

Local

UN Security Council okays Kuwaiti draft resolution on missing persons in war

Comprehensive framework on how to deal with missing people's tragedy: Kuwait

NEW YORK: The United Nations Security Council has unanimously approved a draft resolution put forward by Kuwait to protect civilians in the midst of armed conflicts. The UN resolution, approved amid a session presided over by Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday, brings into focus the humanitarian consequences of war and conflicts, as the matter is all too familiar to a country that was invaded by its larger neighbor Iraq back in 1990.

Kuwait sees the resolution, which is the first UN decision on the matter of missing persons in war, as a comprehensive framework on how to deal with the tragedy of people missing as armed conflicts break out. The UN resolution explicitly states that all parties involved in armed conflicts have the primary responsibility to safeguard civilians, urging them to allow the safe and unimpeded access of humanitarian aid. It deplors such practices as the deliberate targeting of civilians and other protected persons in situations of armed

conflict, calling upon all parties to put an end to these tactics, in accordance with their obligations under international humanitarian law. It further calls on all member states to engage in networking and exchange of expertise, as well as other means of cooperation and coordination with state institutions and national commissions dealing with the matter.

The measure encourages member states to increase their voluntary financial, technical and logistical assistance for states in support of the process of searching for missing persons in armed conflicts, which includes the recovery and identification of bodies. It emphasizes the importance of allowing families to know the fate and whereabouts of their missing relatives, consistent with applicable international humanitarian laws. The UN resolution also addresses post-conflict peace building and reconstruction efforts, which include negotiations over such issues as prisoners of war, detainees and missing persons, all of whom are protected under international law. — KUNA



NEW YORK: Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs a United Nations Security Council session yesterday held to discuss a draft resolution put forward by Kuwait to protect civilians in the midst of armed conflicts. — KUNA

Drugs found on Kuwait-bound boat

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The coastguard foiled an attempt to smuggle drugs into the country, the Interior Ministry announced yesterday. Officers found 94 pieces of hashish, a heroin joint and a small bag of shabu (methamphetamine), in addition to drugs paraphernalia. The drugs were found on a boat that police followed based on information received about a potential smuggling attempt through sea. Two people who were on board were arrested and sent to the proper authorities.

Businessman sentenced

The criminal court yesterday sentenced a businessman and former lawmaker to 10 years in prison with labor for issuing a dud cheque for KD 240,000. Security sources added that the suspect fled a hospital and left for Saudi Arabia through the Salmi border exit with the help of his sister and two policemen, who were also sentenced to two and four years in prison for assisting a fugitive.

Firemen hurt

An apartment on the fifth floor of a Fintas building caught fire that spread to the ventilation shaft, causing a blaze on the first and second floors. The building was evacuated and the fire was brought under control. Two firemen suffered heat exhaustion and were taken to Adan Hospital. In another incident, three vehicles caught fire in Maidan Hawally. Salmiya fire station men dealt with the fire and prevented it from spreading.

Safety inspection

Inspection teams at Kuwait Fire Service Directorate continued their safety inspection campaigns under the direct supervision of the Deputy Director General for the Prevention Sector Maj Gen Khalid Fahd. The campaign resulted in issuing citations to 30 facilities that were warned of closure if the violations were not corrected in a maximum of 72 hours.



KUWAIT: This photo released by the Interior Ministry yesterday shows drugs confiscated on a boat bound for Kuwait yesterday.



Firefighters seen during a safety inspection tour.



A vehicle engulfed in flames in Maidan Hawally.



Firefighters tackle a blaze in an apartment on the fifth floor of a Fintas building.



KUWAIT: Jahra municipality inspection teams recently removed a total of 32,000 cubic meters of waste and changed 97 garbage containers during a recent campaign, the inspection team's leader Fahad Humoud said, adding that the teams also made 34 warning notices, removed 28 ATVs and removed 98 illegal ads as well.

Kuwaitization policy facing difficulties in govt sector

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Well-informed governmental sources said the Civil Service Commission (CSC) received responses from several government bodies in which they expressed difficulty in laying off expats working for fixed monthly payments, which had been requested by CSC to help Kuwaitize the government sector within five years. The sources added these bodies explained the expat workers get fixed low payments that do not overburden ministries' budgets and that they do jobs that Kuwaitis "do not or would not do," while that their employment does not contradict with citizens' employment if they apply for the job.

Further, the sources said that the concerned government bodies promised to keep such employment within minimal limits, to annually provide CSC with job numbers, tasks and salaries, as well as the finance ministry's approval. The sources also noted that CSC replied by emphasizing the need to lay off any of those expats in case of the availability of Kuwaitis to replace them. Meanwhile, the sources said 63 percent of the Jahra labor city construction has been completed, adding that the city is expected to be ready by next year and is one of six due to be built.

Disabled parking

Recent statistics by the public authority for the disabled said the total number of violations filed in 2018 against drivers

for using disabled parking spaces was 11,500, while the number was 87,000 in 2015, 81,000 in 2016 and 37,000 in 2017. In another concern, the media department manager at the public authority for the disabled Doha Al-Khamees said the authority's educational sector will receive disabled citizens' scholarship applications from June 9 to 20, 2019.

Scholarship applicants

Assistant undersecretary for scholarships and cultural relations at the ministry of higher education Fatima Al-Sannan said registration for scholarship applicants will be on until June 20, adding that new majors had been added this year including aviation engineering, airport management and cyber security. Sannan added 2,000-3,000 students will be accepted in the program this year.

People born abroad

Kuwait was ranked second worldwide in terms of people born abroad, including Kuwaitis and expats. Statistics by Pew Research Center published by the Canadian Le Journal de Quebec showed 76 percent of Kuwait's population was born elsewhere, after the UAE, where 88 percent of the population was born abroad. The statistics showed Qatar came third with 65 percent, Bahrain with 48 percent and Singapore with 46 percent.

The study showed Sweden came first amongst Western countries with 30 percent of its population born abroad, followed by Australia with 29 percent, New Zealand with 23 percent, Canada with 21 percent and Austria with 19 percent. Further, the study showed 32 percent of Bosnians live abroad, followed by 28 percent of Jamaicans, 28 percent of Syrians, 26 percent of Armenians and 5 percent of Canadians. Expatriates make up 70.4 percent of Kuwait's population, according to the latest statistics.

Palestinian official praises Kuwait's support

GENEVA: Palestinian Minister of Labor Nasri Abu Jaish lauded Kuwait's support for the Palestinian workers at various levels. The Palestinian official said yesterday that he discussed with Kuwaiti

Minister of Economic Affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel, on sidelines of the International Labor Organization convention, bilateral issues and the Kuwaiti support in reply to a report by the ILO secretary general regarding conditions of the Palestinian workers. He hoped to gain its further support for holding an international conference to back up the Palestinian labor fund, adding that the talks with minister Aqeel touched on prospects of employing skilled Palestinians in Kuwait. Meanwhile, Aqeel said her meeting with minister Abu Jaish was fruitful, re-affirming Kuwait's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause. — KUNA

Decorator dead in Ahmadi worksite mishap

KUWAIT: A decorator fell to his death from a building under construction in Ahmadi while installing the decor. Meanwhile, two Egyptian workers were taken to hospital after falling while maintaining a large manhole. Firemen helped in getting the two out of the sewer.

Hit and run

An Egyptian man was taken to the intensive care unit (ICU) after a car ran him over then drove away from the

scene. Eyewitnesses called police, who went along with paramedics and rushed the victim to Jahra Hospital's ICU in a critical condition. Detectives are working on identifying the driver.

Sexual assault

Detectives are looking for a Pakistani man who sexually assaulted his neighbor's son. A source said that a 43-year-old Pakistani man told police his 12-year-old son was sexually assaulted by his Pakistani neighbor. When the victim was asked what happened, he said he was in front of the building when the suspect pulled him into the elevator and took him to his apartment, where he committed immoral acts and gave him KD 10. He then asked him to remove his clothes, but the boy refused and escaped. — Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai