

Local

Amiri envoy's speech displays Kuwait's regional, international stances: FM

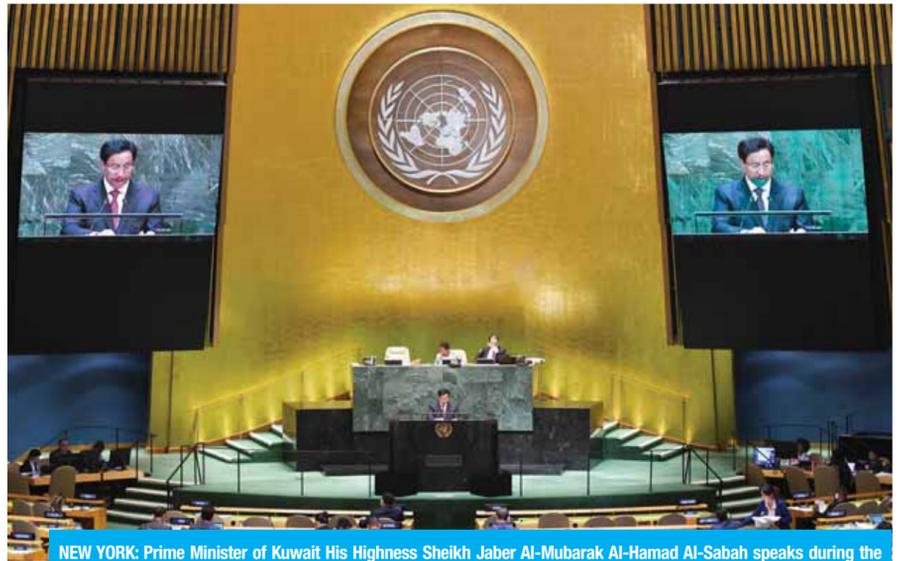
Kuwaiti delegation took part in 26 meetings and conferences on sidelines of UNGA

NEW YORK: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah said yesterday that the speech delivered by Kuwait's Amiri envoy to the 74th UN General Assembly had reflected his country's firm stances on regional and international issues. In a statement to KUNA and Kuwait Television, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said that the envoy of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah had reflected the exceptional partnership between Kuwait and the UN. It also touched on the New Kuwait 2035 Vision for development and the Gulf State's interest in contributing to the implementation of the 17-point UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), said Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled about the Amiri envoy's speech delivered to 91 heads of state, and 45 Prime Ministers.

The speech highlighted the terrorism acts carried out in the Gulf region's waters and the threat against regional states such as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, indicated the Foreign Minister, adding that Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak also touched on the Palestinian cause and its centrality to Arab and Muslim nations. The conflicts in Yemen and Syria were also touched upon during the Amiri envoy's speech, the top Kuwaiti diplomat said, affirming that his country called for peaceful resolutions to the crises. The issue of Iraq, pointed out Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, was also highlighted in the speech,

which called for preventing terrorism from affecting the fellow Arab country, focusing on efforts to boost development there. In regards to Kuwaiti activities on the sideline of the UNGA, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled indicated that several meetings were held on the GCC, Arab, and Islamic levels.

Meetings with Asian countries on the sideline of the UNGA were also held, discussing ways to boost cooperation, he added. The UNGA this year witnessed a number of prominent events, such as the climate change summit, religious tolerance gathering called upon by the US, and others, he said, stressing that Kuwait was keen on partaking in such events. Kuwait — alongside the UK and Sweden — headed a meeting on Yemen, which was attended by the five UNSC members in addition to Germany, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled pointed out. He noted that the meeting, attended by UN Special Envoy to Yemen Martin Griffith, is a continuation to efforts started by the Stockholm accord meeting for Yemen and it came in preparation for an upcoming meeting for the war torn country scheduled in Kuwait. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled also pointed to his country's efforts, shared by Saudi Arabia and the UN, in addressing the plight of the Rohingya Muslims of Myanmar, saying that the world has a responsibility to end this humanitarian crisis. The Kuwaiti FM revealed that the Kuwaiti delegation took part in 26 meetings and conferences held on the sideline of the UN General Assembly this year. — KUNA



NEW YORK: Prime Minister of Kuwait His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah speaks during the 74th Session of the General Assembly at the United Nations headquarters on September 25, 2019 in New York. —AFP

Blaze guts 1,000 sq m industrial plot



KUWAIT: Firefighters battle the blaze.

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A fire broke out at dawn yesterday in a 1,000 sq m industrial plot in Shuwaikh industrial area containing lumber and other flammable materials. Security sources said firemen from Shuwaikh industrial area, Shuhada, Ardiya and backup teams rushed to the scene, where they managed to control the blaze without reporting any casualties. Further investigations are in progress to determine the cause of the fire.

Fatal fall

An Indian construction worker was killed when he fell from the second floor of a construction site in Shuwaikh, said security sources, noting that the man died instantly. A case was filed.

Slandering remarks

Responding to a video on social media networks showing a Danish woman of Arab origin slandering Kuwait, the Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Media Department said the woman and her daughter arrived at

Kuwait International Airport holding Danish passports and requested tourist visas. The department explained that the daughter's passport validity was less than six months and that an extension was handwritten on it, which is against the visa conditions. The department added that both the woman and her daughter were sent to the airport hotel pending deportation. However, the Danish foreign ministry contacted its Kuwaiti counterpart confirming the validity of the extension, and accordingly, the tourist visas were issued. But a lawsuit was filed against the mother for her slanderous remarks about Kuwait.

40-foot container of fake items busted



KUWAIT: Air cargo and custom inspectors managed yesterday to foil an attempt to smuggle into Kuwait a 40-foot container loaded with fake products of famous brands, said security sources. The shipment, which arrived from an Asian country, contained fake watches, bags, accessories, laptops and other items. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun



Indoors shisha ban on Municipal Council's agenda

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Municipal Council is scheduled to hold its meeting number 4/2019 tomorrow, said informed sources, noting that the meeting's agenda includes discussing a proposal made by members Hamad Al-Azmi and Moghammed Al-Roqib to ban smoking shisha indoors. The agenda also includes discussing a proposal made by the cabinet's secretariat general to allocate a site for the firemen's club near Al-Messila Water Village, using modern waste disposal technology in new districts, and allocating a site to build the Munch University among several other proposals.



The Municipal Council

Patients' right protection law ready

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Fatwa and Legislation Department has finished a legal review of the medical responsibility and patients' right protection law referred to it from the Ministry of Health (MoH), said informed sources. The sources added that the Cabinet will review the law next month pending referral to the parliament by the end of October or in November. "This law is a priority for the government that is expected to be passed," the sources highlighted. Meanwhile, MoH sources said the ministry is about to take over the Kuwait Institute for Media Specializations (KIMS) building project from the Ministry of Public Works (MPW), adding that the building is built over a total area of 15,000 sq m in Sabah medical zone.

local spotlight

Withdrawal of medicines?



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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Medicines usually go through multiple processes until they reach patients. The most important of these methods is their official approval by competent authorities for their use. The medicines usually get marketed in some countries or all over the world, and sometimes patients suffer some side effects and risks with their use, so withdrawing them is required until alternatives are found to protect people's health.

Assistant undersecretary for drug and food control affairs at the health ministry Dr Abdullah Al-Bader announced that the department has suspended and withdrawn some ranitidine medications, including the innovative formulation Zantac, for the treatment of acidity and reflux, as a precautionary measure, based on the preliminary results of analyses that were carried out in the laboratories of the department of registration and control. The US Food and Drug Administration and the European Commission on Medicines have said some of these medicines are likely to be carcinogenic.

"The international health authorities are currently studying and determining the permitted safe proportions of NDMA in food products and pharmaceuticals," Bader said, adding that until the completion of these investigations, ranitidine medications are being withdrawn in order to ensure the health and safety of patients. Patients were advised to consult their doctors for the use of available alternatives and to report any side effects of pharmaceuticals through the drug side effects reporting form on the health ministry website.

I think the MoH did well by suspending the use of the drug, and I hope that patients who take medications continuously, especially people with diabetes and blood pressure, should follow medical updates because the price is their life. The ministry must inform people of developments that may appear.

I think people's awareness of the side effects of any medicine is important, especially since sometimes some people buy drugs that may be unlicensed through social media. This I believe is very dangerous. So I was very pleased to read that ministry of health recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the GSI Foundation to start activating the system of accurate tracking of medicines and medical supplies by barcode. This system tracks medicines and medical supplies accurately from the manufacturer through the stores and pharmacies until they reach the patient, according to a ministry statement.

It sometimes see some private pharmacies exaggerate the offers of their products, whether cosmetic or medical, to encourage people to buy. The ministry of health should not allow non-pharmacists to display medicines and products and sell them to the public due to the seriousness of the matter. I hope MoH distributes leaflets to patients at government hospitals and clinics with medical updates and latest news people need to learn about.

It is natural that the withdrawal of any medication, especially for those who use it for long periods of time, is worrying, but these patients should consult with their specialist doctors for other safe alternatives. I think the issue of withdrawing unsafe medicines requires public awareness and careful follow-up by the ministry of health.