

'Renewing the presidency of FANA reflects Kuwaiti role in Arab world'

Federation of Arab News Agencies wraps up 45th Assembly

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 26, (KUNA): President of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA), and Chairman and Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Sabah, expressed appreciation to heads of Arab news agencies for their trust in his presidency of the federation for a new period of two years.

The second appointment as FANA president reflects Kuwait's great position in the Arab world and its continued support for Arab media, as well as keenness to develop and improve its performance, Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij told KUNA on Sunday.

Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij also thanked the Kingdom of Jordan for hosting the 45th Assembly of FANA, held under the patronage of Prime Minister Hani Al-Mulki, which had a great impact on the success of its work, as well as the recommendations aimed at enhancing intra-Arab media cooperation.

He also praised efforts exerted by chief of Jordanian News Agency (Petra) Faisal Al-Shbool and the facilities he provided to FANA members.

Sheikh Mubarak stressed the importance of these meetings in the light of rapid developments and events taking place in the region and the need to strengthen coordination among Arab news agencies to combat terrorism and extremism. The federations will work during the coming period to expand the organization of training courses to accommodate the largest number of workers in the field of media to upgrade Arab media quality, he underlined.

Meanwhile, the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA) on Thursday concluded its two-day 45th Assembly in Amman, Jordan.

The Assembly, sponsored by Jordanian Prime Minister Hani Al-Mulki, was presided over by FANA's President and KUNA's Chairman and Director General Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah. Top officials from 15 Arab news agencies took part in the assembly's three sessions, together with counterparts from European and international ones.

Resolutions

A host of resolutions have been made, topped with re-electing Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij for another two-year term, and accepting Kuwait's invitation to host the next assembly. The assembly announced that KUNA won FANA's 2017 best photo of the year award for Ghazi Qafaf's "Kuwaiti children and dhows". The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) won the award of the best report of the year.

The assembly's final statement said that chiefs of Lebanon's National News Agency (NNA) and the Oman News Agency (ONA) were elected deputies of FANA's president. A new secretariat was also elected for the coming two years, consisting of the director generals of SPA, the Jordanian News Agency (Petra) the Tunisian News Agency (TAP) and the Emirates News Agency (WAM).

In addition, a committee was formed to re-draft the federation's statute and bylaw. According to the statement, the assembly stressed the significance of organizing biennial round-tables with the international news agencies to explain developments on the media scene and to correct any false news or trends against the Arab world. The decision aims to counter terrorists' use of certain news outlets to publish their news as scoops.

On the relation with UNESCO, FANA emphasized the necessity of leaving the door open with the organization, proposing an annual meeting to be held with UNESCO officials besides joint intellectual events. The assembly reiterated the significance of carrying on with coordination with the European news agencies, forming a framework for annual meetings between the two sides.

The FANA member welcomed a proposal from WAM to organize a conference under the theme "toward a tolerant media discourse." The event will focus on the role media can play for countering terrorism and discourse of hate, besides disseminating tolerance and working hard on joining efforts to fight "media illiteracy." The meeting approved FANA's participation in the coming News Agencies World Congress, Bulgaria, 2019.

Meanwhile, FANA's Secretary General was tasked with contacting counterpart of the European Alliance of News Agencies (EANA) on terminating the agreements signed between the two sides, since the European side has not yet activated it. A new one will be sought.

Chairmanship of GCC judicial body

MANAMA, Nov 26, (KUNA): Kuwait will be taking over the chairmanship of the Gulf Cooperation Council's Commercial Arbitration Centre through its representative Bader Al-Bader, the Gulf judicial body announced on Saturday.

The Bahrain-based GCC Commercial Arbitration Centre, which begins its new session in the new year, is an integrated juristic entity that operates independently, its secretary general Ahmad Najem told KUNA.

He pointed out that all GCC member states have provided the constitutional backing needed for the Gulf body to function, where Kuwait is the only member nation that has opened a representative office to work closely with the GCC judicial body.

Other Voices

When fear is loved, and love is feared

By Nejjoud Al-Yagout

By the end of 2017, a Hindu temple will be completed in Abu-Dhabi, sponsored entirely by the UAE government. A Hindu temple of worship is nothing new in the Emirates. Dubai already boasts two temples, and the Sikhs had cause for celebration circa seven years ago, when they were also finally granted permission to resurrect a gurdwara for worshippers to gather together. Additionally, one can worship in a Buddhist temple in Oman; and in Bahrain there is a synagogue, the only one in the Gulf. It is almost tragic that permission is needed to build temples of worship in this region; but, nonetheless, there is much cause for celebration that acceptance is victorious in these countries. Here in Kuwait, on the other hand, there seems to be more reticence when it comes to other belief systems. We have a handful of churches, but that is about it. Yet I have faith — pardon the pun — that we, too, will step up to the plate, because our heritage is one of diversity and acceptance. Lately, we are witnessing both a rise in intolerance, and a simultaneous rise



Al-Yagout

in tolerance. It almost seems as though all our prejudices are being brought to the surface to be examined, healed and released. It does not have to take eons for us to take the next step, but if we remain stuck, progress — though inevitable — will be slow and torturous.

Sadly, a report in the Washington Times in May of 2013 (Chasmar, J.) reported that 10 out of 15 of the most religiously intolerant countries in the world are Muslim nations. This part of the world knows the pain of Islamophobia, but cannot expect to be treated in a way that is, sadly, not always reciprocated. And especially when there seems to be an underlying phobia of every other religion and ideology that is considered different.

Human beings, regardless of their belief systems, cannot afford to allow fear to be a guide. The state of the world itself is a testament to the consequences of doing so. For those who adhere to religion, here lies an invitation for scholars and followers to quote religious tolerance inherent in scripture. And for those who do not, there is a calling to remember that tolerance is imprinted in our core.

Essentially, the time is upon us, as we evolve in consciousness, to remind ourselves that silence keeps the status quo in place. We have a moral responsibility to express our dismay if we were born here, without blaming or protesting, to invite ourselves and others to tolerance.



KUNA photo
President of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA), and Chairman and Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Sabah during the 45th Assembly of FANA.

'I am Kuwaiti, Emirati'

Campaign launched to boost Kuwait-UAE ties

DUBAI, Nov 26, (KUNA): The Kuwait Business Council (KBC) in Dubai and the Northern Emirates on Sunday launched a media campaign themed "I am Kuwaiti, Emirati" to highlight the brotherly ties between the Kuwait and the UAE. The effort coincides with the Kuwait-UAE Week that kicks off on Monday, sponsored by the Kuwait's Consulate General in Dubai.

The campaign includes an exclusive artistic work in cooperation with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Information, besides interviews with the Kuwaiti business community and a variety of press

and media coverages on the deep-rooted Kuwaiti-UAE ties, particularly economic and trade, the KBC said in a press release.

In addition, the council offers a host of exclusive interviews on the solid bilateral economic relations, with leading Kuwaiti and Emirati dignitaries, among them Chairman of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) Majid Al Ghurair, and the UAE researcher Dr Aref Al-Sheikh, who wrote three books on the bilateral ties, KPC's chair Saad Al-Rubaian.

In one interview, KBC's Secretary

General Luma Borosli will review her 26-year business career in the UAE.

The first Kuwaiti-UAE Week, Nov 27-29, is organized by Kuwait's Consulate General in Dubai coinciding celebrations of the UAE's 46th National Day and Flag Day. Established in 2016, the KBC is an independent non-profit organization in Dubai under the umbrella of DCCI, as the first Kuwaiti business council in the GCC.

The council aims to boost economic cooperation and enhance trade the business communities of Dubai and Kuwait.



Ambassador Sheikh Salem



Dr Aseel Al-Awadhi

NUKS 34th confab concludes in US

The 34th National Union of Kuwaiti Students (NUKS) conference, concluded in Atlanta, Georgia on Sunday under the slogan (The Spirit of Cooperation for a Unified Kuwait).

Kuwait's Ambassador to the United States Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah, in a speech at the closing ceremony, congratulated NUKS on the success of this event.

He called on the students to be dedicated to their scientific achievements and to be the best to represent the homeland abroad.

He also urged them to abide by laws and regulations of their universities and take into account good behavior.

For her part, the director of the Cultural Office in Washington, Dr Aseel Al-Awadhi, pointed to the office's plan of implementing a new electronic system for the communication among students

and the office.

Meanwhile, the Student Future candidates won elections of the National Union of Kuwait Students-USA (NUKS-USA), defeating rival Al-Wihda by a thin 30-vote margin.

The elections, which began Friday evening and lasted until Saturday, were held on fringes of 34th NUKS-USA conference, held in Atlanta, Georgia, with participation of 3,804 students.

The Student Futures garnered 1,804 votes against 1,774 votes for Al-Wihda. The Independent list gained 176 votes.

Kuwait's Ambassador to the United States, Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah, opened the conference on Thursday and said the annual event was an extension of the Kuwaiti people's relations outside the homeland and a continuation of the historical democratic practice of the people of Kuwait. (KUNA)

News in Brief

New Turkish envoy: Newly-appointed Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Aisha Hilal Siyan arrived two weeks ago to replace outgoing Ambassador Murad Tameer, reports Al-Anba daily quoting diplomatic sources.

Sources confirmed that Siyan has presented her credentials to acting Foreign Affairs Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid and she is now waiting for the schedule to present her credentials to HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah



Siyan

Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to start carrying out her tasks officially.

Plan to import Indian onions: Ministry of Commerce and Industry in coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor and Kuwait Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies are planning to import a specified quantity of onion from India to cover shortage in the market, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily quoting a source noted the step became pertinent since the available quantity of onion could not meet the local demand. He added the initiative will curb the recent hike in onion prices in the local market. He reaffirmed the three sectors have been coordinating toward a joint approach and the authorities most likely will transport the consignment by air.



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