

## LOCAL



KUNA photo  
Khaled Al-Jarallah meeting with Chancellor of Australian National University, Gareth Evans.

### KU official refutes rumors about stolen password

## Australia's top university seeking academic cooperation with Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18, (Agencies): Australia's top-ranked research university hopes to cooperate with Kuwait in creating a lectureship focused on Arab culture and civilization as part of its centre focused on Arab and Islamic studies.

Ahead of talks with Kuwaiti Ministry of Education officials on Monday, Chancellor of Australian National University (ANU) Gareth Evans said the move would "give an opportunity to showcase Kuwait." ANU's Arab and Islamic Centre, which he described as "the biggest of its kind in the southern hemisphere," teaches history, international relations, politics and culture to about 1,000 undergraduates a year.

It includes two programmes for Turkish and Persian culture and civilization, but does not yet have one dedicated to Arabic.

Cooperation between Kuwait and ANU could also involve lectureships, student and staff exchanges or the creation, for example of an annual lecture named after Kuwait.

"It would be an opportunity to get serious dialogue and understanding going of major Middle East-related issues," he said.

On Sunday, Evans met Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah, who both discussed several regional issues. He also attended an exhibition hosted by Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah, where he met the Kuwaiti cultural organisation's director-general Sheikha Hussah Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, Deputy Director of Kuwait University Dr Essam Al-Awadi said the university's administration did not receive any information on the stolen password of an assistant dean, refuting rumors spread on social networking websites about the stolen password of an assistant dean in one of its faculties in Kaifan and that this resulted in the registration of many students who failed to meet the conditions and opening of new courses, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Speaking to the daily, Al-Awadi disclosed the Scientific Affairs Sector did not receive any complaint from the faculty or assistant dean regarding the incident which allegedly happened during the mandatory registration last week. He asserted the university will look into the issue to uncover the truth.

# Deqbasi calls for studying his proposal to cut retirement age

Amendments provide protection for new firms after privatization

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: MP Ali Al-Deqbasi says he wishes the government will not dismiss the proposal to reduce the retirement age without studying it well and listening to other voices, reports Al-Anba daily.

The lawmaker explained that his proposal aims at providing job opportunities for unemployed youths and protecting the salaries of employees from deduction of children allowances due to long period of service. The proposal received parliamentary support and reflects the public calls.

He insisted that it is not fair for citizens not to find any job due to lack of vacant positions while expatriates are being employed in the public sector based on the item of support. MP Deqbasi said, "Unless the retirement age is reduced, the unemployment rate will only keep increasing".

The first draft of amendments to the Privatization Law includes a series of fundamental changes to the conditions of joint-stock companies after privatization, rights of Kuwaiti workers and some penalties imposed by the previous law, reports Al-Anba daily.

The new amendments indicate a tendency to give greater flexibility to the joint-stock companies that have been allocated for privatization and not oblige the companies to set a

## Minister adopts strategy to implement policy of replacing foreigners in judiciary

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: Will the Kuwaitization of the government sector succeed this time in line with the decision that was taken last week? This is the question, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Ten years ago, specifically in 2007, a similar decision was issued by the former Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Faisal Al-Hajji, and published in the official gazette, but it did not meet the target, to the contrary the number of expatriates in the government sector increased from 61,000 in 2007 to 83,000 this year — an increase of almost 25

percent.

A reliable source well versed with the issue revealed the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs, Dr Falah Al-Azab has adopted a strategy to implement the policy of replacing foreigners with Kuwaitis in the judiciary by more than 95 percent within three years, starting with the Court of First Instance and the Public Prosecution within the next two years.

The source said the minister stressed on the need to pump new blood and fill the vacancies in

some departments of the judiciary. He added, training courses will be held to appoint nearly 100 prosecutors each year, a large increase in the numbers that are usually accepted.

The source pointed out, 400 jobs in the judiciary are still vacant and will be filled during the next two years with citizens. According to the same sources, Al-Azab will submit a comprehensive report on this issue soon to the Council of Ministers, in addition to a request to expedite the approval of the law on the independence of the judiciary.

minimum wage for Kuwaiti labor or abide by the provisions of the Islamic Sharia.

The amendments provide protection for new companies and prevent monopoly among competing companies in any of the privatization procedures.

The flexibility is not limited to companies, but even citizens are allowed to trade in the shares without any prohibition and

reduced duration of the ban on circulation of shares of workers.

The most prominent amendments included in the bill are as follows:- Energy and oil facilities shall be privatized by a law. Health and education facilities shall only be privatized by law.

An authority shall be established to assist the council. It shall be called the technical authority for the privatization program and shall be supervised by the president of the council.

The authority shall have a head, whose qualifications, salary and other financial rights shall be determined through a decision of the Council of Ministers. It shall have special finan-

cial provisions to be included in the budget of the Council of Ministers.

The council shall issue a decision regarding the financial and administrative system of the authority based on a presentation by the president. The authority shall prepare the preliminary studies, templates of contracts and periodic reports, and general guidance for the privatization of all projects.

The amendments did not include the clause for the possibility of the government to grant free shares in public projects if they are privatized in the existing law. Consequently, citizens will pay the subscription fees in any projects that will be privatized in the future.

'Experienced'

## INJAZ Kuwait picks new Chief Executive Officer

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: INJAZ Kuwait has announced the hiring of Ms Laila Al-Mutairi as the new Chief Executive Officer for the company.

Ms Al-Mutairi brings to INJAZ Kuwait years of experience, granting her management and leadership skills that will enable her to lead the company, fulfilling its objectives and ongoing goals and ambitions. Her wide knowledge of brand management and corporate communications will also add great value to INJAZ Kuwait's operations in the long run.



Al-Mutairi

Being an entrepreneur herself, Ms Laila Al Mutairi believes in the concept of entrepreneurship and works hard to spread it among newer generations. She will focus on helping the youth of Kuwait in improving their skills and choosing their career path, so that they can one day create and lead their own successful businesses.

Founded in 2005, INJAZ-Kuwait (INJAZ) is a non-profit (NPO), non-governmental organization (NGO) driven by Kuwait's private sector. Through strategic partnerships with Kuwait's business and education sectors, and with the help of qualified and dedicated volunteers, INJAZ delivers educational programs on entrepreneurial and leadership skills aimed at inspiring and educating future generations. Since 2005, INJAZ-Kuwait has reached over 54,336 students from 129 educational institutions, thanks to 4,859 volunteers — and growing. INJAZ-Kuwait connects corporate volunteers to mentor youth through programs. Volunteers undergo orientation and training before they embark on their mentoring experience to enhance their readiness as well as performance during mentoring sessions to inspire the youth.

### News in Brief

**'No exception on fingerprint attendance':** Director-General of Customs Jamal Al-Jalawi has said the automated fingerprint identification system is a proof of attendance and departure of employees and should be applied on all without exception, adding whoever advocates or embarks on a protest in that regard will be referred to the Public Prosecution, reports Al-Rai daily.

Al-Jalawi said the fingerprint attendance system will be applied on all General Customs Department employees as of Oct 1, except those with special needs presenting certificate from the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs.

He noted the decision includes those assigned to the border outlets — in line with the decision of the Council of Ministers and according to Civil Service Commission regulations.

**Bid to deliver rented bldgs to Al-Riggae Court:** Ministry of Justice has set April 2018 as the deadline for delivering rented buildings to Al-Riggae Court, reports Al-Rai daily.

The decision came after all departments were shifted to the new Courts Complex in Farwaniya Governorate.

The ministry is also seeking a solution to end the sufferings of litigants in the Hawally Family Court and handover the rented premises.

Speaking to the daily, a source said the ministry has handed over the rented premises in Jahra Governorate while the premises in Riggae will be handed over by next April.

He stressed that the transfer of Jahra and Farwaniya courts to the new buildings will help save KD 2.4 million of the public fund annually as this was the amount being paid for the rented premises.

**'Use new wing to treat only Kuwaitis':** Director of Al-Farwaniya Hospital Dr Mahdi Al-Fadli has sent a proposal to the Director of the District Health Area to earmark the new wing of the hospital to treat only Kuwaitis while the old wing can be used for treating expatriates, reports Annahar daily.

He said the proposal has the approval of the officials because the Farwaniya Hospital caters to 1.209 million people one-fifth of who are Kuwaitis.

He is of the view that the directors, doctors and heads of departments should be included in the fingerprints attendance system.

He told the daily, he supports the commitment of the accounts department to give priority for Kuwaitis, the elderly and people with special needs for private rooms.

He indicated, the expatriates should be banned from using private rooms and exceptions should be made only after obtaining permission from the director of the hospital.



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