

KUWAIT'S MINISTER URGES USE OF SAFER ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

KUWAIT JOINS FORUM ON INNOVATION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE



TOKYO: Kuwait's Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa during plenary session in the Innovation for Cool Earth Forum (ICEF).



TOKYO: Education Minister Dr Bader Al-Essa, Ambassador to Japan Abdulrahman Al-Otaibi, Undersecretary Dr Hamed Al-Azemi pose for a group photo. —KUNA

TOKYO: Kuwait's Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa yesterday urged the international community to strive for a world with a healthy environment, more sustainable and free from pollution. At the plenary session in the Innovation for Cool Earth Forum (ICEF) focusing on future perspective of addressing climate change through innovation, Dr Al-Essa stressed that replacing the use of gas and harmful chemicals with safer alternatives, is one step countries may take to improve on climate changes and reduce pollution.

"Many countries have responded to repeated calls for a healthy, sustainable environment and reducing the negative effects that industries impact on the climate. On the other hand, some countries contribute to environmental pollution, destruction of the climate and changes in the earth's temperature, by allowing industries to continue with poor practices and protocols," the minister, who heads the Kuwaiti delegation, pointed out.

"It is the duty of scientists, industry owners, policy makers and countries in general, to work towards a more healthy and sustainable environment by improving current policies, creating new tools and developing new technologies to that affect." While confirming that all countries are held accountable at the legal, political and humanitarian levels to the current status of pollution and global warming, Dr Al-Essa underlined the bigger responsibilities of industrial nations towards the environmental issues, saying, "Industrial countries are required to be more stringent with enforcing the law to protect the environment and human health."

Three Zero initiatives

The two-day conference gathers more than 1,000 researchers, business

leaders, and policymakers from around the world to share a vision and establish partnerships for lasting global reduction in greenhouse gases through innovative low-carbon technologies. Muhammad Yunus, 2006 Nobel Peace Prize laureate and Chairman of the Bangladesh-based Yunus Centre, called for "three Zero initiatives-Zero poverty, Zero unemployment and Zero net emission-to attain the vision of sustainable development goals that improve human lives.

As an example of popularizing solar energy in Bangladesh, Yunus, renowned microfinance pioneer and founder of Grameen Bank, also said his non-profit energy company has successfully installed more than 1.6 million solar home systems in the country's rural areas over the past 18 years. The Kuwaiti delegation includes Ambassador to Japan Abdulrahman Al-Otaibi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education Dr Hamed Al-Azemi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education Dr Haitham Al-Athari, Secretary General of the Private Universities Council Dr Habib Abul, Director General of the Applied Education and Training Dr Ahmad Al-Athari, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Kuwait University Dr Firyal Bou-Rabee.

Based on a proposal by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Tokyo launched the ICEF last year to provide a global platform, where the world's leading policy makers, business persons, and researchers can meet and cooperate with each other to address climate change through innovation. This year's annual meeting is a critical opportunity to discuss innovative measures ahead of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris due November, which will adopt a new international framework in tackling climate change. —KUNA

News

in brief



KUWAIT: Board Chairman and Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Duaij Al-Sabah received Dr Abdullah Al-Muhareb and Dr Ahmed Oqlah Al-Anzi. —KUNA

STATE-APPROVED TENDERS REACH AROUND KD 600M

KUWAIT: Number of tenders that were approved in Q3 2015 reached 73 and valued at approximately KD 596.4 million, covering State departments and sectors namely - the oil sector, the Central Tenders Committee announced yesterday. The estimated value of the overall presented tenders amounted to KD 761.3 million, the committee said in a statement, also noting that it held a meeting to discuss issues related to the public tendering. The value of the endorsed bids for enterprises in the oil sector, during the same period of time, reached KD 169.26 million (10 tenders), and those covering government departments, some KD 592.11 million (63). The Ministry of Public Labor was on top - in terms of the number of the approved tenders, estimated at KD 251.17 million (5), followed by the Ministry of Electricity, some KD 133.98 million (11), then the Public Authority for Housing, around KD 45.99 million (1).

Information Minister: Gulf tourism 'bright'

DOHA: Kuwaiti Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah yesterday said that the tourism industry in the GCC countries will have a bright future - thanks to the GCC leaders' interest in this sector. The minister made upon his arrival in the Qatari capital to participate in the second meeting of GCC tourism ministers and officials. The meeting is expected to discuss means of promoting tourism among GCC countries through a long-term strategy and the involvement of the private sector in tourism. On arrival, Sheikh Salman Sabah was welcomed by Kuwaiti Ambassador to Qatar Meteb Saleh Al-Mutotah and a number of embassy's staff.

Iraq approves economic agreement with Kuwait

BAGHDAD: The Iraqi government has approved a draft bill regarding technical and economic cooperation with Kuwait and referred it to the parliament for final approval. In its ordinary session, the Iraqi Cabinet said in a statement that it endorsed the bill signed with Kuwait in June of 2013 and referred it for approval in accordance with the constitution. During the visit of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to Iraq in 2013, the two governments signed a number of memorandums of understanding on environmental, diplomatic, economic and higher education cooperation. According to the Iraqi Constitution, all agreements signed by the government with other countries should be endorsed first by the parliament before coming into effect.

KUNA Chairman receives ALECSO, UNESCO's chiefs

KUWAIT: Board Chairman and Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Duaij Al-Sabah yesterday received the Director General of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) Dr Abdullah Al-Muhareb and the Secretary General of the Kuwait National Commission for UNESCO Dr Ahmed Oqlah Al-Anzi. Talks during the meeting tackled the role played by KUNA to highlight the activities of international and regional organizations operating in Kuwait and support these efforts for the dissemination of culture and science in the world. Dr Al-Anzi reviewed the various activities carried out by the Kuwait National Commission for UNESCO, headed by the Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and its efforts to strengthen cooperation with various international organizations concerned. Sheikh Mubarak stressed keenness of KUNA to cooperate with various cultural and scientific institutions to enhance efforts aimed at the service of humanity. Sheikh Mubarak later received cultural and media affairs counselor at the US Embassy Charles Cole on the occasion of assuming his new post in Kuwait. Deputy Director General for Administrative and Financial Affairs and Communications Abdulhameed Malak and Deputy Director-General for Editorial Sector Saad Al-Ali attended the two meetings.

CABINET APPROVES PAYS NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KUWAIT: The Cabinet has approved the new board of directors of the Public Authority for Youth and Sports (PAYS) chaired by the Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth. The PAYS board of director also comprises as members the director-general of the PAYS, representatives from the ministries of education, health, information ministry and the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) and a number of experts.

The step was taken during the Cabinet's customary meeting held at Seif Palace on Monday under chairmanship of Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. At the onset of the meeting, the ministers were apprised of a recent letter sent to His Highness the Amir from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the head of the Permanent Committee for Economic and Trade Cooperation (COMSEC) (on its 31st session due in Istanbul on November 23-26), Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said in a statement following the meeting.

They were then briefed on a letter sent to His Highness the Prime Minister from his Spanish counterpart Mariano Rajoy Brey, inviting him to attend a high-level debate on women, peace and security due in New York on October 13 under chairmanship of the Spanish premier, he said. The Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister also made a briefing on His Highness the Amir's participation in sustainable development and anti-terrorism summits on the sidelines of the 70th UN General Assembly session.

He expounded on His Highness the Amir's speeches during the gathering and the outcomes of the 70th UN General Assembly session, together with the findings of the ministerial meeting of the foreign ministers of the

GCC member states and several sisterly and friendly countries on the sidelines of the recent UN session in New York.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled also elaborated the outcomes of the recent meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) ministerial council held under his chairmanship on the sidelines of a recent UNSC session on international peace and security, conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa and regional terrorism.

Furthermore, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled kept the ministers posted on the findings of the third ministerial meeting of the Arab-African Partnership Coordination Committee held under his chairmanship on the sidelines of the 70th UN General Assembly session. He pointed out His Highness the Amir's initiatives on investment and development in Africa and existing cooperation between Arab and African countries. During the weekly cabinet meeting, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled voiced pleasure at Kuwait's position at both Gulf and Arab levels.

Afterwards, the cabinet listened to a presentation from Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah on his participation in the celebration of the Kuwaiti National Day at Expo Milan 2015, representing His Highness the Premier. The celebration aimed to promote Kuwait's world position and contributions to civilization and humanity across the world, he said, adding that the status which Kuwait enjoys at the international level is the fruit of the wise policy and farsightedness of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince, along with His Highness the Premier's governmental efforts. Finally, the cabinet discussed political reports at the latest Arab and international levels. —KUNA



NBK 'I DREAM TO BE' INITIATIVE GRANTS ALI'S WISH TO BECOME A COMMANDO

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) continues its "I Dream to Be" initiative, a first-of-a-kind initiative that aims at granting wishes for children with severe illnesses and special needs around Kuwait, giving them the chance to live their dreams. Ali Tariq Ali who is undergoing treatment at NBK Hospital, has always dreamt to become a commando. NBK and the Moral Guidance and Public Relations of Kuwait Armed Forces helped him make his dream come true.

NBK's family organized a visit for Ali to the Kuwait Armed Forces, where Ali was given his own commando outfit. Brigadier General Khaled Al Obaidi - Commander of the Brigade Commandos with a group of commanders, alongside with Ali's family and NBK team had a tour in the place and

know all the commandos tasks and trainings through participating in some commandos activities like rope climbing, tank driving, aiming, shooting and many other commando tasks.

Kuwait Armed Forces teams greeted Ali with a big commandos show, giving him precious memorabilia that will help with his future as a commando. "Ali's dream to become a commando is yet another wish granted through NBK's initiative 'I dream to be'. We are proud to be a part of the children's dreams and expand our support to

them as much as possible," said Joanne Al Abdul Jaleel, NBK Public Relations Officer.

"I Dream to Be" initiative is a lifetime experience for children not only with life-threatening conditions but children with special needs as well," she added. "This initiative is a great way to spread joy and show that there's always a positive side to a difficult situation. We ask children what they want to be and try to fulfill that for them." NBK gives top priority to children through its commitment to corporate social responsibility. NBK works closely with the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospitals (KACCH), Bayt Abdullah for the Care of Children in Hospice (BACCH) and several other special needs organizations to maximize their reach to all the children in numerous hospitals and schools.

NBK has been at the forefront of supporting Kuwait's community through a range of initiatives towards education, health, sports and social responsibilities. The establishment of NBK's Children Hospital for Oncology and Hematology at Al Sabah Medical Area stands as one of many ongoing corporate social initiatives towards health and children. "I Dream to Be" aims at focusing and supporting NBK's efforts towards children and addressing their needs as much as possible.



ARABS MULL EMERGENCY SESSION ON TERROR THREATS, INTERFERENCE

TUNIS: Deputy Speaker of the Arab Parliament and member of the Kuwaiti National Assembly Mohammad Al-Jabri has announced that the Arab Parliament is considering a proposal to hold an emergency session to discuss the terror threats and foreign interferences in Arab affairs. In statements to KUNA and Kuwait TV, Al-Jabri stated that the proposed session would thoroughly study the recent terror attacks on Arab countries as well as the Arab response to non-Arab countries interference in Arab affairs.

He noted that the Arab Parliament's General Committee members will visit Kuwait soon to meet Chairman of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union and National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim to discuss the holding the emergency session in cooperation with the Arab League. Meanwhile, Al-Jabri noted that members of the Arab Parliament's General Committee met the Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebbi and discussed the latest developments in the Arab region and the efforts to overcome challenges facing the region. Al-Jabri is currently in a visit Tunisia, as a member of a Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation, to partake in the Arab Parliament meeting there.

Proxy-wars in Syria

Meanwhile, the European Parliament debated the situation in Syria during its full session in Strasbourg yesterday with speakers warning that the Russian military intervention will further complicate the situation. "A military escalation and a civil war will lead nowhere. It will only prolong the agony of the conflict. Fighting terrorism is one thing, in Syria it means fighting the groups defined as terrorists by the UN, including Daesh (ISIL) and Jibhat Al Nusra," said Nicolas Schmit, minister of labor, employment and social economy of Luxembourg whose country holds the current EU Presidency. He was speaking on behalf of EU High Representative Federica Mogherini who did not attend the debate. He noted that the EU has spent 4 billion euros to deal with the Syrian refugee crisis and added that "faced with the additional flows of refugees this year, we are going to spend more." Elmar Brok, head of the EP's foreign affairs committee, said "I have the impression that it is a second level of proxy-war here, involving Russia and America." "So the question is to what extent can Russia stabilize its position as power on the long term through its actions in Syria, and how can America prevent that," he said. —Agencies



KUALA LUMPUR: Kuwaiti Ambassador to Malaysia Saad Al-Asousi (right) seen with Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister Sri Reezal Merican Bin Naina Merican. —KUNA

Kuwait's Ambassador and Malaysia deputy FM meet

KUALA LUMPUR: Kuwaiti Ambassador to Malaysia Saad Al-Asousi discussed with Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister Sri Reezal Merican Bin Naina Merican issues concerning Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States and Malaysia. Al-Asousi said that Malaysia has played an important role towards political and economic developments - particularly, Malaysia (this year) chairs the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).