



KUWAIT: Kuwait OPEC Governor Nawal Al-Fuzaia (left) attends a forum at the oil ministry yesterday. — KUNA

SIGNS POINT TO DEAL ON OIL OUTPUT: KUWAIT OPEC OFFICIAL

KUWAIT: All signs suggest a meeting of oil-producing countries on April 17 will deliver an agreement to freeze output, Kuwait's OPEC governor and two sources said, suggesting Iran's aim to raise supply will not scupper a deal aimed at supporting prices.

The Kuwaiti governor, Nawal Al-Fuzaia, also said in a speech at the country's oil ministry that she expected the oil market to achieve a balance between supply and demand in the second half of this year, leading to higher average prices.

"There are positive indications an agreement will be reached during this meeting ... an initial agreement on freezing production," she said. The OPEC governor is usually a country's No. 2 OPEC official, after the oil minister.

Two other sources familiar with the issue said the initiative remained on track, even though comments by Saudi Arabia's deputy crown prince in an interview with Bloomberg last week had dampened hopes of an accord. "Yes, there will be a deal," said one of the sources, an OPEC delegate from outside the Gulf. "The freeze will be done."

Confident

A Gulf oil source said he was confident of achieving a deal at the meeting, to be held in Doha, the capital of Qatar. An initial output freeze agreed in February has

helped oil prices rise to almost \$38 a barrel from a 12-year low close to \$27 in January. Still, prices have fallen in recent days on doubts that a wider deal will be reached. It could go higher by the latter part of the year. The Brent crude price is expected to average between \$45 and \$60 in the second half of 2016 and until 2018, the Kuwaiti governor said.

Fuzaia did not elaborate on what signs pointed to an agreement in Doha, but said producers might agree to freeze their output at February levels, or at an average of January and February levels. The original proposal in February by Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Venezuela - members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries - plus non-OPEC Russia, was for a freeze at January's production levels.

Iran

On Iran's plans to increase oil output, which Tehran has said it will not abandon, Fuzaia said rising Iranian production was not in itself a problem. However, there is a problem with Iran's ability to sell this additional quantity into a saturated market amid weak demand, she said. Iran is looking to boost output following the lifting of Western sanctions in January. Analysts including the International Energy Agency say the increase has so far been gradual.—Reuters

ALGHANIM INDUSTRIES SPONSORS TEDxALSHUWAIKH EVENT IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Alghanim Industries, one of the largest privately owned companies in the region, was the lead sponsor of the first official TEDx event to be held in Kuwait, titled TEDxAlShuwaikh. The event was held in the end of March 2016 at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) campus in Shuwaikh.

The theme of the talks was ">me" (Greater Than Me), which aimed at inspiring the youth to be the source of positive change within their communities so that they may in turn inspire the same in others across the world. The event was hosted by renowned Kuwaiti media figure Abdullah Bouftain, who introduced the diverse roster of speakers, which included: Eng Ali Al-Youha, Secretary General of the Kuwait National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters; Dr Hilal Al-Sayer and his wife Margaret Al Sayer, founders of the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospitals (KACCH) and Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice (BAACH); Catherine Silliman, expert in international relations, and wife of the American Ambassador to Kuwait; Balsam Al-Ayoub, athlete and former professional fencing champion; Dr Fatemah Al-Mosawi, geneticist and founder of Spread the Passion, a non-profit organization that connects volunteers to opportunities while developing their skills. Each of the keynote speakers shared inspiring

stories about themselves to help create greater positive change in Kuwait.

Abdulleatef Al-Sharikh, Head of the Corporate Communications Department at Alghanim Industries, commented on the event, saying, "As part of our long term commitment to serving the community, we strive to do everything we can to help the underprivileged, support education, and encourage entrepreneurship in Kuwait and around the world. We at Alghanim Industries have an obligation towards making our region a better place, and we are delighted to see such prominent figures in Kuwait who share our passion for spreading a message that we have always focused on as a company. I would also like to thank the organizers of TEDxAlShuwaikh for their outstanding efforts in putting together the first official event of its kind in Kuwait, and for shining a spotlight on a topic of vital importance."

The support for entrepreneurship falls under Alghanim Industries' corporate social responsibilities initiatives. The company has goals towards youth empowerment, supporting education, and helping entrepreneurs grow. Alghanim Industries was also the platinum sponsor of Start-up Weekend Kuwait, and has provided the highest number of employee volunteers in the country for the Injaz-Kuwait organization.



Abdullah Bouftain speaks at the event.

MINISTER CONFIRMS HIRING PALESTINIAN TEACHERS

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa reiterated that the ministry intends to hire Palestinian teachers soon, saying that he would visit Palestine before the holy month of Ramadan in June to sign the needed agreements on that regard. Palestinian News Agency (Wafa) recently quoted Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Rami Tahboub, saying that Kuwait will officially hire Palestinian teachers starting from 2017.

In other news, Essa said that public schools will next year accept children of stateless people who have the 1965 census documents, as well as children of military personnel and retirees. He



Dr Bader Al-Essa

added that Farwaniya and Jahra were densely populated and, thus, new 'bedoon' students might be sent to schools in other governorates.

DEPUTY FM HOPES YEMENI PARTIES' MEETING IN KUWAIT ENDS CONFLICT

KUWAIT, RUSSIA HOLD SECOND ROUND OF POLITICAL TALKS

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah said yesterday that Kuwait is doing its best to host Yemeni parties' meeting slated for April 18, expressing his hope that it would end the conflict and address humanitarian situations there.

Jarallah made the remarks to reporters after talks with visiting Russian Deputy Foreign Minister and Special Presidential Envoy for the Middle East and North Africa Mikhail Bogdanov at the Foreign Ministry's headquarters yesterday. "We are optimistic about negotiations and think atmospheres are ripe to achieve positive results," he said.

He said some Yemeni parties agreed to organize a workshop on fixing the ceasefire deal to be announced on April 10, indicating that the European Union is exerting efforts to make a successful workshop to be organized today.

Comprehensive agreement

Meanwhile, Baghanov said in a similar statement that Kuwait's hosting of Yemen's negotiations is a chance to reach a comprehensive agreement that could end the crisis and help Yemeni parties resume political dialogue.

He added that Russia is working and coordinating with Kuwait in this regard to support efforts of UN Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail

Ould Cheikh Ahmad. He noted that the Security Council pays much attention to Yemen's crisis, and there are resolutions aiming to end it. Kuwait's hosting of Yemen's negotiations reflects confidence of Yemeni people in His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, its government and people, he made clear.

The Russian official stressed that all parties of Yemen are pinning hopes on Kuwait to make successful negotiations so as to lead to a permanent ceasefire deal and address problems based on a comprehensive dialogue and a consensus between Yemenis.

During a weekly meeting of the Cabinet, Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed ministers on Kuwait's current preparations for hosting the Yemeni parties' meeting, in the presence of UN representatives. The Cabinet welcomed hosting the meeting, voicing its hope that the event would lead to positive results to stop the bloodshed of Yemenis, and help Yemen restore security, stability and peace.

Second round of talks

Jarallah held discussions earlier yesterday with the visiting Russian Deputy Foreign Minister and his delegation. The second round of political talks between Kuwait and Russia reviewed bilateral relations and latest



KUWAIT: Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov (right) speaks to the press next to Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah at Kuwait's foreign ministry in Kuwait City yesterday.

— Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

regional and international developments. The meeting was attended by Director of the Foreign Ministry's Europe affairs department Ambassador Waleed Ali Al-Khubaizi, Director of the Undersecretary's Office Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar and Russian Ambassador to Kuwait. The first round of talks between Kuwait and Russia was held in Moscow last year. Earlier, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled received the visiting Russian official and his delegation at Bayan Palace. — KUNA

KU COLLEGE HOSTS CHINESE DAY EXHIBITION

By Meshal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Kuwait University's (KU) College of Social Sciences organized a Chinese Day exhibition yesterday which was attended by university officials and professors. The event was held under the college's dean Prof Humoud Al-Qashaan and with attendance of Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Wang Di. Qashaan stressed that diplomatic relations usually build bridges between countries, adding that the exhibition was held to celebrate the 45th anniversary of Kuwaiti-Chinese relations. The head of the college's Asian Studies Unit Sahar Al-Ali said that a research competition was held to encourage college students study Kuwaiti-Chinese relations, adding that 17 students took part in it.



KUWAIT: Dean of Kuwait University's College of Social Sciences Prof Humoud Al-Qashaan and Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Wang Di inaugurate the exhibition. — Kuwait University photos



KUWAIT AIRWAYS SELECTS AEROLINE CREW TO IMPROVE CREW MANAGEMENT, PRODUCTIVITY

SHARJAH: Kuwait Airways - one of the pioneers of air travel in the Middle East has selected aeroLINE CREW from Information System Associates FZE (ISA) as their new Crew Management System. aeroLINE CREW is an unparalleled Crew Management System, built with latest cutting edge technologies, empowers airlines to significantly lower operating costs, improved operational efficiency and empowers crew members to manage their needs on their own. In February 2016, Kuwait Airways signed a contract with ISA to implement aeroLINE CREW, the industry leading Crew Management Solution.

Rasha Alroumi, the Chairperson of Kuwait Airways said that "I expect that the implementation of the aeroLINE CREW system will enhance the current operational performance of Kuwait Airways and reduce the operational cost significantly, which is in line with KAC's recently developed Business Plan. We look forward to seeing the added value the new system will bring to our operations". Nader Shukralla, Chief Executive Officer, ISA said: "We are glad to add Kuwait Airways to our list of partners. The selection of aeroLINE CREW system by one of the region's leading airlines demonstrates the capability of the product and its evolvement to a new level of performance within a short span of time".



MARTYRS BUREAU HONORS ACADEMIC CONTEST WINNERS

KUWAIT: Under the patronage of Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs and Deputy Chairman of the Martyrs Bureau's Board of Trustees Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah, a ceremony honoring the winners of an annual academic contest was held on Monday night. The contest is part of a campaign christened "Those are My Children", which was launched by the Amiri Diwan's Martyrs Bureau to immortalize the country's martyrs. The ceremony kicked off with the national anthem and verses from the holy Quran, followed by the screening of a documentary. Awards were then given to the winners of the contest, who were then serenaded by a band.

In a speech during the ceremony, Sheikh Ali said that the Amiri Diwan is grateful to all

efforts exerted to make the campaign a success. He also thanked the Ministry of Education for its contributions to the annual contest, which coincided with the country's national day celebrations.

"It is our obligation to always remember our martyrs, men who have given their blood to our homeland, paving the way for a prosperous life that we now enjoy," Sheikh Ali noted. "The memory of our martyrs will live for eternity in the heart of every Kuwaiti, and our country will always maintain its nationalistic unity," Sheikh Ali added. Sheikh Ali also wished the nation continued peace and prosperity, and for the people of Kuwait to continue to live in solidarity and harmony. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah (second from left) attends the ceremony. — Amiri Diwan photo