

## Local

# Kuwait underlines continued support to the Syrian people

## Iraq wants to use Kuwait donor meet funds to fight COVID-19

**BRUSSELS:** Kuwait has once again stressed its commitment and determination to continue support to the Syrian people and renewed calls for a political solution to the Syrian crisis. This was expressed by Kuwait's Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium and NATO Jassem Al-Budaiwi during a video event on Syria organized by the EU Tuesday evening. He stressed on the prominent and important Kuwaiti role since the outbreak of the Syrian crisis, and noted that the first three donor conferences organized by Kuwait on Syria are the core of the ongoing conferences on Syria.

He said Kuwait's support for the brotherly Syrian people continues from sincere intentions to end their suffering and enjoy security and stability. Budaiwi said Kuwait has always fulfilled its obligations towards the Syrian people at home and abroad, and continues to do so. He expressed hope that international efforts will continue to support the Syrian people, particularly in the current coronavirus pandemic crisis.

Budaiwi also hoped these efforts would lead to the start of a political process and facilitate the entry of humanitarian aid to the Syrian people, especially during the tenth year of the Syrian crisis. The meeting titled "Humanitarian access to Syria" was a side event ahead of the fourth Brussels conference on supporting the future of Syria and the region organized by the EU that will take place on June 30.

Meanwhile, speaking to KUNA, Budaiwi said Kuwait's participation in the event comes in line with its commitments to help the Syrian people and in line with its commitment to work with the international community to help ease the suffering of the Syrian people. The EU invitation to Kuwait is in recognition of the role that Kuwait has played ever since the Syrian crisis broke out and in line with all humanitarian efforts by Kuwait all over the world under the leadership of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who has been declared as the humanitarian leader of the world.

The activities that Kuwait does under his auspices has a special place in every diplomat's heart and we do our best to fulfill the commitments of HH the Amir, he added to KUNA. The counselor of Kuwait's embassy in Brussels Fahd Al-Jaimaz also participated in the online event.

Meanwhile, Iraqi and World Bank officials discussed Wednesday how to benefit from funds raised at the Kuwait pledging conference to help Iraq confront the coronavirus. Minister of Planning Khaled Battal discussed in a video-conference with representatives of the World Bank and donor countries how to use the pledge made at the 2018 conference to support cash-strapped Iraq fight the pandemic, a ministry statement said.

Battal called for quick action to boost the response against the virus. The World Bank officials said the bank is ready to support Iraq to address financial problems as well as fight the pandemic, coupled with reconstruction. The two sides called for improving financial management,



Kuwait's Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium and NATO Jassem Al-Budaiwi. — KUNA

developing digital skills in the educational sector, developing social protection systems and creating jobs. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Officials hold a press conference to announce the resumption of sports training. — KUNA

## Sports training to resume June 28

**KUWAIT:** Public Sports Authority (PAS) Deputy Director-General Saqer Al-Mulla said the tripartite committee adopted a sports training resumption mechanism, which will start June 28. In a press conference held Wednesday in the presence of representatives of the ministry of health and Kuwaiti Olympic Committee, Mulla affirmed that the mechanism is subject to international health standards to ensure athletes' safety.

He pointed out that the athletes who have qualified or are still competing to qualify for the

2020 Tokyo Olympic Games will start training first. Mulla said every athlete will have to adhere to health guidelines and preventive standards.

Director of the Public Health Department and representative of the ministry of health Dr Fahd Al-Qamlas said the ministry has developed a health protocol based on principles and guidelines for sports' resumption. On Monday, the Cabinet agreed in its meeting to resume sports training while adhering to health requirements. — KUNA

## KUFPEC Egypt begins extracting bitumen oil from Gulf of Suez

**KUWAIT:** Egypt's branch of Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC) has begun extracting bitumen oil from a well in the Gulf of Suez, the company announced yesterday. In a statement, KUFPEC said its wholly owned subsidiary, KUFPEC Egypt Limited (KUFPEC Egypt), has "achieved" the first oil production from its appraisal well GNN-4 in the Geisum concession in Egypt's Gulf of Suez.

GNN-4 is the first appraisal well in the ongoing early production and reservoir appraisal drilling program for the GNN Nukhul oil discovery. It indicated that the reservoir discovery dated back to July 2019; specifically at the GNN-3 exploration well, where preliminary survey revealed it contained 500 feet of high quality oil; estimated at 260 million barrels.

The Geisum concession is located offshore Egypt in the Southern Gulf of Suez in shallow waters with a depth ranging from 30 to 200 feet, covering an area of approximately 105 sq km. KUFPEC Acting CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Nasser Al-Sabah stated that the main objective of drilling operations for GNN-4 was to ap-

praise oil in the Nukhul formation. The well was successfully completed and tested at initial rates of over 2,000 barrels per day (bpd).

Sheikh Nawaf further affirmed that KUFPEC's exploration successes, whether the huge discovery KUFPEC announced last year with multi-TCF resource in Malaysia or the current one in Egypt, demonstrate its ability to achieve strategic targets through exploration. KUFPEC Egypt holds a 40 percent working interest under the production sharing contract with the operator PICO GoS Limited (a Chevron Group Company), holding the remaining 60 percent working interest.

The concession is managed by the joint operating company Petro Gulf Misr, which is jointly owned by the Egyptian General Petroleum Company, KUFPEC Egypt and PICO GoS Limited, and which is technically supervised by South Valley Egyptian Petroleum Holding Company. KUFPEC is an international upstream company engaged in exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas outside Kuwait and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation. — KUNA



Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah