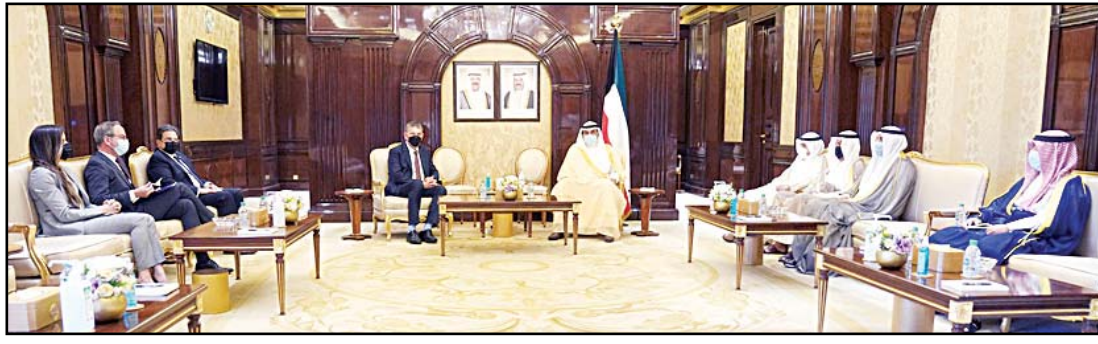


MEW installs 600 smart meters per day in Salmiya area: Al-Ajmi

Investment and commercial establishments target



KUNA photo

HH the Prime Minister receives the Commissioner-General of UNRWA Philippe Lazzarini.

Top Kuwait lawmaker, PM receive UNRWA commissioner

KFAED, UNRWA sign two financial grant deals

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) clinched a couple of grant agreements in Kuwait on Thursday.

The grant deals were signed by UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini and KFAED Director-General Marwan Al-Ghanem.

Under the agreements, KFAED will provide a grant worth USD 1.5 million for UNRWA's health program in Lebanon, targeting continuing health care services for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. KFAED Director-General Marwan Al-Ghanem told KUNA.

It is also meant to offer health care services and cover hospital treatment expenses for about 2,936 patients in need of medical care, including treatment for cancer, cardiovascular diseases, intensive care, burns and other specialized services, he said.

The other grant valued at USD 20 million aims to support the agency's program budget for 2021 and 2022, he said, adding that this extraordinary financial support will help the Agency continue to provide vital humanitarian services to Palestine refugees in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, he added.

The fresh grants are part of Kuwait's pledge during the Third Ministerial Strategic Dialogue on UNRWA, which was held on 15 October 2020 to support its objectives of protecting Palestinian Refugees and ensuring access to aid.

On his part, the UN refugee official voiced thanks and appreciation to the State of Kuwait for this generous donation, saying that this aid extended by an Arab country gives a message that the refugees would not be left alone.

He underlined the significance of this support

from the Kuwaiti government, through its development arm (KFAED), noting that this timely aid would contribute to providing continued services to Palestinian refugees this and next year.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti National Assembly (Parliament) Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim on Thursday met with visiting Commissioner-General of the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in the Near East Philippe Lazzarini and his accompanying delegation.

During the encounter, they addressed a host of key issues and subjects pertinent to the humanitarian conditions of Palestinian refugees and how to ease out their woes and facilitate UNRWA activities.

In the meantime, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met Thursday with the Commissioner-General of the UNRWA during his official visit to the country.

The Head of His Highness the Prime Minister' Diwan, Abdulaziz Al-Dakheel, and the Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organization Affairs Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah attended the meeting.

Also, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah met Thursday with the Commissioner-General of the UNRWA in the Near East, Lazzarini, during his official visit to the country.

In the meeting, Sheikh Ahmad expressed Kuwait's appreciation for UNRWA's efforts by providing educational, health, relief and protection services to more than five million and 700,000 Palestinian refugees.

For his part, Lazzarini valued Kuwait's firm position in supporting the agency, expressing his deep appreciation and gratitude for the distinguished humanitarian and pioneering role played by Kuwait to stand by the Palestinian refugees and everyone in need.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The Director of Contracts Follow-up and Maintenance Department in the Customer Services Sector, Head of the Technical Team for Replacing and Installing Smart Meters in Kuwait, Eng. Malouh Al-Ajmi, said about 600 smart meters per day are being installed in Salmiya, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The daily quoting Al-Ajmi added, after completing work in the Hawalli Governorate which started on Oct 5 last, the team will move to other areas and added, the ministry has in its stores 115 thousand smart meters which are currently being examined and tested, in preparation for their installation.

Al-Ajmi said, "We have started replacing the mechanical meters with smart meters and the ministry had signed a contract to supply 200,000 smart meters last March for the first stage." So far, about 3,000 smart (prepaid) meters have been replaced in investment and commercial establishments, he said.

The engineer spoke of many advantages of installing the smart meters, such as the ease of collecting power consumption fees and facilitates the consumer to check his power consumption bill via the ministry's applications, or through the ministry's website.

Al-Ajmi said, after the completion of the installing of the meters in commercial and investment facilities in the Hawalli and Farwaniya governorates, the ministry will move to the next stages -- industrial and government sectors, and then to the private housing.

He indicated the work is underway in Salmiya and that between 500 and 600 meters are being replaced each day.

He went on to say, "we have special teams to follow up the installation work, and special teams to follow up on the post installation work. He pointed out "through these meters we can discover if there is a malfunction in the meters, or if they stop working, through smart programs.

He said through this system; the Ministry of Electricity and Water can collect debts from customers, by sending them messages for payment, and explained in the event of huge debts of customers, the ministry is studying the issue to find a solution and stressed that the replacement of these meters will be carried out at no cost to the customer.



KUNA photo

Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser during his meeting with Venezuelan FM Felix Plasencia.

FM holds talks with Venezuelan counterpart

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah held official talks with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Felix Plasencia on Thursday.

During the talks, they discussed bilateral relation between the two

countries and their people, and ways to enhance these relations in all fields at all levels, especially trade, economy, and investment.

After the discussion, both sides signed a cooperation agreement to boost the cultural and artistic fields in Kuwait and Venezuela. (KUNA)

Transactions carried out since Jan

PAM completes 1 mln e-transactions

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The Director of the Information Systems Center Department at the Public Authority for Manpower revealed that the total number of transactions completed by the authority's automated systems reached one million since last January until Wednesday morning, reports Al-Qabas daily.

A press statement issued by PAM said the instructions issued by the Director-General of the authority, Ahmed Al-

Mousa to completely shift to electronic services, has brought about a qualitative shift in the authority's systems.

The sources added, 95% of the authority's transactions were carried out electronically through the automated system without any human intervention, with a total of 1.3 million transactions, while only 75 thousand transactions were done with the help of employees, since the authority introduced electronic services last January.

Bid to balance spending, save money

CSC tightens controls on training courses

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has set regulations for training employees in local and external courses through distance learning, and the aim is to balance spending and save public money as it seeks to achieve the goal of administrative development according to the needs of different institutions, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In working paper submitted by the CSC during the annual meeting of the directors of institutes and administration schools in the Arab world, at the League of Arab States summit in Egypt, the CSC Undersecretary Bader Al-Hamad presented Kuwait's experience for employee training during the Covid-19 pandemic, which sheds light on remote training for the 2021/2022 training plan, the most important of which

is that the employee's participation in specialized course of technical or professional nature based on actual needs of an institution, in addition to the content of the training program compatible with the job tasks.

Based on these controls and in the interest of public money, the CSC stressed the authorities took into account the non-disbursement of financial benefits and travel expenditures stipulated in the regulations during training courses and the courses held remotely.

Kuwait's participation in the forum was represented by reviewing the experience of the Civil Service Commission in training employees during the pandemic, in light of the challenges represented by the total ban and reducing the attendance rate of employees to 30 percent.

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