

**'The Traveling Mihrab,' a contemporary architectural element rooted in Islamic culture**

**Architect AlNashmi represents Kuwait at Venice Design 2018**

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KUWAIT CITY, May 26: Architect Jassim Al-Nashmi represented Kuwait at Venice Design 2018, an annual international design exhibition, with his design of 'The Traveling Mihrab', a contemporary architectural element rooted in Islamic culture, interplaying with the diversity of pieces in the exhibition in a cohesive manner.

The Venice design exhibition was launched by a private viewing on May 24-25 at Palazzo Michel in Venice, Italy, in the presence of the Second Secretary and the Chargé d'Affaires of Kuwait's consulate in Italy alongside reporters and other participating artists. The exhibition which is open to the public from May 26 and will continue for six months.

Jassim AlNashmi is an architect, artist and furniture designer who was invited by the GAA Foundation to participate in Venice Design. The Foundation curators were drawn to the idea of the portable Mihrab and approved it to be part of the exhibition representing the State of Kuwait.

Mosque architecture is widely understood to be a rectangular or square building with a dome, a minaret, and a mihrab which is seen on the exterior wall as a subtle bump, and which on the interior looks



Participants at the Venice Design Expo Jassim AlNashmi and Ziad Qweider with the Vice-Consul of Kuwait in Milan, Abdulmohsen Al-Fares.



Jassim AlNashmi with the Vice-Consul of Kuwait in Milan Abdulmohsen Al-Fares and the selected design for the exhibition representing Kuwait.

ditional mosque architecture is a progressive leap past modernism into the contemporary realm, because it keeps the mihrab wall flat whilst animating the space with curvilinear surfaces, and above all, stands as a new furniture archetype that enriches the culture's visual identity.

The piece also echoes mihrabs from dynasties in the early periods of Islam when travelers would carry a heavy carved wooden mihrab on camelback. AlNashmi's design strips down the motif of the mihrab to its bare necessities giving it its minimalist aesthetic making it a lightweight and portable contemporary piece of furniture. It also unites the three monotheist traditions as the mihrab is where Zechariah found Mary (Mariam) praying, and this symbol of the mihrab as a place dedicated for worship is found in all three religious traditions, Al Nashmi pointed out.

The exhibition also features 51 designers from all over the world including Italy, France, The Netherlands, Russia, USA, Argentina, China, Japan, along with an Arab presence from Wael Farran from Lebanon, Nawaf Collective who work between Jordan and UAE, Ziad Qweider, Basel Naouri and Mais al Azab from Jordan.

like a cylindrical space carved out of the wall. Al-Nashmi shares that the idea of deconstructing tra-

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Author (right) with Dr Navnit Gandhi

**IJK releases Life Management with 'Colors of Life'**

The Indians in Kuwait (IJK) web portal recently release the first book by its marketing director Crawford Wilson D'Souza on Life Management with 'Colors of Life'.

The chief guest was Dr Navnit Gandhi — an academician, author, counsellor/trainer and a freelance writer/columnist.

For a writer, whether of prose or verse, the culmination of all creativity, skill and efforts, in the form of a Book — is indeed a moment of self-actualization. The moment becomes a special memory when loved ones and well wishers join the celebration. The evening was graced by Mr Ali,

the Chairman of Lemonade International, and IJK Directors — Sunoj Nambiar and George Mathew.

The author says: 'Life Management with Colors of Life' - serves as a blueprint to live a successful and enriched life. 'Colors of Life' is a graphic representation of various important aspects of life.

Through various colors, he says, one realizes the important role that relationships, self-development, wellness and spirituality play in both our personal and professional lives and able to identify the areas that need attention to achieve balance and live a happy and fulfilling life.

**UNSC 'resolution' co-sponsored by Kuwait condemns civilians' starving**

Kuwait urges stakeholders in Burundi to engage in 'dialogue'

NEW YORK, May 26, (KUNA): Co-sponsored by Kuwait, the Netherlands, Sweden and Cote d'Ivoire, a resolution was unanimously passed by the UN Security Council on Thursday to strongly condemn the starving of civilians and the unlawfully denying of humanitarian access to civilian populations as warfare tactics.

The Resolution 2417 (2018), which is in consistency with the humanitarian diplomacy of Kuwait, was welcomed by the Council members as a landmark expression of unity on those critical issues.

The Council drew attention to the link between armed conflict and conflict induced food insecurity and the threat of famine.

It called on all parties to armed conflict to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law regarding the protection of civilians and on taking care to spare civilian objects, stressing that armed conflicts, violations of international law and related food insecurity could be drivers of forced displacement.

Underlining the importance of safe and unimpeded access of humanitarian personnel to civilians in armed conflicts, it also strongly condemned the unlawful denial of such access and depriving civilians of objects indispensable to their survival — including willfully impeding relief supply and access for responses to conflict induced food insecurity.

Urging those with influence over parties to conflict to remind the latter of their international obligations, the Council also recalled that it could consider adopting sanctions, where appropriate and in line with existing practices, that would apply to individuals or entities obstructing the delivery or distribution of humanitarian assistance to civilians in need.

The resolution reads, in part and in effect, as follows: "Recalling all relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 1296 (2000), 1894 (2009), 2175 (2014) and 2286 (2016) and its presidential statement of Aug 9, 2017 (S/PRST/2017/14).

The Security Council, first, recalls the link between armed conflict and violence and conflict induced food insecurity and the threat of famine, and calls on all parties to armed conflict to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law regarding respecting and protecting civilians and taking constant care to spare civilian objects, including objects necessary for food production and distribution such as farms, markets, water systems, mills, food processing and storage sites, and hubs and means for food transportation, and refraining from attacking, destroying, removing or rendering useless objects that are indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, such as foodstuffs, crops, livestock, agricultural assets, drinking water installations and supplies, and irrigation works, and respecting and protecting humanitarian personnel and consignments used for humanitarian relief operations.

Second, stresses in this regard that armed conflict, violations of interna-



Kuwait's deputy representative to the UN Bader Abdullah Al-Munayekh

KUNA photo

**Bureaucracy takes a toll on mega project**

**Final plan of subway metro stations in limbo**

KUWAIT CITY, May 26: The final plan of the subway metro stations in Kuwait has been left in a limbo as bureaucracy takes a toll on the mega project, reports Al-Shahed daily.

There are complaints about delays in the project especially with the bureaucracy among financial credit, request for consultancy, mobilizing companies, Traffic, State Audit Bureau, and Fatwa and Legislation Department.

State Ministry for Services Affairs had taken charge of executing this mega project with the cooperation of Public-Private Partnership

Projects at an estimated cost of \$20 billion after the technical agency had finished studying developmental projects and initiatives to provide adequate studies.

The number of stations had been distributed to 61 stations along 3 rail lines covering all areas and governorates in Kuwait to end the rumored figure of 71 stations. According to sources, the first line of the metro project will start from Salwa and ends up at Kuwait University passing through 18 stations and covering a distance of about 23.7 kilometers. The second line

will start from Hawally and ends in Kuwait City, passing through 26 stations and covering a distance of about 21 kms. The third line will be from Kuwait International Airport to Jaber Al-Mubarak area, covering a distance of about 24 kms. The metro will avoid the traffic congestions witnessed on the roads.

Ten percent of the metro project will be underground while 90 percent will be on ground. The railway lines were supposed to be ready by next November but some hurdles such as bureaucracy are causing the delays.

**Ethiopian envoy congratulates Amir on Ramadan**

**'No difference between elected, appointed members of council'**

KUWAIT CITY, May 26: Former Municipal Council member Mansour Al-Khreinj declared "there is no difference between appointed and elected members, because all of them become equal in rights and responsibilities upon swearing the oath of office, reports Al-Shahed daily.

Al-Khreinj made the disclosure during a live program on Al-Shahed TV titled "Widen Your Heart" and stressed the new structural plan is valid until 2040, because its capacity covers up to 5-8 million people with a series of important development projects. He affirmed that Ministry of Oil is responsible for clearing the land for implementation of its projects.

He noted the reduction in rate of land allocation is due to the presence of oil, and that he was opposed to establishing South Saad Al-Abdullah Area because the land contains groundwater but democracy enforces upon him to go by the decision of the majority.

As regards the grilling against Minister of Oil Bakheet Al-Rashidi, he pointed out that the lawmakers should have conducted the questioning step by step by presenting the questions and looking into the responses. He reiterated the minister shouldn't have been held accountable for actions he didn't take.

The Ethiopian Ambassador to Kuwait HE Abdulaziz Adam sent congratulatory messages to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the people of Kuwait on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan, reports Al-Rai daily.

He explained that the Kuwaiti tradition add a special flavor to the holy month, which is regarded as spiritual in Kuwait and when an increase in charitable works is witnessed. The social life adds uniqueness to

Ramadan whereby families and friends meet over Ghabqa meals.

The ambassador revealed that he spends much of his time doing his work but in the evenings, he visits various diwanis along with other members of the diplomatic corp.

He affirmed that he maintains his weight by continuously exercising, indicating that Ethiopia is famous for sports and its cuisine is considered as dietary which helps in losing some weight during the blessed month and this is an added advantage besides the spiritual aspect of the holy month.

Undersecretary of Ministry of Electricity and Water Eng. Mohammed Boushahri affirmed that the quality of water produced in Kuwait is based on international standards especially that of the World Health Organization, reports Aljarida daily.

He said this during the inauguration of the "the water journey from sea to consumer" exhibition held at 360 Mall.

Eng Boushahri affirmed the keenness of the ministry during each and every Ramadan to organize an exhibition in one of the malls, taking advantage of the huge presence of people to highlight the importance of preserving state resources such as water and electricity.

He said this year's focus was on problems related to water and the importance of preserving it.

Eng Boushahri explained that the exhibition tells the story of water, from the time it is pulled out from the sea and the processes it undergoes until it is transformed into a drinkable state, as well as how the quality of water is ensured through the use of latest technologies in the field.



Michel Kafando

tional humanitarian law and international human rights law, and food insecurity can be drivers of forced displacement, and, conversely, forced displacement in countries in armed conflict can have a devastating impact on agricultural production and livelihoods, recalls the relevant prohibition on the forced displacement of civilians in armed conflict, and stresses the importance of fully complying with international humanitarian law and other applicable international law in this context.

Third, stresses the need for humanitarian assistance to be gender and age sensitive, and to remain responsive to the different needs of the population, ensuring that these needs are integrated in the humanitarian response.

Fourth, calls on all parties to armed conflict to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, and underlines the importance of safe and unimpeded access of humanitarian personnel to civilians in armed conflicts, calls upon all parties concerned, including neighbouring States, to cooperate fully with the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator and United Nations agencies in providing such access, invites States and the Secretary-General to bring to its attention information regarding the unlawful denial of such access in violation of international law, where such denial may constitute a threat to international peace and security, and, in this regard, expresses its willingness to consider such information and, when necessary, to adopt appropriate steps. Fifth, strongly condemns the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare in a number of conflict situations and prohibited by international humanitarian law.

Sixth, strongly condemns the unlawful denial of humanitarian access and depriving civilians of objects indispensable to their survival, including willfully impeding relief

supply and access for responses to conflict induced food insecurity in situations of armed conflict, which may constitute a violation of international humanitarian law.

Seventh, urges all parties to protect civilian infrastructure which is critical to the delivery of humanitarian aid and to ensure the proper functioning of food systems and markets in situations of armed conflict.

Eighth, urges those with influence over parties to armed conflict to remind the latter of their obligation to comply with international humanitarian law. Ninth, recalls that the Council has adopted and can consider to adopt sanction measures, where appropriate and in line with existing practice, that can be applied to individuals or entities obstructing the delivery of humanitarian assistance, or access to, or distribution of, humanitarian assistance.

**Violations**

Tenth, strongly urges States to conduct, in an independent manner, full, prompt, impartial and effective investigations within their jurisdiction into violations of international humanitarian law related to the use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare, including the unlawful denial of humanitarian assistance to the civilian population in armed conflict, and, where appropriate, to take action against those responsible in accordance with domestic and international law, with a view to reinforcing preventive measures, ensuring accountability and addressing the grievances of victims.

The Council requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide information on the humanitarian situation and response, including on the risk of famine and food insecurity in countries with armed conflict, as part of his regular reporting on country specific situations.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's deputy representative to the United Nations on

Thursday commended the outcomes of the referendum on Burundi's new constitution, held on May 17.

Addressing a UN Security Council discussion on the situation in the African country, Bader Abdullah Al-Munayekh urged the government to move towards more progress, including the resumption of constructive dialogue that would benefit all Burundians.

Reaffirming the need for Burundi to engage with international organizations, including the United Nations, to trigger further achievements in development-related areas, he said, "tangible progress in the political process could only be achieved through inclusive dialogue with all stakeholders." Commending plans for the voluntary return of refugees based on the new tripartite agreement, Ambassador Al-Munayekh said efforts must be redoubled to ensure their safe return.

He encouraged the government to engage with the international aid community, including the United Nations.

Meanwhile, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General Michel Kafando, of Burkina Faso, said the country was now poised for a new important phase to settle differences, address pressing concerns, including sporadic violent incidents, and build a solid foundation for peace.

Leading those actions should be the authorities' efforts to resume inter-Burundian talks to build confidence among parties, said Michel Kafando, he stressed.

If inclusive dialogue failed, the referendum results could be challenged and the situation would devolve, characterized by human rights violations and a deterioration of socio-economic and humanitarian conditions. However, the relatively calm security landscape, spotted by isolated incidents of violence, was conducive for the Government to continue its efforts, Kafando continued.