

Authority's vision consists of two main aspects

Proposal submitted for development of Free Zone

KUWAIT CITY, July 3: The Public Ports Authority has submitted to the Assistant Undersecretary for State Property Affairs its future visions and proposals regarding the development of the Future Zone or rather the Free Zone which was formerly located at the Shuwaikh

Port, reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources.

In this regard, it was reported that the Authority's vision consists of two main aspects: first, the current activity in the current occupied spaces should continue with a "specific" contract to be deter-

mined by the relevant authority for the approved activities.

It is unacceptable that the state will confuse the operating companies in the area through annual contracts. Therefore, it is preferable that the period be at least five years.

While the second, talks about unoccupied areas (space). These spaces are handed over to the ports authority for the purpose of serving the Shuwaikh port, maritime services and logistic navigators in addition to the activities of the Authority.

This will contribute to attracting foreign investments and contributing to the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The sources pointed out that the ports presented their views to the committee headed by the assistant undersecretary in charge of de-

termining the vision for future of the area. This is in preparation for submitting them to the economic and public affairs committees concerned in this regard in preparation for taking the best opinion and submitting it to the Council of Ministers.



KUNA photo

Kuwait University inks accord with KOC on research cooperation.

KU inks accord with KOC on research co-op

Kuwait University (KU) inked on Wednesday a cooperation agreement in strategic research and development with Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) for collaboration in oil traps and heavy crude and natural gas.

KU President Hussein Al-Ansari said in a statement that the five-year accord sets the bases for cooperation on technology acquisition, know-how and enhancing researchers' potentials.

The university backs up research and scientific progress through establishing partnerships, he said, affirming the approach toward excellence and creativity in research of social, economic and humanitarian values. KOC Deputy CEO Nayef Al-Enezi affirmed significance of such coordination for serving research and all-out development, praising the KU researchers' expertise in applied researches that serve the oil sector.

MoH asks for current contract extension

'Health' tender value for incinerator rises by 64pc

KUWAIT CITY, July 3: The value of the tender to be floated by the Ministry of Health for the operation, maintenance and management of the Shuaiba incinerator (I) rose by 64 percent, worth 312,800 dinars to 800,000 dinars, compared to the current contract, which cost 487,100 dinars, reports Al-Rai daily quoting a health source familiar with the daily.

According to the source, the ministry has justified its request to increase the value of the tender for the current contract for several reasons, including: Replacement of the emission monitoring device and its link to the control rooms of the Environment Public Authority (EPA); Installation, maintenance and operation of liquid medical waste treatment equipment; Installation of a sewage treatment unit in accordance with the instructions of the EPA.

This is in addition to the installation of surveillance cameras; increasing the screening of dioxin and furan samples from one to four times a year on the instructions of EPA; Increased diesel costs; the base of the incinerator and its

equipment, raising the cost of maintenance and the decision issued by the EPA to increase the minimum wage for workers.

According to the source, the Ministry of Health has already contracted with the Al-Jahra Cleaning Equipment Company for the disposal of waste for a total amount of 487,000 dinars for 3 years to manage the incinerator and to operate and maintain the equipment and devices available therein.

The health ministry asked for an extension of the current contract until it completed the procedures for submitting the new tender, before the Finance Ministry responded that "there is no objection to completing the extension procedures for 6 months at a financial cost of 80.8 thousand dinars."

On the other hand, the findings of the Ministry of Finance concluded that the demand by the Health Ministry for the tender over the current decade by 64 percent, while specialists in the ministry to increase the value of the new tender by only 15 percent, so that the tender value is only about 560 thousand dinars.

Sheikh Jaber Bridge ... Kuwait project with local and regional dev 'benefits'

World's fourth longest bridge

KUWAIT CITY, July 3, (KUNA): Sheikh Jaber Bridge is a mammoth Kuwaiti and Arab development project that would have development and economic impacts on Kuwait and neighboring countries.

The bridge, which is considered the world's fourth longest bridge, would positively affect several Arab countries, primarily Iraq and Syria.

Generally speaking, a bridge cannot only act as a geographical connection but also a link for development, welfare and prosperity.

Sheikh Jaber Bridge would link Kuwait City to the future Silk Road project, which, in turn, would be a significant development landmark in the region, benefiting as many as 140 million people in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran.

In May, Kuwait inaugurated the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Project, one of the country's massive projects going down in history as the fourth longest bridge worldwide, used as part of Kuwait's 2035 vision of a residential and investment boom in the northern region.

Sheikh Jaber Bridge shortens the distance between Kuwait City and Subiya area, initially driving 104 kilometers in 90 minutes, to a shortcut of about 37.5 kilometers in less than 30 minutes.

Distance

The bridge starts from the intersection of Al-Ghazali Highway with Jamal Abdel Nasser Street at the port of Shuwaikh to Al-Subiya Highway ending at the new Al-Subiya City at northern Al-Jouh.

Construction works started on November 3, 2013 and were divided into two parts: the first one (Al-Subiya link) costed KD 738 million (approximately USD 2.4 billion), covering a low 27-kilometer height bridge, with the main bridge for ships passing to Al-Doha port, across a shipping lane passage that is 120 meters wide, a navigational opening that is 23 meters high.

The second part includes a 4.7 kilometer long Doha highway, with five 725-meter high bridges and a 7.7-kilometer-long sea bridge, three traffic lanes and a safety lane in each direction costing KD 165.7 million (about USD 544 million).

The sea bridge starts from the port of Shuwaikh to the west and passes beside Umm Al-Namel Island to Doha area and then connects to the Doha Highway.

The bridge was built with over 1,500 pillars, width of about three meters and some of them with a depth of 72 meters at the sea bottom, and the height of the sea is between 9-23 meters.

The project contains the construction of two artificial islands, the first near Kuwait City and the second near the town of Subiya to provide maintenance, emergency services and coast guards patrolling the bay leading to the coast of a length of six kilometers.



Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah visits the headquarters of the national sports unions.

Kuwaiti Olympic panel vows support for athletes

Kuwaiti sports leaders will do everything possible to remove all snags facing the national champions on the international arenas, President of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah affirmed on Wednesday. The committee will

put all resources at the disposal of the athletes, scheduled to partake in the World Beach Games, due in Qatar in October, said Sheikh Fahad Nasser, as he emerged from a meeting with the two Karate champions, the brothers Salman and Mohammed Al-Musawi.

All sports officials ought to shoulder the responsibility of supporting the karate champions, he added, hoping that the two brothers would qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Sheikh Fahad Nasser visited the headquarters of the national sports unions on Tuesday.



Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a Dutch company 'PAL-V' to manufacture flying cars. The agreement will enable KAC offer maintenance services for such cars in the Arabian Gulf and Middle East. Present at the signing ceremony were Board Chairman of Kuwait Airways Yousef Abdul-Hamid Jasseem, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Kuwait Frans Potuyt, Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Airways Engineer Kamil Al-Awadhi, KAC's Dubai Regional Office Manager Engineer Abdullah Al-Enezi, and PAL-V's Deputy CEO for Middle East Engineer Khalil Mala'eb. The document was signed by KAC's Deputy CEO for Operations Affairs Captain Abdul-Halim Zaidan and PAL-V's CEO Robert Dingemans.

Report full of suspicions, financial irregularities

State Audit Bureau discovers another 'hospitality' case at Ministry of Awqaf

KUWAIT CITY, July 3: While the widely reported 'hospitality' issue at the Interior Ministry is still being looked into by the court, the Audit Bureau (AB) has discovered another 'hospitality' case at the Ministry of Awqaf, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The preliminary AB report is full of suspicions and financial irregularities in the areas of hotel bookings and Hajj convoy tickets last year.

According to the report, 13 suites were booked in the Four Points Hotel, while the suites are supposedly reserved only for the head of the convoy and his deputy, as well as two general guides, which means that 9 more suites were booked which cost more than 318,000 Saudi riyals.

It is revealed that the pilgrimage convoy booked 150 rooms for its members, while the need was for only 91, which resulted in more 1.5 million riyals expenditure of public money, noting that suites and rooms

were booked in the name of same members and the ministry did not provide Bureau with the names and nationality and nature of the work of the users, who have been accommodated at the expense of the ministry.

The report shows 350 tickets were purchased worth 87,000 riyals, although the number of members was only 194, which means they bought 156 additional tickets, which caused the loss of 41,000 riyals of public money.

The report added that the convoy spent 110,000 riyals cash for the wages of cleaners and guards without showing details of any contracts or providing details about these works, as well as disbursing 87,000 riyals for drivers, although there is no proof they worked for the mission.

The report also stated that 137,000 riyals were paid to one of the real estate offices as a commission to find

the headquarters for the mission in Makkah without following the necessary procedures, as no quotations were provided, neither the role of the office in providing the headquarters because it was the ministry that determined the hotel, and received the quotation directly, indicating that the real estate company is not entitled to receive commission.

The report also mentioned that the Hajj mission booked two hotel suites for the ministers of Awqaf and Health, but the first did not go to Saudi Arabia, while the second lived in another headquarters.

This is in addition to the report which pointed out that the mission contracted to provide 300 meals for members of the Hajj mission, while the number of its members only 194, resulting in an increase of extra 81,000 riyals.

Kuwait re-elected FAO council member

ROME, July 3, (KUNA): Kuwait was re-elected on Wednesday as UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) governing council member representing Near East and North Africa (NENA) Group for the third time until the end of 2020.

In a statement to KUNA, Kuwait's permanent delegation to FAO said the representatives of the organization's member states during its 162nd session elected Kuwait as a member of the 49-member council for the period from July 2019 to December 2020. Kuwait's Permanent Representative to FAO Yousef Al-Juhail at-

tended the meeting of representatives of the five countries selected by the Director General-elect Qu Dongyu as witnesses at the signing ceremony of the new Director-General's contract for the next four years until 2023.

In a similar statement, Al-Juhail welcomed the confidence granted by the member countries to Kuwait as it reflects Kuwait's status and active role in the organization regarding food security issues. The Council's tasks are focused on food and agriculture issues in the world and the current and expected activities of the organization, he said.



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