

Kuwait-based AFESD pledges 210 million dollars

Donors pledge \$3.55b for east Sudan development

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 2, (Agencies): Donors and investors have pledged \$3.55 billion for the development of resource-rich but neglected east Sudan, officials said on Thursday at the end of a two-day conference in Kuwait City.

"Total pledges made by participants in the east Sudan donors and investors forum came at \$3.55 billion," said Mustafa Osman Ismail, an advisor to the Sudanese president and head of the organising committee.

He later told a press conference that about \$1.6 billion pledged by the Khartoum govern-

ment on the first day of the forum was part of the total.

"Sudan government promised to invest the pledges in development and infrastructure projects," Ismail said. Hosts Kuwait topped donors with \$500 million while Iran pledged \$200 million and the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank pledged \$250 million.

The Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) pledged \$210 million while the Arab Investment Guarantee Organisation under-

took to provide support for \$300 million in investments.

Britain topped the Western donors with \$70 million while Italy and the European Commission pledged 30 and 24 million euros respectively, and China pledged \$35 million.

Ismail said that Qatar, the state-run Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, the Abu Dhabi Investment Fund and a Turkish state fund have said they will donate but will determine their exact pledges later.

He said the forum, the first of its kind, dis-

cussed 177 projects requiring some \$4.2 billion of pledges. A total of 149 projects needing \$2.2 billion were aimed at fighting poverty and for infrastructure development, while 28 projects were geared for development of agriculture, industry and others at a cost of two billion dollars.

The forum was attended by representatives from 42 countries, 30 international and regional organisations like the Islamic Development Bank, the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme

(UNDP). It was also attended by 78 non-governmental organisations and 84 private sector companies, Ismail said.

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Mohammad al-Sabah said he will travel to Sudan soon to sign an \$80 million project, the first venture in east Sudan arising from the forum.

Main projects offered for investors and donors included a major dam at a cost of \$600 million, three cement factories for \$450 million, and roads and power projects at a cost of

\$430 million.

"The region is in dire need of investment in infrastructure, human capital, and preservation of peace through new development," Claudio Calderone, the UNDP country director for Sudan told AFP.

"There are also innumerable natural resources ... (including) oil, gas, gold, marble and there is also... uncultivated arable land," Calderone said. East Sudan, the size of Italy, is divided into the three states of Kassala, Al-Qadiriya and Red Sea.

'Gas emissions less than 2% in oilfields'

KOC holds environ cleanup drive

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 2, (KUNA): The rates of emissions resulting from gas burning in the Kuwaiti oilfields reached less than 2 percent this year, Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) Chairman and Managing Director Sami Al-Rushaid said here Thursday.

Al-Rushaid said in a statement to KUNA today on the sidelines of marking Arabian Gulf marine environment cleanup campaign in the presence of US Ambassador to Kuwait Deborah Jones and UN Development Programme Associate in Kuwait Mai Al-Essa that hitting such low rates is a feat added to Kuwait's efforts in conserving environment.

He also made clear that KOC primarily aimed at reaching a burning rate of 2.3 percent this year, though it managed to reach a lower rate thanks to the efforts of its staff, saying that KOC current goal is to reach less than one percent rate of gas burning in the next two years.

On the topic of gas leakages in Ahmadi city, Al-Rushaid said that KOC is maintaining its efforts in cooperation with other bodies within the governmental team that was formed to deal with the problem.

Further, he also said that KOC will offer necessary technical support, adding that gas readings are steadily improving and that private global consultant in this respect will come to Kuwait soon.

Regarding a call for making use of carbon dioxide in injecting oil output fields, Al-Rushaid said that carbon dioxide is used for increasing output in the fields which is in need for higher oil levels through pressures.

However, he said that Kuwaiti oil fields did not reach yet the stage that requires pressure and raising technique, noting that KOC is conducting practical experiments in this respect to be ready if some of its fields needed such technique.

As for the Arabian Gulf marine environment cleanup campaign, Al-Rushaid said that KOC carried out such activity for the fourth consecutive year in cooperation with several bodies with the aim of cleaning up beaches, conserving marine and beach environment and spreading the culture of awareness in addition to making children of primary schools participate in the drive.

He added that health, safety and environment conservation have a priority in the policy set by the KOC, and there is also a focus on environment in all the activities carried out by KOC, "and today's activity is an awareness and social one." Al-Rushaid also referred to main environmental efforts made by KOC that concentrate on forestall marine oil leakages, and even if any leakage takes place, KOC swiftly deal with it in what lessens the environmental harms.

As for US Ambassador to Kuwait Deborah Jones, she expressed her happiness over participating in the activity, telling KUNA that it feels the interest of Kuwaiti institutions in environment in what protects Kuwait's future in all aspects, especially the economic one.

Jones added that, "what is remarkable about Kuwait is the multiplicity of environmental educational campaigns and the participation of children from all ages in them, a matter which helps create an environmental culture in the society," expressing her hopes that this interest will increase over the coming years.

On her part, UN Development Programme Associate in Kuwait Mai Al-Essa said that UN seventh Millennium Development Goal is related to environmental development, and this is the cause behind UN participation in such events, saying that this is the second time in which the UN takes part in this event.



Top & above: some photos from the marine environment cleanup drive.

Photos by Sameer Shiqer

Kuwait Today

Prayer Timings	
Fajr	05:02 am
Sunrise	06:26
Zohr	11:38
Asr	02:30 pm
Maghreb	04:49
Isha	06:11

Kuwait Weather		
Expected weather for the next 24 hours:		
By night: Cold with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12-35 km/h.		
By day: Fair with light to moderate freshening at times north westerly wind, with speed of 15-40 km/h.		
Station	Max	Min
Kuwait City	27	16
Kuwait Airport	27	08
Nuwaiseeb	27	10
Wafra	27	10
Salmi	25	08
Abdaly	28	08
Jalaliyah	26	10
Falilaka	27	11
Ahmadi Port	26	16
Umm Al-Maradum	24	21
Warba-Bubiyah	27	07

Marine Forecast				
Station	Max	Min	Sea	Today's
	Exp	Rec	Surf	Waves
	Ht	Dir	Dir	Direction
South Dolphin	24	16	21	5ft

Tide times at Shuwaikh Port	
1st high tide	20:45
2nd high tide	10:15
1st low tide	03:45
2nd low tide	15:30
Sunrise	06:25
Sunset	16:49

Recorded yesterday at Kuwait Airport	
Max temp	25
Min temp	06
Max Rh	55%
Min Rh	15%
Max Wind	NW 25 km/h
Total Rainfall in 24 hr	0.00 mm

Recorded yesterday at South Dolphin	
Min/Max/ Air Temp	16/25C
Min/Max Rel Hum	28/71%
Wind Dir./Wind Speed	NW/20 km/h
Prev Wave Dir./Max Wave Ht.	N/1 ft
Min/Max Sea Surface Temp/21 C Sea Current	Down draft

— Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Meteorological Dept.

deaths

Shaikh Nasser Mohammad Al-Salman Al-Sabah, 75 years old, buried on Thursday. Condolences: (Men) Diwan of Al-Sabah (Friday and Saturday Only), (Women) Khalidiya, Block 1, Avenue 14, House 5, Tel: 24815380. **Fahad Abdullah Deaib Al-Azemi**, 40 years old buried on Thursday. Condolences: (Men) East Ahmadi, Block 2, St 1, House 311, Tel: 99643535, (Women) Thayer, St 3, Block 4, House 25, Tel: 23849714. **Mohd Mahmoud Ashour Al-Mezaidi**, 71 years old, buried on Thursday. Condolences: (Men) Sharq, Huseiniyat Marafi, Tel: 99010032, (Women) Salam, Block 5, St 509, House 27, Tel: 25212123. **Fakhriya Mohammad Ali**, widow of Abdul Cader Abdullah Al-Ali, 63 years old, buried on Tuesday. Condolences: (Men) Adan, Block 6, St 15, House 15, Tel: 99708131, (Women) Fiqqa, Block 1, St 5, House 126, Tel: 97933665. **Jasem Mohammad Al-Rabeah**, 83 years old, buried on Thursday. Condolences: (Men) Mishref, Block 6, St 5, House 42, Tel: 99379122, (Women) Ashqar, Block 4, St 401, House 11, Tel: 99730966. **Mater Marzook Al-Suhqadi**, 81 years old, buried on Thursday. Condolences: (Men) Qaser, Block 2, Omar Bin Kulthom St House 227, Tel: 99737201, (Women) Qaser, Block 2, St 5, House 35, Tel: 9000919. **Karima Jumma Karim**, 68 years old, widow of Ayoub Mohammad Fathi Allah, buried on Thursday. Condolences: (Men) Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Block 1, St 20, House 47, Tel: 99641511, (Women) Andalous, Block 9, St 4, House 173, Tel: 99048380. **Emad Saleh Mohammad Al-Tarkeet**, 40 years old, buried on Thursday. Condolences: (Men) Faiba, Diwan Al-Tarkeet, Block 1, Abdul Aziz Al-Mezaini St, House 1, Tel: 97277735, (Women) Jabrya, Block 9, St 2, House 18, Tel: 25313579. **Nuwayer Mester Obaid Al-Barazi**, 66 years old, wife of Husein Bin Husein Al-Sanad Al-Barazi, to be buried on Friday after Asr prayers. Condolences: (Men) Sabah Al-Nasser, Block 6, St 42, House 37, Opp 6th Ring Road, Tel: 99670704, (Women) Ariya, Block 2, St 5, House 36, Tel: 24800250. **Wadha Remah Salem Al-Mutairi**, 64 years old, widow of Mohammad Ayad Al-Qehaidi, buried on Thursday. Condolences: Andalous, Block 6, St 101, House 48, Tel: 55206699-99446665. **Maryam Mohammad Ali**, 65 years old, to be buried on Friday after Asr prayers. Condolences: (Men) Salam, Block 2, St 22, House 43, Tel: 97565144, (Women) Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Block 4, St 22, House 5, Tel: 25418868. **Mohammad Hasan Abdullah Al-Qalaf**, 75 years old, to be buried on Friday at 09:00 am. Condolences: (Men) Daiya, Huseiniyat Boualyan, Block 2, Tel: 99466099, (Women) Hiteen, Block 2, St 16, House 42, Tel: 25226161. **Mohammad Saud Mohammad Al-Obaidi**, 76 years old, to be buried on Friday after Asr prayers. Condolences: (Men) Nuzha, Block 2, Quraisht St Avenue 26, House 1, Tel: 22540527-97539330, (Women) Qortuba, Block 2, St 1, Avenue 5, House 21, Tel: 25326549.

Dec 2, 2010

News in Brief

23 tons of expired foodstuff seized: An inspection team from the Kuwait Municipality on Thursday confiscated 23 tons of expired food products from an unlicensed warehouse in Al-Ajain, Kabad.

Sources said the warehouse contained 23 tons and 394 kilograms of expired foodstuffs, some of which have expiry dates as far back as 2009. Sources added the owner of the warehouse blatantly violated health and food safety regulations, as a large quantity of meat littered the place.

In a press statement, Minister of Public Works and State Minister for Municipality Affairs Dr Fadhel Safar commended the efforts exerted by the Imported Foodstuff and Public Relations departments at the Municipality to protect public health.

Safar affirmed the inspection team will continue checking other stores and warehouses to protect the health of consumers, asserting this is a red line that nobody should cross. He warned the Municipality will take strict measures against those behind the distribution of spoilt food items in the country.

Stating the Imported Foodstuff Department is the first line of defense against the spread of expired food products in the local market, Safar thanked the concerned officials for cooperating with the inspectors. He said the recent discovery of tons of spoilt food items is another remarkable achievement for the department.

On the other hand, Director of the department Istiqal Al-Musallam confirmed they will continue taking the necessary steps to curb the spread of expired food items through continuous inspections of stores and companies that import these products. She said they intend to intensify efforts for the inspection of all food items entering the country, starting from the day of the arrival of the shipment until their distribution to local stores. She stressed the department will leave no stone unturned to protect the consumers.

Al-Musallam added the team confiscated 21 cartons of Masla fish, spices and 21 tons of beef not fit for human consumption during the operation.

New system to collect fees tested: The Capital Labor Department recently tested a new system for the collection of transaction fees



Officials pose after the meeting.

Photo by Mahmoud Jadedd

British Business Forum – Aviation, Travel & Hospitality

Mixing business with pleasure is a motto of the British Business Forum's sector group — Aviation, Travel & Hospitality. The Aviation group was founded by Ms Hanna Jerczynska, one of the BBF board directors, and meets on a quarterly basis.

The last meeting took place on Wednesday, Dec 1, at the J.W. Marriott hotel. The guest speaker of the evening, Osama Adil Ghazal, Assistant Vice-President, Corporate Clients, from United Aviation, introduced the audience to the luxurious travel options offered by the company.

The Rolls-Royce powered Embraer 135 Legacy planes, which can take up to 14 passengers on board, fly the VIP & VVIP clients to various destinations within the

MENA region and also to Europe, he said.

He went on to say, London proves to be the most popular destination. The flying range of the plane is 7.5 hours. The United Aviation is a unique company of its kind in Kuwait, established in 2003 and is officially approved by the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation.

The presentation was inspiring and evoked a desire to taste the United Aviation's product, to experience the touch of class. "Maybe one day I can afford to charter a private jet too and hop to Sharm el-Sheikh for a dive, or to Paris to get the latest fashion.

"If you can dream it, you can do it," he concluded.

through K-Net as part of the automation of procedures in the labor departments under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, reports Al-

Rai daily quoting sources. Sources explained this is possible through the connection of the automated system for

the processing of transactions with the K-Net machines. Sources said Assistant Undersecretary for Labor Affairs Mansour Al-Mansour, Director of Capital Labor Department Badr Al-Farhan, staff and directors of K-Net Company, technicians, and automation experts from the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the ministry were present during the testing process.

Al-Mansour thanked the CSC, K-Net Company and all those behind the success of the project. He disclosed the system will be tested in other labor departments next week to pave the way for full implementation.

Over 1,000 citizens to start work: Assistant Undersecretary for Legal Affairs at the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Faisal Al-Ghareeb said the latest batch, which consists of more than 1,000 citizens, will start working in various government institutions, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The batch includes not only university degree holders, but even those with lower qualifications, he said.

Banner for candidate being made: A tentmaker at the tent market was seen making an election banner for a candidate whose name wasn't painted, but holds a doctorate degree, reports Al-Watan Arabic daily.

Incidentally, rumors are doing rounds about an impending dissolution of the parliament amidst the push made by some parliamentary blocs towards this end. It is strange, however, that the first sign was seen at the tent market.

Amir's envoy delivers invitation to Obama: Envoy of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the Advisor at the Amiri Diwan Mohamed Abulhasan delivered in Washington Thursday a letter to US President Barack Obama during a meeting with Special Assistant to the President, Dennis Ross at the White House.

The letter contains an invitation for Obama to attend Kuwait's 50th Independence and 20th Liberation anniversaries, as well as HH the Amir's five years anniversary since assuming the leadership of the country. The meeting was attended by Kuwait's Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah. (KUNA)