

Cases concern medical errors at public hospital

# Dr Basil suspends several doctors after investigation

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KUWAIT CITY, Feb 17: Minister of Health Dr Basil Al-Sabah has suspended several doctors and recommended their referral to the Public Prosecution Department based on the outcome of an

investigation carried out by the Department of Legal Affairs concerning cases of medical errors at a public hospital.

This was revealed in a statement by the minister at the inauguration of a two-day Conference on the Latest Development in Throat Surgery, which coincided with the launch of a comprehensive multifac-

eted national program on the prevention of deafness and hearing safety in commemoration of the Annual World Hearing Day that comes up March 3.

Over 12 visiting experts from Arab countries, US, Canada and Australia attended the inaugural ceremony.  
Dr Al-Sabah said the doctors will re-

main suspended until investigation is concluded. He affirmed that the ministry follows up all relevant legal procedures and priority is given to complaints from patients. He stated the duration of procedures was specified to ensure that results are revealed as soon as possible.  
He pledged the procedures will serve

as a deterrent and enthrone justice if the dereliction of duty and lackluster attitude is established against the medical team, affirming this method will protect the standard and quality of healthcare offered at various medical institutions.  
He indicated consideration will be given to necessary recommendations

to improve and reform the aspects of lapses detected, while departments that do not cooperate will be put on trial.  
He reiterated firm determination to guarantee high level of justice, credibility and transparency in a way that each person in Kuwait will be rest assured of quality healthcare services in the country.

# Aid pledges at the Kuwait confab exceeded expectations: Iraqi PM

Restoration of Gulf unity is in interest of all parties: US

BAGHDAD, Feb 17, (Agencies): Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar Al-Abadi on Thursday hailed as "a resounding success" Kuwait International Conference on Reconstruction of Iraq (KICRI).

"To be honest, we did not expect such level of international financial

assistance under the current economic difficulties in many parts of the world including even the Gulf states and the United States," he said at a press conference.

Al-Abadi vowed that his government would adopt extraordinary measures to ensure that the funds will go to the set targets.

"We are very careful to channel the funds to the priority projects in the economic development, reconstruction, humanitarian, services and poverty alleviation fields in certain cities in Iraq.

"The number of world leaders, representatives of international organizations and investors at attendance in the conference was three times more than previously expected," Al-Abadi pointed out.

The level of participation reflects the confidence of the international community in the government of Iraq and the country's ability to restore stability after the victory over terrorism, he went on.

The Prime Minister expected the Iraqi economy to take a quantum leap forward in the coming three or four years thanks to the foreign investments and financial assistance.

The KICRI, held on Feb 12-14, resulted in aid pledges amounting to \$30 billion.

Meanwhile, US State Department spokesperson Nathan Teck thanked Kuwait for hosting the ministerial meeting of the international coalition against "DAESH" and the International Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a statement, he said, "Kuwait's hosting of such conferences reflects its leadership and leading role in achieving security and stability in the region. With regard to the Gulf crisis, the United States believes the restoration of Gulf unity and reconciliation among the Gulf countries is in the interest of all parties.

He stressed this without elaborating on the content of the special diplomatic talks the Foreign Secretary Rex Tillerson held with the country's officials. He indicated the division is not in the interest of regional security.

On the issue of peace in the Middle East, Nathan Teck said, "Secretary Tillerson was clear during his tour of the region, and stressed the United States remains committed to a successful peace process and 'we are ready to support this process.'

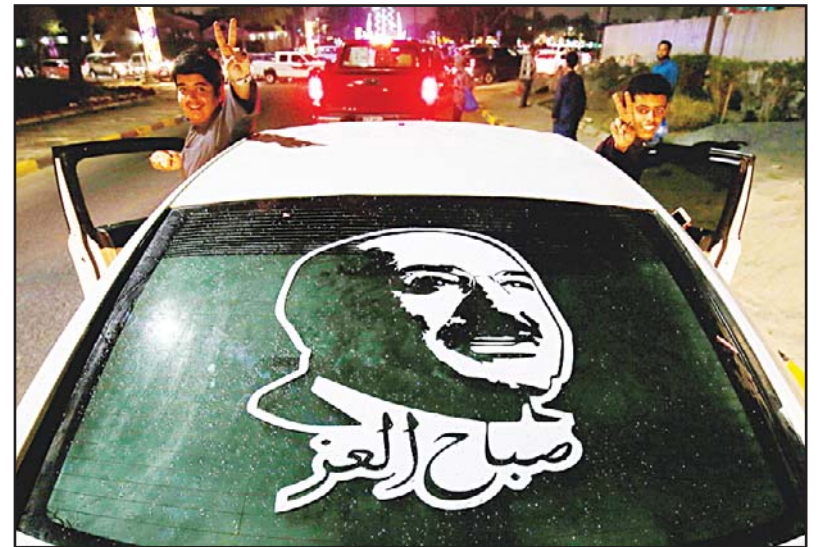
"The parties agreed on a set of new guidelines in the war on the DAESH during the ministerial meeting of the International Coalition," he reiterated. He continued that after the field losses of the organization, "we reached a turning point in this war in order to achieve a complete and lasting defeat for DAESH". In the end, the coalition will eliminate a fully preemptive threat as a regional threat in Iraq and Syria, while working to stabilize the liberated societies in a comprehensive manner.

He assured the coalition will also mobilize members and external partners by using a government approach to disrupt the networks, affiliates and partners, including its possible new manifestations and forms. The action will also include depriving the group freedom of movement, safe havens and access to resources in support of Security Council Resolution 2396.

He pointed out that the coalition will fight the DAESH ideology to prevent its re-emergence that could enable it recruit and expand individuals, and also support the local voices that offer an alternative vision for the propaganda of DAESH. He hinted on the plan to double efforts to prevent the terrorists from using the space to exploit the means of social networking and the Internet. He added the coalition will work to strengthen its gains so far and prevent the re-emergence of DAESH by supporting reforms adopted by the political and security sector in Iraq. This will also include moving through Security Council Resolution 2254 to reach a political solution in Syria, in order to help address the root causes that could lead to re-emergence of DAESH.

Talking about the International Conference for Reconstruction of Iraq, the US official said the US Export and Import Bank is committed to strengthening economic cooperation between Iraq and the United States for trade in goods and services.

Referring to its strong support, he informed the US Export and Import Bank and Iraqi Ministry of Finance have signed a \$3 billion memorandum of understanding to lay the foundation for future cooperation across vital sectors such as oil, gas, transportation and commodities.



Kuwaiti youth pose for the camera outside a car bearing a portrait of Kuwait's Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in Kuwait City, as the country begins to prepare for their independence day celebrations. (AFP)



Kuwaiti boys wearing masks pose for the camera in Kuwait City on Feb 16, as the country begins to prepare for their independence day celebrations. (AFP)

## MEW to coordinate with Customs

# Committee preparing regulation to prevent import of electrical gadgets

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 17: Director of Technical Monitoring in the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) Engr Iqbal Al-Tayyar disclosed that the Electrical Installation Specifications Committee has been preparing a regulation to prevent the import of electrical gadgets that cannot conserve power into the country, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Engr Al-Tayyar noted the committee members were drafted from the Minister of Electricity and Water, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the Public Authority for Industry. She explained the ministry will coordinate with the General Department of Customs to implement the regulation when it is ready, adding it is the responsibility of Ministry of Electricity and Water to prepare those specifications.

She revealed the specifications will cover various types of bulbs and every other thing that falls under the name of electrical gadgets. She stressed that implementing the regulation is necessary to ensure success of the power conservation project, and citizens as well as expatriates will be sensitized through awareness program concerning the sig-

nificance of purchasing power conserving gadgets.

In another development, Assistant Undersecretary for Hygiene Engineering in the Ministry of Public Works Engr Abdul-Mohsin Al-Enezi announced the completion of seven projects at a total cost of KD 38.490 million among several other projects the sector executed in 2017, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Engr Al-Enezi affirmed the sector is determined to complete more projects in 2018. He added the major objective of working on drainage systems is to protect the Kuwaiti environment, while using treated water for various types of plants — horticulture and production.

He declared the future plan includes upgrading of sewage lines across the country according to schedule and in line with the most advanced technology in the world.  
He revealed the projects executed in 2017 entailed phase 12 of the sewage line upgrading in Hadiyyah and Riqqa worth KD 8.614 million, while the new project for Hadiyyah and Riqqa was concluded recently at a cost of KD 1.161 million.



Photos from the workshop

## Kuwait University organises meet for lecturers

The Office of Vice-President for Scientific Affairs at Kuwait University organized a meeting for lecturers who participated in the workshop on distinguished teaching methods held at California-Berkeley University.

President of Kuwait University

Prof Hussain Al-Ansari was present at the meeting which was held with the cooperation of Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS) on Monday, Feb 2.

Prof. Al-Ansari affirmed that Kuwait University believes the teaching

staff represents the backbone of development.

He stressed the constant keenness of the university to devote its resources for developing the skills of lecturers, as this will reflect in the level of outcomes of the university.

## Urban facilities attracting visitors from various countries

# 'Al-Shaheed Park ... Ideal model for Green standards'

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 17, (KUNA): Al-Shaheed Park in Kuwait City is an ideal environmental model for the international Green standards, an Amiri Diwan official affirmed Saturday.

The Park's green buildings and urban facilities have succeeded in attracting visitors from various countries around the world, and challenging the volatile weather nature in Kuwait, (Eng) Haifa Al-Muhanna, the Park's superintendent at Amiri Diwan, told KUNA.

Al-Muhanna made her remarks on the sidelines of the fifth edition of the International Green Roof Congress, which kicked off in Kuwait earlier under the auspices of Amiri Diwan.

The two-day event is hosted by the International Green Roof Association (IGRA) and brings together Green Roof experts from the Middle East, Asia, Europe, and the US to discuss major challenges facing the spread of the Green Roof concept around the world, including planning, application, and performance of Green Roofs in dry climates, she said.

IGRA has contributed significantly in building and equipping Al-Shaheed Park with up-to-date technology that goes in line with international standards of modern construction, she noted, adding the non-profit organization's choice of Al-Shaheed Park as the venue for its fifth congress makes the Kuwaiti park an ideal model for green building systems.

The first IGRA event in the Gulf region will provide a unique opportunity to join the worldwide Green



KUNA photo

Roof network and connect with international and regional experts in this rapidly developing market, noted Al-Muhanna.

With currently 2,000 visitors on daily basis, Al-Shaheed Park is the most significant Green Infrastructure project in Kuwait and one of the largest Green Roof projects in the world, said the Amiri Diwan official.

During the first construction phase (2013-2015), all buildings were almost fitted with roof greening, a total of 35,000 square-meter of Green Roofs, she said, adding that in 2017, the second expansion (Phase II) was opened for the public, thus, doubling the total Green Roof area of the park.

For his part, Eng Khaled Al-Fouzan, General Manager of the Associated Engineering Partnership (TAEP) and member of IGRA, stat-

ed that Al-Shaheed Park currently consists of 310,000 square-meter of greenery, featuring a modern conference center, beautiful botanical gardens, museums, a miniature of old Kuwait, walkways, jogging tracks, lakes, river landscapes, and a musical fountain.

Al-Shaheed is the largest urban park in Kuwait that represents at a prime example of how to meet the challenges of hot and dry climate by using appropriate Green Roof systems, said Al-Fouzan.

He also indicated that the fifth edition event will provide an inspiring mixture of progressive thinkers, new technical developments, and innovative Green Roof applications in architecture, landscape architecture, and climate protection.

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## News in Brief

### 'Kuwaiti teachers diligent'

Assistant Undersecretary for Public Education Affairs at Ministry of Education Fatima Al-Kandari revealed that referral for retirement has led to "a drain of experienced brains" in the ministry, indicating that the ministry is currently working on a way to avoid this problem from occurring again, reports Al-Shaheed daily.

She said, "The educational sector is not as bad as the way it is being portrayed by certain people. Some people are used to looking at only the negative aspects; however, there are plenty of positive aspects in reality such as the ministry's projects and decisions taken by the ministry which are increasing the chances of an educational renaissance".

During an interview on Al-Shaheed TV channel, Al-Kandari affirmed that, "Kuwaiti teachers are generally diligent and serious. When given the confidence, they can shine and be creative in their workplace. However, there are some who seek special interests and try to break the shells of our children".

**Laptop contracts extended:** Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Installations and Planning in the Ministry of Education Dr Khalid Al-Rashed has announced the extension of the laptop contracts in secondary schools for another school year, reports Al-Rai daily.

He affirmed the ministry needs to continue the maintenance works and technical support for laptops given to students and teachers in secondary school for two years with a total cost of KD 7 million. He also stressed the importance of the project which is part of the e-education system.

He disclosed the recruitment and maintenance expenses for the year 2019/2020 are estimated at KD 2.671 million and KD 3.504 million respectively, in addition to KD 2.833 million for the year 2020/2021.

**Evening clubs closed:** Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development and Evening School Club Activities Faisal Al-Maqseed issued a decision on closing the premises of evening school clubs for girls and boys in the Capital Educational District for academic year 2017/2018, suspension of their activities, and cancellation of the decision on commissioning workers for the two clubs so their work ended on Jan 31, 2018, reports Al-Anba daily.

The premises of the clubs covered by the decision are in Ahmad Mohammed Al-Saqqaq Intermediate School for Boys and Haia Abdulrahman Al-Jassem Intermediate School for girls.

Sources explained this decision was based on the recommendation of the director of activities in the area due to the students' lack of participation in the clubs.

**CTC extends rental contract:** The Central Tenders Committee (CTC) has approved the request of the Education Ministry to extend the contract for renting 64 cars for three months — from Feb 16-May 15 — at a total cost of KD 89,000, reports Al-Anba daily.

On the other hand, the Public Education Sector will form a committee for the protection of children in each educational district. Each committee will consist of psychologists and some members of the teaching staff.