

Naming Amir as Humanitarian Leader bolsters Kuwait's image

Preparatory meet of Islamic parliaments discusses ME

GENEVA, Oct 17, (KUNA): Chairman of Kuwait's Parliamentary Committee MP Dr Oudah Al-Ruwaie said, on Saturday, that a preparatory meeting for Islamic parliaments discussed the Palestinian cause, Israeli aggressions and refugees' rights.

Al-Ruwaie expressed aspirations that similar meetings would come out with clear condemnation to Israeli aggressions against the Palestinians. He made this remark in a press statement after a preparatory meeting for Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

He stressed the importance of roles played by parliamentary committees at all levels, regionally and internationally, in supporting the Palestinian cause and defending all human rights against any aggression.

Ministry plans to celebrate 1st anniversary

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17, (KUNA): Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa stressed Saturday his ministry's keenness to celebrate the first anniversary of naming His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as a "Humanitarian Leader" saying that this enhances Kuwait's positive role and pioneering humanitarian work.

Al-Essa said, in a statement to KUNA, that the ministry has prepared a series of events and celebrations marking the occasion, which begin tomorrow in a number of schools in Kuwait in order to highlight the humanitarian role played by the State of Kuwait at all levels to serve the needy and distressed.

The minister said the honoring of Kuwait as a (Humanitarian Center) and His Highness the Amir as a "Humanitarian Leader" by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon depicted the country's considerable efforts and contributions to humanity, including its supportive political stance globally.

Al-Essa added that Ban Ki-moon's concluding statement at the closing of the second donors conference in January 2014, when he thanked His Highness the Amir and the State of Kuwait for their contributions encouraged the international community to contribute generously to the conference.

"Kuwait will continue its path and support to humanity and humanitarian work in various parts of the world, and will spare no efforts in providing services and initiatives for humanity reflecting the positive image of our country", Al-Essa said.

The minister added that His Highness the Amir has chosen kindness and compassion as a policy and a way to address differences and disputes, which in turn reflected on the country's approach towards many regional and global issues.

Al-Essa stressed that "Kuwaiti politics under His Highness the Amir's leadership demonstrated that humanitarian aid must not be purely an emergency response to sudden tragedy, but a steady and coordinated behavior over time to ease the suffering and anguish of all our brothers in humanity."

The minister underscored the importance of educating students at all levels about His Highness the Amir's efforts towards humanity.

The celebrations are scheduled to kick off tomorrow. The first event will take place at Oumaimah Bint Khalaf School in Saad Al-Abdullah area in Al-Jahra Governorate and will continue onward to other areas.

Children's situation in conflict areas

Kuwait voices concern

NEW YORK, Oct 17, (KUNA): Kuwait on Friday expressed grave concerns over the humanitarian situation of children in conflict zones and called for international concerted efforts to end the recruitment of children in armed conflicts worldwide.

Kuwait urges full political, technical and financial support for conflict-traumatized children reintegration programs, adds the statement of Kuwait to the UN General Assembly's Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) on the promotion and protection of the rights of young people, which was read out by Diplomatic Attache and member of the Kuwait's delegation to the UN General Assembly's annual meeting Sarah Al-Husseini.

She underlined the importance of ensuring children access to education and healthcare through protecting schools and hospitals in the conflict areas.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the benchmark for the states' commitments of the universal rights of children particularly the right of free quality education, which is also enshrined by the 2030 Agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals, Al-Husseini said.

In this regard, she noted that Kuwait is offering to its nationals free quality education from the pre-school to the university stages.

She highlighted the recently passed family law No. 12 of 2015 which included the legal framework for ensuring the health, educational, cultural, etc rights of the children.

Kuwait would spare no effort to foster children rights as per the recently approved 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, Al-Husseini stressed. She expressed Kuwait's deep concern over the deteriorating humanitarian situation of Palestinian children under the Israeli occupation.

Making the impossible

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What sports can do?

Sport can change lives. It can help to motivate young people, build teams, develop leadership, promote volunteering, educate young people as well as promote fitness and healthy lifestyles. Sport can be a stepping-stone towards changes in attitudes and building awareness. Sports can help to reach out to the youth who are change makers and leaders of tomorrow. Each of the sports person can promote and share information about the positive contribution of women's and girl's involvement in sport. It can help to build a better community and encourage women to raise to the capacity of leaders and decision makers and ensuring that they play meaningful and visible roles in sports at all levels. Public relations and media can help to positively portray women's role and contribution to sport. The government can actively support the sport development by allocating and ensuring there is adequate resources for girls' and women's development through sport. This is exactly what Balsam Al-Ayoub was trying to implement and spread the knowledge through the event.

Focus

Six hundred million girls are growing up in developing countries today. Gender inequality and discrimination remains deeply entrenched and widely tolerated throughout the world. It is pervasive and begins at an early age, even before birth. Girls and women are undervalued in society and within their families. Cultural and societal structures and norms allow gender inequality and discrimination to continue. Women's and girls' access to and participation in sport is not a privilege, but it is their right.

"Promoting gender equality using sport as a tool for development". This was a program created to promote gender equality using sport as a tool for development. Apart from sport there were also various games, arts and crafts clubbed to encourage and bring out team work and sports amongst a group of 20 children, which included girls and boys from the age group of 5-12. The Project began on 2nd August and was carried out until the third week of August.

"It was a very peaceful project although I know that it will not be fully acceptable amongst the society had I thought it aloud before executing it. I have not only achieved promoting gender equality, but also peace amongst the society through this project. I'm looking at creating a new generation which will be able to understand

that both genders are equal and can work, play and grow together as equals peacefully.

I have gone through real struggle and was holding my breath until I completed the entire project peacefully. It was like walking on a bush of thorns until I completed this assignment," said Balsam.

The children now do not look at one another differently, they feel sport is equal for all. It was a lovely event where both boys and girls respected one another and did not discriminate anyone. They were able to swim together, play basketball and learn the techniques of the game. The played it fair. They learnt gymnastics, which is otherwise a taboo for girls from this part of the world. To train with the boys it would have created a chaos. I'm happy I have done it and the parents were also supportive.

Beginning young

The event has been successful and the children have learnt a lot of positive things. One of the main things is being independent individual. The feedback from the parents were that they are noticing a positive change in their children. They are slowly becoming independent and responsible youngsters.

"The feedback has brought me immense pleasure. If a child from the age group of 5-12 years can understand, at least as they grow their generation will not have gender inequality, however I know that overnight I cannot erase gender inequality. I know I have started and this is just the beginning! I know I have a long road to travel before I see there is a 100% gender equality.

A special thanks to Kuwait sports club for giving me the permission to use their facilities and trainers.

You don't require anyone, it is within us, we need to wake up and create a healthy, smooth and hassle free sport environment for our new generation, where there is going to be no gender bias.

When we sow it young, we will reap benefits once it is ripe! I look at it that way. When we are able to imbibe the young generation about gender equality, when they grow up they will know that women have the same rights in sports as they do.

Why Shouldn't I?

Everyone keep asking me why am I doing it, what do I gain? Why shouldn't I? As an individual, citizen of this country, as an athlete, I too have a responsibility in creating an unbiased sports environment. It should be we together collectively doing it, when people are hesitant, there should be a beginning. Someone, somewhere needs to begin, and I have taken the initiative, added Balsam.

When one begins the rest would follow and things will fall in place.

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