

## CONTRACTOR SUMMONED FOR JABRIYA BUILDING COLLAPSE



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** A building collapsed in Jabriya while a contractor was pulling it down, as authorities summoned the contractor to hear his testimony. No casualties were reported in the incident, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate said in a statement. Kuwait Municipality's Deputy Director for Ahmadi and Hawally Affairs Fahad Al-Otaibi immediately rushed to the scene with relevant teams who helped remove the wreckage from the street. Otaibi said that all proper legal actions will be taken against the contractor if he was found responsible for the collapse. In addition, the contractor was referred to relevant authorities to investigate the matter and the safety procedures he used during the process.



## KUWAIT 38TH IN WORLD'S COMPETITIVENESS REPORT

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** According to the world's competitiveness report issued by the World Economic Forum (WEF), Kuwait ranked fourth amongst Arab countries and 38th worldwide in terms of the world's most competitive economies. According to the report, Switzerland came first worldwide and UAE came first amongst Arab countries. The report includes 138 countries and examines 114 points to measure competitiveness indexes.

### Privatization

The final decision on selecting Kuwait Stock Exchange's privatization consultant is expected to be settled in next Sunday's meeting of the privatization committee. KSE had invited international consultants to file in their biddings so that one of them will be selected.

### Early payment

The Manpower and Government

Restructuring Program's (MGRP) Secretary General Fauzi Al-Majdali announced that the program will finish transferring due payments into bank accounts by Tuesday, June 20. Majdali explained that the transferred sums include national labor support allowances for citizens working for the private sector, graduates and students allowances, unemployment allowances and social allowances.

### Embassies

First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah said that the ministry has set special regulations for companies wishing to work with Kuwait embassies and consulates abroad and that any company matching those conditions could apply to the ministry for accreditation. Responding to a parliamentary inquiry filed by MP Rakan Al-Nisf about monopolizing the process of issuing entry visas by two companies, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled stressed that article 99 of the constitution states that only the inquirer

has the right to make a single comment on the response made to his inquiry.

### Old accommodation

The Ministry of Education's (MOE) Assailant Undersecretary for Educational Facilities and Planning Dr Khaled Al-Rasheed urged the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) to examine female teachers' old accommodation buildings including one that used to be a private school, to make a full technical report about it. MPW's assistant undersecretary for the government sector buildings' quality affairs Talal Al-Othainah said that the building was structurally unsafe.

### Clean Fuel Project

Kuwait National Petroleum Company's (KNPC) CEO Mohammed Ghazi Al-Mutairi said that the total number of laborers working in the Clean Fuel Project was 47,000 and that 84.9 percent of the project was so far finished. Mutairi added that none of the 199 Kuwaiti employees working in Shuaiba refinery will be laid off.

## URNWA OFFICIAL LAUDS KUWAIT AID FOR GAZA

**BRUSSELS:** Director of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) operations in Gaza, Bo Schack, has praised the contributions being made by Kuwait and other Arab Gulf countries to help Gazans undergoing untold suffering under a 10-year Israeli blockade. "Our exchange and association with Kuwait is one that is increasing. The engagement is not only about funding, it is also about ideas, issues and addressing concerns in education and the health sector," he said in an interview in Brussels.

Shack noted that the Gulf countries are primarily focusing in supporting in reconstruction, in building schools and renovating health facilities in

Gaza. In addition to that, there is also an increasing support to UNRWA's core budget; the one that pays the salary of teachers and the staff and running of the Organization, he clarified. "The focus for many years from the Gulf states has indeed been for us absolutely indispensable in the context of making sure that we are able to open a new school every month and that we have been renovating our medical facilities and that we have been building new ones," said Shack, a Danish lawyer by profession. The UNRWA official expressed concern that the socio-economic situation, and the lack of prospect in Gaza could lead to a more violent expression by the youth generation and that could descend to further risk. —KUNA

## KUWAIT ALARMED OVER HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SYRIA



Jamal Al-Ghunaim

**GENEVA:** Kuwait yesterday warned that worsening humanitarian conditions in war-torn Syria would be detrimental to the global political landscape. Speaking at the 35th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), Kuwait's Permanent Delegate to the United Nations (UN) Jamal Al-Ghunaim said that his country is fully committed to the security and stability of Syria. Moreover, he underscored his growing concerns over the appalling atrocities being committed in Syria, ones that largely remain unabated as the conflict enters its seventh year.

The Kuwaiti diplomat lamented the massive loss of life that the conflict has induced, as more than 40,000 people have been killed and around 12 million others displaced. "Innocent civilians are being repeatedly targeted with impunity, which is a flagrant violation of international humanitarian laws and the international community has failed to put an end to the bloodshed," Ghunaim noted. He added that Kuwait has made stupendous efforts, along with other countries neighboring Syria, to make sure that hapless Syrian children are not deprived of education. The 35th UNHRC session, which runs from June 6-23, delves into the humanitarian conditions in Syria through reports produced by specialists. —KUNA



Farah Al-Gharaballi

## KUWAIT COMMITTED TO UN CONVENTION ON RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

**NEW YORK:** The State of Kuwait reiterated its full commitment to the implementation of the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability. Kuwait also affirmed continuous efforts to enhance disable people's rights and better integrate them in the society to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals within the framework of the Kuwait 2035 Vision towards persons with disability. This came in a statement delivered late Tuesday by Diplomatic Attache at the State of Kuwait's permanent mission to the UN Farah Al-Gharaballi dur-

ing the 10th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

The State of Kuwait began adopting the goals of sustainable development pertaining to the disability that were announced by the UN last September in the domains of health, education and the economy with the societal partnership between the government sectors and civil society organizations, she said. She added that Kuwait is seeking to promote equality in all social, political, civil and economic rights to

enhance the rights of persons with disabilities in general, and those with intellectual disabilities in particular.

In an unprecedented move on international level, the Kuwaiti parliament received persons with disabilities for the 12th year in a row to discuss their issues and follow up the activation of the international convention in this regard, she noted. She said Kuwait has been exerting efforts to boost rights of disabled persons through integrating their issues in all national and regional policies and strategies. —KUNA

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