

In Brief

GHANEM PRESIDES OVER PARLIAMENT MEETING

**KUWAIT:** Officials from the National Assembly convened for a meeting yesterday, presided over by Parliament Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem. During the meeting, some letters pertaining to impending visits by parliament speakers of friendly nations were discussed. Parliament Secretary Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi said. A number of security related issues and decisions were also reviewed, Kharafi added. —KUNA



AIPU'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS

**BEIRUT:** The Executive Committee of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU) started its 18th session in Beirut yesterday, chaired by Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Parliamentary Caucus MP Faisal Al-Shaya. The agenda of the 18th session includes a host of items, topped with hand-over of the AIPU Secretariat from outgoing Secretary General Nour Eddine Bouchkouj to elected Fayez Al-Shawabka, Shaya told KUNA on the sidelines of the gathering. —KUNA



ARMY CHIEF LAUDS TIES WITH JORDAN

**KUWAIT:** Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Kheder yesterday hailed deep cooperative relations between Kuwait and Jordan. Speaking at a meeting with a visiting Jordanian military delegation, Kheder said Kuwait and Jordan enjoy deep cooperation, especially in the military field, the Defense Ministry's Directorate of Moral Guidance and Public Relations said in a statement. Several high-ranking army officers were present in the meeting, it added. —KUNA



Photo

of the day



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's 4th Arabian Horse Beauty Contest came to an end on Saturday, after 295 horses from Kuwait and Arab countries competed for most beautiful horses. —KUNA

THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

By Labeed Abdal



local@kuwaittimes.net

**R**ecent criticism by the US government of Israel's plans to expand a Jewish settlement in the West Bank on grounds that this would jeopardize the two-state solution to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as well as considering continuous settlement expansion, raise much skepticism about Israel's long terms plans and is something that really threatens UN resolutions in this regard. It also raises a great deal of skepticism about solving one of the longest and most complicated disputes of land that belongs to the followers of three heavenly religions.

The US expression of 'deep concern' towards Israel's attitude over expanding the Gush Etzion settlement would eventually lead to building one over an area of 10 acres in the West Bank, which indicates Israel's indifference, especially towards the end of Obama's presidency when the US and its parties are very busy with electing a new president, who is most likely going to be a Republican in favor of more wars in case he wins.

Maintaining the current situation stems from a fixed vision set during World War I by major countries at that time, which explains Israel's keenness on expanding its settlements by all means over the past century. This raises fear of more violent Israeli-Palestinian conflicts in view of a state of despair, stagnancy and broken peace promises despite the fact that settlements are deemed by the UN as illegal, undermining peace efforts and in violation of its resolutions.

Recurring of the very same incidents and reaching dead ends for over 70 years is very saddening in view of the multitude of victims, injured and killed, despite many moderate groups on both sides that truly seek peaceful, joint, legitimate and fair solutions.

Accelerating violence between Israelis and Palestinians through stabbings, shootings and running people over with vehicles has resulted in killing 23 Israelis so far and considerable numbers of Palestinians on the other hand, which emphasizes how hateful both peoples are towards each other and calls for changing the international methodology on handling the conflict with the aim of reaching solutions to unsolved issues.



**KUWAIT:** A man places a donation during a fund-raising campaign to rescue residents of Madaya, which was opened by the Kuwait Red Crescent Society yesterday. —KUNA photos



People register to make donations during the fund-raising campaign.

KRCS BEGINS FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN FOR MADAYA

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) launched a fund-raising campaign yesterday, receiving donations to rescue residents of Madaya town in Syria who have been stricken by hunger and poverty due to the ongoing conflict in that country. KRCS Chairman of the Board Dr Hilal Al-Sayer told KUNA that the campaign will reflect the bright image of Kuwaiti generosity, pointing

out that the society is interested in sponsoring humanitarian aid, locally, and internationally.

Meanwhile, Director of Public Relations and media in KRCS Khalid Al-Zaid told KUNA that the campaign will help gather necessities and foodstuff for people in Madaya, in cooperation with other humanitarian organizations in Syria. —KUNA



Dr Hilal Al-Sayer



Khalid Al-Zaid

KPC STAFF OFFERED GOODS AT COMPETITIVE PRICES

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) introduced yesterday plans to launch an initiative to provide oil sector employees with goods and services for competitive prices, the latest in extensive privileges enjoyed by members of the sector.

Dubbed 'Excellence', the unprecedented initiative comprises an electronic program that merges KPC with a number of commercial companies, Head of the Public Relations Department of KPC Jamal Al-Sanousi said in a press conference. The initiative is expected to be in full effect by February, he announced.

The measure seeks to cement KPC values while giving employees an incentive in a highly distinguished sector to which more than 20,000 employees belong, Sanousi said. When news of the initiative first emerged, more than 920 employees registered, possibly a harbinger of the initiative's expected success, the Head of KPC's Public Relations Department noted. The facilitation of the purchasing process for registered users of the "Excellence" program is the primary aim, he said. —KUNA