

# Kuwaiti envoy thanks NY officials for stepping up mosques' security

Al-Otaibi lauds New York security apparatuses



Dean of Kuwait Journalists, Ahmed Al-Jarallah, welcomed at his residence in Yarmouk, His Excellency Jaafar Alj Hakim, Morocco's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

**NEW YORK, March 18, (KUNA):** Islamic Culture Center of New York's Chairman of Board of Trustees, and Kuwait's UN envoy Mansour Al-Otaibi has expressed gratitude to New York mayor and police chief for their quick response to calls for boosting mosques security after the New Zealand terrorist attacks.

In a statement to KUNA on Sunday, Al-Otaibi, the Permanent Representative to the UN, lauded New York security apparatuses for increasing police presence near mosques and taking all precautionary measures to ensure the safety and security of worshippers in wake of the horrible terrorist assaults on two mosques in New Zealand which claimed the lives of dozens of innocent people.

Al-Otaibi was also appreciative for the sympathy and condolences expressed by Christian, Jewish religious leaders and ordinary people who sent flowers and messages to denounce the heinous crime against innocent Muslim worshippers in New Zealand.

Equipped with a semi-automatic weapon, a shooter opened fire on prayer-goers during Friday prayers at two mosques in the city of Christchurch, killing at least 50 people and wounding many others.

On Friday, the UN Security Council adopted a statement, proposed by Kuwait and Indonesia, strongly condemning the New Zealand mosque terrorist attacks, as "heinous and cowardly."

Terrorism "constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security," added the statement, describing these acts as "criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed."

The Security Council highlighted the need to "hold perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice."

It also called on the international community to cooperate with New Zealand authorities on the matter.

## 'OTC trading hiked 363.9 pc last week'

**KUWAIT CITY, March 18, (KUNA):** Kuwait's Over The Counter Market (OTC) spiked 363.9 percent last week, compared to the previous week.

The total trading reached 5.3 million shares at a value of KD 478,200 (around \$1.5 million) done through 35 transactions.

In its weekly report, Al-Mawazi.com indicated that 'immediate' transactions recorded a negative performance, with trading reaching 786,700 shares at a value of KD 81,400 (around \$268,600) done through 26 transactions.

Au contraire, special transactions were had a positive trend, with 4.5 million shares changing hands at a value of KD 396,800 (around \$1.3 million) through nine transactions.

Bursa Kuwait had launched OTC as a new trading platform for those companies that are not listed on the bourse.

OTC transactions are carried out through licensed brokerage offices working under Capital Markets Authority bylaws and Bursa Kuwait rules. The fresh market aims to create a transparent environment by bringing buyers and sellers together using fully supervised mechanisms. The trading platform adopts clearing and settlement procedures.

The head of the Arab Union for Oil and Mines Workers Mutlaq Al-Zubi said efforts are continuing to strengthen the union work and realize the ambitions of the labor movement, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Al-Zubi told the daily, after Kuwait won the presidency of the Union for 3 years, he will support the union in the professional field and support its work to improve the profession and raise levels of performance and productivity and keep pace with the latest developments.

He pointed to the start of work to provide technical and professional advice in matters that involve the activities of the Union and the preparation for research, studies and social and economic statistics for the profession and its employees. A conference will be held to bring modern technology to petroleum products and derivatives.



Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim met on Monday in his office Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad Al-Saud. (KUNA)



KUNA photo

A photo from the press conference.

## PAY opens registration for membership

Public Authority for Youth (PAY) Monday announced opening of registration for membership of the Youth Assembly of Kuwait, starting from Monday March 18 until the beginning of May 2019.

According to coordinator of the assembly, Nourah Al-Khaldi, applicants could register via PAY website [www.ypa.gov.kw](http://www.ypa.gov.kw)

Secretary of the board of directors of PAY Faisal Al-Duwaihees at a

press conference held on the sidelines of the announcement pointed out that the assembly entails 36 youth members in addition to the secretary who is appointed by PAY. He added each governorate will be represented in the assembly by six members, including youths with disability. He stressed that applicants should be Kuwaiti citizens 18 to 34 years old with good reputation, and at least, secondary education certificate holder. (KUNA)

## 'Out of our human and ethical responsibility'

### Kuwait-based charity launches 'initiative' for victims' kin in NZ

**KUWAIT CITY, March 18, (KUNA):** The International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) has launched a humanitarian initiative to alleviate the woes of families of the victims of the recent mosque shootings in New Zealand.

"Out of our human and ethical responsibility, we have launched this initiative in order to help in easing out the anguish of the affected families whose sons got 'martyred' or injured in this horrible terrorist incident," IICO Chairman Dr Abdullah Al-Maatoouq said in a press statement.

The Kuwait-headquartered charity's humanitarian initiative includes relief programs involving medicine and basic needs in general, said Al-Maatoouq, who is an advisor at Amiri Diwan.

At least 50 Muslim worshippers were killed and over 48 others wounded in attacks on two mosques in Christchurch in New Zealand on Friday.

Australian Brenton Tarrant, 28, on Saturday appeared before a court in Christchurch where he was charged with murder.

The attacks on the two mosques have sparked wide-scale condemnations

and denunciations from world leaders, mainly Arab and Muslim ones.

Al-Maatoouq condemned the incident as a terrorist attack on peaceful worshippers and a heinous aggression on human values.

He stressed that terrorism has no homeland, color, religion or ethical and geographical boundaries, calling on the international community with all its organizations to resolutely fight terrorism. "What has happened is an appalling terrorist crime that breaks all moral and human values and that was perpetrated by people who have lost their human sentiments and favored the policy of hatred and extremism," he lamented.

He urged the world to exert concerted efforts to fend off the discourse of racism and intolerance and to uproot terrorism and fight all platforms that instigate hatred, violence and extremism.

Instead, the values of people-to-people peaceful coexistence should be observed, the IICO chief emphasized.

Al-Maatoouq concluded by underscoring that such criminal and brutal acts against innocent Muslims target world stabilize security and stability and trigger off tensions.

Number of caravans required is 10

## 'Awqaf' allows merger of low-cost Hajj caravans with Bedouns ... for first time

**KUWAIT CITY, March 18:** For the first time, Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has allowed the merger of low-cost Bedoun Hajj caravans for Kuwaitis, and each caravan will consist of 200 Kuwaiti pilgrims for a fixed price of KD 1,300 each, in addition to 100 Bedouns who will pay KD 1,000 to 1,300, reports Al-Anba daily.

The ministry's decision, of which a copy has been obtained by the daily, says the Department of Hajj and Umrah Affairs is glad to announce opening of registration for the low-cost pilgrimage project as follows:

The number of caravans required is 10, while the ones offering the lowest price will be selected. The required number of Kuwaiti pilgrims is 200 and 100 pilgrims from the Bedoun in each of the caravans. The price for the Kuwaiti pilgrim is KD 1,300 according to the classification services of category (C), and the price for Bedoun Hajj shall be no less than 1,000 dinars and not exceeding KD 1,300 according to the classification services of category (C) and the system of practice, while partial integration in housing is allowed for both classes.

## News in Brief

### Plan to dev primary stage:

Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Hamed Al-Azmi affirmed there is a plan for the development of the primary stage and pointed out that this plan comes within the project of the integrated education reform system, which is included in the state development plan, reports Al-Anba daily.

Al-Azmi said in reply to a question by MP Mohammed Al-Dalal said this project consists of several sub-projects such as the development of educational and school departments and professionalism of senior and junior employees in the public education and all other types of education, development of curriculum, and the implementation of projects for the development of school equipment in public education and all other types of education (science laboratories, robot, arts and labs and educational technology laboratories).

The project is supported by the National Center for the Development of Education through its projects related to the development of the primary stage.

**Oman guest of honor:** Executive Board of the Arab Media Forum disclosed that Oman was chosen as guest of honor for the 16th edition of the forum to be held in Kuwait from April 21-22, 2019 under the patronage of HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah with the participation of Arab Foreign Ministers, Information Ministers and owners of Arab media institutes, senior officials,



Talaih Actor busy

Actor Abdullah Al-Talaih is currently busy with the shooting of his scenes in the TV series titled "Agenda" which is expected to be broadcast the coming month of Ramadan, reports Al-Shahid daily.

On his Instagram account, Al-Talaih posted a photograph with actress Reem Arhama.

The series is written by Mariam Naseer and directed by Haya Abdulsalam.

artists, writers, academic figures and journalists.

Secretary-General of the Arab Media Forum Madi Al-Khamis expressed happiness for the selection of Oman as the guest of honor to enrich the forum.

## Women preachers urged to refrain from discussing fatwas

### 'Wrong eco policies will harm Kuwaiti families'

**KUWAIT CITY, March 18:** Dr Hamad Al-Munawar said a Kuwaiti family suffers a great deal which will end in the family living below the poverty line if wrong economic policies continue, reports Al-Rai daily.

Speaking at a weekly symposium, organized by Dr Al-Azmi, Tuesday at the office of Dr Turki Al-Azmi in Sabahiya, under the title 'Kuwaiti families and loans', he said the Kuwaiti family suffers from a lot of problems which will eventually lead to poverty and blamed the situation on the wrong economic policies.

He referred to the proposed state budget and money available to the state ministries, the rate of per capita income, average salaries, expenses and loans that weigh heavily.

He pointed out that the citizen, in light of the available information and the reality he lives in after 10 years,

will live by only 30 percent of his salary, based on the weak value of the purchase of dinars and the recognition of value added and some taxes and fees expected.

He explained the burden of the loans on citizens and the application of 'insolvency' and falling under the burden of poverty, will expose the Kuwaiti family to many problems, and lead to the disintegration of the family and will result in the aggravation of crimes, corruption and theft and reluctance to marry, and the courts are clear evidence to that since most of the issues deal with financial claims.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has called on women preachers in the women prayer places in mosques to refrain from discussing matters of fatwas, especially in cases of divorce, disputes and inher-

itance, stressing the need to conduct the method of moderation and not to violate the doctrine of Ahl al-Sunnah and Jamaa, reports Al-Rai daily.

A decree has been issued by Undersecretary of the Ministry Farid Emadi which stipulates the acceptance of preaching orders in women's prayer halls, that the applicant must have a university legal qualification, and that she must memorize at least three parts of the Holy Quran with the recitation and pass the personal interview.

The decision should make sure that the Quran is read correctly without melody, that the preacher possesses the basics of preaching skills and the ability to address listeners, preferably with computer literacy and PowerPoint programs, as well as having a general culture of legitimacy and commitment to religious dress.

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