

AMIR ORDERS RELIEF CAMPAIGN FOR YEMEN

KUWAIT: A relief campaign has been launched for the Yemeni people, at the behest of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Chairman of International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) Dr Abdullah Al-Maatouq announced.

This new initiative, titled 'Merciful Among Themselves', is to add to HH the Amir's humanitarian record, Maatouq, also UN Secretary-General's Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs and Advisor at the Amiri Diwan, told reporters yesterday.

The noble initiative affirms Kuwait's humanitarian role and a desire to alleviate sufferings of the Yemeni people amid the deteriorating political and security conditions in the country, casting shadow on the people there, added Maatouq, who is also the head of the Kuwaiti Higher Committee for Relief.

He expressed gratitude to HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for receiving members of the Higher Committee for Relief, and for his support to the campaign. He also thanks state institutions and authorities for backing the Yemen efforts. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor has opened the door for a fund-raising campaign over the coming three months, after being notified by the Foreign Ministry, Maatouq said.

Humanitarian situation

Maatouq noted that since the eruption of events in Yemen, an executive panel of the Kuwaiti Higher Committee for Relief held several



KUWAIT: Chairman of International Islamic Charity Organization Dr Abdullah Al-Maatouq (center) is seen during a press conference yesterday announcing a relief campaign for the Yemeni people. — KUNA

meetings on the humanitarian situation in the country. It hosted a Yemeni humanitarian activist who offered an account on the situation.

The campaign will focus on manifesting the size of the humanitarian crisis in Yemen through Kuwait TV and other local channels, besides intensifying efforts to encourage benefactors to offer donations, the Amiri Diwan Advisor said.

Up to eight million children in Yemen are in dire need for humanitarian aid in 2015, IICO chairman said. He cited UN reports that Yemen is one of the poorest countries in the region. In addition, internally displaced Yemenis hit 330,000 people, and the situation is aggravated by hundreds of thousands of refugees from the Horn of Africa in the country. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Education Minister Dr Bader Hamad Al-Essa listens as a student gives her presentation about her entry project in the 2nd National Robotics Competition. — KUNA

EDUCATION MINISTER REITERATES SUPPORT TO TALENTED STUDENTS

KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Hamad Al-Essa emphasized material and moral support to talented students. Essa made his statement on the sidelines of the 2nd National Robotics Competition, held yesterday by Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC) at the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), in collaboration with the Kuwait Teachers Society.

The Minister lauded SACGC's efforts caring for the gifted and creative students, the leaders of the future. Teaching Robotics will be applied on a wider scale in all state schools as of the

next academic year, the Minister said. Certain errors will have to be rectified after they emerged during teaching it in some schools.

SACGC General Manager Omar Al-Bannai said meanwhile that they are seeking to bring to light talented people through contests to represent Kuwait in international competitions. He referred to plans to open Robotics workshops in the six Kuwaiti governorates. A fabrication laboratory (fab lab) is opening in Al-Jahra soon. Up to 1,200 primary and preparatory schools students have taken part in the 2nd National Robotics Competition. Winner will be honored today, Bannai said. — KUNA

KUWAIT INFLATION UP BY 3.33% IN MARCH: REPORT

KUWAIT: Kuwait's consumer prices index (CPI) or inflation rate rose in March 2015 by 3.33 percent year-on-year compared with the same month of last year, the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) announced yesterday. In its monthly report, the CSB stated however that the inflation rate rose by 0.74 percent month-on-month in March 2015 more than its levels last February. The index figure during the month of March 2015 recorded a rise of seven major groups with influential figures in the movement and low standard of four groups, it said, adding that only one group remained unchanged month-on-month.

Food and beverages

The group of food and beverage rose in March by 1.72 percent compared with the same month of 2014, while the group rose by 0.14 percent month-on-month compared with last February, it added. The report showed that the consumer

prices index of tobacco and narcotics went up last month by 11.87 percent year-on-year and by 0.13 percent month-on-month.

The CPI of clothing and footwear dropped by 0.31 percent year-on-year and by 0.08 percent month-on-month, however the CPI of furnishing equipment and household maintenance increased by 3.95 percent year-on-year and by 0.42 percent compared with last February, it noted. The CPI of the health went up in March by 2.07 percent year-on-year and by 55 percent month-on-month. The CPI of transport rose by 0.81 percent year-on-year and by declined by 32 percent month-on-month, it said. Meanwhile, the CPI of communications increased by 0.10 percent year-on-year and remained unchanged month-on-month.

Recreation and culture

The report pointed out that the CPI of recre-

ation and culture rose by 0.93 percent year-on-year and dropped by 0.08 percent. While consumer prices of education group soared by 5.23 percent year-on-year and by 0.15 percent month-on-month. The CPI of restaurants and hotels by 5.12 percent year-on-year and retreated by 0.15 percent month-on-month.

The CPI of miscellaneous goods and services rose by 2.59 percent year-on-year and by 0.15 percent month-on-month, while the CPI of housing services soared by 6.35 percent year-on-year and by 2.18 percent month-on-month, the report made clear.

The Central Statistical Bureau issues a monthly report on the Consumer Prices Index (CPI), which gives indications of the rates of changes in prices for the commodity groups influencing the families' expenditure and the ability of consumer spending. This index uses the year 2007 as the base year. — KUNA

WORKSHOP ON MARINE POLLUTION CONCLUDES

KUWAIT: Ministry of Communications yesterday wrapped up a workshop on marine pollution in which a number of representatives from the GCC countries took part. Ahmad Al-Husseini, head of directorate of public relation at the ministry, said in a statement that the workshop was held upon the recommendations of the Riyadh Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control in the Gulf Region, known as the Riyadh MoU.

A number of specialists from GCC maritime transport, coast guards and environment participated in the workshop and discussed different issues and problems pertaining to marine pollution the Gulf region is facing, he added. The aim of the work-

shop was to review the laws related to marine pollution, he said, adding all examiners on ships have the right to take legal measures if they find any cause of pollution.

Mohamad Al-Zedjali, a senior member at the memorandum, said meanwhile that all ships come to the Gulf ports are inspected to make sure whether they abide by the global standards of safety and security. He added the laws of the memorandum, which includes all GCC countries, are compatible with the international maritime laws. The Riyadh MoU was signed by the GCC six countries: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE. The MoU is an agreement to achieve safe, secure and efficient shipping. — KUNA

'IBTIKAR' SEEKS TO DEVELOP FEMALE STUDENTS' SCIENTIFIC ABILITIES

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Ibtikar initiative provides girls an opportunity to express their skills through their inventions. As part of its programs, the concluding ceremony of Ibtikar Al Kuwait for Research and Innovation was held on Saturday at the Salwa Al-Sabah Hall, during which the winners of the competition were announced and awarded.

The Ibtikar Al Kuwait Competition was first held in 1999 and only included participants from Kuwait. It expanded to include other GCC countries in 2011. In 2014, the competition became a part of a great initiative to develop the scientific abilities of female students at public schools in Kuwait, with the intention of train-

ing them to participate in the competition.

Celebration of creativity

This was the fifth edition of Ibtikar Al Kuwait. "Tonight we are celebrating the creativity and innovations of participating girls from Kuwait and GCC countries. We have the opportunity to see their inventions, which express a combination of education and thinking, skills and analysis and idea and application. Their inventions show how an idea was transformed into reality. Their inventions can serve the community and solve problems of people. In addition, it also highlights the ability of women and girls to positively develop the community," said Sheikh Fadiya Al-Abdullah, founder of Ibtikar Al Kuwait, during

the award ceremony.

Active role

Women have played an active role in Islamic culture through the ages. "Islamic history is full of evidence of the active role of women in building culture and the world in various positions - as leaders, judges, warriors and army leaders to jurists and others. Presently, women are very active in the community. For instance, 17-year-old Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani activist for female education, grabbed the attention of the whole world over her activities and became the youngest ever Nobel Prize laureate for her leading role in highlighting the issue of female education in her country," Sheikh Fadiya said.

"There are many examples of young ladies who have leading roles in various situations, which reflect their strong will and hard work to achieve their goals. Tonight we are witnessing women excelling in the field of innovation and creativity, which is the weapon of the 21st century. And through Ibtikar Al Kuwait, we encourage innovation and creativity from the early grades," concluded Sheikh Fadiya.

Supporting youth

Hind Al-Subaih, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and State Minister of Planning and Development said that this initiative can support youth and help them spend their free time in useful activities. "This initiative made the girls express their creativity and ideas

through the inventions they presented. One of them is saving energy, which is one of the goals of the government; others seek to protect the environment, while others aim to protect lives, and many other useful inventions. Also, this competition is special as there are participants from GCC countries too and not only Kuwait. I hope that their ideas and inventions will be realized in projects from which the government will benefit," she pointed out.

"This competition encourages girls to learn and invent. It also proves that inventing is not limited to men only. The participants in this competition are all younger than 17 years and they are aware of many important issues. I hope that the number of participants next year will be higher," said Subaih.



KUWAIT: Hind Al-Subaih, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor (left) and Sheikh Fadiya Al-Abdullah, founder of Ibtikar Al Kuwait (right) honor Yousuf Mustafa, Assistant Undersecretary for Television Affairs at the Information Ministry.



Students from Bahrain with a project that converts water into fuel.



Participating students from the United Arab Emirates with their project: a vehicle powered by an electric generator.

— Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh



Omani students with their 'Safe Driving System' project.



A Kuwaiti student with her project: a robot that can be used in beach cleaning.



A Saudi student with her project: a floating vehicle.