

News

in brief

Sheikha Hessa named AFNDP honorary chief

CAIRO: The eminent Kuwaiti women personality, Sheikha Hessa Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, has been elected uncontested as the honorary head of the Arab Federation of NGO for Drug Prevention (AFNDP) during a meeting of the general assembly held in Cairo. Participants in the assembly elected members of the board, Dr Ahmad Abul-Azaem, a psychologist, as chairman of the federation, Dr Khaled Ahmad Al-Saleh of Kuwait as head of the Kuwait-based general secretariat and Majed Al-Shahin also of Kuwait as member. They discussed a plan for protection against addiction in the Arab world, a federation's statement said, also underlining noticeable hike of addiction cases in the Arab world due to the wars and troubles. The federation had been established in response to a recommendation issued by an international anti-doping convention, held in Bangkok in 1994.

OPEC cut extension to be discussed March 26

KUWAIT: The possibility of extending an OPEC oil output cut will be discussed after a monitoring meeting due later this month in Kuwait, the Kuwaiti Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq said yesterday. He added that an OPEC ministerial committee for monitoring commitment of the output cut is due to meet here on March 26, the minister told KUNA. Last November, OPEC members concluded a deal in Vienna to cut production by around 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd), or over 3 percent, to 32.5 million bpd. Non-OPEC producers voluntarily decided to reduce output by 600,000 barrels per day. Russia alone will cut 300,000 barrels daily. Al-Marzouq said that commitment by the OPEC member of the output reduction decision initially hit 140 percent, but then fell to 102. Non-OPEC producers honored the decision by about 50 percent. The Kuwait meeting will review a report by a technical committee of the monitoring one that will meet March 24, in addition to developments of the world's oil scene as reported by the OPEC Secretariat.

French FM holds talks with GCC Ambassadors

PARIS: French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault held a round of high-level talks on Thursday with Ambassadors from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations as part of the process to further enhance dialogue between the two sides, official statements said. The French Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the meetings addressed several key topics, including ways to bolster and "broaden the partnership" between Paris and the GCC in such areas as university education, culture and the fight against terrorism and radicalization. Kuwait is an active participant in the French-GCC diplomatic dialogue and was represented at Thursday's meeting by Ambassador to France Sami Mohammad Al-Sulaiman. In a statement to KUNA, Kuwait's envoy "expressed the appreciation of the State of Kuwait for the good relationship with France" and he stressed that "Kuwait has a keen interest in consolidating these good relations in order to move bilateral ties to an even higher level" in the future. "Kuwait accords a large importance to the positive development of relations with France in various spheres," Al-Sulaiman emphasized.

Kuwait eyes economic ties with South Korea

KUWAIT: The private sector in Kuwait has a keen desire for greater direct investment opportunities in South Korea, Kuwaiti Ambassador Bader Al-Awadhi affirmed yesterday. There are also several facilitations for investment in Kuwait for Korean companies to take advantage of through the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), Al-Awadhi stated to KUNA after meeting with Chairman of the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Yongmaan Park. Kuwait encourages the flow of foreign direct investment into the country to make the utmost benefits, he added, noting that he has discussed with Park a number of subjects of joint interest such as the future of their economic and commercial cooperation plans and measures, particularly mutual investment. In return, the KCCI Chief welcomed the embassy's steps to boost Kuwaiti-South Korean economic cooperation, the Kuwaiti diplomat indicated.



KFH-TAKAFUL HONOURS SUPERVISORS AT YUSUF A ALGHANIM AUTOMOTIVE

KUWAIT: A delegation from KFH-Takaful, a subsidiary of Kuwait Finance House (KFH), visited Yusuf A Alghanim Automotive Service Center within the framework of promoting and consolidating the mutual relationship, and in efforts to emphasize the importance of reinforcing the collaboration and coordination efforts, while demonstrating the latest developments in the fields of cars and insurance.

During the visit, KFH-Takaful honored a group of supervisors and representatives at Yusuf A Alghanim Automotive in

recognition of the positive indicators achieved by the company during the last year, and in confirmation of the confidence of the company to continuingly open new horizons for further success. Ahmed Al-Nowaif - Marketing and Development Department Manager, and Rashed Al Rashed- Cars Unit Manager at KFH-Takaful honored Sahdi Shamas, Haroiton Malonian, Morad Naaem and Mohammad Adel.

This initiative reflects the collaboration between KFH-Takaful and Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons. it added value to the

customers and pushed KFH-Takaful for striving to develop its products and services to address the developments of the car markets, especially that insurance and cars are integral parts and increasingly witnessing changes at different levels.

Meanwhile, Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons expressed their thanks and gratitude to KFH for this impressive gesture that affirms the great interest in strengthening ties with customers and partners in an attempt to offer best services and highest performance levels.



EQUATE SPONSORS 15TH FIREMEN'S DAY FESTIVAL

KUWAIT: EQUATE Petrochemical Company, a global producer of petrochemicals, extended its sponsorship for to the 15th Firemen's Day Festival organized by the Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) and under the patronage of His Excellency the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. The sponsorship comes as part of the company's ongoing support to the everyday work and efforts placed by firefighters to save lives in Kuwait.

Speaking of the sponsorship, EQUATE's Petrochemical EH&S Leader Mohammad Al-Shamary, said, "We are proud at EQUATE to have the opportunity to sponsor this event in support of the tremendous work done by KFSD in maintaining the safety of individuals and public and private facilities similarly. Year after year, we continue to build on our strong partnership with KFSD through which we share knowledge and expertise in our field, conduct regular workshops and trainings, launch safety-related campaigns and coordinate together day-by-day out to ensure our

people stay safe as we implement best global practices together to serve everyone in Kuwait.

During the festival, EQUATE presented recognized HE the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and KFSD's Director-General Lieutenant-General Khaled Al-Mekrad. The company also had a booth presenting EQUATE's safety programs that were explained by the EH&S team and the EQUATE Emergency Response Team (ERT). EQUATE is a global producer of petrochemicals used in products that create a better world. The company is the world's second largest producer of Ethylene Glycol (EG) with industrial complexes in Kuwait, North America and Europe producing Ethylene, Ethylene Glycol (EG), Polyethylene (PE) and Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET).

The products are marketed throughout Asia, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. As a leading global enterprise, EQUATE strongly pursues sustainability principles and best practices wherever it operates through partnerships with various stakeholders, including its employees and customers,

as well as societies as a whole in fields that include human development, environment, education, health and public awareness.

Established in 1995 as an international joint venture, EQUATE's shareholders include: Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC), The Dow Chemical Company (Dow), Boubyan Petrochemical Company (BPC) and Quraing Petrochemical Industries Company (QPIC). EQUATE provides reliable services and solutions that enable global customers and stakeholders to grow and attain the success they seek by being "Partners in Success".

With its initial founding taking place during 1947, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) is currently an independent government authority under the supervision of State Minister for Council of Ministers Affairs in the State of Kuwait. KFSD plays a number of critical national roles by providing required protection for lives and property from fires, crashes, incidents and natural disasters and preventing them throughout the country. www.kfsd.gov.kw