

KUWAIT 'COMMITTED' TO PAN-ARAB COORDINATION

ARAB LEAGUE CHIEF CALLS FOR SPEEDY TRADE ZONE

CAIRO: A ranking Kuwaiti official yesterday affirmed the Gulf State's keenness on bolstering pan-Arab coordination. In remarks to KUNA on sidelines of the opening meeting of the 99th session of the Arab Economic and Social Council, Finance Assistant Undersecretary Sami Al-Sagaabi said participants in the meeting discussed implementing resolutions of the Arab-African summit held in 2016. He noted that His Highness the Amir had allotted one billion dollars for development enterprises in Africa. Kuwait had also allocated an annual award worth one million dollars for development research in Africa.

Al-Sagaabi added that the conferees discussed a report by the Arab League chief on following up on implementing resolutions of the 98th session of the council, the social-economic file for the 28th Arab summit due in Jordan on March 23-29, Al-Riyadh declaration of the fourth Arab-Latin America summit, held in Saudi Arabia, in 2015.

Meanwhile, Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Abul-Gheit yesterday called for speedy steps to launch the great joint Arab commercial zone. Abul-Gheit, addressing the opening of the 99th ministerial session of the Arab Economic and Social Council, said that "a lot had been done for launching the grand Arab commercial zone and only some matters have remained unresolved." The league chief, in the statement addressed on his behalf by his deputy Ambassador Ahmad Bin Helli, said issues that need to be thrashed out are related to the product origin terms, enacting competition regulations,



Finance Assistant Undersecretary Sami Al-Sagaabi

consumer protection and some commercial topics.

On the custom federation, he said the relevant regulations had been finalized. However, he indicated that negative global economic conditions have impacted on the inter-Arab trade which declined by 13 billion dollars last year. Citing estimates by the Arab Monetary Fund, Abul-Gheit said Arab exports dropped from 1.199 billion dollars in 2011 to 827 billion dollars in 2015. However, inter-Arab exports rose from 104 billion dollars in 2011 to 110 billion dollars in 2015. Abul Gheit cited hurdles standing in face of development in the Arab world; namely terrorism and Israel's occupation of Arab territories. —Agencies



ELITE STORMING TEAMS

By Hanna Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: International Elite Storming Teams (4) event ended yesterday at the Special Forces ranges. The event was attended by top officials including; Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt General Suleiman Al-Fahad, National Guard Secretary Lt General Eng Hashim Al-Rafaie in addition to representatives from UAE. Lt General Al-Fahad distributed cups and prizes to the winning teams. Team of the late Abdelrahman Al-Sumait secured the first position, while the



elite team booked the second place. The third place went to the team of Brig Yousuf Al-Huwaidi.

Power to be cut off

KUWAIT: Interior Ministry Relations and Security Information Department said power will be cut off at the Fintas services center on Monday - from 8:00 am until 11:00 am for maintenance.

Forged salary certificates

Criminal detectives arrested a Sri Lankan for forging salary certificates and bank statements along with a group of persons in exchange of money. The suspect was caught red handed in his house.

Exercise at hospital

Jleeb and Farwaniya fire centers carried out an exercise at Farwaniya hospital. The exercise was about a fire at the second floor in the laboratory. Two teams were formed for the rescue mission.

Fire at boys school

A fire broke out at Ahmad Al-Humaidhi boys elementary school in Ouyoun area Jahra, and was put out without injuries. The fire center received a call at 12:41 pm about a fire at the school theater, and firemen rushed to the scene within four minutes.

News

in brief

Low temperatures

KUWAIT: Low temperatures are expected over the weekend due to the northwestern wind, executive at Kuwait Meteorological Center Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi said yesterday. The country has been affected recently by the seasonal low-pressure winds coming from the direction of Sudan, leading to clouds and rainfall on some areas, Al-Qarawi said. The lowest temperature recorded today was between 12-10 Celsius while the highest will reach 22 Celsius with light to moderate northwesterly to northern winds between 12-35 kph, according to Kuwait Meteorological Department. Today, the weather will be partly cloudy with wind activities causing dust and a chance of rain, said the official, adding that the maximum temperature will be between 18-15 Celsius with low temperatures between 5-8 Celsius. Meanwhile, Al-Qarawi noted that tomorrow evening will be slightly cold with moderate to light northwestern wind between 20-45 kph, and maximum temperature between 15-20 Celsius. The lowest temperature will be between 5-7 Celsius.

Qatar-Kuwait military drill

DOHA: A Qatari-Kuwaiti joint Amiri Guards drill, known as (Saqr Al-Khalij 2), kicked off yesterday and will last till March first, said the Kuwaiti Embassy's Military Attache, Colonel Nasser Abdulaziz Al-Samhan. Al-Samhan said the drill came to enhance cooperation and exchange experiences among Gulf military personnel, revealing that the exercise was hosted by Kuwait last year. The official noted that such training was strongly supported by the military command of both sides to boost military capabilities for groups and individuals alike based on modern-day technologies in military training.



Students attend the inauguration ceremony of the new school in Al-Latifiah district. —KUNA

Kuwait-funded school

BAGHDAD: The Iraqi Ministry of Education yesterday inaugurated a new school in Al-Latifiah district in Baghdad. The school was funded by Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED). Kuwait Ambassador Salem Al-Zamanan said that the school was built as part of the second phase of a philanthropic program by KFAED aimed at building up to 23 schools in Iraq. Up to 22 ones had already been constructed. The school includes 18 classes, laboratories, library, parking lot and pitch. Cost of the construction and furnishing amounted to \$2.9 million. In another development, Kuwait Red Crescent Society yesterday distributed relief supplies to Syrian refugees in the eastern snow-blanketed region of Ersal. The delivered supplies included food parcels, each sufficient for a single family for a month, said Yusef Boutros, operations coordinator at Lebanese Red Crescent in a statement to KUNA, noting that the help came at a time the refugees are in high need for assistance, in aftermath of a recent snow storm that hit the region.