



Kuwait's Al-Najat Charitable Society, on Tuesday, distributed humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees and orphans in several Turkish cities. In a statement to KUNA, Al-Najat Director of Resources and Campaigns Omar Al-Shaqra said that this aid comes within the urgent (warmth and peace) campaign for the Syrian refugees in the cities of Sanliurfa, Gaziantep and Reyhanli, in addition to the displaced in Syria.



KUNA photos

# 'Building regulation' delay a burden to citizens: Al-Otaibi

Outcomes of Municipal Council committees' meetings

By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami  
Al-Seyassah Staff and Agencies

**KUWAIT CITY, Jan 20:** The Chairman of the Municipal Council, Osama Al-Otaibi, has addressed a question to the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of Public Works Rana Al-Faris on the failure to refer the building regulation to the Municipal Council until now and wants to know the reasons for its delay.

He stressed the failure to refer the issue to the Municipal Council violates the provisions of Law 33/2016 and the Cabinet's decision to issue executive regulations of the aforementioned law in order to enable the Council to carry out its role in accordance with its terms of reference stipulated by the law, and to address some of the procedures carried out by the executive body of Kuwait Municipality.

Al-Otaibi stated in his letter that Article 21 of Law 33/2016 stipulates that the Municipal Council within the framework of the state's general structural plan and the approved budget deals with matters related to the approval of regulations related to municipal activities and services and special regulations to organize the activities of the Municipal Council in accordance to this law in particular the regulations, including the bylaw regulating construction work.

Al-Otaibi added that the failure to adopt the building regulations forces citizens to resort to engineering offices and this additional cost puts a burden on their finances and called the situation embarrassing.

He said that the citizen is not guilty of the inability of the municipality's executive body to carry out its tasks, and these measures must be confronted and stopped immediately, calling on Minister Al-Faris and the executive body to abide by the regulatory period for the response, in accordance with Article 72 of the internal regulations governing the activities of the Municipal Council.

In other news, the technical committee of the Municipal Council has agreed to the suggestion presented by the member Maha Al-Baghli to add café and snacks activities, except for sheesha, in the artisanal areas - Jahra, Sulabiya, Ardiya and West Abu Fatira, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In its weekly meeting, the committee approved the proposal of the member Hassan Kamal regarding the application of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) concerning the regulation of home garden projects.

It approved the proposal of the member Abdul Salam Al-Randi for the random demolition and cracking of concrete.

The committee referred to the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) to study the proposal of member Abdul Wahab Boreli to name all parks in the country after the martyrs.

## Approval

Meanwhile, the Ahmadi Governorate Committee of the Municipal Council recommended the approval of member Ali Bin Sayer's proposal regarding the creation of a short road linking Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City with Kuwait City.

In its weekly meeting, the committee, headed by its rapporteur Ali Bin Sayer, agreed to the request of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) to establish training institutes in Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City.

It approved the request of the Ministry of Electricity to allocate two sites for two main transmission stations in blocks 6 and 7 of Wafra Agricultural Area.

The committee also approved three requests sent by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs related to the establishment of a permanent mosque instead of the temporary prayer hall in Block 1 of Hadiya area, the allocation of two sites for two mosques and their parking areas in Plot 36 of Fahaeel area and Block 12 in Wafra Agricultural Area.

It referred the request of the Public Authority for Sports to reallocate the old youth sports club site in East Ahmadi of Burgan Sports Club, to the executive branch to prepare a report.

Furthermore, Kuwait Municipality's Legal and Financial Committee, during its weekly meeting chaired by member Fahid Al-Muwaizi, kept on its agenda the proposed amendments to the list of public places that are harmful to health, until the comparative table that shows the amendments made to the list currently in force is presented.

The committee decided to refer the proposal of member Hamad Al-Mudlej to allow the holding of short-term exhibitions at specific fees, to the executive body to study the possibility of increasing the period to one month for state property. It decided to keep on the agenda for follow-up in the next meeting, the fact-finding committee's report on the implementation of the municipality's decisions related to the South Saad Al-Abdullah site.



Photos by Mahmoud Jadedd

Scenes at the truffle market. With the early arrival of truffles in Kuwait the sales at the truffle market was slow.

## Sales at truffle market slow

# Kuwaitis love truffles regardless of price

By Najeh Bilal  
Al-Seyassah Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Jan 20:** With the early arrival of truffles in Kuwait the day before yesterday the sales at the truffle market was slow since the sellers suffered this year due to lack of rain and the circumstances imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic which has restricted movement between countries.

The Al-Seyassah daily met with some visitors to the market and truffles sellers to know what they had to say about the truffle season this year.

A Kuwaiti, who identified himself only as Bu Jarrah said the Kuwaitis love truffles and buy it no matter how high its price, especially since Kuwaitis always love something that is not easily available.

Another Kuwaiti, A.K., said he loves truffles and will have to buy the small size quality, as it is the only one available in the market. He added that truffles are used in cooking with 'majboos' and barbecue, it is useful

for men since it is considered a tonic which boosts vigor.

Hamid Al-Saeed believes that the price of truffles in Kuwait is exaggerated, and the merchants buy it from Iraq at low prices, as Iraq truffles are sold for no more than 3 Kuwaiti dinars, but in Kuwait its price exceeds 15 dinars, so the state must activate its monitoring role on prices, especially that the Kuwaitis cannot dispense with it. Another Kuwaiti A.S. pointed out he buys truffles regardless of its price, and indicated he prefers the Kuwaiti truffles, but unfortunately, only



Photo by Mahmoud Jadedd  
A truffle seller.

the Iraqi truffles are available at the moment, which is sold at a high price despite its small size

Boufahd mentioned that the truffles season starts from mid-October in the West Asia region, which includes Kuwait and the neighboring countries, while the truffles season in North Africa begins in mid-September, so the local market used to import this commodity from Algeria, Morocco, Libya, Egypt and Tunisia, but the lack of rain caused the scarcity in those countries.

The merchant Abu Abbas al-Nuri says the size of the truffles that actually arrived from Iraq is not big, so a kilo of it is sold for up to 15 dinars, and the smallest of it is sold for 10 dinars a kilo, pointing out that as a merchant, he buys a kilo for 13 dinars and half a dinar and sells it for 15 dinars.

He pointed out truffles are not cultivated, but rather is a product that appears on its own caused by thunder and rain, so the lack of rain this year is behind the scarcity of truffles.

EP 03

## THE GUEST SHOW

CHAITALI B ROY

GUEST: MAXINE MEILLER

DIRECTOR: ANEES BACKER

LISTEN ON

21/01/2021 10am and 10pm  
93.3fm and 963am

Radio Kuwait International English Station



TGS poster

## TGS presents Maxine Meilleur

Maxine Meilleur, the owner of Better Books, an independent used bookstore in Salmiya Kuwait has frankly achieved the impossible. She has not only kept the place running for a decade, but she has also converted the bookstore into a thriving community centre. Better Books with its wide collection of books, warm colours, sketches, quilts, cushions, piano and Frosty,

the furry mascot has cemented its place among the reading community in Kuwait. Maxine is a US Army veteran who studied religion at Harvard. She is also a prolific writer who publishes online.

Tune in to 'The Guest Show' (TGS) next Thursday on 93.3 FM and 963 AM Radio Kuwait's International English Station where she shares her journey with us.

## Two sides affirm keenness

# Kuwait, Palestine discuss sports cooperation boost

**KUWAIT CITY, Jan 20.** (KUNA): Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi and head of Palestinian Higher Council for Youth and Sports Jibreel Rjoub discussed on Tuesday means of boosting mutual cooperation in sports and youth domains.

Speaking in a press statement after the meeting, Al-Mutairi said that the two sides affirmed their keenness on continuing to exchange visits of sports delegations between the two countries.

This is based on the effective role of these delegations in developing the bilateral relations, he added.

He pointed to the visit of Palestinian national football team to Kuwait where they played a friendly match against the Kuwaiti team.

He expressed his pride for strengthening sports ties between the two countries.

## Also:

**GAZA:** A number of national and Islamic forces organized a solidarity stand Tuesday with the Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli occupation prisons, rejecting the medical negligence policy against them considering the increasing number of people infected with COVID-19.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Prisoners Bahaa Al-Madhoun said in a speech, during a solidarity stand in front of the headquarters of the Ministry of Prisoners, that the number of infected prisoners reached 250, calling on the World Health Organization, Red Cross and human rights organizations to take practical and urgent steps to save the lives of Palestinian prisoners inside Israeli prisons.

Al-Madhoun warned against the policy of medical negligence practiced inside prisons and the right for treatment.

In a similar speech, Hani Hassouna, spokesman for the Palestinian factions, confirmed that the Palestinian factions are following with great concern with the rising number of prisoners infected, as the occupation intentionally increased these numbers by withdrawing all sanitizers and overcrowding them.

Hassouna, who is a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command, underlined that all resistance forces will not stand idly by in front of these violations and systematic crimes that are committed daily against the imprisoned, also will not leave the occupation alone with them without a quick and urgent intervention to end their suffering.

The solidarity stand was attended

by a number of national and Islamic forces, families of Palestinian detainees, waving pictures and banners for the prisoners and slogans denouncing the policy of medical

**NEW YORK:** The past decade has been one of much tumult for the Arab region, the UN's Political Affairs Chief Rosemary DiCarlo said Monday.

Speaking to a virtual meeting of the Security Council on the crucial cooperation between UN and the Arab League, the official stated, "The close cooperation between the United Nations, including our Special Envoys and Representatives, and the League has been crucial in augmenting our efforts to address various situations in the Arab world."

In relation to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, DiCarlo said, "The UN and the (Arab) League work to uphold the broad regional and international consensus on the two-State solution, promote intra-Palestinian reconciliation and focus on preventive diplomacy to avoid escalation of tensions."

"We welcome the increased engagement of the League and its members, including through an expanded Middle East Quartet and the so-called Amman format."

"The two-State solution that realizes the legitimate national aspirations of Palestinians and Israelis, in line with UN resolutions is the only way to lead to sustainable peace between the two peoples," indicated DiCarlo.

In regards to UNRWA, she noted, "The financial situation of UNRWA remains a serious concern. Sufficient funding is essential for UNRWA to continue delivering its vital services to millions of Palestine refugees in the region and playing its critical stabilizing role."

On his part, Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Aboul-Gheit affirmed that the League was eager to reinforce cooperation with various UN entities including the Security Council and others.

Regarding the situation in the Arab region, the official said that the coronavirus (COVID-19) had a pressing impact on the social and economic situation in the region.

The pandemic has also exacerbated conflicts in the region, creating more misery, he noted.

About-Gheit stated, "In Syria, five countries are interfering militarily in an apparent way... Such (a) military and security situation not only undermines the prospects of a political settlement; it also has significant humanitarian repercussions which are equally serious."