

## Local

# 10 schools to be offered to investors as part of plan to privatize education

## CSC suspends hiring expatriate advisors in public sector

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The supreme privatization council's advisory committee is currently considering setting a system to allow international companies to invest in Kuwait's educational sector. It aims to bring American, Chinese and Korean experiences to Kuwait using public-private-partnership (PPP) or build-operate-transfer (BOT) systems and attracting these companies by offering more incentives and facilities that would achieve long and short-term profits, said informed sources.

The sources added that the purpose of offering 10 public schools for privatization is driven by a need to gradually develop education through PPP, making use of the sums allocated for education in the budget as well as cutting the cost of education, bearing in mind that education consumes around 15 percent of the state budget. The sources said that Ministry of Education's technical office statistics show that educating a public school student costs the state KD 15,000 until finishing high school, a medicine student annually costs KD 100,000 while other university students annually cost KD 7,350 per student, which are large sums compared to the cost of studying in European and American universities.

The sources also noted that the privatization project will help the private sector invest in education, especially since teachers' salaries already consume 93 percent of Kuwait's education budget. Moreover, the sources said Korean companies will be invited to invest in Kuwait in an experimental phase during

which the private sector will be given 10 schools to rebuild and run for 20 years.

### Advisors' hiring

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) suspended appointing expatriate advisors in the public sector and restricted such positions to citizens alone as recommended by the Fatwa and Legislation Department, as part of a policy of replacing expatriates working in state departments with Kuwaitis. In a different concern, well-informed sources at CSC announced that the registration of children of Kuwaiti women in the job application system has not officially opened and that CSC is still technically studying the topic to set up the needed database, and start with jobs that cannot be filled by citizens.

Separately, the Credit Bank's deputy chairman and managing director Salah Al-Mudhaf said the bank had 'Kuwaitized' its staff members in record time. Speaking during the graduation of the first batch of newly-appointed employees at the bank's training center,



during which new recruits were briefed about the bank's regulations and loan conditions as well as other skills needed in their career.

### Court cases

The criminal court yesterday ordered closing down the 'Wathakker' Islamic preaching center and sentenced its owner to five years in prison for slandering a Muslim doctrine. The criminal court also annulled the public prosecution's decision on shelving the 'Dow Chemical' report and ordered reopening the penal case filed against some Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) officials. Meanwhile, the misdemeanor court sentenced a lawyer to three months

in prison over a hoax report and disturbing the authorities by calling the police operator and claiming the presence of a vehicle full of explosives outside his house. In another case, the court adjourned hearing a state security case filed against Abdullah Al-Saleh for slandering UAE and its rulers till Jan 21.

### Cold wave expected

Meteorologist Abdul Aziz Al-Qarawi expected warm weather and southeasterly winds will continue until this evening, when a cold northwesterly moderate wind of speeds between 15-45 kilometers per hour will affect Kuwait. Qarawi added that this shift will make temperature drop by 6-8 degrees centigrade and that cold weather is predicted until the beginning of next week.



## 'Wathakker' center's owner jailed

Mudhaf stressed that youth are the nation's assets. He explained that the training course lasted for three months,

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) officials. Meanwhile, the misdemeanor court sentenced a lawyer to three months

### News in brief

#### Kuwait donation to reimburse 272 factories in Gaza

**GAZA:** A sum of \$2.1 million of the Kuwaiti donation for the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip will be disbursed to finance a number of industrial facilities damaged during the Israeli war, the Palestinian government said yesterday. Palestinian Minister of Public Works and Housing Mufeed Hasayneh said in a press statement that 272 destroyed industrial enterprises during the Israeli aggression would benefit from the sum. In the name of the Palestinian leadership and people, Hasayneh thanked His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) and the Kuwaiti people for their non-stop support to the Palestinian people. In October 2014, Kuwait pledged \$200 million as part of the \$5.4 billion donation made at Cairo's donors conference for the Gaza Strip. — KUNA

#### KPC signs LNG deal with Shell Global

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) signed a long-term deal with Shell Global to receive supplies of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), said a statement yesterday. A press release by KPC said that the deal would help attend to the increasing demand for energy in Kuwait. The LNG deal will provide fuel to power stations in Kuwait, the KPC indicated. It added that LNG is a clean source of energy that will protect the environment from pollutants. — KUNA

#### ALECSO key to keep hurdles at bay: League chief

**CAIRO:** The Arab League's Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) is instrumental in staving off numerous challenges thrust upon the Arab region, the bloc's secretary general Ahmad Abul-Gheit said yesterday. In a meeting with ALECSO's newly-appointed director general of Kuwait Dr Saud Al-Harbi, the Arab League's head underlined the need for Arab nations to work closely together to ameliorate the region's educational and cultural sectors. Abul-Gheit acknowledged ALECSO's contributions towards overall growth and development, according to a statement by the Arab League. On the spread of radical ideologies, the statement cited the Arab League chief as saying that a solid education system can help promote the virtue of moderation across social spectrums. — KUNA

#### US Dollar stable against Kuwait Dinar

**KUWAIT:** The exchange rate of the US dollar was stable at KD 0.301, same as the Euro with KD 0.358, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) yesterday. On its daily bulletin, CBK added that the rate of the Sterling Pound was also stable at KD 0.403, while the Swiss Franc was down to KD 0.305 rate. The Japanese Yen remained stable at KD 0.002. — KUNA

## Domestic helpers' trade network busted

**KUWAIT:** Detectives raided a luxury apartment and arrested several expat women who worked for a network that traded in domestic helpers. The owner swindled citizens and expats by sending helpers to work for a few days, who then escaped and returned to the apartment. A citizen complained to the domestic help department at the interior ministry's residency directorate against the office, saying that a helper worked for him for 48 hours, then escaped. A source said that an undercover agent called the office and hired three helpers, who were later arrested and led police to the apartment, where several other women were found.

### Theft

An Egyptian man told Riqqa police that two employees, an Egyptian and a Filipino, stole from the till of a coffee shop they work in, and it was discovered they were making deposits into their personal accounts.

### No injuries

Firemen put out a blaze in a pharmacy in Mubarakiya. Capital and Hilali centers responded and dealt with the fire. No injuries were reported. The blaze was caused by faulty wiring, according to investigations.

### Search for ingrate son

A bedoon woman told Sabahiya police that her son, a citizen, beat her and her daughters, then escaped. The woman gave police medical reports as she lodged a complaint. The suspect is being sought by authorities. — Translated from the Arabic press



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