

KUWAIT LENDS SRI LANKA KD 10 MILLION

KUWAIT: Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) has signed a loan agreement with Sri Lanka yesterday at a value of KD 10 million (about \$34 million) to contribute to financing construction of a complex for the Faculty of Healthcare Sciences, Eastern University. The project aims at enhancing the socio-economic living standards of the people of Sri Lanka, through construction of the new Faculty of Health Care Sciences in Batticaloa City, and provision of quality health care services to the community, KFAED said in statement.

The venture includes construction and equipment of the main building, various service structures, internal feeder roads, furniture, research, medical and technical equipment and internet services. It also includes consultancy services for detailed designs, tender documents and supervision of construction. The Project is expected to be completed by end of 2019.

The loan agreement was signed on behalf of the Republic of Sri Lanka by Secretary Ministry of



KFAED and Sri Lankan officials pose for a group photo.

Finance R H S, Samaratinga, and on behalf of the Fund by Deputy Director-General of the KFAED Hesham Al-Waqayan, in attendance of Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Sri Lanka Khalaf Bu Dhair, and Regional Manager for East South Asian and Pacific Countries of Kuwait Fund Waleed Al-Bahar.

It is the 14th loan extended by

the fund to Sri Lanka, considering that KAFED had already extended 13 loans to it, totaling about KD 62.66 million (\$213 million). The fund has also extended to Sri Lanka technical assistance, worth KD 455, 000 (\$1.52 million) to finance technical and economic feasibility studies for projects in agricultural and energy sectors. — KUNA

TEDXALSHUWAIKH INSPIRES GREATER POSITIVE CHANGE

A CROWD, A LIGHT AND THE DESIRE TO INSPIRE

KUWAIT: TEDxAIshuwaikh, held yesterday at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research in Shuwaikh, highlighted experiences by speakers sharing their stories to inspire a greater positive change. The list of speakers included Dr Hilal Al Sayer, Catherine Silliman, Eng Ali Al Youha, Dr Fatma Al Mousawi and Balsam Al Ayoub. The journalist Abdullah Bouftain hosted the conference with contributions from artist Amira Behbehani, poet Nada Faris, Naheda Al-Baqsamee and Jaafar Al Saffar.

TEDxAIshuwaikh featured TEDTalks videos and original speak-

ers. In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. At a TEDx event, TEDTalks videos and live speakers combine to spark deep discussion and shed light on positive change by making a connection in a small group. These local, self-organized events are branded TEDx, where x=independently organized TED event. The TED Conference provides general guidance for the TEDx program, but individual TEDx events are self-organized.

TEDxAIshuwaikh received more

than 400 applicants to attend the one day conference that hopes to highlight positive change and inspire youth. According to the curator Nada Al Shammari "The extreme openness of the Global TED community is a catalyst for the openness of TEDxAIshuwaikh, which we are organizing in our community, one of the most diverse and culturally enriched communities in Kuwait." Tickets to attend TEDxAIshuwaikh were registration based. Live streaming was available on the day of the conference via <http://www.tedxalshuwaikh.com/live>

GCC TO CUT ROAMING RATES BY 40 PERCENT

KUWAIT: The Gulf Cooperation Council states will cut mobile phone roaming rates by 40 percent for users traveling through the six member states from April 1. The GCC General Secretariat made the announcement on its official Twitter account yesterday. The new rules will reduce the rates providers can charge for roaming - both making and receiving calls - and sending texts within the GCC. It's unclear how the new regulations will be implemented or how local providers will respond with rate changes. The new rules are part of a long term strategy for greater economic integration among GCC member states. Since 2013 the six nation bloc has been in talks on ways to strengthen economic cooperation and integration with a variety of measures including unified tariffs on mobile phones, customs and other trade-related issues.

VIP PLANES AUCTION

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Ministry of Finance has initiated a public auction of four aircraft from the government. The ministry's public invitation for bids includes three Gulfstream GV large-cabin, long-range business jets and an Airbus A310-300 VIP airliner, which have all been used by the government and operated by Kuwait Airways. Aviation website Flight Global reports that Flightglobal's Fleets Analyser database states that the Kuwaiti government has a fleet of 13 aircraft, including a G550, two G650s and two Airbus A340s. It also says the government is due to take delivery of a new flagship, Boeing 747-8, in the coming months. Four separate auctions will be held to dispose the aircraft from April 20 to May 2.

News

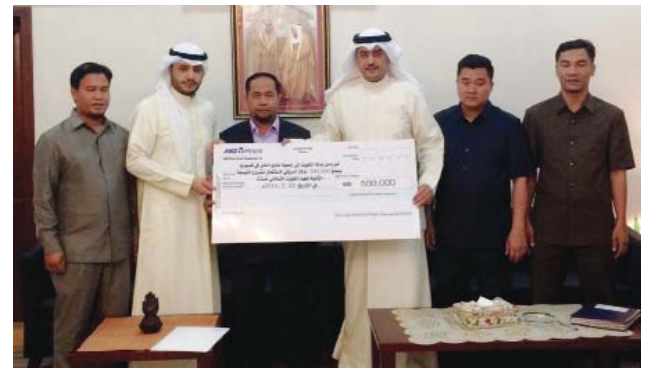
in brief

48 Kuwaitis among 411 TB cases in 2015

KUWAIT: Some 48 Kuwaitis are among 411 people diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB) in 2015, a senior Health Ministry official said yesterday. The ministry's Public Health Department Director Dr Yousuf Mendakar revealed the figures during a ceremony marking the World Tuberculosis Day (March 24). TB patients constitute about 9.7 percent of each 100,000 people, of the total population in Kuwait - about 4,239,279 million, he added. According to Mendakar, the rate among Kuwaitis, who are about 1,308,093 million of the population, hit 3.7 percent among each 100,000 people. As for expats, the rate is 12.4 percent in each 100,000 people. Mendakar highlighted government efforts to face the disease five decades ago. In 1956, the Health Ministry opened the TB Prevention Unit, which is considered the first defense line against the disease through early detection.

Kuwait, Switzerland discuss bilateral ties

BERN: Kuwait's visiting Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah held talks with Switzerland's Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter at the foreign ministry headquarters in the Swiss capital Wednesday. "The talks were positive and distinctive," Al-Jarallah said after his meeting with the Swiss minister, adding that such visits are part of efforts to boost the historic relations. "This year, we are marking the 50th anniversary of establishing the diplomatic ties between the two countries," he noted. He added that the Kuwaiti-Swiss ties have expanded over the years from focusing only on political relations to economic, investment, and cultural cooperation due to the common interests of the two countries.



Kuwait donates \$500,000 for Cambodian Islamic Charity

KUALA LUMPUR: Charge D'affaires at Kuwait embassy to Cambodia Mutib Al-Usaimi handed a cheque of \$500,000 to finance second expansion project of Kuwait Islamic Institute for Girls in the Asian country. The donation, granted by the Kuwaiti Government, was submitted to the Cambodian "Manabaa Al-Khair Charity," the Charge D'affaires Al-Usaimi said yesterday. "It comes within Kuwait's support of the project which involves construction of houses, classrooms and restrooms in addition to providing scholarships to female university students," the Kuwait diplomat added. "Kuwait is keen to continue providing humanitarian aid to concerned authorities in the Kingdom of Cambodia for development in various fields particularly education, health and infrastructure, at government and grass-root levels," Al-Usaimi said. Manabaa Al-Khair Charity Chairman Muhammad Yousuf, expressed deep gratitude to the Kuwaiti Government and people for the continuing huge charitable and humanitarian aid for the Cambodian people.

Prof Al-Ghunaim wins 'King Faisal International Prize'

RIYADH: Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud granted the King Faisal International Prize (KFIP) to President of the Kuwait Studies and Research Center Professor Abdullah Yusuf Al-Ghunaim on Wednesday in recognition of his efforts to document Muslim geography heritage. This came during his patronage of the delivering ceremony of the prize of 2016 in Riyadh earlier today. The ceremony was attended by dignitaries, intellectuals, academicians, scientists and literati from across the globe. Al-Ghunaim was awarded the prize in recognition of his geographical books: "The Pearls" and "The Arabic Geographic Heritage", in addition to his unprecedented record of earthquakes in his book: "Arabic Register of Earthquakes." Al-Ghunaim is the second Kuwaiti scholar to win the top-level award after Dr Abdulrahman Al-Sumait, who won it in 1996 in recognition of his great efforts in serving Islam worldwide.