



KUNA photo

A view of the activities at the Gulf Heritage Festival held at the Kuwait National Heritage Village on Tuesday, Feb 27, Kuwait City.

## 'KAC needs revamp to make new profits'

Beware bad weather: KFSD

**LONDON, Feb 27, (Agencies):** Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) needs inclusive revamping in order to compete and make profits again, said CEO Ibrahim Al-Khazzam on Tuesday.

Major efforts are required to salvage the Corporation from losses endured annually, mostly for reasons the current management is not directly linked to, noted Al-Khazzam to KUNA on the sideline of his visit to London.

"In order for Kuwait Airways to make profits and be part of the world's elite carriers, it needs a compliment-free commercial strategy, as well as coordination and cooperation with Kuwait International Airport and the Interior Ministry," he noted.

KAC board of April 2017 has drawn a commercial-based strategy, seeing it as a "lifeline" that would stir up all other sectors at the Corporation, he pointed out.

KAC does not suffer from any technical problems; au contraire, it has highly-efficient technical teams, Al-Khazzam said.

He revealed that the national carrier had recently purchased 10 Boeing 777, 15 A320 and 10 A350 Airbus with the aim to expand and commence new routes for next summer, including Tbilisi, Georgia and Trabzon, Turkey.

He also noted that, for the first time, the Corporation is collaborating with the Ministry of Higher Education in designating 180 seats for young Kuwaitis wishing to pursue a career in aviation.

Established in 1953, KAC operates scheduled international services throughout the Middle East, to the Indian subcon-

continent, Europe, Southeast Asia and North America, from its main base at Kuwait International Airport.

Meanwhile, Directorate General for Civil Aviation (DGCA) has disclosed that 272,000 passengers traveled via 1,808 flights through Kuwait International Airport during the National Days celebrations from last Thursday, reports Al-Nahar daily quoting a DGCA official.

He explained that these statistics were recorded until Monday noon.

DGCA had taken all necessary measures concerning the movement of Kuwaiti and expatriate passengers who chose to spend the National Days holidays outside the country. b There was complete coordination among the airport staff to ensure comfort of the travelers.

The most preferred destinations were Dubai, Istanbul, Turkey, Cairo and Beirut.

In another development, the Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) on Monday night urged the citizens and residents to stay indoors amid rainy weather or remain vigilant while in open areas or sea for their safety.

The country sees heavy rains, thunder and strong southeast wind with speed of 50 km/h, according to a press release by the KFSD Public Relations and Information Department. bThe statement advised the public to follow up the weather updates, avoid unnecessary boat trips, and take care of their safety.

Fishermen need to take additional precautionary measures and head for nearest harbors or islands in case of bad weather, it stressed. The statement also reminded the public of keeping away from power lines at homes or camps in rainy weather, noting that all fire brigades are on alert for addressing any reports of eventuality via the emergency line 112.

## MoE eyes new project

## Safety of students priority

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 27: The Ministry of Education has embarked on a very important project, reports Al-Anba daily.

The Assistant Undersecretary of the ministry's finance sector Yousef Al-Najjar said the ministry is studying the proposal to monitor students from the moment they board the buses until they reach their destination.

This will be done in coordination with their parents. The aim is to protect the students — boys and girls — through an integrated system by broadcasting live video and tracking the movement of the vehicles.

Al-Najjar pointed out the proposal was submitted to the Undersecretary of the

Ministry Dr Haitham Al-Athari. Such a system is believed to be widely prevalent in many developed countries.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Kuwaiti Takaful Society for Prisoners Care, Dr Musaed Mandani said the Society helped in the release of 55 prisoners by paying their debts so that they can celebrate the joy of national holidays with their families and relatives, reports Al-Rai daily.

Mandani stressed the Society is continues with its humanitarian work and assists prisoners on financial issues and those at the deportation center in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior by paying their debts to return to their families and relatives in their home countries.

# DIWANIYA ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## 'Syria ceasefire earned as UNSC head'

## 'Media overlooks Kuwait achievement'

"THE presidency of the State of Kuwait in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), represents a historical event which coincided with our National Day and the anniversary of our Liberation Day — the day we celebrate the liberation of our beloved country from the brutal Iraqi occupation," columnist, the General Manager of Scope Satellite TV Channel and former MP *Talal Al-Saeed* wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"This event (the State of Kuwait as the president of UNSC) is no less important than the two occasions. It is not easy or simple for Kuwait to preside over the Security Council. Not only that, immediately after presiding over this council, it adopted an important proposal after exerting tremendous efforts to get the same passed by the UNSC members.

"This resolution is related to bringing a ceasefire in 'wounded' Syria. This resolution shall help ease the calamity which faces the underdogs currently besieged in the Syrian enclave, victims of shelling day and night by the war planes.

"This historical Kuwaiti achievement, with regret, has passed unnoticed, and it is no more than a news story that was given only in the news bulletin.

"However, it seems the celebrations of the National Day and the live coverage of 'Sailor's Day' contributed to this great achievement, the historic event and the great victory of Kuwaiti diplomacy being forgotten, the pillars of which are deep-rooted in the wisdom, rich experience of HH the Amir, and the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs is still committed to his method.

"It is truly regrettable that this historic event has not been highlighted by the official Kuwaiti media. It has been treated as a news story only in the news bulletin, like local news, and it should have been a major focus, as it is a major achievement in the world.

"But it looks like the misjudgment still governs those who are dealing with the news and are still under the impression that covering the celebrations is more important than this unprecedented historical event, which should have been properly celebrated in the media and seminars and special programs should have been held in conjunction with the celebrations of Kuwait on its day, we know and appreciate the importance of Security Council resolutions.

"We actually know about and appreciate the significance of the United Nations Security Council resolutions, particularly since we know that the liberation of the State of Kuwait was in response to a resolution that was issued by the UN Security Council over which the State of Kuwait is currently presiding.

"In this context, we would like to say that our diplomacy and during the first day of its presidency, was to issue that historic resolution, which will, God willing, begin a comprehensive cease-fire for Syria and the return of peace to its good people.

"It is indeed a great achievement for the State of Kuwait, written by history in letters of gold, but unfortunately our media did not find it worth marketing as it deserves.

"Thus by our hands we unintentionally or intentionally kill our successes and achievements which the world still looks at through a vision of admiration, while we still look at it as only a news bulletin."

Also:

"Based on the Kuwaiti/ Swedish proposal, the United Nations Security Council, passed a

resolution for a 30-day humanitarian truce in Syria for the sake of humanitarian assistance having access to the war torn areas in that country," columnist *Dr Turki Al-Azmi* wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"The ceasefire was something that was much needed before a peaceful solution to the crisis sets in meeting the satisfaction of the peoples of that country because the rivers of blood and scenes of destruction surrounding us bleed our hearts.

"Given the above, I think no sane and respectable human being can overlook the misery and suffering of these Muslims from the aspect of the religious brotherhood.

"For its part, Kuwait's Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs requested the imams to pray for the people of Al-Ghouta in Damascus and I personally call on all people to pray for them and for all of us.

"We say the above, because all of us face the same fate. The grace bestowed on us means we have to thank Almighty God for this grace. All along we have observed with a heavy heart what is currently taking place around you ... the murder of the innocent people in Syria.

"You have to observe who is killing the hopes around us ... the hopes which don't transform the expectations of the peoples into a tangible reality.

"You have to observe also, how the strategies of the West have succeeded in dividing the peoples and how these strategies have succeeded in promotion of the same among the youth and the elderly.

"Such being the case, we see the sense of responsibility towards our brothers in Syria as well as towards the remaining Muslim countries which are currently facing destruction being weakened.

"However, to get the clear picture based on this reality look at the world map and you will find the Muslim States are the ones facing the destruction. Not just that, we know that all the relevant people are looking for space in the Arab and Islamic body.

"You have to observe that those who are talking about public affairs are actually striving to tame the public, and that is what you must understand but when we talk about the three-pronged effect on the political decision (the economics, media and politics), we actually seek for a method to enable the Muslim countries affect the political decision-making process or at least appreciate the right to self-determination.

"In this context, we have the powerful economy and we can also use the media to serve us. But with regard to the decision-making process the Western countries represent the maker of the latter, but we can intellectually invade these countries by establishing informational and cultural centers in those countries to promote the sublime Islamic religion and Islamic values of tolerance and convey to these countries the real practices of the governments against their peoples."

"The National Assembly will discuss the economic reform document on March 5, 2018. It might be worth saying that the Assembly played a big role in hindering a lot of economic projects, in addition to interference in the work of the executive authority," columnist *Dr Salah Al-Etaiki* wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"The obstacles that the Assembly put in the way of privatization and its role in losing the Dow project are examples which make us pessimistic about the projects left in its hands.

"We and others have written about privatization as one of the revolutionary topics in the world in terms of increasing production and controlling expenditure on salaries, as well as

expanding populace participation and reducing cost. The private sector handles the issue of underemployment which is prevalent in the public sector.

"There are many successful models around the world such as the British example in privatization. It was the basic component of the economic strategy of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. By the time she left her position, about one million British workers moved from the public sector to private companies, not to mention the privatization revenues estimated at 500 billion Sterling pounds. At the time, no one accused Thatcher of selling England to businessmen and influential persons.

"Many countries have preceded us in this context, yet we still accuse anyone who calls for privatization of exposing the State's assets to danger. The problem is that the executive authority used to refer any issue to the Assembly even if the issue is part of its work and does not require approval of the legislature.

"The government must let the citizens know about the truth behind privatization in order to save them from unreal worries which somebody is keen on instilling in the minds of citizens."

"The country is celebrating its National Days as well as the sacrifices of its sons. It is celebrating the 57th anniversary of Independence Day and the 27th anniversary of its liberation from the brutality of the Iraqi invasion as well as the 12th anniversary of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad's ascension to power, and His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad's assumption of the role of the Crown Prince," *Uwaid Al-Sulaili* wrote for *Al-Shahed* daily.

"No one in this world can celebrate their national days and inculcate patriotism in the hearts of the people without any sacrifices or offering of blood for the sake of the homeland.

"Patriotism is created and enhanced during wars and ordeals, and it becomes the light for the current and future generations in order to protect and defend the country.

"In the past many years, Kuwaiti people have demonstrated matchless and unrivalled tenacity, steadiness and coherence to defend their country and offer sacrifices for its sake."

"I wish the Minister of Health Dr Basel Al-Sabah could spare us part of his tight schedule to read this article with rapt attention, because there are some points I am raising that require his urgent decision," *Dr Turki Al-Azmi* wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"Recent news indicates the minister has referred some cases of medical error to the Public Prosecution Department for investigation. He also ordered that priority be given to complaints from patients, and specified the deadline for concluding investigations on all cases and complaints to know the outcome of investigations as soon as possible.

"Medical error is the third major cause of deaths in America, coming behind heart diseases and cancer. According to May 6, 2016 edition of British-based Independent newspaper, notable doctors from John Hopkins and other medical centers revealed that most of the errors were due to poor healthcare, insurance or low rate in following medical protocols.

"In Kuwait, we witness strange incidents related to cosmetic operations and liposuction to reduce weight. The strangest issue is that some errors cannot be justified, such as cases where a surgeon forgets mirror or other objects in patients after completing an operation."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb

## News in Brief

**'Kuwait passport most distinguished':** The Kuwaiti passport is the second most powerful Arab passport after the United Arab Emirates (UAE), ranking 49th in the world according to the Passport Index 2018 released by Arton Capital, reports *Al-Qabas* daily.

The index revealed that holders of Kuwaiti passports are allowed to enter 89 countries either visa free or visa on arrival.

Meanwhile, Singapore and South Korea tied on the top spot. The citizens of both countries can visit 162 countries easily.

Meanwhile, in spite of the suspension of classes, educational and sports activities in many cities in Italy and other European countries due to heavy snowfall; the Kuwaiti flag was hoisted in the capital — Rome — in celebration of Kuwait's National and Liberation days, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

**Water use on rise:** The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) recorded an increase of 15 million imperial gallons of water consumed during the National Day compared to the previous day, reports *Al-Qabas* daily.

Water consumption on Feb 24, 2018 reached 370 million imperial gallons while that of Feb 25, 2018 reached 385 million imperial gallons.

Speaking to the daily, Head of the Judicial Arrest Warrant Unit Adnan Dashti disclosed that last year's estimates showed wastage of 14 million imperial gallons of water at an estimated cost of KD140,000.

**Many workers found absent:** The team responsible for inspection of fingerprint attendance process at Ministry of Health launched an inspection campaign in several health sectors of hospitals, health zones and medical centers during the National Days, report *Al-Nahar* daily.

According to sources, the inspection tours resulted in discovery of negligence and absenteeism in some health centers, which forced the ministry to refer the negligent employees to investigations for non-compliance with the official working hours.

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