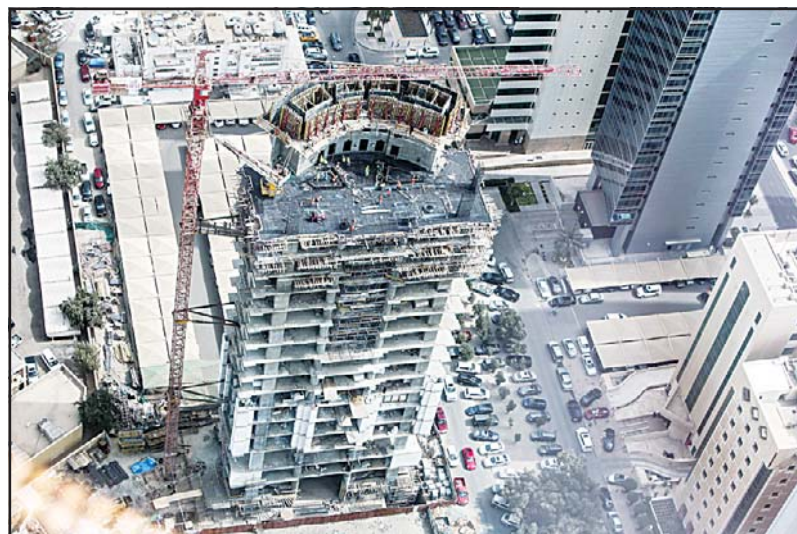


LOCAL



Nihat Ozdemir (center), chairman of Turkish conglomerate Limak Holding AS, poses with Kuwait Finance House bank Chairman Hamad Al-Marzouk (left), and National Bank of Kuwait Chairman Nasser Musaed Al-Sayer (right), during a signing ceremony for a syndicated credit agreement partly financing the construction, completion, furnishing, and maintenance of Kuwait International Airport's second passenger terminal in the capital Kuwait City recently. (AFP)



Construction workers assemble steel meshes at the site of a tower under construction in the downtown district of Kuwait City on Feb 21. (AFP)



Education Minister Dr Hamid Al-Azmi while receiving outstanding students Hadi Al-Mutairi and Fatma Al-Qarashi. KUNA photo

PAD's request to add KD 17m to budget OK'd

Minister encourages students to shoot for global recognition

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 27, (Agencies): Kuwaiti Education Minister Dr. Hamid Al-Azmi on Tuesday assured his compatriot students of unbridled support, telling them to shoot for global recognition.

The minister made the remarks in a statement to the press after meeting with a pair of outstanding students, Hadi Al-Mutairi and Fatma Al-Qarashi.

Al-Azmi, who doubles as Minister of Higher Education, said he was proud of the students' stellar performances in an Arab League-hosted linguistics contest, wishing them further success in their careers.

The undersecretary of Kuwait's Ministry of Education Dr. Haitham Al-Athari extended his congratulations to the students as well, saying the ministry will never fail to acknowledge academic feats.

Meanwhile, Ministry of Finance has approved a request presented by Public Authority for the Disabled (PAD) to increase its budget for the 2018/2019 fiscal year by additional amount of KD 17 million, reports Aljarida daily.

According to informed sources, this amount will enable the authority to pay off its financial dues and debts which exceed KD 18 million and have been accumulating for years. The authority owes these dues to approved

educational institutions where people with special needs are obtaining their education.

In the meantime, Ministry of Commerce and Industry has listed ten new activities as well as some suspended ones among the trade activities that can be practiced in Kuwait as part of the recommendations of the Committee for Standardization of Trade Classification of Economic Activities, reports Aljarida daily.

The ministry decided to add these activities within the limits established in the standard guide for the classification of economic activities in the GCC countries based on the ministerial decision on the formation of the committee for the classification of commercial, professional and craft activities.

Among the activities identified by the decision are air rifle licensing in coordination with Ministry of Interior which is the regulating authority, marine hunting rifles and their accessories in addition to collection, preservation and redistribution of surplus food and beverages.

The activities also include entertainment, educational and training centers, investment services as well as evaluation of assets related to supplementary financial and insurance services in coordination with Capital Markets Authority (CMA).

KDIPA aims to offer tax, customs duty waivers to foreign investors

Cabinet to determine fate of FTZ management

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 27: Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) has been making concerted efforts to offer tax and customs duty waivers and incentives to foreign investors and international companies that intend to invest in the Kuwaiti market, reports Al-Nahar daily.

The daily quoting a source noted the approach is meant to attract more international companies to the local market. He stressed the authority is working hard to build strong foundation for the global marketing strategy in American, British, Chinese and Korean markets.

He revealed the authority has been considering the need to engage international consultancy companies to promote Kuwait's enterprise and to present opportunities for companies and foreign investors to invest in Kuwait.

He noted the consultants will provide the facilities guaranteed by Kuwaiti laws to promote investment, and one of such favorable incentives is the item that makes it impossible to confiscate any investment, in line with provisions of Law Number 116/2013 or transfer its ownership except for public benefit.

The action should align with prevailing laws in return for compensations worth the value of the project whose ownership is transferred as at the actual time of transaction.

Fate

Meanwhile, the Council of Ministers will determine the fate of the management of Free Trade Zone between three government agencies in the coming phase, most likely in October of this year, reports Al-Nahar daily quoting sources.

They explained that the management of the Free Trade Zone will be determined based on activities. If the Council of Ministers decides to determine it based on services, the Public Authority for Industry will take over the administration. This means the current situation will remain as is.

However, if it is determined based on commercial aspect, then its administration will fall under the supervision of Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

If the Council of Ministers decides to classify the area as an economic zone, then Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority will assume administration of the zone. It will put the zone up for investment by local companies of the private sector as well as foreign companies in accordance with certain criteria and standards.

It is worth mentioning that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry had recently issued a decision to amend the contracts of investors in the Free Trade Zone so that these contracts expire in October instead of the current dates.

Withdraw

As a governmental initiative to expedite legislative achievement in the current legislative term, Deputy Premier and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh has disclosed that the government withdrew 48 draft laws which were previously referred to the parliament, reports Al-Qabas daily.

He explained that there are two draft bills, which will be referred to the Cabinet soon. The first is relating to patents and the other is relating to commercial fraud.

Al-Saleh stressed that the government intends to complete comprehensive laws for promoting freedoms, improving the business environment, investment and commercial environment, and creating job opportunities.

In the meantime, global international institutions including International Monetary Fund (IMF) have renewed their calls on Kuwait and the GCC states to continue with direct reforms particularly in revenue aspects through expansion of tax rules and implementation of Value Added tax (VAT), reports Al-Nahar daily.

These institutions also stressed the need to link the salaries and benefits of public sector with those of private sector in order to achieve some kind of equality in the salary system in order to stimulate citizens to achieve self-employment and ease the burden on government institutions.

According to official data, disbursements of subsidies and grants of all kinds have reached KD 5.507 billion. This includes KD 2.054 billion on subsidies and KD 3.507 billion on grants.

Mama Anisa hails Amir's wise initiatives

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 27: Mama Anisa, a well-known Kuwaiti host of the program 'Eyal Al-Deora,' praised the wise initiatives taken by HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to settle conflicts and maintain peace in the region, reports Al-Anba daily.

Speaking to the daily, Mama Anisa

talked about the achievements and humanitarian gestures of HH the Amir — the latest of which is the sponsorship of Kuwait International Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq which was preceded by the conferences on Syria and Yemen.

She also highlighted the vital role that HH the Amir played in consolidat-

ing the viewpoints of brothers in the Gulf conflict.

She called for launching a huge global campaign to grant the Nobel Peace Prize to HH the Amir because he deserves it.

In addition, she lauded the Kuwaiti media for respecting humanity and taking steady steps towards development.

Non-oil revenues down in '17

'MEW's duty to prevent use of water for irrelevant purposes'

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 27: Deputy Director for Technical Affairs at Environment Public Authority (EPA) Eng. Mohammad Al-Enezi says preventing the use of water for irrelevant purposes is the responsibility of Ministry of Electricity and Water, reports Al-Anba daily.

He revealed that the ministry has been working on the regulations in this regard.

Eng Al-Enezi stressed that the time has come to enforce these regulations in order to bring an end to the squandering of water during National Days celebrations. Preserving the natural resources is part of the environmental law and this includes preventing the squandering of water.

He revealed that it is not determined yet if desalinated water is part of the natural resources or not as per the law.

Eng Al-Enezi affirmed that the success of EPA in preventing the use of foam during the National Days celebrations last time is not applicable to water.

He said, "Even though preventing the distribution of water cannot be enforced, it is possible to prevent the use of water for irrelevant purposes, which is the responsibility of Ministry of Electricity and Water".

Meanwhile, Ministry of Commerce and Industry disclosed that Kuwait's non-oil revenues nosedived by 30.8 percent in 2017, as it plunged from KD 191.2 million in 2016 to KD 132.7 million in the subsequent year, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Statistics indicate the major part of Kuwaiti exports in 2017 went to Arab countries. The quota represented 58.6 percent of the total non-oil exports worth KD 77.8 million and the remaining products valued at KD 54.8 million were exported to other countries. On the contrary, non-oil, non-oil products valued at KD 125.3 million were exported to Arab countries in 2016 while other countries received exports worth KD 65.6 million.

Although the rate of exports to Iraq has decreased, it remains the second largest importer of Kuwaiti products such that the total export to Iraq last year amounted to KD 40.1 million as against KD 85.3 million in 2016.



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News in Brief

'Al-Khwarizmi' holds workshop:

Al-Khwarizmi Training Center at Kuwait University organized a workshop about Microsoft Educator Community in cooperation with Microsoft Company.

Educational Technology Consultant at Microsoft Engineer Iman Mushir Ezzat delivered a lecture on the process of registration and signing up for training courses online, noting training courses are available for employees, students and Kuwait University staff via Microsoft 365.

'Ozone treatment available':

Health Minister Dr Basel Al-Sabah has confirmed the availability of ozone treatment in Al-Razi and Mubarak Al-Kabeer hospitals, reports Al-Rai daily.

In response to the query of MP Osama Al-Shaheen, the minister explained the ozone treatment, which reduces backbone pain, is exclusive for patients recommended by the Medical Committee. He said the side effects of this treatment can be avoided by taking antibiotics.

Draft decree on citizenship: MP Saadoun Hamad has submitted a draft law amending the second paragraph of

Article Eight of the Amiri decree on citizenship which stipulates the naturalization of the wife of a deceased citizen provided they have children, reports Al-Rai daily.

On the other hand, Attorney Khalil Al-Saleh has proposed naming a main street after the late Abdullah Jawad Yalli Behbehani in appreciation and recognition of the services he rendered.

KCCI receives trade team:

Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) recently received a Palestinian business delegation headed by Palestinian Ambassador of Kuwait H.E. Rami Tahboub.

The delegation included representatives from several government agencies concerned with Palestinian trade and investment as well as from companies specialized in food, stones and marble.

KCCI board member Tareq Bader Salem Al-Mutawa received the delegation in the presence of a number of board members of KCCI and Kuwaiti companies.

They discussed issues of mutual interest and ways to enhance the ties between the two sisterly countries such as establishing new partnerships for handling developmental projects in both countries.

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