

Minister of Commerce supports 'homegrown' industrial projects

Amir extol KCCI chief on honorary ABC post



One of the participants in expo 'Maker Faire'

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 11, (KUNA): Kuwaiti-made projects dealing with industry and technology take precedence over other endeavors in different fields, the country's Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan said on Tuesday.

"We fully support industrial projects pursued by young Kuwaiti men and women," the minister told the press on the sidelines of an international industrial expo entitled, "Maker Faire."

Kuwait Investment Company (KIC), the organizer behind the event, said the purpose of the initiative is to allow local entrepreneurs the chance to put their projects on display, said Dr Yousef Al-Ali, the company's chairman.

Such gatherings provide a learning experience for these young men and women as they seek to turn their ambitions into realities, he added, pointing out that the turnout for the event has been on an upward trajectory since its inception.

This year's edition features some 179 projects from 12 Arab nations across the world, all of which will be vying for top honors as judged by a panel of experts, according to KIC CEO Bader Al-Subaie.

On the expo, he said it allows entrepreneurs the opportunity to come together and share their ideas in a bid to propel the region's technology and industry sectors.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Tuesday sent a cable of congratulations to the new Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Ali Mohammad Al-Ghanim.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir expressed his sincere congratulations to Al-Ghanim for having been selected honorary president of the Arab British Chamber (ABC) in appreciation for his great and continuous efforts to consolidate the economic and commercial relations between the Arab countries and the friendly United Kingdom.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent him similar congratulatory cables.



Ali Al-Ghanim

Campaign to save 'Palace of Justice'

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 11: The Kuwaiti Lawyers Association has launched a campaign to save the Palace of Justice from demolition to preserve the building as a historical landmark and protect public funds, reports Al-Rai daily.

The president of the society, Shiryen Al-Shiryen, said that the association will address the Ministry of Justice and the Amiri Diwan formally to prevent the demolition of the Palace of Justice, in order to preserve its historical value, and protect public funds, which will be spent on demolishing and rebuilding, which will cost 150 million dinars.

In a statement issued by the association he supported the efforts of the Amiri Diwan and the Ministry of Justice to develop and renovate judicial facilities, provided that this is linked to a logical mechanism that preserves the historical value of the current building, meets the aspirations of the legal judicial community, and plugs the gaps in projects that were recently completed.

He explained that the current building of the Palace of Justice does not exceed 34 years in age, and is still good enough to carry on the work.

Moreover, it can be renovated so work can continue, stressing that the buildings of family courts are the ones that need to be demolished for countless reasons.



KUNA photo
Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah with Governor Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah

Crown Prince receives Capital Gov

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Tuesday at Bayan Palace Capital Governor Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah.

MP chases

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punished for taking maternity leave which is one of their rights. He cited Article Nine of the Constitution which stresses the importance of the family as a unit of the society and the duty of the State to protect it.

Talking about the draft laws on social security and retirees' loans, Al-Shaheen said the government, represented by State Minister for Services Affairs and State Minister for National Assembly Affairs Mubarak Salem Al-Harees and Minister of Finance and State Minister for Economic Affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel, is keen on discussing these draft laws in the session slated for Feb 18, 2020. He called on the government to keep its promise and respond to public and parliamentary demands in this regard.

On the other hand, MP Majed Al-Mutairi has submitted queries to Minister of Oil, Electricity and Water Dr Khaled Ali Al-Fadhel about the lack of training programs for Kuwaitis working in companies which have contracts with Kuwait Oil Company (KOC). He wants to know the reason behind KOC's decision to appoint a retired employee at Baker Hughes Company as director or supervisor of Kuwaiti employees. He added the retired employee was appointed in the interest of the foreign company.

Trudeau ends

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During the meeting, the two sides exchanged cordial conversations and tackled the close bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and means to boost cooperation in various fields.

His Highness and his guest also discussed the overall regional and international situations.

The meeting was attended by the Adviser in the Cabinet of the Prime Minister Sheikh Dr Salem Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Muhammad Al-Sabah and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Khaled Al-Jarallah.

Furthermore, Chairman of the Prime Minister's Office Sheikh Etmad Al-Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Khader, and a number of senior officials at the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also participated.

His Highness held a dinner banquet in honor of the guest and his accompanying delegation.

US not

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depth and development in the Kuwaiti-Iranian relations.

He said this in a press statement on the sidelines of the celebration held by the Iranian embassy on the occasion of the 41st anniversary of the victory of the Iranian Islamic Revolution.

The number of US service members diagnosed with traumatic brain injuries has shot up to more than 100, the Pentagon said Monday, as more troops suffer the aftereffects of the Iranian ballistic missile attack early last month in Iraq.

The department said the latest total is 109 military members who have been treated for mild TBI, a significant increase over the 64 reported a little over a week ago.

The number of injuries has been steadily increasing since the Pentagon began releasing data on the injuries about a week after the Jan 8 attack at al-Asad Air Base in Iraq. Pentagon officials have warned that the number would continue to change.

The department said 76 of the service members have returned to duty, while 26 are in Germany or the United States for treatment, and another seven are on their way from Iraq to Germany for evaluation and treatment.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper told Pentagon reporters more than a week ago that the department was studying ways to prevent brain injuries on the battlefield and to improve diagnosis and treatment.

Army Gen Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said it's possible, in some cases, that symptoms of TBI from the Iranian missile attack won't become apparent for a year or two. He said the Army is in the early stages of diagnosis and therapy for the troops.

In a statement Monday, Pentagon press secretary Alyssa Farah credited medical professionals with provide care "which has enabled nearly 70 percent of those diagnosed to return to duty. We must continue to address physical and mental health together."

Implement N-material

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Ambassador Marafi stressed that the State of Kuwait attaches great importance to the integrated nuclear security plan, which it considers is a framework for effective implementation to support the nuclear security approach.

It also considers this plan a valuable addition to the country's public security system through the focus on strengthening institutional, human and technical capabilities in various aspects of nuclear security, including monitoring and securing radioactive sources, a national response plan and illicit trafficking.

Kuwait has also participated in the IAEA Incident and Trafficking Database, stemming from its commitment to combat illicit trafficking in nuclear resources and to enhance nuclear security.

Achieving nuclear security, he said, is closely related to disarmament efforts, as the nuclear materials used for military purposes represent the majority of nuclear materials in the world.

Government ministers and other high-level representatives from more than 140 countries adopted a declaration at conference to enhance global nuclear security and counter threat of nuclear terrorism and other malicious acts.

From a possible cyber attack on a nuclear power plant to the illicit trafficking of radioactive materials, nuclear security is a growing international concern. The IAEA and its Member States have in recent years intensified their efforts to strengthen nuclear security but agree that more action is needed.

"Nuclear and radioactive material is a magnet for groups with malicious intent that see in this material a possibility to create panic and bring distress and pain to our societies," IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said at the opening of the week-long conference at IAEA headquarters, shortly before the declaration was adopted by the participants, including more than 55 ministerial-level representatives.

Insurgents down

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Nearly a quarter of the 3 million people in Idlib and surrounding areas have fled north as terrified families have piled on trucks and vehicles, sitting on top of mattresses and blankets, clogging sludgy rural roads in harrowing scenes of exodus that have been recurrent in Syria's conflict, now in its ninth year. Hundreds of civilians have also been killed in the latest fighting, according to the United Nations.

The fighting recently escalated with two separate clashes between Syrian and Turkish troops, killing 13 on each side, including 5 Turkish soldiers who were killed on Monday.

Turkey, which is a main backer of the Syrian opposition, has sent hundreds of vehicles into Idlib apparently to prevent government forces from reaching the border areas with Turkey. The country is home to some 3.6 million Syrian refugees and has concerns of more flowing into its border.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday warned the Syrian government that it will "pay a very, very heavy price" for attacks on Turkish troops.

Addressing an event in Ankara, he said he would explain the steps Turkey will take in Syria's Idlib province at a ruling party meeting on Wednesday.

"We have given the necessary response to the Syrian side at the highest level," Erdogan said. "They found the trouble they were looking for in Idlib. But it's not enough. It will continue."

The fighting on Tuesday concentrated near the village of Nairab as rebels, with the backing of Turkish artillery, tried to retake the village that they lost last week, according to opposition activists.

Amid the fighting near Nairab, insurgents shot down the government helicopter gunship, killing the two crew members on board, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and Step news agency, an activist collective.

Associated Press footage showed the helicopter spiraling from the sky and breaking up as fire poured from the fuselage, followed by the wreckage on fire after crashing.

Hours later, an airstrike hit the city of Idlib, the provincial capital, killing seven people and wounding nearly two dozen, according to the Syrian Civil Defense, also known as White Helmets. The Observatory said the airstrike killed 12 civilians, half of them children, and wounded about 30.

Opposition activists said the airstrike on the city of Idlib, that is home to some 800,000 people, was carried out by government warplanes in response to the shooting down of the helicopter.

Actress Al-Bluoshi busy filming her drama, 'December'

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 11: Actress Maram Al-Bluoshi said she is busy filming her drama, 'December', which will be shown in Ramadan, reports Al-Jarida daily.

She revealed the filming started in the beginning of this month along with other stars like Tariq Al-Ali, Jamal Al-Radhan, Mais

Kamar, Mohamad Al-Failakawi, Moahmad Al-Sarraf, Hayam Al-Hassan, Jassim Al-Bloushi, Yousif Matar and Heba Al-Abassi.

Bandar Al-Saeid wrote the script for the drama that is being directed by Noama'an Hussein.

Meanwhile, Al-Bloushi is getting ready for a tour to the King-

dom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and Bahrain for the resumption of the play, 'Steps of the Devil,' this month and in March.

She expressed happiness over the success of the play in local and Gulf theaters, especially the most recent in Al-Ehsaa last December.

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