

Local

Crown Prince receives Al-Mubarakiya's team

KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Wednesday received Palace members of consultative team overseeing the post-fire rehabilitation and development of the Al-Mubarakiya Market. The team is made up of President of the Voluntary Work Center Sheikhha Amthah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Director General of Kuwait Municipality Eng Ahmad Al-Manfouhi, Consultant at the Center of Research Studies on Kuwait (CRSK) Eng. Ali Al-Fadhel, Researcher of Kuwaiti history and heritage Fahad Abduljaleel.

As per leadership directives, the team briefed His Highness the Crown Prince on the progress of the project to rebuild the residence of Imam Abdulrahman bin Faisal. The site, first launched by late Saudi King Abdulaziz bin Abdulrahman Al Saud at Al-Enezeh alleyway at Al-Mubarakiya, has been transformed into a museum reflecting the deep-rooted relations between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. —KUNA



Ministry encourages youths to launch new innovative projects

No need to raise fuel prices: Oil Ministry

KUWAIT: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Oil Sheikh Nimr Fahad Al-Malik Al-Sabah on Wednesday emphasized on alluring youth to set up new innovative projects in the ministry's sectors. In a speech during the ministry's prize festival, Sheikh Nimr Al-Sabah stressed the need to inspire individuals to increase pioneering schemes, in line with the national strategy objectives and the country's position.

The Ministry believes in the strong partnerships and institutions in order to achieve a sustainable society, he said. He referred that the prize is organized for the second year in a row, indicating that the ministry seeks to back youth and their rights as they are the core of progress and prosperity, and encourage them to adopt new ideas.

Promising youth are the future of Kuwait, which has minds interested in innovation, he said, adding that enabling creative persons will be a fertile environment for knowledge economy. The prize came in harmony with the ministry's efforts aiming to support innovation and digital revolution, and develop employees and encourage them for excellence, he said.

Meanwhile, head of the ministry's public relations

and media department Sheikhha Tamader Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said the ministry seeks to invest in youth and upgrade their skills and knowledge. She stressed the importance of making universities' youth be ready to create partnerships among students and the oil sector to develop their skills and abilities. The winners will contribute to facilitating work and fulfillment inside the ministry, she said. The ministry is keen on providing continued support to youth in all sectors and providing all tools and methods to enable them to offer abilities and skills to serve their country, Sheikhha Tamader concluded.

Oil sector informs

In a new report submitted to the Council of Ministers, the Oil Ministry announced there is no need to raise fuel prices currently in response to a request from the government whether fuel prices need to be increased within a series of government reviews of the prices of services provided, as well as the prices of state property, which were recently reviewed.

"The government seeks to increase the revenues of the state's non-oil general budget, which has made ministries re-price their services in

line with needs, as well as their compatibility with the real cost of services provided. The oil sector responded to the government that current gasoline prices are appropriate, under control of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, as well as its sales are very appropriate and gasoline production is suitable for consumption" sources revealed to Kuwait Times.

"Moreover, the report did not reject the increase in the future, but rather attributed it to the circumstances and developments. If the circumstances require the increase, the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation will request a decision from the Council of Ministers approving the price increase by a proportion commensurate with production and cost," they added.

"The government assigned the Ministerial Economic Committee to study the extent to which the increase in government service prices reflects on public prices in Kuwait as well as its effects on the local market," calling on concerned ministries to tighten their control over the markets in order to prevent any increase, and to hold each party that goes to this path accountable. —Agencies

KRCS launches orphanage unit building in Jordan

AMMAN: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Head Dr Helal Al-Sayer on Tuesday inaugurated a newly established orphanage support unit in Jordan. In a statement to KUNA, Dr Helal said this project focuses on the renovation of the building next to the Red Crescent Society in Amman and the establishment of a multi-purpose hall to receive orphans and their families, including offices for workers, in addition to provisions for logistical support while also laying the groundwork needed to implement the project.

The project aims to support those in need specifically the orphans and migrants in the country who fled conflicts as the current number of orphans under this program amounted to 7,900. He also recognized the efforts of the Foreign Ministry represented by the Kuwaiti Embassy in Jordan in easing the matters of the KRCS in facilitating the conveyance of aid within the country.

Facilitating the matters, Charge d'affaires at the Embassy Dr Mubarak Al-Hajery said the project embodies Kuwait's role and its upholding slogan of the "Kuwait beside you" campaign, as a result of leadership efforts and the ongoing charitable works of its citizens. Additionally, this project is a fine example of co-opted work between the Red Crescent Societies branches waged together to help bolster humanitarian efforts and reach out to those in need, mentioning these efforts are expanded out to the worldwide gamut.



KRCS inaugurates orphanage support unit building in Jordan. —KUNA

Heading the organization in Jordan, Mohammad Al-Hadeed said the undertaking of volunteering deeds is linked to the Kuwaiti Society, to express thanks and sincere appreciation for the work being done to help alleviate the suffering of the destitute in Jordan. Additionally, the endeavors for the orphanage and the agreement to fund medical and surgical procedures are one of the many deeds presented by the state of Kuwait as they continue these supporting efforts since the Syrian crisis ensued.

WHO lauds Kuwait

Meanwhile, the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Tedros Ghebreyesus has praised Kuwait's cooperation with the organization in various fields, especially in supporting those affected by the earthquake that hit Syria and Turkey

expressed its condemnation and denunciation to the racists and provocative remarks made by an Zionist official of the occupation government, through which he denied the existence of the Palestinian people and the use of a map of Zionist entity that includes the borders of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. In a statement, the ministry affirmed Kuwait's rejection of the continued inflammatory and irresponsible remarks that contradict historical facts and geographical reality, and are inconsistent with all international laws and norms.

The Ministry reiterated Kuwait's principled and firm position, which calls for the need for the United Nations and the international community to assume its moral and legal responsibilities to stop such extremist statements targeting the Palestinian people, and the need to work to deter these negative practices. The statement noted on the need to provide to the Palestinian people full international protection, and support to all UN and international efforts aimed at reaching a permanent solution. The statement underlined the need for a comprehensive and just solution for the Palestinian people in accordance with international resolutions, the road map, and the Arab peace initiative, which in turn leads to the Palestinian people obtaining all their legitimate rights and establishing their independent state within the borders of 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Attacks on Syrians

Kuwait also expressed concern over attacks targeting civilians in Syria as documented by the independent fact-finding commission in Syria. The Kuwaiti stand was expressed by the permanent rep-

resentative to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Nasser Al-Hain, told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that he met with Gebresus at the Kuwait embassy in Geneva to discuss developments in the humanitarian situation in Syria and Turkey with the repercussions of the earthquake.

He added that Gebresus expressed his appreciation Kuwait's efforts in support of relief efforts for those affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. He explained that the UN official briefed him on the results of his recent visit to Idlib, northern Syria, and the extent of the suffering of the earthquake victims, as well as the organization's plans and programs to deal with the crisis that both Syria and Turkey were exposed to. —KUNA



Permanent representative at the UN and other International Organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayen

representative at the UN and other International Organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayen, in an address to the UN Human Rights Council during an examination of a report filed by the commission.

Kuwait believes that tackling the humanitarian crisis in Syria hinges on ending the conflict that in turn can only be resolved through a political process, according to the 2023 Geneva declaration and the UN Security Council resolution 2245, he said. It calls on all parties to observe the cease-fire and revive the political process, masterminded by the UN special envoy for Syria, ambassador Al-Hayen said. Al-Hayen confirmed that Kuwait had allocated 50 million dollars worth of aid for the Syrian people in the aftermath of the recent earthquakes that jolted the nation. —KUNA

Ramadan greetings

US Chargé d'Affaires James Holtsnider

On behalf of the US Embassy in Kuwait, President Biden, Secretary Blinken, and the American people, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to the people of Kuwait on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. This Ramadan, I look forward to sharing in the many wonderful traditions that Kuwaitis and Muslims all over the world observe during this special month - dedicated to family, hospitality and faith. These include spending time with friends, colleagues, and neighbors at diwanias, celebrating Kuwaiti traditions like Girgian, gathering for Ifars and Suhoors. May this Ramadan brings each of you, your friends, and your loved ones joy and an abundance of blessings.



French Ambassador Claire Le Flecher

At the start of the holy month of Ramadan and on behalf of the French Embassy in Kuwait, I am happy to extend my sincere congratulations to HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Kuwait people. The month of Ramadan in Kuwait and France is a nice occasion for family and friends to form strong links and maintain loving ties in the society. As for Muslims all over the world, this month indicates a major importance and spiritual links between human and Allah as well as noble humanitarian values that urge love, mercy, forgiveness, solidarity and call for rejecting hatred. I hope peace and stability prevail around the world. I look forward to enjoying this month with my Kuwaiti and Muslim friends. I congratulate you and your families where ever you may be, and wish you a blessed Ramadan.



Ambassador of Switzerland, Dr Tiziano Balmelli

I would like to extend my warm wishes for a holy month full of blessings, peace and joy. I wish the Kuwaiti people and friends of Switzerland Ramadan Kareem. I appreciated the spirit of Ramadan for five years in Turkey, where times and rituals are partly collective, according to tradition, and partly lived according to individual choices. A lot of Muslims live in Switzerland - around 5% of the population. They are mostly from the Balkans and Turkey. They practice their religion freely and in peace. Each country practices its own traditions and has its own private charm during the holy month of Ramadan. I think this diversity of traditions and cultures makes the world beautiful and it is therefore important to preserve and value the different roots of the human family. I am looking forward to participating in Ramadan Ifar tables with Kuwaiti friends during my first year in Kuwait. The food in Kuwait is delicious and reflects the diversity of the people who have lived or passed through Kuwait over the centuries. I enjoy the traditional food and the culinary fusion with the different blends, in particular the Indian one.



Interior Ministry adds 26 services to Sahel app

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior announced adding 26 electronic services to the Sahel app, through which citizens and residents can finalize their transactions online without the need to visit a relevant MoI department office. In-person attendance will therefore be restricted to senior citizens, people with special needs and people with cases that cannot be resolved online.

The services include: (1) Inquiring about the election registration number and voting location (2) Traffic fines payment (3) Medical test result for residents (4) Residency renewal for domestic helpers (5) Driving license services (6) Criminal record certificate issuance (7) Downloading registration documents (8) Misdemeanor cases' follow up (9) Residency renewal (10) Residency issuance (11) Inquiry about unimplemented rulings (12) Early membership request registration (13) Enrollment request follow up (14) Residency affairs fines payment (15) Inquiry about a resident's interior ministry reference number (16) A facsimile (exact copy) of Kuwaiti passport (17) Temporary residency transfer and renewal (18) Reporting loss of documents. (19) Payment of additional fees related to domestic helpers (20) Traffic fines payment for companies. (21) Self-sponsorship residency renewal (22) Traffic fines payment for others. (23) Visa fines payment. (24) Deportees' travel ticket payment (25) Dependency fees payment and (26) Legal disclaimer certificate.

Kuwait pledges \$90 million for quake victims

NEW YORK: Kuwait pledged about \$90 million to support the UN's efforts to aid survivors of the earthquake that hit Turkey and Syria last month. The pledge is part of the UN's urgent appeals for the two countries, which include the donations of both the people and government, the UN office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Martin Griffiths said in a press statement on Wednesday.

The UN Secretary General's undersecretary for humanitarian affairs and rescue coordinator noted that he is deeply concerned that the amount of financing is not any close to the target number, adding that Kuwait's pledge will be of great help for families who lost everything.

The pledge, the highest any country had offered since the disaster, will aid the UN organizations in providing food, education, shelter, health services and more for about 18 million people affected by the earthquakes. After the earthquakes, the UN had announced the need for \$398 million for an urgent response in Syria and one billion dollars for Turkey. Up until now, 79 percent of the target number for Syria was met, while finance rate for Turkey reached 19 percent.

Zionist's remarks

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has