

Photo

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KUWAIT: Photo shows a heron hunting for food. Herons are long-legged freshwater and coastal birds in the family Ardeidae, with 64 recognized species, some of which are referred to as 'egrets' or 'bitterns' rather than herons. The Heron finds shelter at Kuwait Bay. — KUNA

ARAB FMS LAUDS KUWAIT

FMS CONDEMN IRANIAN HOSTILE REMARKS AGAINST ARABS

CAIRO: Arab foreign ministers have commended Kuwait's plans to host international conferences on suffering of rights of Palestinian children (due next October) and education in Somalia. The foreign ministers praised OIC's decision to open an office in Ramallah, and urged the UNSC to condemn anew Israel's settlement policy in the occupied Palestinian lands and called for forcing the occupying authority to end the illegal and systematic settlement expansion. They welcomed all international efforts to end Israeli occupation to ultimately establish independent Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

They called for providing an international protection for the Palestinian people, welcomed the EU's condemnation of the Israeli illegal settlements, called for documenting the Israeli violations against the Palestinian people and called on Palestine to join international agreements and organizations.

The foreign ministers supported all PLO's resolutions, and the struggle of the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation, urged the international community to hold Israel responsible for the crimes committed against the Palestinians, and said they were committed to the right of return

of the Palestinians.

Meanwhile, the foreign ministers urged Arab countries and organizations to actively participate in Kuwait-hosted conference on education in Somalia. They welcomed the Somali national reconciliation process and efforts of rebuilding the state institutions, condemned all criminal and terrorist acts against the Somali people and AU mission. The ministers, on the other hand, expressed solidarity with the government of Sudan and rejected interference in its affairs as well as US sanctions.

Iranian hostilities

Also, Arab Foreign Ministers condemned the repeated Iranian officials' hostile remarks against Arab countries. The remarks were made during the 146th session of the Arab League Council with regard to Iranian meddling in Arab countries affairs. The council called on the Iranian government to end hostile and instigating remarks and put an end to media campaign against Arab countries, which the council considers blunt interference into Arab internal affairs.

The ministers also called on the importance of cooperation between Arab countries and Iran based on the good neighboring principals and put an

end to using force or threat. The ministers also considered Iran's meddling into Arab internal affairs a violation to international law and countries' sovereignty. Meanwhile, on a different topic, the Arab ministers renewed their condemnation to all type of terrorist action, form, and practices regardless of the perpetrators or motives. The ministers also refused to connect terrorism with any religion, nationality, or any civilization, and the need to work to combat terrorism.

The ministers also called on all Arab countries to sign Arab combating terrorism agreement, and Arab related agreements in this regard. The statement also noted on the Arab League' general secretariat efforts in preparing Arab countries needs in building the legal and international formation, including providing a legal assistance to improve employee work in the judicial field and those responsible for implementing the law.

The ministers mentioned support cooperation between Arab League countries, regional, and international organizations with regard to combating terrorism, calling as well on all countries to stop all forms of support to groups or individuals accused of terrorism work. — Agencies

ARAB MINISTERS AGREE TO ESTABLISH A COMMON MARKET FOR ELECTRICITY

CAIRO: The Arab Foreign Ministers have approved in their 146th session a MoU for establishing an Arab common market for electricity, a senior Arab League official said yesterday. The approval is based on a desire of the Arab countries to make more progress in electricity trading among the Arab power link groups, the League's Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs Dr Mohammed Bin Ibrahim Al-Tuwaijri added in a press statement.

These groups are the Arab Maghreb (Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco), Eight Country Interconnection Project (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Turkey) and the Interconnection Project and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Power Grid Interconnection Project. The proposed market aims to obtain the utmost results of power supply on the short and long terms, he noted.

The timetable for establishing the market includes a founding stage, in cooperation with the World Bank and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. It will be devoted for the preparation of a technical and economic feasibility study. It also covers developing the founding and legislative frameworks. Four stages will then follow for the period 2019-2038 to design the market and expand it in order to achieve an integrated Arab interconnection grid.

Meanwhile, the price of Kuwaiti crude oil went up Thursday \$1.31 to \$42.48 per barrel after it was at \$41.17 pb the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. Oil prices shot upward on Thursday after weekly data showed a sharp and surprising decline in US stockpiles of crude oil and fuel. The unexpected drop in US oil supplies was due to bad weather that kept cargoes of oil and fuel from reaching US ports. In the US, federal data showed crude-oil stockpiles fell by 14.5 million barrels last week, the biggest drop since 1999 and the second-biggest decline on record in weekly data going back to 1982, according to the US Energy Information Administration. — Agencies