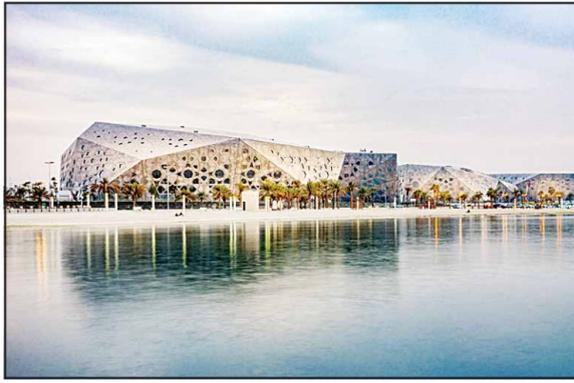




Abdula Hussain National Theater



Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre



Al Shaheed Park at night

KUNA photos

'Pearl of the Arabian Gulf'

Kuwait keen to restore cultural glory with construction boom

KUWAIT CITY, July 29, (KUNA): Since its independence, Kuwait was a regional culture and art hub, attractive for artists and art-lovers from across the region and beyond.

The pioneering and illuminating role of its cultural institutions gave it a well-deserved advanced position on the regional cultural map and the country was named "the Pearl of the Arabian Gulf." But this role has been interrupted by the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait in 1990 and the ensuing major events.

In the past few years, the government embarked on an ambitious plan to restore the country's cultural glory.

It inaugurated a large number of cultural centers, museums, theaters, and cinemas to enrich culture life as well as to create new platforms to bring together Kuwaiti artists and art lovers.

On April 12, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah patronized and attended the opening of the second phase of Al-Shaheed Park which is located on the periphery of Kuwait city.

Al-Shaheed Park narrates the story of Kuwait's land, history and culture. The park consists of 200,000 square meters of greenery, featuring beautiful botanical gardens, two museums: Thekra and the Habitat, a visitor center, a lake, walkways, and jogging tracks, making it the largest urban park in Kuwait.

At Thekra, Al Shaheed Park's memorial museum, visitors are provided with more knowledge on the history of Kuwait, its past battles and the Gulf War.

"Thekra Museum is meant to shed lights on Kuwait's heritage and history, to give us strength and determination for dealing with the future and its challenges," the Museum official Eng. Bashayer Al-Awwad told KUNA.

She underlined the important role played by museums and different culture centers in fostering cultural activism and enhance patriotic values.

She also stressed culture centers need to do more to woo children and youth through a series of special activities and programs.

The Habitat, Al-Shaheed Park's environmental museum, is dedicated to the Kuwait environment and bird migration.

"The Habitat museum, the first of its kind in Kuwait, was inaugurated in March, 2017, to showcase



Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Centre



Performers during JACC inauguration



Second phase of Al-Shaheed Park



National Theater in JACC



Kuwait City skyline

the country's geographic and environment characteristics as well as plant and animal resources through a wide array of sophisticated tools," the Habitat official Mohammad Al-Kharafi told KUNA.

On Oct 31 last, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah inaugurated the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center in Kuwait city.

The Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre is a multidisciplinary public space owned by the Amiri Diwan striving to entertain, educate and inspire the people of Kuwait. It offers a range of events — in music, theatre, film, workshops and spoken word — for every generation and sector of society.

JACC provides a space for dialogue to share and showcase skills and knowledge, giving younger voices a forum in which to speak. The cultural centre is a platform for educational and cultural exchange; moreover, it functions as an influential entertainment and culture powerhouse and productive space for the region.

Kuwaiti cultural circles are also waiting the near inauguration of the Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem Cultural Centre.

Together with the Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Cultural Centre, it is expected to form Kuwait's new national cultural district.

Each building will contain an array of permanent and temporary world-class exhibits and artworks. Walking through the cultural district beneath the canopy of the street will be a journey full of surprises, with stunning views deep into the heart of the museums where visitors will see framed vistas of priceless exhibits.

The museums will celebrate Kuwaiti, Islamic and Arab culture and history. They will also embrace and showcase the rich diversity of the world's finest cultural achievements.

It will consist of six main buildings: Natural History Museum; Science Museum; Museum of Islamic History, Space Museum, Fine Arts Centre; and a theatre.

"Cultural centers are enriching cultural life, if they are professionally utilized for this goal," Secretary General of Kuwait Writers Association Talal Al-Rumaidhi told KUNA.

He called for preparing plans to host a slew of cultural and artistic activities and exhibitions in the new centers to attract culture and art lovers from different segments of the society.

News in Brief

MPW gets finance approval:

The Ministry of Public Works started taking steps to develop the Fourth Ring Road after obtaining approval from the Ministry of Finance to cover expenses for the project, estimated at KD 5.861 million including KD 2.37 million from the 2017/2018 budget.

The budget is expected to be finalized within 27 months, then it will be referred to the State Audit Bureau for review and to Minister of Public Works Abdulrahman Al-Mutaw'a for approval.

Sources said the project is aimed at increasing capacity of the road and ending traffic jams, indicating this is part of the ministry's development plan and the tender will be floated on Sept 30, 2019 while the target implementation period is 36 months.

Meanwhile, sources confirmed the Ministry of Finance approved the KD 1.9 million budget for developing Fahahel Road which will be executed within 24 months. Sources revealed the approved budget include KD 100,000 from the 2017/2018 budget.

Sources added the project includes increasing capacity of the road, developing related services,

and construction of the second part of the bridge on the Sixth Ring Road going towards Kuwait City (16 kilometers long). Sources said the tender for this project will be floated in October 2020.

PAHW to sign design deal:

State Minister for Housing Affairs and State Minister Services Affairs Yasser Abul revealed that the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) will sign the contract for the planning and design of South Sabah Al-Ahmad Housing Project in the coming two weeks, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a press statement, the minister indicated that PAHW is ready to introduce South Abdullah Al-Mubarak Project, which contains 3,260 housing units of space 400 square meters each, but it is waiting for the completion of traffic study by the concerned authorities.

Regarding the infrastructural activities of South Khaitan Project, he said the Cabinet has not yet decided to refer the modernization activities to PAHW, stressing that the matter is still under study and discussions about it are being held among the concerned committees.

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: The lists of excellent performing employees, which are currently being prepared by the educational zones, include a large number of teaching and administrative staff members who were recently referred for retirement by Ministry of Education, reports Al-Anba daily quoting informed sources.

They indicated that the educational zones are planning to send the lists to the administrative affairs sector of the ministry this week.

Meanwhile, Director General of Farwaniya Educational Zone Jassem Bu Hamad revealed the intention of the ministry to open an intermediate school for girls in Ishbiliya area, indicating that it will be a "smart school".

Speaking to the daily, he disclosed that the ministry is working on granting promotions to the teachers and executive staff members who are working in the area based on a new decision issued by Civil Service Commission (CSC).

Meanwhile, meetings were held between officials from Kuwait University and State Audit Bureau to discuss some irregularities reported by the latter against the university, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting informed sources.

Meet held to discuss irregularities against university

'Retiring staff included in excellent performing employees list'



Souq Mubarakkiya

(Saleh Taqi — KUNA)

They explained that some of these observations are related to the financial aspect. The State Audit Bureau had reported a number of irregularities against the university including delay in claiming dues such as fines worth a total of KD 97,830 imposed

on a number of companies, and scholarship-related debts worth KD 25,339.

Undersecretary of Ministry of Justice Abdullahif Al-Sraea issued decisions to fill the vacant supervisory

positions in the court sectors affiliated to the ministry, reports Al-Anba daily.

These decisions are based on directives from Minister of Justice and State Minister for National Assembly Affairs Dr Faleh Al-Azeb to fill the vacant supervisory positions in the ministry's sectors in accordance with the decisions of Civil Service Commission and Civil Service Council.

Deputy CEO for West Kuwait at Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) Ismail Abdullah Abul affirmed the company spares no effort in providing and facilitating logistic services for marine drilling operations which are on top of its priority list, reports Al Rai daily.

"We will support launching of the project on time, in coordination with other concerned departments and official bodies," he added.

He also disclosed that KOC signed an agreement last month to buy 10 offshore support vessels to implement its strategy, support its offshore operations and provide services to Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIIC) and Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC); adding that 24 maritime vessels were built and delivered recently.