

# Prime Minister orders stern control over stumbling projects

## Firms behind incomplete projects to be denied access to future tenders

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah instructed strict control on projects, mainly faltering ones, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh said yesterday. Speaking after a weekly Cabinet meeting, the minister said the Cabinet discussed the projects' completion rate and delivery schedules as well as legal measures, including fines or withdrawal, against uncompleted projects. He quoted His Highness the Prime Minister as underlining the significance of applying punitive measures enshrined in Law 49/2016 regarding public tenders and its executive statute issued in February 2017 on faltering businesses. His Highness the Prime Minister also ordered ministers concerned to inform the Central Agency for Public Tenders about uncompleted projects in line with Article 85 of Law 49/2016 which states that the company which fails to adhere to a concluded contract should be denied access to any future tenders, he added. His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak also ordered that staunch action should be taken so as to preserve public funds, the minister noted.

Meanwhile, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed the cabinet about outcome of the first Arab League-European Union summit, commending speech of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the meeting. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said His Highness the Amir underlined common values between Arabs and Europeans, and highlighted EU's vital role at the international level, Saleh said. The EU, said His Highness the Amir, played a major role in security and stability in the Middle East and countering terrorism, which was affecting 'our security and stability'. He commended EU's support of the Palestinian cause towards reaching a just and final solution for the Palestinian people.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled also briefed the cabinet about outcome of a ministerial meet-



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs yesterday's Cabinet meeting. — KUNA

ing of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), during which the top diplomats discussed boosting trade and economic exchange with the objective to reaching economic integration. The OIC foreign ministers decided to establish an endowment



### Staunch action to preserve public funds

fund to support Palestinian refugees and UNRWA, he said, adding Kuwait was elected in OIC's Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC), said Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled.

In the meantime, the cabinet thanked leaders of the Gulf, Arab and Western countries

for celebrating Kuwait's national days, particularly GCC citizens who showed genuine feelings through festivities they held to mark the national days. Minister of Commerce and Industry, Minister of State for Services Khaled Al-Roudhan briefed the cabinet about his recent visit to Iraq and meetings with senior officials regarding the establishment of a free trade zone, said Saleh. Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Hamed Al-Azmi briefed the ministers about cross-examination of 15,514 university certificates and approved by Cultural Attaches in Egypt, Jordan, Los Angeles, Washington and Bahrain.

On the other hand, the cabinet discussed Ministry of Health's preparations to open Sheikh Salwa Al-Sabah Center for Stem Cell and Umbilical Cord in May. The cabinet approved in principles American universities that could accept scholarships for disabled people. Minister of State for Economic Affairs Maryam Al-Aqeel also briefed the cabinet about development projects implemented in 2018-2019. — KUNA

## Street paving to start March 15

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Public Works (MPW) will launch on March 15 the plan it recently approved to pave various streets using an extra asphalt layer, well-informed sources said. The sources added that MPW recently reviewed various road maintenance contracts to prepare an integrated plan, noting that the process will be supervised by three different teams including the Qatari Lab, MPW and a third with representatives from Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), Kuwait University and the defense ministry's lab.

Meanwhile, the Orient Planet Research Company issued a report titled 'Fast Tracking Development: Road Infrastructure in the GCC', which stressed that roads, highways and bridges are among the most prominent infrastructure projects in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), as the region increasingly becomes a major player in hosting high-profile world events.

The report added that from a global perspective, the UAE and Saudi Arabia rank among the top 12 global markets for infrastructure investment and expenditure on road infrastructure has been a major growth factor in the region, with governments continuing to find these investments vital to both social and economic growth, noting that governments continue to give a high level of priority to road projects. "To help resolve budget

problems for these projects, there is a growing tendency towards providing enough funding through private public partnerships," the report explained, adding that the total cost of infrastructure projects in GCC states is \$1.14 trillion.

The report also noted that the total of 1,069 projects are being executed in the region and that road infrastructure projects have accounted for the largest share of government spending, which was estimated at \$122.6 billion in 2017 alone. The report added that UAE had allocated AED 15 billion (\$ 4.8 billion) for major projects serving the 2020 Dubai Expo. Saudi Arabia invested over \$400 million in nine major road projects and that the Kuwaiti government will execute a project to develop the 93-km-long Seventh Ring Road and plans to invest \$13.2 billion in executing 24 new road infrastructure projects.

### Factories fined

Kuwait Municipality has once more enforced laws on violating companies and factories in the southern desert areas through filing two citations with the total value of KD 440,000 for not renewing their safety and storage licenses, said an official source at the municipality, noting that some of the violating companies had been illegally sub-leasing warehouses.

Meanwhile, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Fahd Al-Shula stressed the need to regulate the process of renting temporary marquees. In different concern, the municipality approved a request by Kuwait National Cinema Company to build a commercial, cultural and recreational complex on land plot number 49 and build multi-storey parking on land lot number 50 as per the contract signed with the finance ministry.

### News in brief

#### Runaway juvenile found

**KUWAIT:** Ministry of Social Affairs' assistant undersecretary for co-op affairs and the ministry's official spokesperson Abdul Aziz Shuaib announced arresting the juvenile who had recently escaped from a juvenile social care home. Shuaib added that the juvenile was returned to the home after security forces managed to locate and arrest him. Separately, the ministry's assistant undersecretary for social care affairs Sheikh Al-Ahwani announced that nine ministry employees working in the juvenile and the disabled departments won leading positions in Kuwait's 22nd Quran memorization and recitation competition held under auspices of HH the Amir. — By Meshaal Al-Enezi

#### Sheep prices could increase

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait is preparing to deal with Australia's decision to stop the export of live sheep during the summer from June 1 until August 31, as the Kuwait Livestock Transport and Trading Company (KLTT) asked the commerce ministry's permission to stock sheep during this period to meet the needs of the local market, especially during Eid Al-Adha. Informed sources said the suggestion of the KLTT to the commerce ministry was a precautionary one as the local market may face a crisis in sheep supply. It asked to allow storing the quantities Kuwait consumes during this period efficiently, including its needs for Eid Al-Adha which reach 120,000 heads. Sources said if the commerce ministry accepts this request, prices of live sheep could increase by KD 7 per month during these months. This means that the price will increase by KD 7 in June, in July the increase will be KD 14, while in August, the customer will pay an additional KD 21 over the regular price of KD 49, which means sheep prices will increase by 43 percent during Eid Al-Adha, which will be in August. — Al-Rai

#### Jaber Hospital

**KUWAIT:** Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basil Al-Sabah said that Kuwait Investment Authority established a company named 'Kuwait Enaya Company for Hospitals Management' to manage Jaber Hospital. This was based on a Cabinet decision to manage and invest in the hospital through cooperation with an international medical center in order to enhance the medical services presented by health ministry hospitals. The minister said as for the expansion of Jahra Hospital, a committee was formed to study the mechanism of its management. — Al-Anbaa

## Passengers caught with drugs at Terminal 4

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** A man and a woman were arrested at Kuwait International Airport's Terminal 4 yesterday for attempting to smuggle banned substances into the country. Customs Information Committee member Nawaf Al-Mattar said a customs inspector suspected a passenger and found two pieces of hashish in his luggage. He added that a European woman had 500 illicit tablets on her.

### Body found

A citizen's body was recovered by the coroner after it was found in the parking lot of Ardiya medical center. A patient called police, but when they arrived, they found the person was already dead. Al-Rai reported yesterday. An investigation was opened into the case.

### Kidnap case

As the public prosecution ordered the continued detention of the suspects in the kidnapping of a lawyer, other surprises have appeared in the four Egyptians' confessions - that they filmed the lawyer who hired them to blackmail him after leaving Kuwait. It was found that the suspect lawyer had planted a tracking device in the victim's car and linked it to his mobile to monitor all his movements. The public prosecution began interrogations of the lawyer, who is accused of hiring the four expats to kidnap and torture another lawyer in exchange of KD 1,000 each. Al-Rai daily reported yesterday.

The lawyer denied the expats' claims, but they said they have a tape of him torturing his colleague, which they made in order to blackmail him. The suspect lawyer insisted on denying the torture, but the surprise was that police also discovered that he himself filmed the kidnapped lawyer in his farm with his hands cuffed and his head covered with a bag. But suspect still denied filming the victim, adding that he has nothing to do with him. When police searched the lawyer's house, they found the victim's wallet and his phone. When his farm was searched, the victim's car keys were found there.



**KUWAIT:** Drugs found with passengers arrested at Kuwait International Airport's Terminal 4 yesterday.

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