

## 'Municipality to take necessary legal measures against violators'

## Obstacles, encroachments hinder MPW's repair work

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Ministry of Electricity and Water said the reason for the prolonged repair of water lines in Taima and Sulaibiya is due to certain obstacles and encroachments on government land, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry said the Kuwait Mu-

nicipality has been informed to take the necessary legal measures against the violators and to facilitate the process after ensuring the rights of the people are not violated.

The ministry stated a breakdown happened the day before yesterday in 8 lines of fresh water lines feed-

ing the Taima area, which caused the water to be cut off after midnight indicating the malfunction was fixed and water supply restored to the affected areas.

The ministry indicated another malfunction occurred in one of the main fresh water lines feeding the

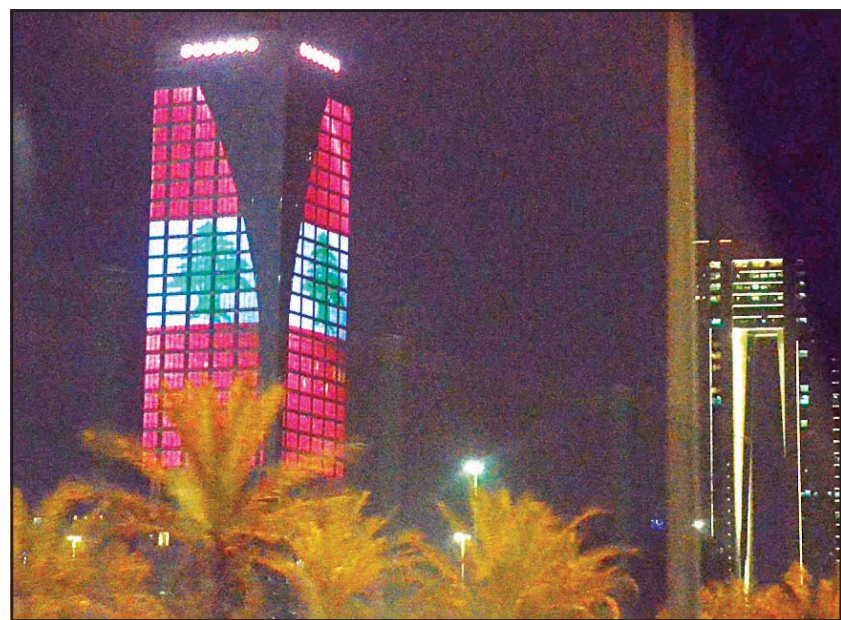
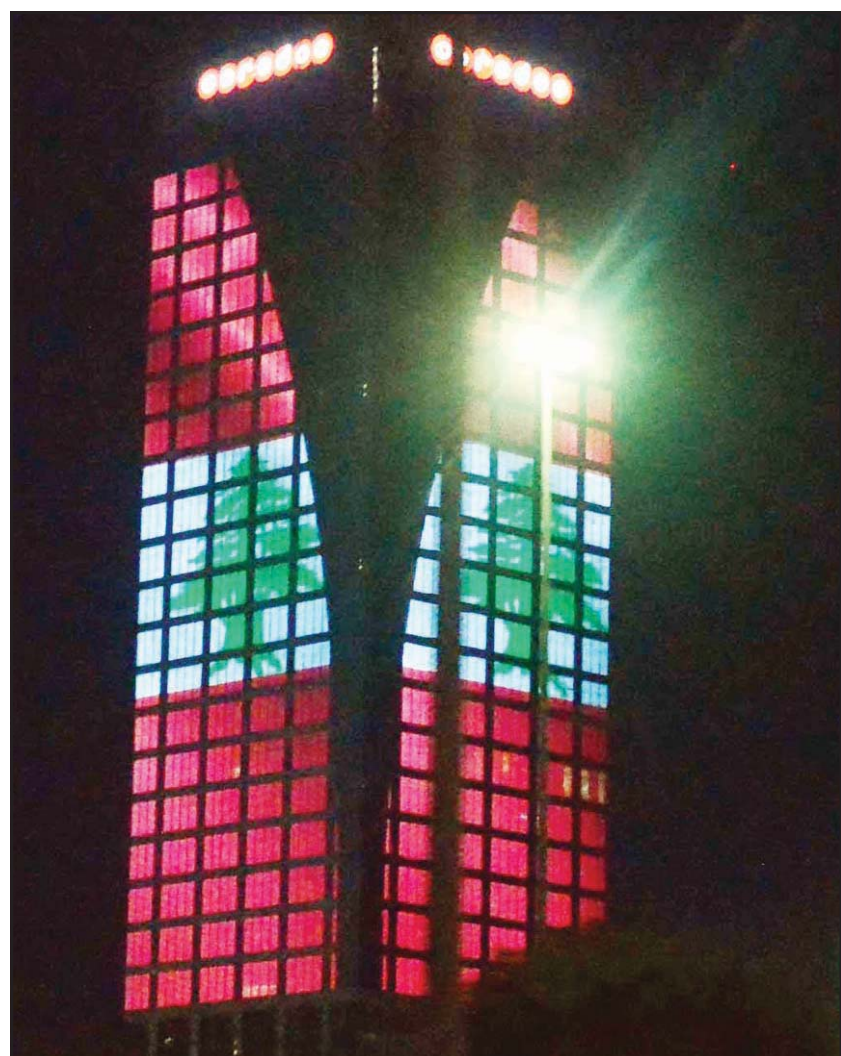
Sulaibiya area which was being repaired by the emergency teams.

On the other hand, the monthly statistics issued by the Statistics Department and the Information Center at the Ministry of Electricity and Water 23,042 employees worked for the ministry until

the end of last March, including 21,956 Kuwaitis, representing 95.3 percent of the total workforce, in addition to 1,086 Bedoun at a rate of 4.7 percent.

The statistics indicated that 199 employees of the total employees in the ministry have postgraduate

degrees, 6,295 hold university degrees, 2,766 holders of post-secondary and sub-university degrees, while the number of high school and equivalent is 8,292, in addition to 5,142 holders of intermediate degrees, in addition to 210 Elementary.



Photos by Bassam Abu Shanab  
Ooredoo building is decorated with the Lebanese flag lighting in solidarity with the recent explosions that killed dozens of people.

## Al-Zour refinery operations about to start

## Two out of 200 pass aptitude test for field operators held by KIPIC

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: In a surprising outcome, only two applicants passed the aptitude test for field operators, which Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC) conducted last week for diploma holders specialized in chemical industries and refinery operations. The test followed a job announcement posted before the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily quoting reliable sources in oil sector said KIPIC received the papers of some 200 applicants comprising fresh diploma holders - as part of the employment announcement for field operators, and only 28 applicants passed the English test while 172 failed, and in the technical test, only two applicants passed out of 28.

The same sources lamented the weak educational outputs of diploma holders - especially in the English language, which is a necessary requirement in oil sector and "there is absolutely no substitute for that", noting the company will announce new jobs for field operators in the coming weeks to fill vacancies after obtaining the approval of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC).

They said "KIPIC is in a hurry to employ

the field operators, especially as the operations in Al-Zour refinery are about to start, and the company needs to train the new recruits."

They explained that the training period ranges between six months and one year to gain experience in operating the refinery units, revealing the intention of KIPIC to enroll them in specialized training courses inside and outside Kuwait to improve their expertise as the first batch to join the Zour refinery operations.

It mentioned that Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) had signed a cooperation agreement with the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) to attract field operators in oil companies and KIPIC through a program prepared by KNPC to support employees through their studies, and then appoint them to oil companies.

The Zour refinery project is considered one of the most important strategic oil sector projects implemented by Kuwait. It includes the construction of the Zour refinery with capacity for 615 thousand oil barrels a day, in addition to natural gas import facilities, and a petrochemical complex.

## 5 years for maintenance contracts

## Life span of asphalt layers subject to various factors: works minister

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Dr Rana Al-Faris said the life span of asphalt layers varies between building a new road, repaving it with asphalt or maintaining an existing road or replacing the asphalt layer with a new one, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

She went on to say, this is usually between five years for maintenance contracts and extends to fifteen years for new construction contracts.

However, these periods, whether 5 years or 15 years, depend on many external factors affecting the shelf life of asphalt layers, especially the surface layer, as the special



Dr Al-Faris

conditions for road maintenance contracts state that the guarantee period is five years and this period can extend to 10 years according to the terms of the ten-year guarantee as stipulated in the general conditions.

In response to a parliamentary query submitted by MP Faraj Al-Arbeed, a copy of which has been obtained by the daily, she detailed the streets where maintenance has been carried out.

Al-Faris added the maintenance of the internal streets of any area is chosen according to specific mechanisms that include periodic inspection of the state of the roads, which are inspected by the road maintenance work teams in all the governorates periodically and reports are being prepared on the status of those roads and the extent of their need for maintenance. She added, the reports are sent to the Government Center for Inspection and Quality Control to determine the type of maintenance required for each street.

## 'Remove all obstacles to railway line project ... within one month'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Council of Ministers has presented an ultimatum ordering government agencies concerned with the northern and southern regional road and the railway line project to take the necessary measures to remove all obstacles to the railway line project within one month, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The council decided to form a committee chaired by the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, and with membership of six bodies (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Kuwait Municipality, Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport, Public Authority for Partnership Projects, and Investment Promotion Authority) to undertake the supervision of the railway project. The committee will follow up relevant authorities, provide feasibility statement on the project's implementation, and submit a periodic report every three months on the latest developments in this regard.

Official correspondences revealed plan to contract with an international consultant to resolve the conflict of the 10 parties stalled over a period of two years due to failure to adopt a budget for the project in fiscal year 2018/2019 allocation. The letters indicated that correspondence in this regard continued between the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Finance since 2018 until February 2020 but no response has been received to date.

## Implement

A memorandum sent by the Council of Ministers to a number of ministries revealed that Cabinet was informed of the non-commitment of Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport and the Public and Private Sectors Partnership Projects Authority to schedule, as regards measures to be taken to implement the northern and southern regional road project, and the railway line.

The memorandum added the Council of Ministers, in its meeting No. 47/2020 held on 20/7/2020, informed the Cabinet of the recommendation contained in the minutes of meeting No. 24/2020 with the Public Services Committee held on 15/7/2020 on the above subject.

The committee reviewed the correspondence that took place between the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport and the relevant authorities, including the procedures and practical steps taken to implement the decisions issued by the Council of Ministers, specifically its Resolution No. 429 that refers to above, and to determine all obstacles to the implementation of the railway network while setting procedures and mechanisms to overcome them.

The council also reviewed letter No. 190 from the Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Housing Affairs dated 9/6/2020, and attached to it, the memorandum of the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport, regarding the coordination measures taken by various government agencies in relation to the obstacles and types of conflicts.

The first phase of the railway network project includes the route of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries linking the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port in the State of Kuwait at 154 km, noting 265 kilometers will be accomplished in the first phase of the route passing through the passenger terminal in Kuwait City.

The authority also coordinated directly with the state authorities to resolve conflicts on the railway track (the first phase) by clarifying the type of conflicts and demands of concerned authorities to determine procedures to be taken

## Budget crisis said delayed project



Kuwait's aircraft being loaded with the relief aid.

KUNA photo

## KRCS distributes food, health supplies to affected families

## Kuwaiti aid to Lebanon continues to flow unabated

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: While Kuwaiti aid to Lebanon continued to flow for the fourth consecutive day to support Lebanon, the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society distributed, food and health supplies to families affected by the huge explosion that occurred in the port of Beirut. This is in addition to 10 ambulances donated to the Lebanese Red Cross, reports Al-Seyassah daily quoting KUNA.

The head of the Red Crescent delegation in Lebanon, Dr. Musaed Al-Enezi, said the Red Crescent is in the field with all its capabilities to provide aid and assistance, whether medical, health, and food, and extend aid to all the Lebanese people to overcome this disaster.

Yesterday, the Rafic Hariri International Airport received two additional aircraft belonging to the Kuwaiti Air Force carrying tens of tons of medical aid and food supplies.

The aid was received by the staff of the Kuwaiti embassy in Lebanon, in the presence of the representative of the Command-

er of the Lebanese Army and the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society.

The advisor at the Kuwaiti embassy in Lebanon, Abdullah Al-Shaheen, said, two aircraft of the Kuwaiti Air Force were received within the framework of the continuous relief and humanitarian air bridge under the directives of His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad and closely followed up by HH the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs."

He added, two more planes were expected to arrive Sunday to join the five planes that arrived in Beirut until Saturday.

In turn, the representative of the Lebanese army commander said, "We thank Kuwait, which has always stood by Lebanon in all circumstances, especially in adversity."

On the other hand, the Minister of Justice, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Counselor, Dr. Fahd Al-Afasi, announced the day before yesterday that the General Secretariat of Endowments will donate one mil-

lion dollars to provide medical equipment and related materials to support the Lebanese people, in coordination with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Health.

Al-Afasi said, this donation comes in implementation of the directives of His Highness, Deputy Amir, Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, to provide urgent humanitarian aid to the brotherly Lebanese people to face the repercussions of the disaster left by the Beirut port explosion.

On the other hand, the proceeds of the first batch of donations from the people of Kuwait through the Islamic Revival of Heritage Society within two days reached nearly half a million dollars.

The campaign management also announced that it had already started distributing in-kind aid to the affected people, especially food baskets during a campaign which will continue to provide relief and aid according to the needs imposed by the situation there.

by the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport by;

First: Fixing the railway track with the Kuwait Municipality.

The installation of the first phase of the railway track was completed at a width of 200 meters with obstacles shown on the survey plan in Kuwait Municipality's letter dated 1/4/2018.

Second: Conflicts on the northern and southern regional road and the railway line.

The following is a detailed report that includes; 1. An up-to-date inventory of all railroad conflicts, arranged according to the level of difficulty of those conflicts. This is for 18 concerned parties, based on direct coordination with concerned authorities. 2. The requirements of the competent authorities on conflicts. 3. Measures taken by the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport and the proposed solution in this regard. 4. A diagram showing some of the conflicts at each side. 5. Correspondence exchanged with concerned authorities.

From this report, it is clear that there are conflicts of ten entities that need to be dealt with by signing a global consultant to prepare the initial studies and designs for the railway track, including the bridges, tunnels and crossings for all roads and corridors intercepting the route, and with the development of engineering solutions and appropriate technical specifications to protect or migrate the conflicts.

In order to ensure security, concerned authorities allow military crossings on the railway at predetermined points, in addition to vehicle and pedestrian crossings, and camel traffic crossings. It also entails studying all service lines and public facilities, includ-

ing water, sanitation, rainwater drainage, communications networks, fiber-optic cables, water and electricity lines- especially high pressure pneumatic lines and related towers, while developing and approving solutions to maintain services with specifications, standards and requirements of the relevant authorities.

## Coordination

Coordination and several meetings were held with representatives of the Public and Private Sectors Partnership Projects Authority, the last of which was the meeting held on 14/11/2019 in the presence of representatives of the Ministry of Finance. The tasks assigned to each of the authorities concerned with the execution of the railway line project (first phase) were reaffirmed. The Public and Private Sectors Partnership Projects Authority disclosed that "in order for the project to be proposed according to the partnership system, the path must be free of conflicts to complete deficiencies in the feasibility study.

Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport has also stated the need to contract with a consultant office to prepare a preliminary design for the Concept Design project through which solutions are needed to deal with major conflicts and the technical specifications for civil works and the operation of the train system, stations, control and monitoring centers, and also complete the necessary studies related to the environmental, traffic and volume cargo, passenger, and geotechnical and hydrological study of the project.

Coordination was made with the Ministry of Finance regard-

ing approval to include the project under fiscal year 2018/2019 budget, so that the Authority could proceed with the subsequent procedures toward offering the study and preliminary design agreement for the project over a period of 24 months.

Exchanged correspondences in this regard continued from the date of 14/8/2018, during which several meetings were held the most recent of which was 14/11/2019.

As indicated by the Ministry of Finance, in light of its letter to the Authority on 15/1/2019, no decision was issued by the Council of Ministers assigning the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport to carry out the preliminary study and design work, and therefore approval is impossible on the project.

In light of coordination with the Ministry of Finance, the Authority was contacted on 19/2/2020 to conclude the approval of the required budget, and until this day, no response has been received.

Coordination meeting was held with the representatives of Kuwait Municipality and the representatives of Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport on 21/11/2020 under the implementation of Cabinet's decision.

Report prepared by the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport in coordination with all agencies relevant to the railway line project was presented and discussed (The first stage). The report entailed the completion of procedures for the decisions of the Municipal Council to concerned authorities in the matter of assignment/deduction/displacement/allocation.