



KUNA photo  
An agreement was signed between the State of Kuwait and the World Food Program (WFP) on the establishment of a country program office in the State of Kuwait.

## Cooperation sought to report violations of govt contractors

Call to remove Doha encroachments

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: Director General of Kuwait Municipality Engr Ahmad Al-Manfouhi called for coordination between the municipality and all agencies and ministries in order to report the violations committed by contractors during the implementation of government projects, reports Al-Qabas daily.**

In his communique, Engr Al-Manfouhi said the move is in the interest of the public, and in implementation of the provisions of the municipality law and its executive regulations, and the Cabinet's decision to transfer some of the Ministry of Finance's authorities to Kuwait Municipality.

He affirmed that the move is also in pursuant to the safety committee's decision to amend Resolution No. 95/1983 regarding the conditions, rules and procedures that must be taken into account when implementing and

applying the safety regulations for individuals and properties, as it is necessary for all directors of the municipality branches in all the governorates to alert.

He stressed on the activation of the safety committee by applying the notification form attached to it for temporary storage sites within the boundaries of government sites only.

Engr Al-Manfouhi called on all concerned departments to abide by the circular in order to avoid falling under legal liability.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Finance has asked the Kuwait Municipality to remove illegal structures that a group of chalet users built on State properties in Doha, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a letter addressed to the Municipality, Assistant Undersecretary for State Property and Legal Affairs at the Ministry of Finance Dr Ghazi Al-Ayyas disclosed that six users of chalets have encroached on State properties on land and the seaside without obtaining a permit.

Al-Ayyash confirmed that official letters were sent earlier to these chalet users; notifying them on the need to remove the structures and return the properties to their original condition according to the approved plans, but they did not take the initiative to remove the illegal structures.

He urged the Municipality to remove the illegal structures and to inform the ministry about this based on the decision of the Council of Ministers regarding the protection of real estate properties owned by the State and to prevent encroachments - use of such properties other than the intended purpose. He explained that encroachments reduce the value of the properties due to the construction of fixed or temporary structures without a permit.



KUNA photo  
Speaker of the House of Representatives receives the Secretary General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab Gulf States.

## Preparations underway to start construction of Mutla'a project

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) will this week receive the initial works of the first phase of the contract for the construction of the infrastructural networks for 12,177 plots in the Mutla'a project, reports Al-Qabas daily.**

A total of 16 governmental and private entities will meet to inspect the site in preparation for signing the initial "partial" receipt of the project.

In a statement issued by PAHW, the project contractor affirmed the readiness for carrying out the first phase of the construction, completion and maintenance works for roads, parking lots and infrastructural services networks - except filter tanks - for 12,177 plots, 284 sub-power stations in branch 4T, and 12 power sub-stations 2T.

The first phase comes within the project of constructing, completing and maintaining road works and infrastructural networks for 18,519 plots and power substations for the eight suburbs from N5 to N12 in Mutla'a City housing project.

The director of the Fourth District Projects Department agreed to form a committee for the initial "partial" hand-over of the first stage's work, based on the preliminary meeting for completing the procedures for distributing a "To whom it may concern" certificate to citizens from Aug 13.

Meanwhile, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) officials have expressed dissatisfaction over the Ministry of Education due to the claim of a ministry employee that the automated systems of the CSC are 'idle', reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources from the CSC.

Sources asserted the above allegation is baseless, affirming the CSC's systems work efficiently with high accuracy. "There has been no disruption in processing the transactions of citizens and residents received from the Ministry of Education or any other government agency," sources said.

Sources added "we urge the ministry to refer for investigation any employee who claimed the CSC's systems are not functioning in order to determine the reasons behind the allegation which negatively affected public interest."

In another development, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) has affirmed that any governmental request to appoint expatriates in public institutions will be rejected, reports Al-Rai daily.

The commission made the statement after the daily published news that Kuwait Municipality submitted a request to the CSC to replace the contract of its expatriate employees from the second contract to a contract with a clause on the use of services. "Whenever we receive this type of request, it will be rejected outrightly," the CSC stressed.

## Other Voices

### 'Technology exacerbates divide'

"IN LIGHT of the repercussions that followed the accident of the teacher's murder in France, dialogues and questions about the truth of tolerance and acceptance of the other return to the fore, especially between the different ideologies," columnist *Suad Fahd Al-Moajel* wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"Since the nineties, the frequency of such events has escalated from time to time and also every time the issue of tolerance is raised, conferences, seminars and dialogues are held that address the issue of tolerance between religions in particular.

"Today the struggle between good and evil is no longer as we used to believe in. Rather, the conflict has transformed into between some followers of beliefs or religions and each of them moves to undo the other which is something that may not be new in the sense that it is limited to this century which made people more connected and thus one in competition whether intellectually, economically or politically.

"The books that addressed the issue of tolerance varied, including the book 'Tolerance: Theory, Research and Practice,' which is a collection of research papers presented by a number of specialists on a global level in a joint scientific meeting that included scholars and researchers in the fields of education, psychology, philosophy and history. All the topics mentioned are related to the issue of tolerance in various fields.

"Whereas in these papers it was stated that a definition of tolerance achieves the greatest amount of cognitive benefit which is that tolerance means the rejection of negative feelings, thoughts and behaviors with positive ones.

"According to this definition, the scientific and direct translation of this meaning necessarily requires the opportunity for the other, and for us to be a help for some of us to live together and treat with feelings of sympathy and compassion for those who offended us.

"I think that such a definition is basically subject to fundamental cultural differences between peoples, so that every nation has created its own concept of tolerance, which has made it lose much of its essence, especially in light of the insistence on linking the issue of tolerance and limiting it to the religious aspect and in a way that separates its opposite as we see today, so that they became followers of every belief.

"They put their own concept and standards in evaluating tolerance from their perspective, matters mixed in a way that made people differ over who forgives who until tolerance became either a weapon for revenge against the other or an expression of weakness and submissiveness.

"It is regrettable, therefore, that the discussion about tolerance is often confined to the doctrinal aspect only although tolerance is a culture that includes human behavior in different aspects from religion to politics, and from the way of life to the economy but it often appears when the ideological differences are the strongest and most established in human consciousness.

"The secular societies that are supposed to have overcome the 'dispute' between religion and the state still suffer from loopholes that allow a state of intolerance, which sometimes may result in bloody outcome, as we have witnessed recently in France, and before that in New Zealand, Britain and Canada and I repeat it again in countries which should have settled the issue of the relationship between religion and the state.

"The discourse of tolerance, in general, is supposed to be stripped of the ideological color that doubled the clash between civilizations and cultures, in other words tolerance should not be the characteristic of Muslims or Christians, Jews or Buddhists only, but rather it must be only the characteristic of man without ideological reference because religions retain their intellectual reference that has created conflicts throughout human history.

"The struggle of religions and faiths (beliefs) is dominant today just like it was yesterday, and communication technology has doubled its danger in a way that makes the culture of tolerance transform from an intellectual luxury to an urgent need for survival not for one community or for a specific people, but for all humanity."

#### Also:

"The country is currently experiencing a different atmosphere as preparations for the parliamentary elections get underway - the elections that are scheduled for Dec 5, 2020. The media has transformed the atmosphere into a conflict arena as accusations and counter accusations fly freely among political forces and candidates some of who portray themselves as reformers and others saviors to rid the country of corruption and the corrupt people," columnist *Owaid Al-Salili* wrote for *Al-Shahed* daily.

"Everyone shouts reforms and fight against corruption, while they themselves are the ones who violate the law. Exchanging accusations is the most horrific violation which uproots national unity. All this is done for the sake of grabbing the Parliament seat by hook or crook. This is the comic scenario which we see during each parliamentary election held in the country.

"I am fully convinced of the existence of the three-pronged corruption, the first side portrays the corrupt voter who is only looking for his personal interest even if it goes beyond the law and custom.

"This voter is the cornerstone of corruption because he/she throws his/her support behind sectarianism, tribalism, racial, bribe without regard for the supreme interests of the state and the people. Such choice ultimately leads to the emergence of corrupt deputies who become dependent on the state and the National Assembly.

"The second angle of the triangle is the candidate or rather the corrupt MP, who won on the strength of corruption through irresponsible voters. Once voted to power, he seeks with all his strength to blackmail ministers and state officials for the sake of tenders, bids and commits other violations satisfy those who elected him so that he can continue winning the seat for the longest period of time.

"The third is the corrupt official who helps the corrupt MP to violate the law be it in the case of tenders and bids or otherwise, for fear of his affairs being exposed, that is to say his corruption and shameful transgressions.

"The path of reform is one, and there is no other that starts with the voter, so if the choice is right, we will guarantee a parliament free of corrupt, bribed and law-breakers MPs, which will ultimately lead to the disappearance of the thieves and corrupt officials, whose fate will inevitably be behind bars."



"The right to freedom of opinion and expression is one of the basic human rights affirmed by international legitimacy, and before it the true religion of Islam and it is one of the important matters for the state and its individuals together, but what is meant by the expression 'freedom of opinion' that we keep hearing about?" *Faisal Muhammad Bin Sabt* wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"In its broad concept, freedom of opinion can be defined as the external expression of what the individual thinks within him, and the expression is usually in words, deeds, or writing, as well as with movements and images, without any prior governmental control, provided that this does not contradict the laws and customs of the state that allows this freedom.

"Among the laws or restrictions imposed on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the national security must not be violated, the rights of others must be respected and not violated. This brings us to what happened and is happening in France, and I mean the killing of the French teacher at the hands of those who described him as an extremist and before him the attack on the Charlie Hebdo newspaper in January 2015, in which 12 employees of the newspaper were killed.

"In both incidents, there is only one common factor that led to them being 'encroaching on the Islamic religion and its Prophet' under the pretext of freedom of opinion and expression, and here we wonder: 'Does freedom of opinion mean freedom to insult and mock peoples' beliefs and religions, and to undermine their sanctities?'

"Why does the Western press deliberately periodically undermine Islam and insult the Islamic peoples, and not other peoples of the world? Is not religious belief sacred and should be respected as the freedom of opinion that everyone demands to respect? We may also ask about the real killer in those two incidents. Was he the real perpetrator or was he pushed into carrying it out?'

"The French government and the French president have adopted rhetoric hostile to Islam and Muslims, and considered the offensive cartoons of the Prophet (PBUH), as part of the expression of opinion, and refused to criticize what Charlie Hebdo magazine did in re-publishing the cartoons offensive to the Prophet (PBUH) again.

"Isn't this behavior belittling the feelings of Muslims by the French government the main reason for opening the door to extremism and acts of violence, are they not the ones who caused the killings, and should they not be held accountable as well? And we ask again, for the umpteenth time: Why is Islam its Prophet always made the target of insults?'

"In the United States, a country of democracy, freedom of opinion and expression, and unlimited actions, if you raise the sound of music while you are at home and harm your neighbors, the police come to you to warn you to lower the tone or be dragged to the police station to discipline you, as freedom of opinion and expression has limits that cannot be crossed to protect the rights of others."



"I often receive complaints or suggestions from fellow citizens, whether on social media or personally, it is either they have a complaint from one side or they have a suggestion from another side," columnist *Talal Al-Enezi* wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"Therefore, whenever there are letters or complaints, I collect them and put them under this heading: 'Readers' Messages to Their Excellencies the Ministers'.

"Message to His Excellency the Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Dr Rana Al-Fares:

"Is it conceivable for a citizen to submit an application for waiver of the right to housing care, in exchange for wanting to buy a ready-plot? The concerned committee approved this request a month ago and they promised that the decision would be issued within a week. Upon review, he was surprised to find that the minutes of the meeting must be forwarded to the minister's advisor to issue a decision. Unfortunately, the advisor appears to be absent, so the Credit Bank's decision might be cancelled.

"I hope Dr Rana takes care of the complaint and end the suffering of this citizen.

"Message to His Excellency the Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Saud Al-Harbi:

"A number of teachers were delegated to different ministries whose assignment has ended but the transfer process has not been completed due to the corona pandemic. Now that the Civil Service Commission issued a decision to stop the transfer and delegation, what is the fate of these teachers who have not received their full salaries for more than five months?'

— Compiled by Ahmad Al-Shazli

### 'Not ready for crisis'

#### Power outage affects hospital

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 29: The power failure in the Hawalli Governorate caught the Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital off guard because the crisis revealed the poor preparation of the hospital in times of emergencies such as these, reports Al-Rai daily.**

The daily added, when the power was cut off, only some generators worked while others malfunctioned, however, what 'saved the day' was the spare UPS (uninterruptible power supply) batteries for respirators. The situation forced the doctors to give some patients artificial respiration manually.

The sources went on to say the Undersecretary of the Ministry Mustafa Reda rushed to the hospital to supervise work, issue instructions and activate the emergency plan. Director of the health area Nadia Al-Juma'a also rushed to the hospital and diverted all emergency cases, including accident cases to other hospitals.

The power outage crisis that affected areas in Hawalli Governorate, included Jabriya, and that revealed "the poor preparations at the Mubarak Hospital as things almost got out of control."

The power supply resumption saved many patients especially those who receive treatment in intensive care units, or those who depend on artificial respiration."

تطورات مرض فيروس كورونا COVID-19  
خلصنا في بالك  
وزارة الصحة  
الإعلام الصحي

760 إصابة جديدة  
NEW CASES  
الإجمالي  
124,666

4 حالة وفاة جديدة  
NEW DEATHS  
الإجمالي  
767

552 حالة تعافي جديدة  
NEW RECOVERIES  
الإجمالي  
115,475

104 إجمالي الحالات  
في العناية المركزة  
TOTAL SERIOUS CASES

8,424 إجمالي الحالات  
التي تتلقى العلاج  
TOTAL ACTIVE CASES

8,147 مسحة جديدة  
NEW TESTS  
الإجمالي  
905,133

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