

Local

Kuwait contributed KD 26.5 million to international organizations

Co-ops press to open mini-markets at gas stations

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Official foreign ministry statistics about Kuwait's annual contributions to the budgets of regional, Arab and international organizations showed that those contributions amount to KD 26.5 million, including KD 3.133 million for international organizations, KD 10.77 million for Arab and regional ones, KD 1.274 million for Islamic ones, KD 7.253 million for UN peacekeeping troops, KD 3.152 million in voluntary donations and KD 500,000 for activities in the countries housing Kuwaiti embassies abroad.

Gas station shops

Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies (UCCS) Vice Chairman Khaled Al-Hudhaiban urged Oil Minister Khaled Al-Fadhel to allocate special outlets for co-ops at gas stations around Kuwait, noting that

co-ops have the right to have their own mini-markets at gas stations to serve the public and provide competitive prices. Hudhaiban added that the oil ministry had been repeatedly approached in this regard with no response so far, and expressed hope that Fadhel will approve the request.

Automation

The Ministry of Social Affairs has so far achieved 85 percent of the KD 12.95 million project of automating its various sectors pending full automation by 2020 to put an end to paper use and human errors. A report issued by the ministry showed that once the project is complete, all of the ministry's 16 services will be available online. In addition, the report said the Ishbelia old age home project is still delayed after its tender was rejected by the State Audit Bureau and returned to the ministry. The report

explained the KD 4 million project involves building a geriatric house with a capacity of 700 residents.

Rumors denied

Minister of Education Hamed Al-Azmi strongly denied that any of the ministry schools' teaching or administrative staff members take drugs inside schools. Responding to an inquiry by MP Mohammed Al-Dallal about a video on social media, Azmi stressed that the education ministry's social and psychological services' sector constantly coordinates with the interior ministry's narcotics department to boost drug-related awareness in various schools. Separately, undersecretary of the ministry of higher education Sabeeh Al-Mokhaizeem announced receiving applications for the 2019-2020 scholarship program, noting that the deadline for applying is June 20.



Councilmember calls for regulating bedoon vendors' work

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Municipal Council member and head of the Hawally committee Abdullah Al-Roumi filed two proposals on setting certain locations for bedoon watermelon vendors. His proposal came after the municipality recently confiscated their goods and prevented them from selling the fruit "without any consideration for their needs and the fact that this is their only source of income as bedoons," he said in a statement yesterday. Roumi suggested setting up special outlets in various governorates for them as well as setting all the needed

laws and regulations to keep them under the close control of state inspectors to make sure their products are safe. Meanwhile, councilmember and head of the grievances committee Meshaal Al-Hamdhan inquired about the conditions on licensing goldsmiths, noting that this profession requires the use of some materials that could be highly hazardous if disposed in the sewers.

802 complaints

Acting Director of the Public Authority for Manpower Abdullah Al-Motoutah said according to the statistics compiled by the domestic helpers' recruitment department in May 2019, there are 397 registered domestic helper recruitment offices, 530 applications were made in the same period, 67 licenses were renewed and eight new licenses were issued. Motoutah said that the total number of complaints and grievances filed with the department was 802, including 281 that were tended to, 161 amicably settled and 56 referred to courts.

1,575 reports

Manager of the Health Ministry's medical emergencies department Monther Al-Jalahma announced the department dealt with 1,575 reports during the Eid break. He explained that the reports included transferring 968 cases to hospitals and nearby clinics, treating 339 cases onsite (mainly with minor injuries from car accidents, fights or burns) and transferring 268 cases between various hospitals. Jalahma added seven cases were medevacked in the same period.

Summer burials

Manager of the funerals department at Kuwait Municipality Faisal Abdulkareem Al-Awadh said in view of the high summer temperatures and in order to make things easier for families of the dead and mourners during funerals, the department decided to schedule summer burials at 9:00 am and after Asr and Esha prayers, adding that all needed illumination had been provided for use during nighttime.

News in brief

Kuwait records world's highest temperature

KUWAIT: Kuwait registered the highest temperature in the world on Saturday - 52.2 degrees Celsius in the shade - in Mitrabah in north of the country, according to member of the Arab Union of Space and Astronomy Dr Khalid Al-Zaaq of Saudi Arabia. Temperatures - that reached 49C at Kuwait airport - caused increased consumption of power, as the load register reached 13,500 megawatts, an increase of 600 megawatts, on Friday. Informed sources said "it is expected for the load to go over the 13,800 megawatt limit due to the return of 'whirlpools' and high temperatures during the coming three days." Sources said the maximum operating load that MEW can cover is 13,830, in addition to a 500-megawatt surplus. Temperatures are expected to reach 50 degree Celsius today and 51 tomorrow. — Al-Qabas

'Privatization important'

KUWAIT: State Minister for Economic Affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel said it is important to continue privatization projects to diversify income sources. "Privatization methods are various and different, as there is the handing of the sector completely to the private sector, and may be limited to handing over management and operation to the private sector," she said. "We began with the T4 airport building and noticed improvements after a Korean company took over its management." She said there are plans to privatize the management of Jahra Hospital through a Korean company, then it will be extended to other facilities if proven successful. — Al-Rai

Actual budget deficit 'undisclosed'

KUWAIT: Former Deputy Premier, Finance Minister and Central Bank Governor Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah said the actual budget deficit is 'undisclosed' due to major expenses not included in it. He said there is unprecedented uncontrolled public expenditure without production or creativity. He said that according to laws that call for not calculating these expenses with the budget expenses, funds are taken from the general reserve to cover them, adding that if the deficit continues, it will be financed by withdrawing from that reserve parallel to borrowing from the markets if the public debt law is passed. Sheikh Salem said if borrowing continues along with withdrawing from reserves without reforming the current situation and having financial discipline, this will lead to the drying of remaining liquid funds in a short time, leading to many risks. He described borrowing without a plan on how to repay the debts as a "strange matter." — Al-Jarida

Motorist killed in King Fahd Road crash

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: An Arab woman was killed in a car accident after her vehicle flipped over on King Fahd Road near Salam. Firefighters and medical personnel handled the accident which created a huge congestion on the key highway. An investigation was opened to reveal the cause of the accident



KUWAIT: The victim's vehicle is seen after the accident.

Farwaniya fire

Fire broke out in a six-storey building in Farwaniya, prompting Farwaniya fire station to respond. The fire was put out after evacuating the building. No injuries were reported. Meanwhile, investigations went underway to determine the cause of the fire.



The scene inside a Farwaniya apartment after a fire was extinguished.

Swindling cases

A man Syrian was transferred to Farwaniya detectives after he was arrested on arrival over swindling cases filed against him.

Police received a call from the girl's mother seeking help, so they responded along with paramedics.

Family issues

A Kuwaiti man sustained several injuries and almost lost a finger during a fight at his in-laws' house with his two brothers-in-law for reason yet to be known. The two brothers attacked him with a sharp object. He was taken to Sabah Hospital.

Drowning

A three-year-old girl was medvacked to Adan Hospital after drowning in a Khairan swimming pool.

Kuwaiti organization supports first Quran contest in Switzerland

GENEVA: Kuwait's Mercy International - The Association of Social Reform (Sanabel Al-Khair Committee) has supported a Holy Quran contest, the first of its kind to be held in Switzerland, the coordinator of the Switzerland Quiz Competition Jamal Al-Khateeb said yesterday. In a statement to the press, Khateeb praised the association's keenness to support spreading the good spirit of Islam in various societies. He explained that the final number of participants was 50 people between the ages of seven and 70 years, who were competing at five different levels ranging from two parts of the Holy Quran up to 30 parts. He

confirmed that the first five winners of the competition had won the Umrah trip as a first prize and then the other prizes were between \$1,000 and \$250. The competition provided the appropriate environment to compete in memorizing the Holy Quran and formed an additional way of communication between the spectra of the Muslim community in Switzerland without any ethnic considerations, he noted.

It will highlight the new capabilities and talents among the community not only in the recitation, but also in explanation and interpretation of the Quran, especially that all participants know the dominant languages in Switzerland, it will be easier for them to explain the verses to other people. Meanwhile, the chairman of the competition's jury Sheikh Bu Katheer bin Omar said that such activities will stimulate the Muslims of Switzerland to preserve the book of God and the continuation of the message of Islam through the mastering of the verses of the Holy Quran. He added that the competition will



GENEVA: The contest's jury members judging a contestant. —KUNA

strengthen the spirit of persistence not only to memorize the Holy Quran but also to manage its meanings and discover its treasures. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways signed an agreement with Kuwait Integrated Petrochemical Industries Company (KIPIC) to provide special discounts on travel tickets for KIPIC employees. Kuwait Airways CEO Kamel Al-Awadhi and KIPIC CEO Hatem Al-Awadhi signed the three-year contract yesterday.