

City handed accreditation certificate

Yarmouk picked healthy city due to compliance with standards

KUWAIT CITY, March 18, (KUNA): Minister of Health Sheikh Dr Bassel Al-Sabah said Kuwait's achievements in implementing health cities initiative contributed to approving Yarmouk city as first healthy

city in Kuwait by World Health Organization (WHO), due to compliance with relevant standards.

This came in Sheikh Bassel Al-Sabah's speech Sunday during a WHO Eastern Mediterranean

Region meeting in Kuwait, and on the sidelines of handing the accreditation certificate of (Yarmouk health city).

Sheikh Bassel Al-Sabah appreciated the ministry's role to achieve this accreditation,

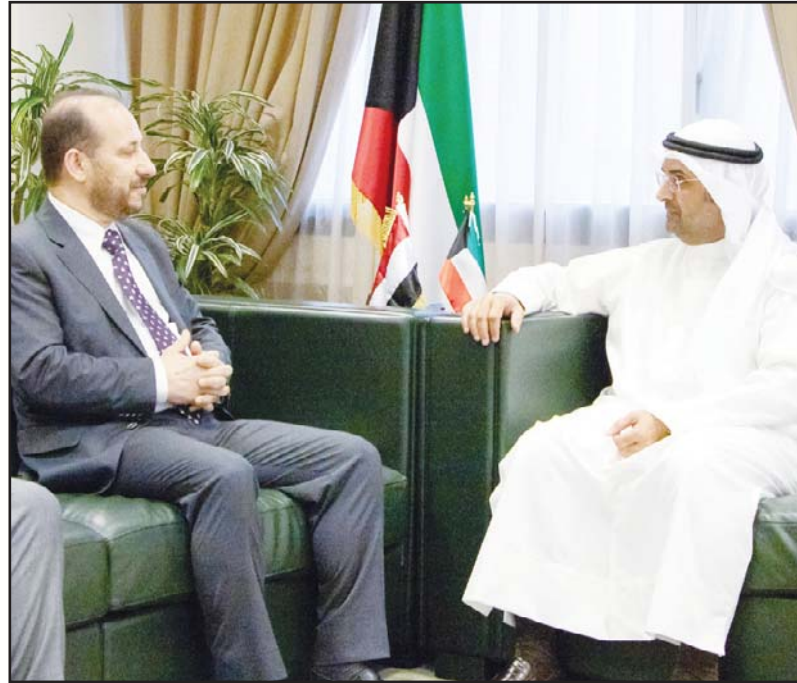
stressing the importance of managing the health cities program within the ministry, government and state development plan work program.

For her part, Assistant Under-secretary for National Medical

Services at the ministry, Dr Fatima Al-Najjar, said this accreditation is success for the ministry represented by the health cities office to achieve its goals, adding the ministry chose health cities initiative as one of the ministry's

target for 2015-2020 development plan.

Al-Najjar underlined the ministry's interest in implementing the health cities initiative, boasting that Yarmouk was chosen as a health city.



KUNA photo
Finance Minister Dr Nayef Al Hajraf receives Yemen's Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Dr Najeeb Al-Ouaj.

Al-Hajraf meets visiting ministers

Kuwaiti Finance Minister Dr. Nayef Al-Hajraf met Monday with Yemeni Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Dr Najeeb Al-Ouaj, on ways to enhance bilateral economic cooperation.

The meeting also touched upon plans to implement development projects that are financed by donor coun-

tries in Yemen, providing basic services and employment opportunities, according to a press statement by the Ministry of Finance.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti minister met with his Nicaraguan counterpart Ivan Acosta, discussing with him ways of bolstering investment and financial cooperation.



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Oil Minister Khaled Al-Fadhel participates in the 13th ministerial meeting of the joint monitoring committee of OPEC and non-OPEC members in Azerbaijan's capital, Baku.

Victims of train disasters mourned

His Highness Amir condolences Pakistan, Congo presidents

KUWAIT CITY, March 18, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Monday sent a cable of condolences to Pakistani President Arif Alvi, over the victims of a train blast that led to a number of deaths and injuries.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to the Pakistani

President.

In a similar development, His Highness the Amir also sent a cable to President of Congo Felix Tshisekedi, expressing condolences over the victims of a train derailment that led to a number of deaths and injuries. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to the Congolese President.

Kuwait partakes in cmtte meeting

Nat'l project launches a second awareness campaign for youth

KUWAIT CITY, March 18, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti national awareness project has launched a second campaign for educating people, especially youth, about a wide array of issues.

The campaign, supported by the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, tackles issues such as the important role of society and environmental police squads, citizenship values, positive thinking and voluntary work, the project manager Nour Al-Huwaidi told KUNA following the campaign launching ceremony on Sunday at the Kuwait National Library.

She added that there would be also lectures about starting a private business, electronic crimes law, military service law, and the role of media and celebrities in countering drug addiction.

Al-Huwaidi stated the project seeks to spread awareness among youth and to help boost their contributions in state building and society development.



Kuwait's Oil Minister Khaled Al-Fadhel participated in the 13th ministerial meeting of the joint monitoring committee of OPEC and non-OPEC members in Azerbaijan's capital, Baku.

Al-Fadhel stressed Kuwait's commitment to reduce its production in accordance with OPEC and non-OPEC cut-off agreement, saying the data showed that Kuwait's commitment was in line with the level of GCC countries; to more than 100 percent.

On the sideline of the gathering, the Kuwaiti minister held bilateral meetings with energy ministers of Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Moreover, he met with OPEC Secretary General Mohammad Barkindo and discussed bilateral relations with Azerbaijani energy minister.

Last December, OPEC and allies agreed to cut production by 1.2 million barrels per day for the first six months of 2019.

Kuwait rejects calls for sharing of supervision over Al-Aqsa Mosque

Such decision could trigger off religious tensions

GENEVA, March 18, (KUNA): Kuwait on Monday stressed its full rejection of recent calls for sharing of supervision over Al-Aqsa Mosque and Israel's control over it.

This came in a speech by Kuwait's permanent representative to the United Nations (UN) and other international organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim, during UN Human Rights Council of discussion of Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Sharing the supervision of the mosque could trigger off religious tensions, especially with continued intentional and unprecedented Israeli provocations, the last of which was the storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque, Al-Ghunaim said.

Kuwait is surprised at international silence toward Israel's policies in providing political and economic incentives to encourage its residents to settle illegally in the occupied territories, he added.

Israel's continued Judaization of the city of Jerusalem, changing its religious and historical landmarks, and the continuation of diggings beneath Al-Aqsa Mosque, are a clear and frank violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, Al-Ghunaim stressed.

He also expressed Kuwait's condemnation of the attacks on the Palestinian people, and the violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by the Israeli army.

Al-Ghunaim affirmed Kuwait's keenness to grant legitimate rights for Palestinian citizens in establishing an independent and sovereign Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital under relevant UN resolutions.

Kuwait also called on the international community to ensure respect for the principles and provisions of international law and international humanitarian law in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, especially as Israel insists on breaking international resolutions, he added.

It also called for commitment to resolutions that include the release of thousands of prisoners, lifting of the unjust siege imposed on the Gaza Strip and the re-opening of crossings, as well as the ending of military checkpoints inside the Palestinian territory, he said.

Last November, Kuwait provided an exceptional contribution of USD 42.1 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), raising the total Kuwaiti contributions to the UNRWA budget to USD 50 million in 2018, the Kuwaiti diplomat added.

This donation reflects Kuwait's continued commitment to support UNRWA's work in protecting the rights of Palestinian refugees, he said.

Some Western countries called for the cancellation of the seventh article on the agenda of the council, which aimed at discussing Israeli violations in the occupied Arab territories, including East Jerusalem, but the Islamic and Arab blocs in the council, supported by African, Asian and South American countries, always abort these attempts.



Jamal Al-Ghunaim



KUNA photo
First Kuwait International Academic Conference on Educational Administration and Planning in Progress.



KUNA photo
The 'Egyptian Vision' exhibition which displays fine arts of Egyptians residing in Kuwait in progress.

Right of minister to put in such requests: Speaker

Al-Roudhan can request to discuss, delay grilling

KUWAIT CITY, March 18, (KUNA): National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim affirmed Sunday that Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan is eligible to request whether to discuss or delay the interpellation motion directed to him by two MPs.

If he wishes, Al-Roudhan can delay the grilling for a certain period after securing the Parliament's approval, Al-Ghanim told reporters, adding the minister's request would be subjected to the bylaw's measures.

According to the assembly's bylaw, Al-Roudhan, also Minister of State for Services, is able to delay the interpellation for a maximum 14 days only, said the top lawmaker.

Furthermore, he mentioned receiving a response letter from MPs Al-Humaidi Al-Subaie

and Mubarak Al-Hajraf to Al-Roudhan's clarification regarding their grilling motion, and referred it to him immediately.

Meanwhile, Al-Ghanim extended his congratulations to the Kuwait people on the conclusion of the by-elections for the Second and Third Constituencies yesterday, describing it as a "mini" democratic celebration.

He also congratulated candidates Dr Bader Al-Mulla, second constituency, and Dr Abdullah Al-Kanderi, third constituency, on winning the Parliament membership, noting they will take oath at the beginning of the regular session on Tuesday.

The five-point interpellation motion was submitted to National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim on March 5 by MPs Al-Subaie and Al-Hajraf.

It addresses real estate frauds, recorded violations at the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and inadequacies in the Public Authority for Industry.

The motion also seeks to question Al-Roudhan over alleged illegal acts, misappropriation of public funds, administrative and financial irregularities, and lack of oversight at the ministry of commerce.

Other charges stipulate, "mis-handling" of civil servants' rights, discouraging skilled national cadres, rampant nepotism at all authorities under the minister's supervision, disobeying instructions by the Audit Bureau, failure to cooperate with the bureau and misleading it, concealing data and documents, and failing to collect overdue debts for the state.

KNPC preparing to add 37,000 bpd coking unit as part of 'clean environ fuel' project

KUWAIT CITY, March 18: The Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) is preparing to add a 37,000 bpd coking unit during the third quarter of this year as part of the clean environmental fuel project, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting a reliable oil source.

The source explained that the company currently owns two identical units of coalification (a process of chemical transformation from vegetation into coal (i.e. the transformation of the complex biological and molecular structures in the cells of plants into the chemical

fragments and structures seen in coal) units in Mina Abdullah with a capacity of up to 40 thousand barrels per day in the future.

The coalification unit was useful for the completion of the hydrocarbon thermal cracking process, in order to convert products of lower value to higher value.

In the context, the source confirmed that the Ahmadi refinery recently received the cooling water production and steam production units and some supporting units in the project of environmental fuels.

The source explained that these units form the basis for practical steps to start the project of environmental fuel, noting that the cooling water unit includes 7 pumps each with a capacity of 9,400 cubic meters per hour, the first units that are an essential part of the manufacturing and conversion operations, as well as fire systems.

According to the source, the steam production unit with a capacity of 345 tons per hour has also been delivered to the refining operations as well as the separation of certain products.