

## Local

# Omani naval ship 'Shabab Oman II' docks in Kuwait



KUWAIT: Omani naval ship "Shabab Oman II" is welcome after it docks at Shuwaikh Port yesterday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat and KUNA

**KUWAIT:** Omani naval ship "Shabab Oman II" docked at Shuwaikh Port yesterday, carrying 28 students from GCC member countries and 16 sisterly and friendly countries. The vessel's arrival in Kuwait is part of its academic journey of Gulf seaports, ending with participation in the Dubai Expo 2020, bringing with it Oman's maritime history and present accomplishments. On this occasion, Omani Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Saleh Al-Kharousi said the voyage bears lofty humanitarian goals and

contents, and represents the beginning of the ship's fifth international voyage within the framework of its GCC tour.

Kharousi stressed the depth of relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Kuwait, expressing hope that the Shabab Oman II ship will achieve success on this voyage. Kuwait is the ship's first stop of its journey, which is the fifth since it was launched in 2014 as part of the fleet of the Royal Navy of Oman. Deputy Head of the Diplomatic Mission of

the Omani Embassy in Kuwait Hilal Al-Shanfari voiced thanks and appreciation to Kuwait for facilitating and welcoming the arrival of the ship. In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Shanfari expressed his appreciation to all Kuwaiti authorities for preparations for the arrival of Shabab Oman II. Welcoming the vessel's crew, the Omani diplomat said the ship is considered a message of love, friendship and peace, adding that it will sail on to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and finally Dubai.

Meanwhile, the arrival of the Omani ship portrays the brotherly and historic relations between the brotherly countries of Kuwait and Oman, a senior official of the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry said. Ambassador Hamad Al-Meri, assistant foreign minister for GCC affairs, affirmed in a statement to KUNA that the journey was designed to boost cooperation at the cultural and scientific levels. The students on board the ship will visit Kuwait University and Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center. — KUNA

## Defense minister keen on updating services for staff



KUWAIT: Defense Minister Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah inaugurates the newly-built extension of the central market for ministry of defense personnel yesterday. — KUNA

**KUWAIT:** The minister of defense yesterday affirmed keenness on fully overhauling the ministry's facilities and improving services for personnel and their families in gratitude for their patriotic role of defending the homeland. Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, who is also Deputy Prime Minister, was speaking on the occasion of inaugu-

rating the newly-built extension of the central market for defense personnel, according to a statement by the defense ministry. The minister, during his visit to the site, was briefed by the head of the central market Col Abdullah Al-Fahad, underscoring a plan to secure high-quality commodities at competitive prices. — KUNA

## KFAED inks accords to fund gas project, aid refugees in Jordan

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development yesterday inked a loan agreement and a grant accord to support Jordan with KD 24.2 million (\$80 million) to contribute to funding the Sabah Al-Ahmad Port for liquefied natural gas project and aid Syrian refugees. KFAED's Director General Marwan Al-Ghanem said in remarks to KUNA the port venture will be financed with KD 18.2 million (\$60 million), indicated that the loan accord stipulated re-paving the harbor pier, building a terminal for processing liquefied gas at Aqaba Port. Moreover, there is a plan to link the terminal with a gas pipeline to power stations.

As for the grant pact, Ghanem said it is worth KD 6 million (\$20 million) and aims to complete the project of overhauling old buildings and constructing new units at Al-Bashir Hospital, the planned King Abdullah Hospital and securing needs for Syrian refugees in the kingdom. KFAED has previously presented three grants on behalf of Kuwait to Jordan in relief aid for refugees. The grant has been allocated in line with Kuwait's commitments, proclaimed at the third Brussels conference for supporting Syria's future and the region held in 2012, with the total pledged sum amounting to \$300 million. Kuwait's share in the promised sum amounts to \$127.5 million. — KUNA