



The Municipal Council members during the meeting.

KUNA photo

Consortium wins contract to build power project in Oman

Palestinians get \$2 mln from Kuwait

MUSCAT, March 18, (KUNA): Oman Power and Water Procurement Company (OPWP) said Sunday a Kuwaiti-Saudi consortium won a \$400 million bid to build a solar power station in State of Ibbi.

OPWP CEO Yaqoob Al-Kiyumi said in a statement competitions to win the bid by consortia reflected keenness of international and regional developers in renewable energy sector in Oman.

He said projected cost of the Solar Independent Power Project (IPP) at Ibbi, to be fully implemented by the private sector, was over \$400 million.

The project, explained Al-Kiyumi, was the construction, ownership and operation of a 500 megawatts IPP at Ibbi.

Commercial operations are due in early 2021, he said, and it would supply 33,000 houses with electricity and thus reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 340,000 tons per year.

The IPP, said Al-Kiyumi, would boost the domestic knowledge about solar energy technologies.

The consortium that won the bid consisted of Saudi-based ACWA Power, Kuwait's Gulf Investment Corporation

and Alternative Energy Projects Company.

The Palestinian government said on Sunday it has received more than \$2 million from Kuwait as part of its previous pledge to help in Gaza reconstruction efforts.

The USD-2.150-million sum has been allocated for infrastructure projects in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian Minister of Public Works and Housing Mufid Al-Hasayna said in a press statement.

The minister thanked the Kuwaiti government and Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) for their relentless support to the Palestinian people.

Kuwait had pledged \$200 million for Gaza reconstruction efforts during a conference held in Cairo in 2014.

Undersecretary at His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah's Divan Sheikh Etamad Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace last Thursday Ambassador of Azerbaijan Elkhan Gahraman.

Gahraman handed who handed Sheikh Etamad an invitation for His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak to attend the fifth World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue. The forum will be held in Azerbaijan May 2-3.

'Citizens' flats can be rented to expats'

KUWAIT CITY, March 18: Eng Ammar Al-Ammar, Head of the committee that was formed to follow up the phenomenon of bachelors living in private residential areas, says there is no problem in renting citizens' apartments in licensed private residential buildings to expatriate families, reports Al-Rai daily.

He stressed that the matter will not be discussed in the coming meeting of the committee, as the committee is only concerned about dealing with the matter of renting real-estate to bachelors. Eng Al-Ammar said all municipality branches have been instructed to submit their reports to the committee for discussion during a meeting to be held on April 1, affirming that the municipality teams are working daily to monitor the renting out of real-estate

properties to bachelors.

Kuwait Municipality continues its campaign to remove building violations by taking deterring procedures and action," reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources. The measures taken include recording violations, sending the record to the General Investigations Department and blocking the transactions of those proven to have committed violations.

Sources disclosed the 'transactions block' is implemented in a number of governmental bodies which are part of the system - Municipality, Interior Ministry, General Customs Department and Ministry of Social Affairs. Sources said the block will be lifted only if the violation is addressed.

DIWANIYA ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Extremists in power threat to global stability'

'Peaceful coexistence necessary for survival'

"EXACTLY at 9:02 am on April 19, 1995, US citizen Tim McVeigh, stood remotely watching the collapse of Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma," columnist, professor at Kuwaiti University's Political Science Department, and advisor to Human Rights Watch (HRW) and the Chairman of the Arab Fund for Human Rights Dr. Ghanim Al-Najjar wrote for *Al-Jarida* daily.

"McVeigh had planted explosives in this building which killed 168 people and injured 690. The explosion caused damage to 324 neighboring buildings and set ablaze 86 cars and the total damage was estimated at \$625 million.

"The above occurred prior to the appearance of the 'innovation' of Islamophobia. However, prior to the arrest of McVeigh, the presumed suspect was of Middle Eastern origin. McVeigh was sentenced to death and the verdict was implemented in June 2001.

"In this connection, although McVeigh was angry at the Waco siege (for five months of a compound belonging to the Branch Davidians carried out by American federal and Texas state law enforcement) during his trial he added a political dimension to his case saying: 'The explosion of a federal building equals the destruction of governmental buildings in Serbia and Iraq and other countries.'

"Anyway, this destructive terrorist was treated only in a limited manner to such an extent; his story seems to be eradicated from the memory.

"Last year, the white American Robert Bowers went on a shooting spree at a Jewish temple in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he killed 11 people and before that the US citizen Steven Paddock had gunned down 58 people in Las Vegas.

"In the summer of 2011, the Norwegian citizen Anders Behring Breivik, who during that time was in his 30s had killed 77 people - most of them Norwegian youth citing government policies to merge foreigners into the Norwegian community.

"However, Breivik had published his opinion online that capped racism and traditional hatred.

"Given the above, we wonder how some people like those in question who appeared rich, peaceful, based on pluralism and co-existence with others in countries such as Norway and New Zealand could have carried out or rather committed such incidents.

"Such being the case, it is not surprising to see the Australian murderer Brenton Tarant publishing his opinion on the internet and made it clear that Breivik and Bowers had inspired him, given the fact the dangerous aspect in this connection may go well beyond hatred and traditional racism before starting to form an intellectual youth organization - so to speak - alleging to defend the nation against another intellectual current that is still under creation, motivated by its thought that life comprehends only one denomination.

"It is needless to say such logic doesn't differentiate from the logic of 'DAESH' or the formation of ethnic nationalism which are linked to some religions such as the Buddha nationalism in Myanmar or the Hindu nationalism in India and so on.

"But the question here is, isn't it possible to encounter these phenomenon? However, the answer is, in spite of the danger of this phenomenon, a majority of the people in the world still strives to coexist with others and they still believe in the values of openness and pluralism.

"Given the above, it is obvious that the pluralist thought and coexistence with others and even if the latter is weak, it is needless to say this shall remain the sole guarantor for stability, otherwise, the world shall witness more devastation more than what is happening now where hatred and racism will be the order of the day where innocent people will be killed in the name of defending the nation.

"In other words, these extremists have seemingly declared themselves as representatives of the nation and let the entire world go to hell. In light of the above, we wonder what will happen if these extremists come to power in their countries.

"Given the above, we suggest peaceful coexist-

ence among the peoples of the world is an inevitable necessity for survival."

Also:

"When one of the elements from the DAESH kills innocent people in a suicide bombing, some people call the incident Islamic terrorism," columnist Waleed Ibrahim Al-Ahmad wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"But when a stupid Australian terrorist kills worshippers in their mosques, the killer is dubbed as a 'European suffering from mental disorders'.

"However, in this connection, let us go to the election campaign of the US President Donald Trump, we shall find that this campaign was full of hidden grudge against Muslims. This campaign was seemingly striving to charge Europe against them (the Muslims) to such an extent, Trump during his campaign was quoted as saying, if he becomes US president he will work to expel Muslims from America.

"Given the above, we conclude they feed the notorious racism, sectarianism and doctrinism in their communities through their media which is currently dominated by officials in high places and give us all sorts of bad descriptions, just because one ignorant person who commits a crime, the entire Muslim race becomes captive to defend itself to prove its innocence before the European communities.

"I think the evidence for the West's notorious racism and doctrinism is represented by aggravating hostility against the Muslims - against every Muslim living in Europe - unless he/she proves that he/she is innocent of the event that might be wrongly construed by them.

"Speaking of the recent killing of Muslim worshippers in New Zealand this actually embodies the campaign that has been by the European media to instigate the public against the Muslims.

"The Australian terrorist Brenton Tarant who carried out the recent massacres in New Zealand had cited the US President Donald Trump describing the man as 'a symbol White identity renewal'.

"He had also published a 74-page statement on his Twitter account explaining the motives behind his attack and praised the Norwegian terrorist Anders Behring Breivik who in 2011 massacred 77 people in Norway and it looks like the Australian terrorist was in touch with his Norwegian counterpart to get blessings for his deeds.

"Apart from the above, this terrorist (the Australian) in an earlier comment had said that he has adopted the extremist attitude following the defeat of French Rightist leader Marin Le Pen during the French presidential elections in 2017 in addition to the attack in Stockholm in April 2017 when a hijacked lorry was deliberately driven into crowds (along Drottningatan) which claimed the lives of five people including an 11-year-old girl."

"Kuwait will face a major global test in 2022 as it was selected, along with Qatar and Oman, to co-host the FIFA World Cup, because it lacks infrastructure for such an event," columnist *Sattam Ahmed Al-Jarallah* wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"The World Cup is not just a match between two teams in this international festival, it is the basis for marketing of countries at all levels, especially tourism whereby there is a need to facilitate the movement of people and their arrival. In light of the legal situation, tourism, sporting facilities and the economic problems we suffer, in addition to the nature of political conflict in the legislative authority, all indicate that there is nothing to help participate in this global event which can put the country in the forefront of advertising and marketing.

"At the developmental level, there is no encouraging project in this regard, not to mention the ongoing disagreement over the sport that has pushed the national team to the last of sports teams in the world. The country lacks preparation that could serve the Kuwaiti sport, which is still recovering from the problems of suspension. This is a point to be calculated against Kuwait, not for its benefit.

"On the other hand, there is no tax policy and this could deprive the State of funds from hosting the event, as well as the absence of an encouraging tourism strategy due to many legal obstacles adopted in past years. Those who will come to the country will not be satisfied with the restaurants and malls, so they need other facilities. Thousands of

non-Arabs and Muslims have their own habits that are not compatible with the situation in Kuwait, in addition to the policy of tourist visas which makes Kuwait a country closed for tourism.

"These facts make us wonder what the constitutional institutions have done in this regard. Is it really capable of overcoming the electoral barriers that control the legislative behavior in order to achieve the Vision 2035 to make the country a commercial and financial center globally, and move forward with the Kuwaiti modern era project, the Silk City, and development of islands? All this will reveal that all that was said and spent money on are just slogans?

"Working towards participation in the World Cup should be an occasion to make Kuwait one of the countries hosting this global event and to stand for it as Qatar did. This is because it will serve as a gateway to joining the Club of Tourism Countries, while benefiting from the publicity that will be achieved by co-hosting the World Cup 2022. Today, this is a summer night dream, it is the dream of dreams.

"What we need to participate in this global event is to work out the conditions that qualify us to participate in this sporting event, an occasion to market the country. The first step is a realistic legislative approach which serves the future of Kuwait. The world is moving towards the war of marketing and propaganda, while abandoning complexities of the past that produced one of the greatest human disasters - mutual extremism between human components. Do Kuwaitis realize that or we will reach the year 2022 and find ourselves awakened from unrealistic dreams?!"

"The latest statistics issued by the Department of Alumni at the Deanship of Admission and Registration in Kuwait University, and published by *Al-Qabas* newspaper, revealed a marked disparity in the rate of graduates from the scientific and literary disciplines at the university," *Prof Bahijah Behbehani* wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"In the 2017/2018 academic year, the number of graduates was 6,759. College of Education topped the list with 1,610 graduates, while the number of graduates from the College of Science was 238. There were only 5 in mathematics, 4 in physics, 8 in computer science, 20 in statistics and research operations, 28 in chemistry, and 53 in earth sciences and environment. Highest number of graduates, reaching 120, were in biological sciences.

"We have the right to ask the following questions with concern: What will the future of Kuwait be? How will the government's developmental plan 'New Kuwait 2035 Vision' be implemented without sufficient number of graduates from the College of Science? What about providing competent national manpower that are qualified to carry out the Kuwaitization process?"

"Kuwait in 2010 had preceded the countries of this region in terms of developing a vision for becoming a financial and commercial hub and gradually abandoning oil as an economic source, but then mega projects, which cost about 80 billion dollars in the current development plan emerged. How can these vital projects be realized on the ground when the state lacks national manpower in scientific disciplines such as mathematics, physics, biological sciences and environmental sciences? Why do young people fear and avoid joining scientific disciplines? Is it due to their belief that there are no job opportunities with incentives for graduates of science, even though they pass more than the graduates of education? Or is it because the courses in the College of Science are mostly in English, and it is difficult to obtain a special privilege for graduates of public schools, and not as in the colleges of arts and education, where the courses are taught in Arabic? Or is it due to the weakness of teachers and faculty members in communicating information to students in scientific disciplines, relying on conservation rather than understanding?"

"While Ministry of Education is trying to implement the Kuwaitization policy, a recent educational statistic on the planning sector in the Ministry of Education revealed a large deficit in the Kuwaiti component in scientific disciplines that may hinder the Kuwaitization process."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb

News in Brief

Al-Naem center closed: General Department of Service Centers in Ministry of Interior announced the closure of Al-Naem service center starting from Sunday, March 17 for maintenance purpose, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

In a press release, the General Department of Public Relations and Security Media said the service center in Saad Al-Abdullah block 5 will be open during morning and evening shifts, and the service center in Jaber Al-Ahmad area will be open during the weekends.

Nod to advisors salary: The undersecretary of an unidentified ministry has asked Ministry of Finance to approve the transfer of budget for paying two advisors who are working in the minister's office on part-time basis, reports *Al-Rai* daily quoting informed sources.

They revealed that the monthly payment for both advisors is a total of KD 2,500, indicating that Ministry of Finance has approved to transfer the amount.

KD 8-per-ticket

Continued from Page 1

"We are continuing discussions with the Minister of Commerce and Industry on the decision of aviation services fees," said MP Riyadh Al-Adassani in a tweet.

He said the minister has frozen the decision and called on the government to improve public services instead of imposing new fees and 'hurting' the pockets of citizens.

Meanwhile, the *Al-Qabas* daily said there was parliamentary pressure to freeze the decision of the DGCA.

The implementation of these frozen fees, according to tourism and travel sector sources would generate 60 million dinars annually for the State Treasury, as the number of persons departing through the Kuwait International Airport reached 7.38 million in 2018 and the figure is expected to grow in 2019.

This means that freezing the decision caused the loss to the public treasury. "The decision, which was frozen, imposed by the state on airline tickets, is in force in many countries of the world," said Abdullah Al-Sharhan, a consultant at Kuwait Airways.

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