

MP QUESTIONS FINANCE MINISTER OVER METRO, RAILWAY PROJECTS

FORMER SPEAKER ALLEGES 'MASSIVE ROBBERY'

KUWAIT: MP Saleh Ashour yesterday sent a large number of questions to Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh over a reported plan to take the multi-billion-dollar metro and railway projects from the Ministry of Communications to the Public Private Partnership (PPP) authority. Acting on claims made by former Assembly Speaker Ali Al-Rashed who described the matter as a massive robbery, Ashour sent over 50 questions to the minister inquiring about financial and administrative details of the two projects.

Ashour claimed that based on recommendations by the PPP authority, the government will be obliged to pay around KD 1 billion every year for 31 years for the contractors of the metro project. He also claimed that the government will be required to pay billions of dinars to the contractor of the railway project for around 30 years, raising suspicions about the whole process.

The lawmaker also recalled that the council of ministers decided in 2012 that the two projects will be carried out on the basis of Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT)

and asked why there are plans to change this decision. The two projects have been repeatedly delayed for several reasons and moved from one authority to another. Former speaker Rashed said yesterday that if the metro and railway case filed by him was shelved or no ruling issued, he will take the matter to the Anti-Corruption Authority. In one of the questions, Ashour asked the Finance Minister about the total cost of the two projects if they were implemented by the private sector and their cost if they will be implemented by the government.



FIREMEN BATTLE THE BLAZE

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Three fire teams battled a blaze in a Farwaniya residential building yesterday morning. The fire destroyed the entire flat. Farwaniya, Sabhan technical rescue centers were dispatched. The fire was kept from spreading to other areas, as 45 firemen evacuated the residents. Three children, two women and a man were injured and treated on the site. Investigations are underway.

'Romanian prostitutes' nabbed

Criminal detectives arrested an international prostitution gang made of Romanian girls, according to a statement by Relations and security information department at the Interior Ministry. The vice department received information about some Romanian girls in a hotel apartment in Bneid Al-Qar who engage in prostitution, so legal procedures were taken and all suspects were caught in the act.

Egyptian flees via UAE

Residency affairs detectives said after receiving information about an Egyptian leaving the country despite seven travel



ban orders against him on financial cases worth KD 65,000, detectives learned that the suspect has arrived in Egypt via UAE. The boarding pass was checked and it was found out that the stamp belongs to an employee at the passport office named (DS). He was arrested, questioned and then sent to the Prosecution.

KRCS TO EXPAND ITS WORK

KUWAIT: President of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Dr Hilal Al-Sayer asserted yesterday that the society would continue its mission and efforts to deliver humanitarian aid to people stricken with natural or man-made catastrophes, in implementation of directives of the Kuwaiti leadership. The Kuwait Red Crescent society will spare no effort to expand its work and serve disaster-stricken peoples, Dr Al-Sayer said in a statement following a visit by

Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Yasser Atef and the accompanying delegation to the KRCS headquarters. He said the Egyptian delegation got acquainted with the society's humanitarian work on the local and international levels.

Dr Al-Sayer praised "Long Live Egypt Fund" for improving living and health standards of Egyptians, and hoped for a future cooperation with it. The Egyptian ambassador, in remarks to KUNA, expressed his

appreciation for KRCS' efforts in humanitarian aid works in 68 countries throughout the world. For his part, Executive Director of Long Live Egypt Fund Mohamed Ashmawy said the fund staff was looking to benefit from the KRCS' experience in providing relief aid, setting up projects and holding training courses. He stated that the fund had been set up to collect donations to support the economy and improve standards of a large number of Egyptians. — KUNA

News

in brief

Kuwait Bourse-listed companies reach 190

KUWAIT: Total number of companies enlisted by Kuwait Bourse (KSE) amounted to 190 in end of 2015, compared to 193 in 2014, according to the bi-annual report released by KUNA Economic and Oil Affairs Department. Also by contrast, the number of such KSE-listed companies reached 196 in 2013, 200 in 2012 and 214 in 2011-2010, said the report, second chapter of which shed light on role of Kuwait Direct Promotion Authority (KDPA), basically with respect of promoting Kuwait as a regional enterprise hub. A year after its founding, the volume of licensed direct enterprise in 2015 amounted to KD 379.1 million, centering in sectors of technology, information, communications and energy. The authority started receiving license applications and granting concessions on December 29, 2014, after endorsement of its executive law (116/2013). Last year, it received 47 applications from local, Arab and foreign businessmen. Forty of them had been examined.

Qadsiya wins the Kuwait Athletics Championship

KUWAIT: Qadsiya won the Kuwait General Youth Athletics Championship held at Ahmed Suleiman Al-Rashdan track with 205 points yesterday. Kuwait came second with 166 points, followed by Al-Sahel in the third place with 76 points. In the same three-day championship in the juniors category, Qadsiya came in the second place with 113 points after Kuwait with 161.5 points while Al-Shabab in the third place with 98 points. Head of the athletics at Qadsiya Club Madi Al-Mutiri praised the players' level of performance in this championship in all categories. He also thanked Chairman of the Board of Qadsiya Club Sheikh Khalid Al-Fahad Al-Sabah as well as technical and administrative staff for their efforts and continuing support for the athletes.

Anti-terror drill kicks off with Kuwait participation

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's Special Emergency Force SEF started Wednesday a broad counter-terrorism exercised themed "Sawlet Al-Haq 8" or the "The Round of Truth 8". A Kuwaiti delegation headed by Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Special Security Forces Affairs Major General Mahmoud Al-Dousari is partaking in the exercise. The exercise includes mock operations to deal with coordinated terrorist attacks and raids on terrorist hideouts. It also includes training on shooting, snipping skills, as well as the use of helicopters in various anti-terror operations. The drill showed the high qualifications, skills and preparedness of the special emergency forces. Special forces commanders and security officials from several Arab and Muslim countries have also attended the exercises.

Kuwait Islamic Institute for Girls in Cambodia

KUALA LUMPUR: Charge d'Affaires of Kuwait's embassy in Cambodia Mutib Al-Usaimi has taken part in a ceremony held to lay the foundation stone of the second expansion project at the Kuwait Islamic Institute for Girls in the East Asian Kingdom. The ceremony was attended by deputy governor of the Tboung Khmum province where the Institute is located, and deputy head of the Southeast Asia Commission at the Kuwait-based Society of the Revival of Islamic Heritage, Ahmad Humoud Al-Jassar, a statement by the Kuwaiti embassy said yesterday. Addressing the ceremony, Al-Usaimi reiterated Kuwait's keenness on continuing support to all charity and humanitarian projects in Cambodia. He also appreciated efforts by the Society of the Revival of Islamic Heritage, in collaboration with Manabaa Al-Khair Charity, implementing and supervising various projects nationwide. Al-Usaimi lauded bilateral ties with Cambodia on all levels, referring to the efforts lavished by the Cambodian government to streamline procedures for the projects.