

## Local

# Kuwaitis wounded in Iraq's road accident transported successfully

## Victims receive burial in Al-Najaf

**KUWAIT:** Commander of Kuwait's Air Force Major General Abdullah Al-Fodari stressed on Friday that the Kuwaitis injured during a road accident in Iraq were successfully transported to the country. Upon instructions by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Chief of Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khodher, an aircraft was dispatched to transfer the wounded from Iraq, Al-Fodari said in statement. The step was made in cooperation with Iraq's Foreign Ministry, he said, indicating that the plane was equipped with an emergency medical team. He noted that the General Staff of the Army has taken all medical preparations at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital, stressing that Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Health made joint efforts to deal with the situation professionally. For his part, head of emergency department at hospital, Colonel Salah Al-Nomes said 14 doctors and 20 nurses received the wounded and dealt with their cases, adding that this was up on the directives of the Minister of



### Three people in a critical condition

Defense and Chief of General Staff. He revealed that three people were in a critical condition, eight cases were stable, lauding Kuwait's Ambassador to Iraq Salem Al-Zamanan for giving initial information about all cases. He expressed his appreciation to cooperation and coordination among defense, interior, health and foreign ministries to help the wounded.

Meanwhile, Minister of Health Dr Jamal Al-Harbi voiced his appreciation to His Highness the Amir for caring for his sons and daughters, and to all the Kuwaiti bodies for their concerted efforts to transfer the injured. On Thursday, five Kuwaitis were killed and 13 others wounded while visiting the southern Iraqi city of Karbala. A bus, transporting the Kuwaiti nationals, had toppled over while on the road between Basra city and Al-Nasseriya.

Kuwaiti consul to Iraq Redha Dashti had stated on Friday that Kuwaiti nationals who were killed in the accident will receive burial in Al-Najaf city. He explained that the victims' remains would be transported to Karbala first before being laid to rest in Al-Najaf city. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** An injured Kuwaiti national is stretchered from the plane upon arrival to Kuwait. — KUNA

scored, noting that a local company had suggested importing water but no deal was made so far.

#### No dissolution

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) denied dissolving the Oil Sector Services Company (OSSC), noting that the company is specialized in providing services to foreign agencies and following up labor cases filed against the company. KPC added that the Supreme Petroleum Council had only reduced the number of board members from seven to three.

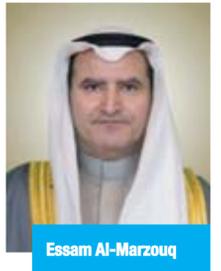
#### Properties

Well-informed official sources at Kuwait Municipality said valuation of expropriated properties would have to be suspended for the time being due to the Cabinet's resignation and the lack

of a municipal council.

#### Charities

A report by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MSAL) said a total of 17 charities had been dissolved since 2013. The report also noted that despite the regulatory measures taken to organize charity work, the total sums collected as donations in 2017 was KD 40 million, compared to only KD 6 million in 2013. The report also noted that the total number of charities has grown from 10 in 2015 to 29 currently.



**Essam Al-Marzouq**

## Social curse

local spotlight



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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I feel social media is turning into social curse these days. The Hindustan Times newspaper published a sad report about an Indian woman who was raped on the sidewalk in an Indian city in front of pedestrians during daytime (the incident took place around 2 pm) and no one did anything until a man called the police - the rest were videotaping the crime.

The newspaper said the woman had a fight with her husband two days before the incident and left the house. On that fateful day, she was approached by a drunken man and raped when she was on the road in a lamentable state of weakness, and likely hadn't eaten and slept. The passersby not only did not intervene, but whipped out their mobile phones and recorded the terrible incident! A passing motorist informed the police, who arrested the rapist and took the victim to the hospital. There is no information about the state of her health.

There are many more examples that reflect the lack of sense of human responsibility in dealing with an emergency, especially in cases of crimes and traffic accidents, where people gather to photograph the dead or the injured, while others remain as spectators to record the scene so they can share it with their friends! They are mocking others' misery.

One of the negative impacts of social media on the public is that they have lost the feeling and sense of responsibility. Several social sites have become a tool to terrorize innocents. This is why I say it has turned into a curse and not a blessing. Not all social media are alike, I like Facebook, but I don't like WhatsApp, although I use it heavily. I feel that in Kuwait, for example, it has become a means to spread false news and rumors, and people believe what they receive and share it, causing the circulation of many rumors.

Stop making idiots famous! A lot of silly people on social media have become famous without providing moral value to people, especially adolescents. They expose their silly lives and latest updates, but there is no room for confirmation. Clearly, children are heavily influenced by social media because media celebrities have become role models and heroes for children.

Another point of concern is that many users expose their personal lives and health and social problems through social media. This opens the possibility of resolving them through the opinions of non-specialists. In addition, studies have shown that social media sites influence political change, so young people are exposed to extremist ideas.

In a pleasant conversation with my college student son about the high prices at restaurants in Kuwait, he said social media celebs here are the reason. They go to a restaurant and make a video that shows how happy they are with the food, so everyone wants to experience it, so prices go up.

Social media have eliminated all barriers between communication and interaction, where it is easy to send your ideas on various topics, whether political or social, to the world. We have to admit that Facebook, for example, played a role in motivating people to revolt in Egypt, but this does not mean that everything is flawless. The use of these sites by people has made them bad or good. The social media sky is not free of storms.

## No deal yet to import freshwater

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Oil minister and Minister of Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq stressed that Kuwait's water security strategy is basically dependent on desalinating seawater and denied any current plans to import freshwater. "Importing freshwater can only happen if the cost is lower than that of desalinating it," he under-



**PARIS:** Education Minister Dr Mohammad Al-Fares and Kuwaiti Ambassador to France Sami Al-Suleiman meet with UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova. — KUNA

## Kuwait continues adopting initiatives concerning people

**PARIS:** Responding to instructions by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait will continue providing and adopting several initiatives which concern people, said Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Mohammad Al-Fares.

Fares made the statement in a speech before the 39th session of General Conference of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The State of Kuwait has been assuming its humanitarian and moral responsibility towards problems facing people all over the world, he said.

Kuwait will host an international conference on suffering of the Palestinian child on November 12-13, which will be held amid the Israeli violations to the convention on the rights of the child, Fares, who also chairman of Kuwait National Commission for UNESCO, noted.

Kuwait is also going to host a donor conference to support education in Somalia, as it sees that education plays a key role in the renaissance of peoples and the achievement of sustainable development goals, as well as the expansion of community partnerships.

His Highness the Amir has given instructions to provide \$5 million to back UNESCO's activities pertaining to the Syrian students in Jordan, to fulfill Kuwait's previous support for UNESCO's initiatives worth \$500,000 in favor of the Syrians and Lebanese people, he stated.

The minister indicated that Kuwait is currently working to host a global center for the empowerment of people with disabilities through ICTs in order to complete the UNESCO award of the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for "Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities."

On environment, Kuwait hosted, under the auspices of UNESCO, a water-related category II center at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Researches, he said. He said that it is clear the world, with billions of people, is currently experiencing difficult and very disturbing times.

The world is also going through critical and dangerous turning points on various paths and levels due to dramatic changes that have taken place, over the last years, on international and regional arenas, topped with increasing unrest and disputes in several areas of the world, he explained.

He said Kuwait expresses its support for goals and objectives by the organization in its plan of action for the second period (2018-22) of its medium-term plan for the 2012-2021 years that call for collective and coherent action within the UN system, with the aim of addressing challenges and keeping abreast of current global changes as well as consolidating the principles of the 2030 UN sustainable development plan. He urged all Member States and the partners to cooperate with, and support, the organization in order to achieve its developmental goals to benefit humankind and realize "our global dream of building a peaceful and fair world."

The minister voiced Kuwait's deep appreciation to efforts by UNESCO's Secretariat aiming to preserve cultural heritage all over the world, mainly the Old City of Jerusalem. He affirmed that the heritage in this area has been subjected to flagrant and continued violations by the Israeli occupation authorities and continued attacks on the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which has a great symbolism to the Muslims, praying to Allah Almighty that peace and security would prevail all over the world.

Fares conveyed greetings of the Kuwaiti Amir, government and people to UNESCO's officials for their efforts aiming to address problems facing people and resolve their contemporary issues through peace and security among peoples through education, science and culture.

Earlier yesterday, UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova lauded Kuwaiti contributions to the organization, saying that His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was a figure keen on development of education and culture worldwide. Bokova's statement came during her meeting with minister Fares. — KUNA

## EU, Kuwait trade reaches EUR 4.97 billion early 2017

**BRUSSELS:** EU imports from Kuwait in the first six months of 2017 reached EUR 2.15 billion, (\$2.49 billion), while EU exports to Kuwait for the same period reached EUR 2.82 billion, (\$3.27 billion), Eurostat reported yesterday. Mineral fuels, lubricants, and related materials made up EUR three billion, (\$3.48 billion), or 90.9 percent worth of EU imports from Kuwait followed by chemicals and related products worth EUR 175 million, (\$203 million), or 5.3 percent in 2016.

EU exports to Kuwait in 2016 were led by machinery and transport equipment worth EUR 2.29 billion, (\$2.66 billion), or 42.1 percent followed by miscellaneous manufactured articles valued at EUR 890 million, (\$1.03 billion), or 16.3 percent of EU exports. EU was the 52nd import partner of Kuwait and 39th export partner in 2016. The figures for the last four year show that EU imports from Kuwait have been dropping from EUR 6.23 billion, (\$7.31 billion), in 2013, to EUR 5.45 billion, (\$6.43 billion), in 2014, to EUR 4.19 billion, (\$4.18 billion), in 2015 and EUR 3.30 billion, (\$3.83 billion), in 2016. EU exports to Kuwait have been relatively constant worth EUR 5.29 billion, (\$6.14 billion), in 2013, EUR 5.06 billion, (\$5.87 billion), in 2014, EUR 5.99 billion, (\$6.95 billion), in 2015 and EUR 5.45 billion, (\$6.33 billion), in 2016. — KUNA

### News in brief

#### Lebanese President in Kuwait today

**KUWAIT:** Lebanese President Michel Aoun is due to arrive in Kuwait today for an official visit and talks with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA

#### 1,501 licenses to bedoons

**KUWAIT:** Central Apparatus for Illegal Residents' said yesterday that 1,501 driving certificates had been issued in the past nine months to bedoons (stateless people) in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior. New permits were distributed to 759 females and 748 others were issued for males. The new private and public licenses had been issued since January 2017 until last September, in addition to 2,547 renewed licenses, the Apparatus' Director of Information Abdullah Al-Farhan said. The official noted that Al-Jahra governance ranked top in terms of issuing orders for driving licenses for the same period, totaling 920 permits, while Al-Farwania governance came second with 204, followed by the capital with 167 ones. Farhan added Al-Ahmedi governance ranked fourth with 162 licenses, followed by Hawali with a total 29 licenses, and finally Mubarak Al-Kabeer with 25 permits. — KUNA