

# CABINET DEEPLY ADMIRES AMIR'S CONCILIATION EFFORTS

## MINISTERS DISCUSS RECOMMENDATION ON PLANS FOR KUWAITI ISLANDS, SILK CITY

**KUWAIT:** The Cabinet at the weekly regular session yesterday expressed deep appreciation for His Highness the Amir's relentless efforts to tackle differences among brotherly States. The Cabinet expressed great pride and appreciation for the positive and responsible role, relentless efforts made by His Highness the Amir aimed at tackling rifts among the brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), according to a statement read by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah following the session. The Cabinet expressed confidence that these blessed efforts would effectively contribute to ensuring success of the efforts for achieving solidarity among the Arab Gulf States at the leaderships and peoples' levels, so they may restore unity and realize aspirations upon which the Gulf Cooperation Council for the Arabian Gulf States was founded. The session, held at Bayan Palace under the chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, got started with a briefing by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

### Good-will efforts

Sheikh Sabah Khaled informed the ministers about outcome of the good-will and intensive efforts as well as the recent visits paid by His Highness the Amir to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the State of Qatar in the aftermath of the dispute that developed among the sisterly States. The minister talked about contents of the discussions His Highness had held with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, UAE Deputy President, Prime Minister and Dubai Ruler Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashed Al-Maktoum, the UAE Crown Prince and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and Amir of the State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. His Highness had examined, during the meetings, history of the brotherly and distinctive relations among the GCC states and means of tackling and containing "the emerging situation in a manner that would safeguard unity and stability of the GCC peoples particularly in shadow of the critical conditions in the region." He also briefed the ministers about the 8th session of the Kuwait-Oman Supreme Commission, which had been held in Kuwait, with attendance of the Omani Official in Charge of Foreign Affairs Yusuf bin Alawi.

### Silk City

The Cabinet was informed about a recommendation by the Economic Affairs Commission on plans for the Kuwaiti islands and



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet's session yesterday. —KUNA

Madinat Al-Hareer (Silk City). It decided to task the apparatus for developing the city (Al-Sabbiyah) and Boubyan Island, in coordination with the Supreme Council for Planning and Development and other relevant authorities, to take necessary measures and unify the perspective and outlooks and coordinating executive steps for these projects. The commission is also to be advised to conduct feasibility studies, in view of the Supreme Council islands' development plans. The Council was briefed about a recommendation regarding the final report of the economic feasibility study commission for launching a communication satellite. It was referred to the supreme council for examination.

Moreover, the Cabinet examined a recommendation by the commission on the annual report 2016 about the projects of the partnership projects between the private and public sectors. The ministers furthermore examined a report by the Ministry of Justice (April 2017) including information about public funds. —KUNA

## TIGHT BUDGET COULD LIMIT SCHOLARSHIPS

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Higher Education is currently sending students on scholarships to ten countries, Australia, France, the UK, the US, Ireland, the UAE, Malta, Canada, Bahrain and New Zealand, assistant undersecretary for scholarships and cultural relations Fatima Al-Sannan said. "The ministry is considering adding more countries as scholarship destinations," she said, noting that it was difficult to predict the total number of students to be accepted in the scholarships

program this year because the ministry only has a limited budget of KD 28 million.

Meanwhile, MP Khalil Abul warned the government of the consequences on what he described as plans to reduce the number of scholarships. Abul stressed that announcing the minimum grades needed to be accepted in the scholarship program proves that the government was still unaware of the significance of human resources. "The government is willing to pay millions on marginal projects yet it reduces the number of scholarships," he underlined.



**KUWAIT:** Workers use newspapers as head covers to protect themselves from the sun while waiting at a bus stop in Kuwait City. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## HEAT BRINGS NEW POWER CONSUMPTION RECORD

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Power consumption rates reached record levels of 13,440 megawatts on Sunday under a temperature that reached a maximum of 49 C degrees, a Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) official said yesterday. The previous record consumption rate, registered on August 15, 2016, was 13,390 megawatts, MEW Undersecretary Mohammad Boshherhi said. Kuwait has been affected by a heat wave this week with temperatures exceeding 50 C degrees.

### Home businesses

Applying for a free small business licenses require that the applicant has a post office box, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan stressed. Speaking to reporters a ghabqa held by the ministry of state for youth affairs following

a coordination meeting by Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MCI) and Kuwait Municipality officials, Roudhan noted that private residential areas will not be affected by home business licenses because they will not be developed into commercial stores. He added that the 'free licenses' will be mainly given for businesses such as software and website designs that can be done by an individual entrepreneur. Roudhan stressed that the new licenses will not be issued for citizens who are already government employees. Meanwhile, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammad Al-Jebri said that the new free licenses will bring joy to the hearts of so many Kuwaiti young men and women.

In other news, Municipal Council member and head of the legal and financial committee Ali Al-Moussa stressed that during its ordinary session held yesterday, the council approved the mobile trucks chart.

## DARTMOUTH COLLEGE AWARDS AUK'S SHEIKHA DANA AL-SABAH WITH HONORARY DOCTORATE

**NEW HAMPSHIRE:** US Ivy League member, Dartmouth College, awarded on Sunday Sheikh Dana Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah with a Doctorate of Humane Letters for founding Kuwait's first and only liberal arts university. Dartmouth, that is consistently ranked among the world's greatest academic institutions, recognized nine accomplished men and women including Sheikh Dana, the first Arab women, with honorary degrees at the College's 2017 Commencement. During his speech, President Phil Hanlon, acknowledged Al-Sabah's guidance to the institution as Chair of the Board of Trustees with "creativity, integrity, and a deep commitment to pluralism and global learning."

As a devoted partner to Dartmouth, Hanlon said Al-Sabah has enriched the experiences of students, faculty and staff at both institutions through "robust cross-cultural internships, fellowships, and research partnerships." Therefore, for her pioneering spirit, commitment to academic excellence in the liberal arts tradition, and dedication to providing students in Kuwait with the breadth and depth of knowledge required for leadership in the contemporary world, Dartmouth's president proudly awarded her the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. After the ceremony, Al-Sabah, the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the American University of Kuwait (AUK), told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) she is honored and proud for receiving such distinction from a prestigious institution as Dartmouth College, and being the only Arab today among notable scientists, athletes, philanthropists, artists, entrepreneurs, and journalists.

"I dedicate this distinction to my country, its leader His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, my family, AUK's co-founders and the beautiful dedicated AUK community without whom I would not be here," she said.

She emphasized on the role played by the Government of Kuwait for believing and supporting private universities. In 2001, an Amiri Decree was issued to enable the private sector of investing in establishing institutions of higher education.

Al-Sabah who is also the chairwoman of United Education Co. (UEC), Kuwait's leading

company in the educational sector, said she was first exposed to Liberal Arts Education at Indiana University, Bloomington in 1990, where she took courses in philosophy, literature, art history, and critical thinking.

In 2003, a University based on the American model of Liberal Arts education was established. According to Al-Sabah, their aim was to build a model that inspires intellectual curiosity and critical thinking and that encourages both students and faculty to think across disciplines, ask better questions, and prepare for a world in which change is inevitable, sometimes disrupt-

she added, would not have been possible without Dartmouth's continuous guidance and support throughout their journey from inception to present. "Our partnership is instrumental as we continue to advocate the liberal arts over more conventional forms of education," she said.

Dartmouth College, founded in 1769, in Hanover, New Hampshire, is the international partner institution to the AUK. Both institutions have worked closely together since 2003, when they signed a Memorandum of Understanding that facilitated a series of advisory, consultative,



**NEW HAMPSHIRE:** Sheikha Dana Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah attends a ceremony at Dartmouth College where she was awarded with a Doctorate of Humane Letters for founding Kuwait's first and only liberal arts university. —KUNA

and often unpredictable, especially in the Middle East region.

Thirteen years later, with over 3,500 graduates, many of whom have and are pursuing their higher education in the US, some in Ivy Leagues institution, Al-Sabah said "we find ourselves as the leading institution in the Liberal Arts realm in Kuwait." Such accomplishment,

and cooperative projects. The initial agreement was recently renewed for a third time in April 2013 to extend through 2018. Dartmouth and AUK share a commitment to excellence in higher learning, and the agreement between them reflects AUK's growing stature as a premier academic institution in the Gulf region and beyond. —KUNA

## BLOGGER SENTENCED FOR SPREADING IS IDEOLOGY

### COURT REDUCES SENTENCE OF PARENTS WHO KILLED DAUGHTER

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The criminal court yesterday sentenced a blogger to five years in prison over charges of joining the Islamic State (IS) terrorist organization, spreading its ideas through social media, possessing weapons, ammunition and psychotropic substances in addition to misuse of mobile phones.

In other news, the appeal court yesterday cancelled a first instance verdict sentencing a Kuwaiti couple to death for killing their own daughter and putting her body in an ice box. In the new verdict, the court sentenced the father to ten years prison and acquitted the mother. The verdict was changed after the defendants' lawyers managed to change the case's description and classification to prove that the mother had nothing to do with the father's crime.

### KD 10,000 theft

A stateless person was arrested for robbery, said security sources, noting that the suspect had attacked a citizen who had just withdrawn KD 10,000 in cash from a local bank and stole the money. The sources added that the suspect was caught by surveillance camera fixed on a neighboring house while running to hop into a vehicle waiting for him. The suspect told police that the escape car's driver was his own brother; who is still at large.

### Power outage

Security forces and patrols were immediately deployed in areas affected by a recent blackout in Hawally to help maintain security and facilitate traffic flows, the Interior Ministry's relation and security media department said. It added that maintenance teams were racing against the clock to solve the problem, and at least had traffic lights running using power generators till the power was reconnected.

### New detour

The Interior Ministry's Traffic General Department announced that, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Works (MPW), it will open a detour at the junction of Al-Ghoush Street with Mekrad Al-Mekrad Street in Mubarak Al-Kabeer at the early hours today. Accordingly, the traffic department urged all motorists using the specified leg of the road to be more careful and to follow traffic signs.

### Food safe

Kuwait Municipality's Deputy Director Khalaf Al-Mutairi strongly denied social media reports claiming that inedible foodstuff were allowed into Kuwait and stressed that the imported food department was doing a great job in protecting national food security. He added that the department always makes sure that all food items entering Kuwait from various borders are safe and edible. Meanwhile, Mubarak Al-Kabeer municipality teams inspected a

number of stores and restaurants and moved some public property violations. Team leader Nasser Al-Hajri said that the inspection campaigns resulted in confiscating and destroying 12 kilograms of expired chocolates, removing 105 illegal ads and filing four citations involving expired licenses and not having one at all. Hajri added that 11 warnings were filed regarding violating public property.

### Beggars arrested

Within the Interior Ministry's efforts to fight begging during the Holy Month of Ramadan, residency detectives have so far arrested 10 beggars belonging to various nationalities, the ministry's relation and media security department said in a statement, noting that the beggars will be deported while their sponsors will be banned from any further sponsorships.

### Thieves caught

Two citizens were arrested for robbing several co-op branches, said security sources, noting that the case started when one of the suspects was arrested when his attempt to rob a co-op branch failed. The sources explained that the suspect broke down and told police that he had robbed other branches earlier, along with an accomplice he led police to. The suspect also admitted to breaking open a vehicle in Omariya and stealing its contents. A case was filed and the suspects were referred to relevant authorities.



**KUWAIT:** A Kuwait Municipality inspector files a ticket during an inspection campaign in Mubarak Al-Kabeer.

## KAC AND ALAFCO FORMALIZE SALE, LEASEBACK DEAL FOR FOUR AIRCRAFTS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Airways Company (KAC) and ALAFCO Aviation Lease and Finance Company (ALAFCO) have signed an initial agreement for the sale and leaseback of four Boeing B777-300ER aircrafts for a lease term of twelve years.

Sami F Al-Rushaid, Chairman of KAC, stated that "A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued to seven qualified companies and consortiums around the world, and Kuwait-based ALAFCO Aviation Lease and Finance Company presented the best offer to KAC. This agreement is beneficial to both companies, and will make available funds that KAC will utilize to take delivery of the remaining three of four new B777-300ER aircraft from the Boeing Company. Kuwait Airways will take delivery of one aircraft per month from June to August 2017. Entering into this sale and leaseback arrangement will enable KAC to diversify its sources of funding and strike a balance between financing and leasing of the Boeing B777-300ER fleet."

Ahmad A Alzabin, Vice Chairman and CEO of ALAFCO, stated that "To be able to support the fleet modernization plan of the national carrier of Kuwait is an important milestone for ALAFCO. This deal marks the beginning of a strategic cooperation between Kuwait Airways and ALAFCO." Alzabin added, "The B777-300ER aircrafts will be financed mostly by Kuwaiti banks, and will have a positive impact on the local economy of Kuwait."