center opened there in 1953.

Among the famous men in the history of Al-Fintas was 'Noukhetha' (sea captain) Mohammad Al-Haqqaan, who was appointed as chief of the village by Kuwait's ruler then Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber A-Sabah in the 1940s. With the export of the first oil shipment, Al-Fintas inhabitants started to sell their farms and seek government jobs. Al-Fintas is a calm area, far from traffic jams and pollution, and has been bestowed with clear and comfortable sea scenes. In addition, the area enjoys various other public services, namely Al-Fintas Public Park, Agaila Beach Park, Safir Hotel, Al-Fintas Beach, the Fishermen Diwaniya, Sabah Al-Ahmad Coast Guard Base and the Marine Science Center, an affiliate of Kuwait University. As many foreigners have recently gone to live in Al-Fintas, the area is now busy with leading restaurants and cafe chains, together with high-level housing complexes. Moreover, it is few minutes from business centers in Fahaheel and Al-Kout Mall. It is also near the American University of Middle East in Egaila and the Box Hill College Kuwait in Abu Halifa.—KUNA



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah arrives in Kuwait where he was received by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.—KUNA photo

## AMIR RETURNS TO KUWAIT FROM POSITIVE UN SUMMIT

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the accompanying delegation arrived in Kuwait after attending the UN Sustainable Development Summit 2015 and the UN leaders-level Summit on Countering Violent Extremism 2015 held in New York.

HH the Amir was received at Kuwait International Airport by HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanim, HH

Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh, in addition to

Ministers and senior officials of the state.

His Highness Sheikh Sabah was accompanied during his participation by head of the Amiri office Ahmad Al-Fahad, Amiri Diwan Adviser Mohammad Abdullah Abul-Hassan, Head of Amiri Protocols Sheikh Khaled Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, Amiri Diwan Media and Cultural Adviser Yousef Al-Roumi, and Undersecretary for political and economic affairs at the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Fawaz Saud Nasser Saud Al-Sabah.—KUNA

## MP PLANS TO GRILL EDUCATION MINISTER OVER SYLLABUS

'MP TURAJJI CRITICIZES PLANS FOR FAIR GROUNDS SALE'

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** Islamist MP Abdulrahman Al-Jeeran said yesterday that he will submit a request to grill Education Minister Bader Al-Issa over a variety of issues including plans to change school syllabus and administrative decisions. Jeeran's announcement raises the number of ministers threatened with questioning to around six. They include the ministers of social affairs and labor, commerce and industry, finance, oil and minister of public works in addition to education minister.

The lawmaker said that the grilling will be filed at the start of the new parliamentary term on October 27. He said the issues to be included in the questioning include plans to change or amend the school syllabus, administrative decisions and suspicious financial dealings at Kuwait University.

The issues also include the minister's statements on sex segregation at Kuwait University, the issue of university buildings

and standards used in selecting cultural attaches at Kuwait missions abroad, Jeeran said. The lawmaker also criticized what he described as deterioration in the level of education in the country and the allegation that many students resort to cheating.

In another development, MP Abdullah Al-Turaiji yesterday called on Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh to intervene and stop the proposed sale of the International Fair Grounds by Kuwait Investment Co. (KIC) and Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), both state-owned firms.

Turaiji wondered how can the finance minister allow KIC chairman negotiate to sell the fair grounds at a time he is under probe for alleged misuse of public fund, adding that he should at least wait until the end of the probe. The lawmaker said that moves by the KIC chairman are very provocative and these will not be allowed to pass smoothly in the national assembly. He also urged the finance minister to safeguard public funds by exercising his constitutional powers. The finance minister is the

head of KIA which owns KIC. Turaiji said that it is not acceptable for KIA to continue to sell profit-making companies while the Audit Bureau is conducting a study on the issue and that the study is about to be completed and submitted to the national assembly. The lawmaker said that the public funds protection committee in the national assembly will hold a meeting soon to discuss the issue. He said that the meeting will invite the finance minister, directors of KIC and KIA and the Audit Bureau. The meeting will study the issue of selling state-owned companies and the reason for rushing the sale while the Audit Bureau is studying the matter. Turaiji said he will send questions to the finance minister about the sale of profitable companies.

In the meantime, MP Ahmad Lari encouraged the government to sell its holdings to achieve the free market policy and reduce the administrative burdens. He said that the government should let the private sector run such facilities but insisted that any sale should be made at market prices.