

# MoE preps for 'gradual return' of students to schools in March

Al-Maqsid holds two marathon meetings

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28:** While the Ministry of Education and all concerned departments are preparing for the gradual return of students to school early March next year through the adoption of a "blended education system", which combines online and traditional learning methods, informed sources revealed that all decisions in this regard are conditional upon the approval of the Ministry of Health, and the arrival of COVID-19 vaccine in the country, reports Al-Qabas daily.

They said an upcoming meeting will be held soon between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health to resolve some important educational issues, most notably the paper-based exams for the secondary stage and the possibility of students returning to schools at the beginning of the second semester.

The Ministry of Education affirmed that any decision regarding exams for all academic levels will only be issued in coordination with the health authorities, and in line with the instructions and procedures followed, in order to preserve the safety of the students and members of the educational and administrative staff.

It stated that the meeting, which was held early this week and was chaired by acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education Faisal

Al-Maqsid, was concerned only about discussing the preparation for the return of the students to schools in the event that the Cabinet decided so, after the availability of the coronavirus vaccine, and that the issue of paper-based exams were not addressed.

Al-Maqsid said during the meeting that the students' return to school may be at the beginning of the second semester or before that.

He stressed on the importance of developing a gradual plan for the return of the students in conjunction with the fifth phase for the return to normal life.

## Sanctioned

Al-Maqsid sanctioned the formation of a small committee under his chairmanship to lay down the complete vision and present it at the meeting scheduled to be held at the beginning of next week so that the committee's proposal is studied and the gradual plan for returning to schools is discussed.

Meanwhile, Al-Maqsid commissioned the Assistant Undersecretary of Public Education Usama Al-Sultan to prepare an objective study consistent with a comprehensive proposal that includes the technical orientation plan and educational areas together for the gradual return of students to schools, adding the proposal will be discussed at next week's meeting, reports Al-Qabas daily.

While responsible sources confirmed that the matter depends on the approval of the Ministry of Health, as no action will be taken until the green light is obtained. They pointed out that Al-Maqsid held two marathon meetings on Sunday; the first with a number of assistant undersecretaries for finance, establishments and administrative sectors and the second with educational subject instructors and regional directors to discuss the return plans and requirements.

Sources stated that the first meeting discussed the requirements and needs of the schools in all educational stages in the various regions, as well as financial fund, maintenance contracts and advances, while the second meeting included discussion of the general instructors' proposal and the gradual return plan to schools.

They pointed out that the proposal submitted by the general instructors dealt with dividing the return plan into 3 different stages, so that the first phase would be two weeks and the second four weeks, while the third phase coincides with the fifth phase for a full return to normal life.

On the other hand, Administrative Affairs and Development Sector stressed the need to cancel the user's prerogatives in the event of an employee's transfer or termination of service from the network and the Information Systems Department.

The sector affirmed its keenness to maintain the confidentiality of information to ensure that the access powers to the network and systems of the Ministry's Information Systems Department are not used in a manner that exposes data and information to danger by user accounts in case of transfer and termination of service.

It pointed out that the sector has provided systems management with copies of all transfer decisions and termination of service issued by the administrative affairs. The decisions to end the service issued include revoking the user's access to the ministry's network and canceling all powers over the systems, programs and e-mail.



FM Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser meets his Ivory Coast counterpart Ally Coulibaly.



FM Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser meets his Algerian counterpart Sabri Boukadoum.

## Sheikh Ahmad Nasser meets OIC chief

## FM discusses various issues with his foreign counterparts

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28, (KUNA):** Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah held talks on Saturday with the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Dr Yousef Al-Othaimen, focusing on a number of pressing issues.

The matters discussed amid the encounter, attended by a bevy of Kuwaiti diplomats, formed the agenda of the pan-OIC talks on a foreign ministerial level that just concluded in the city of Niamey, the Republic of Niger.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser met with his Ivory Coast counterpart Ally Coulibaly on sidelines of the 47th ministerial meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

The two sides examined bilateral relations between the two friendly countries, latest developments on the regional and international arenas.

Separately, minister Sheikh Ahmad Nasser met his Senegalese counterpart Aissata Tall Sall, also on the meeting margins, discussing bilateral relations, regional and international issues.

Later, he met Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, examining identical matters. Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser also met with the Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sabri Boukadoum, on the sidelines of OIC.

During the meeting, the two reviewed bilateral relations and discussed the latest developments on the regional and international arenas.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Foreign Minister's Office

Counselor Ahmed Al-Shuraim.

He also met his counterpart of Chad Amine Abba Siddick in Niger.

During the meeting, the two ministers reviewed the relations between the two sisterly countries, and the latest developments on the regional and international arenas.

Also, Sheikh Ahmad Nasser met his Tunisian counterpart Othman Jerandi in Niger.

During the meeting, the two ministers reviewed the mutual relations between the two sisterly countries, and the latest developments on the regional and international arenas.

Sheikh Ahmad Nasser also met his Afghan counterpart Mohammad Hanif Atmar in Niger.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the mutual ties of the two sisterly countries, and the latest developments on the regional and international arenas.

Sheikh Ahmad Nasser also met his Mauritanian counterpart Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the mutual ties of the two sisterly countries, and the latest developments on regional and international arenas.

FM also met with Libya's Foreign Minister, Mohammad Siala, on the sidelines of the 47th session of the meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Council (OIC).

The two ministers met on the sideline of OIC 47th session held in Niamey, Niger.

During the meeting, the two discussed bilateral relations and the latest developments on the regional and international arenas.

## 264K bpd refining capacity

## Mina Abdullah Refinery ... largest of its kind in Kuwait, says official

By Abdullah Othman  
Al-Seyassah Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28:** The National Petroleum Company said the crude oil distillation unit No. 111 at Mina Abdullah Refinery, which is the largest unit of its kind in Kuwait, with a refining capacity of 264 thousand barrels per day, has begun launch.

The Executive Vice-President for Projects at the National Petroleum Company, Abdullah Fahad Al-Ajmi, said the environmental fuel project's estimated budget of 4.68 billion dinars, which is one of the largest approved budgets for development projects in the history of Kuwait, through the stages of project implementation over the past years which coincided with many challenges the company succeeded in overcoming.

Speaking at a conference held by the company at the Mina Abdullah Refinery, yesterday he said the value of the project contracts is 3.69 billion dinars, and the share of the private sector in the environmental fuel project is currently about one billion dinars, and is expected to reach 1.3 billion dinars by the end of the project implementation soon, explaining that the volume of the local content of the project will reach 35.6% of the total contract value.

Al-Ajmi stated that the KNPC has succeeded in completing all project facilities within the approved budget, as the disbursement to this day has reached about 4.4 billion dinars, and what remains is more than enough to complete the rest of the project.

On the date of receipt of the remaining units of the environmental fuel project, Al-Ajmi said that he expects the project to be finally received by mid-2021, as the company succeeded in receiving 105 units at Mina Al-Ahmadi refinery in February 2020, and the Mina Abdullah Refinery Package No. 1 has completed about 19 units of out of 29 units, confirming that 63 units within the second package of Mina Abdullah Refinery were received in August 2020.

Al-Ajmi explained that the environmental fuel project requires the mobilization of more than 100 thousand workers to complete the project, as well as careful coordination around the clock with a number of responsible authorities in the state, noting that the number of workers at peak times reached about 53 thousand workers of different nationalities, ethnicities and languages, which is what makes it difficult to deal with the huge number of such projects.

For her part, Executive Vice-President of Mina Abdullah Refinery Wadha Ahmed Al-Khatib said that the new distillation unit at Mina Abdullah Refinery is the largest of its kind in Kuwait, with a refining capacity of 264 thousand barrels per day, which will increase the total refining capacity of Mina Abdullah refinery from 270 thousand barrels, to 454 thousand barrels per day, and thus it represents the main gateway for the environmental fuel project in the refinery, which in turn constitutes a major quantum leap for the oil refining industry in the country.



Officials being briefed about the training center.

Photo by Rizk Taufiq

## MEW opens power distribution network training center

By Muhammad Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah Staff

The Minister of Oil and Acting Minister of Electricity and Water Dr Khaled Al-Fadhel confirmed that the success of using smart applications has transformed the Ministry of Electricity and Water into an atypical ministry like the other ministries and government institutions that provide services.

He said this on the sidelines on the inauguration of the training center of the power distribution networks sector in the Al-Salam area, which aims to enhance and develop the capabilities of employ-

ees and their skills in dealing with the work of power distribution networks.

He disclosed, the center boasts of an integrated secondary power station that includes transformers, overhead power lines and lighting poles of various kinds.

Al-Fadhel said the building was constructed in record time of 30 days – completed with the help of young Kuwaiti hands, and called it a real achievement which will create a very comfortable work environment and an integrated professional training, which will have an impact on raising the efficiency of work, and getting

acquainted with the latest technological means and methods in the field of power networks keeping in mind the safety and security of workers while performing their duties.

He emphasized the workers in the Ministry of Electricity and Water play a major role, especially the electrical distribution networks sector, who represent the heartbeat of the ministry, due to their direct contact with customers by responding to complaints about electrical network faults, as new mechanisms have recently been adopted to deal with them and repair them in a record time.

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