



Photos from the event

Photos by Rizk Tawfiq

Party held for outgoing Brunei Ambassador

The Ambassador of Senegal to Kuwait His Excellency Abdulhad Al-Mbaki held a farewell party for the outgoing Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Kuwait His Excellency Pengiran Mustapa bin Pengiran Aliuddin. The party, which was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Farwaniya area, was attended

by several dignitaries, diplomats and embassy staff members.

During the party, Ambassador Al-Mbaki gifted the outgoing Bruneian ambassador with a souvenir, appreciating him for completing his diplomatic mission in Kuwait and wishing him the best for his future endeavors.

It is worth mentioning that Kuwait and Brunei started diplomatic mission exchange in 1990. The Embassy of Kuwait in Brunei was opened in 2008 following an official visit by the then Prime Minister of Kuwait His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah.

Kuwait draws Chinese model in youth empowerment: Al-Mutairi

YPA aims to build capacities, harness skills of youngsters

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 25, (KUNA): Kuwait's Youth Public Authority (YPA) aims to draw upon the Chinese model to empower youth and increase their contribution to state building, YPA Director General Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi has said.

The YPA's strategy focuses on participatory planning and studying more than 100 success stories and experiments from around the globe, Al-Mutairi said in a speech at the China-Kuwait youth forum, organized by the Chinese Embassy in Kuwait Sunday.

The YPA benefited from the Chinese experiment in this regard as China is the world's second largest economy.

The official lauded China's administrative principles, particularly the simplification of procedures.

He pointed to the Chinese experiment in selecting national cadres and minimizing departments and sections, with the aim of boosting investment.

Al-Mutairi emphasized that YPA aims to build capacities and harness skills of youth as well as create the supportive environment for unconventional learning and thinking.

He clarified that the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's to transform the country into a global commercial hub prompted the authority to focus more on empowering youth and developing their skills to serve the society.

Meanwhile, charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Kuwait Zahao Liang said that Chinese-Kuwaiti relations have quickly developed over the past years.

He described 2017 as the year of harvest.

The volume of trade between the two sides in 2017 reached \$8.3 billion, he said adding that they have also signed new construction contracts at a total value of \$2.8 billion.

On cultural exchange, Liang



Group photo of participants in China-Kuwait forum

KUNA photo

Move to overcome challenges, remain on path to prosperity

Agenda fits into development plans, says Al-Afasi

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 25, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Fahad Al-Afasi said on Monday that his ministry's plans are in line with the nation's development goals.

Upon unveiling one of many programs the ministry of Awqaf has in store, Al-Afasi, who is also Minister of Justice, said that the plan would be evaluated carefully within the

said "fruitful accomplishments have been chalked up", as Kuwait has become the first Gulf state to sign an agreement with the Chinese government to set up a cultural center.

He affirmed his country's readiness to intensify reciprocal visits with the Kuwaiti side and strengthen friendship bonds.

China is also eager to promote cooperation with Kuwait in the economic and commercial fields, and to contribute to the projects of Kuwait's Silk City and islands as well as others which serve the two nations' interests, he concluded.

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Recent statistics published by the

next few months to pinpoint any existing hurdles that could impede progress.

As a government body that deals with Islamic affairs, he pointed out that it was incumbent upon the ministry to disseminate ideologies promoting moderation and harmony, virtues that are synonymous with the Islamic faith, Al-Afasi underlined.

Meanwhile, in a speech of his

own, the Ministry of Awqaf's undersecretary Fared Amadi said that strategic planning was key to overcome challenges and remain on the path to prosperity.

He spoke of knowledge as the bedrock of national development, revealing that the "ministry of Awqaf was among the first institutions in the Arab and Islamic region to take up strategic planning."

Public Authority for Disabled Affairs revealed that citizens with severe disabilities who are above 21 years old receive about KD 51,000 in financial allowances every three years, which translates to an average of KD 17,000 per annum, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The information shows the amount paid to people with severe disabilities is their entitlement for using compensatory devices such as electrical chair and hearing aid, indicating disabled people receive KD 594 in allowance monthly, in addition to KD 150 for driver and housemaid.

They are also entitled to KD 1800 every three years to replace com-

pensatory devices depending on the type of disability, while women caregivers who manage them are also paid KD 300 per month and with social allowance of KD 50 payable to the fathers.

According to statistics, people with severe disabilities who use normal wheel chairs receive KD 49,884 every three years, which amounts to KD 16,628 per annum.

Breakdown of the sum shows that a disabled person collects KD 594 monthly salary and the woman caregiver KD 300, while the father gets KD 50 in social allowance, in addition to KD 150 for a housemaid or driver and KD 500 every three years to replace the compensatory device.

Hussein avoids Egyptian artistic projects

Abdullah boycotts Khaleeji 23 due to dispute with composer

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 25: The famous Kuwaiti singer Abdullah Rowaished did not attend the opening ceremony of the 23rd Arabian Gulf Cup "Khaleeji 23" which was held at the Jaber International Stadium under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, reports Al-Rai daily.

Many were not surprised by his absence as they knew he was not planning to participate in it.

"Oh God, no objection" is the title of the song he sang during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. That song was written by the Egyptian poet Abdulrahman Al-Abnodi. The song, after Al-Rowaished presented it in Cairo, had caused the Arab and Islamic world to cry, leaving a huge effect and evoking the emotions of Arabs and Gulf citizens.

However, during a "Hala February" concert two years ago, he sang many songs about love, passion and sadness for almost two hours but not a single song about Kuwait.

According to sources, Rowaished decided to boycott the opening ceremony of the Khaleeji 23 because of a dispute with the composer of the opening song Fahad Al-Nasser.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti actor Dawood Hussein affirmed that he shunned Egyptian artistic projects for over 10 years consecutively due to certain standards he upholds, coupled with lack of ability to engage in more than

one project at the same time to avoid confusion, reports Al-Qabas daily.

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Bahraini singer Ahmad Al-Jumairi participated in a concert titled "Jama-hiriya Night" that was organized by Dar Al-Athar on the occasion of the National Day of Bahrain, reports Al-Rai daily.

Many lovers of arts attended the concert including the Head of Public Relations of Dar Al-Athar Osama Al-Balhan. They were delighted by the performance of Al-Jumairi who performed a number of his songs.

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Saudi Film Director Sameer Aref has started shooting scenes in the heritage movie 'Najd', which is set in the fifties and the current era, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to the Saudi newspapers, Kuwaiti actress Hayat Al-Fahad is playing a leading role in the film, which will be shown in Saudi cinemas upon its launch.

Many Saudi, Kuwaiti and Egyptian actors are among the cast members of the film composed by Khalid Al-Rajeh.

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The cast members of 'Rose Paris' series arrived in France to complete the filming of scenes in cooperation with a television production company, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Actor Mohammad Al-Mansour said the series is being filming in real locations to enhance artistic work and substance. He expressed appreciation for the level of support shown by the Kuwaiti Ambassador to France Sami Al-Murshid and Embassy staff to the team.

News in Brief

CAN participates in ceremony:

The Cancer Aware Nation (CAN) participated in the opening ceremony of the 23rd Arabian Gulf Cup at Sheikh Jaber International Stadium by distributing health and nutrition awareness pamphlets to the attendees.

Through the pamphlets, they encouraged the public to practice sports and follow healthy lifestyle in order to prevent cancer and other relevant diseases.

A board member of CAN Dr. Hessa Al-Shaheen explained that the participation of CAN is in line with its belief in its social responsibility and is based on its keenness for sports, as they play a big role in keeping the body disease-free especially colon cancer and cancer of the rectum which have been affecting a lot of people in Kuwait.

CAN distributed healthy crackers

and fresh fruits to the Kuwaiti and Saudi spectators during the opening ceremony.

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50 pc of structure complete:

Undersecretary of Ministry of Public Works Eng. Awatif Al-Ghunaim disclosed the completion of 50 percent of the concrete structure in the new airport project, indicating that the remaining part is expected to be completed this winter, reports Al-Anba daily.

She explained in a press statement that the high temperatures during the summer season represented a bigger obstacle for the project contractor, as the temperature of the concrete sometimes reached 90 degree Celsius. This had forced the contractor to use ice in the process of casting in order to reduce the concrete's temperature.