

Local



KUWAIT: An aerial view showing a plume of smoke from the tent market's fire in Rai on Monday. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat and Fouad Al-Shaikh

Massive blaze guts Kuwait tent market



Firefighters battle the blaze at the tent market.



KUWAIT: Firefighters battled a blaze that erupted in the tent market located in Al-Rai area southwest of Kuwait City, Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) said on Monday. Four firefighting units were at the scene to contain the blaze, KFF said in a statement. The area of the blaze is at approximately 4,000 square meters with damage mostly affecting tent's building materials and camping products, it added, noting that an investigation was opened to reveal the cause of the fire. —KUNA

Kuwait deploras Al-Aqsa Mosque storming by extremists

KUWAIT: The Foreign Ministry voiced Sunday Kuwait's condemnation and denunciation of Al-Aqsa Mosque's storming by extremists under the protection of the Zionist entity's forces. In a statement, the Ministry said these flagrant violations, which provoke Muslims' feelings and run counter to international law, portend repercussions on international and regional stability and security, and increase the opportunities of religious-based confrontations. The Ministry called on the UN Security Council to assume its responsibilities against these violations and compel the Zionist occupation forces to respect international law and international legitimacy's resolutions, and to provide required protection to the brotherly Palestinian people. It further stressed Kuwait's principled and firm stance supporting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to establish an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital, according to the statement.

Meanwhile, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) strongly denounced the Zionist entity's authorities for allowing the extremist settlers to break into Al-Aqsa Mosque in the Old City of East Jerusalem in the occupied Palestinian West Bank under police protection. The permission for extremists waving the Zionist entity's flag to organize a provocative march in the occupied Jerusalem constitutes a flagrant and abhorrent violation of the international laws, and a serious esca-



RAMALLAH: Paramedics carry a man towards an ambulance during a protest to denounce the annual nationalist "flag march" through Jerusalem, near the Beit El settlement at the northern entrance to the city of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank on May 29, 2022. —AFP

lation of the already tense situation, Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf said in a press release. Stressing the need of the Zionist entity respecting the historical, religious and legal status of Jerusalem, including the sacred sites, Dr Hajraf urged the international community to shoulder its responsibility for protecting Al-Aqsa Mosque and forcing the Zionist entity, the occupying power, into meeting its obligations under the International Humanitarian Law. —KUNA

head of the strategy and work development division, Shatha Al-Dabbous, conducted the sale according to standing procedures.

The company did not mention identity of the buyer in its statement. The 15-year-old tanker, manufactured in South Korea in 2007, has a cargo capacity of 113,849 tons. KOTC, a subsidiary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), is mainly involved in the ownership and management of tankers engaged in the transport of crude oil, refined petroleum products and liquefied petroleum gases (LPG). —KUNA

In remarks to the press, Moussa added that the conferees discussed appointing the Arabs' representatives at the coordination and formulation commissions, where Dr. Abdullah Al-Rashed of Kuwait was nominated as member of the formulation committee.

The Kuwaiti delegation expressed satisfaction that Mohammad Mahmoud Saafan of Egypt was named head of the Arab group during the current convention. He added that the delegation would take part in meetings of various committees and discussions regarding labor issues world wide. Among the files on the table is modifying the International Labor Organization's declaration on basic labor principles and rights. The committees' works kick off as of May 30, pending the broad sessions due to begin on June 6. —KUNA

KOTC sells oil tanker

KUWAIT: Kuwait Oil Tanker Company said on Monday it sold the oil tanker "Wafra" and handed the giant vessel to the buyer at Al-Fujaira port in the United Arab Emirates. The KOTC said in a statement to KUNA that a company's team including the head of the trade group, Fatma Al-Ghanem, director of the fleet operations group, Ahmad Al-Salem, and the

Kuwaiti delegation partakes in Arab Group meeting

GENEVA: Director General of Kuwait's Public Authority of Manpower Ahmad Al-Moussa said on Monday the delegation of the State of Kuwait to the international labor conference participated in the first coordination meeting of the Arab group. The meeting, held late on Sunday, aimed at finding a common perspective regarding prior topics and development needs in the Arab countries in the foreseeable future.

In my view

Kuwait's crying trees



By Dr Khalid Ahmad Al-Seleh

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Have you seen a tree crying? I saw this - a group of tall, pale trees on Maghreb Expressway across the green Bayan Palace trees. This may be due to lack of water, neglect or both. We are now in the month of May, before the scorching weather of July and August arrives. Despite this, we see drying branches on the sides of the roads, and the disappearance of the touches of beauty from Kuwait's streets. There are very few bright trees remaining in all of Kuwait's streets. A few trees discovered the Kuwaiti mentality, because they do not trust us, and extended their roots to the underground waters to quench their thirst. This is what is taking place today in planting in Kuwait's streets. As for the condition of the pavements, it raises the question whether there is a budget to repair them. The repeated ugly image is not limited to one street - all you have to do is to drive on the main streets: Maghreb, Sixth Ring, Fifth Ring and so on, and you will see what I mean.

We, in Kuwait, have lost the spirit of beauty in our streets. Our roads and pavements became neglected, our trees forgotten, and what makes it more worrying is that the cleanliness Kuwait was famous for is fading, and we started to see concrete leftovers, plastic bags and cans of types thrown on the sides of the roads, in an early sign of the coming danger. I met a friend at the end of Riyadh Expressway towards Kuwait City, and at the First Ring Road traffic light, I saw trees that are not watered, with broken tiles due to plants emerging from between them. So if you stop at this light, I wish you look around you, as it is a place in the heart of the capital and not in a remote area. We were deprived of the touches of beauty and soon we will be deprived of cleanliness. A few weeks earlier, I returned from Al-Madinah Al-Munawwara, and our entry was from the western side. The skies were clear, so I looked at Kuwait from this side, and I was scared from what I saw. An arid desert with black spots, so asked myself: Is this the Kuwait we dreamt of? We have lost the touches of beauty, and we are not good at planting. We only succeeded in forming authorities, departments, spending money, officials submitting reports, and the image remained as is. Even Kuwait airport is deprived from green plants and is full of dry, yellow grass. Who is responsible, and who hears the cries of trees? And most importantly, who will restore Kuwait's beauty and cleanliness?

—Dr Khalid Ahmad Al-Saleh is a retired medical consultant and member of Kuwait Writers Association. He has many literary collections and scientific papers in the field of cancers. He is Chairman of Kuwait Society for Preventing Smoking and Cancer and the Cancer Awareness National Campaign (CAN)

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