

Strategic planning for policies to combat corruption vital – Kuwait

Nazaha chief participates in conference



Officials taking a tour of the exhibition.

'Al-Sabah Collection' on display for public

Exhibition marks 60th 'versary of Kuwait-Italy ties

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 14, (KUNA): Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah, affiliated to the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), has organized an Islamic Arts exhibition at the American Cultural Center marking the 60th anniversary of the Kuwaiti-Italian relations.

Kamel Al-Abduljelil, the council Secretary General, said during the inauguration ceremony, Tuesday, that a slew of carefully selected unique items, known as "Al-Sabah Collection," have been put on display for the public.

An eminent Italian expert, Giovanni Cirrotola, is supervising the event, themed "The Islamic Art from the National Museum of Bargello in Florence to Kuwait," showcasing treasures dating back to the golden Islamic ages.

The displayed items constitute a testimony to the old relations be-



A round shield with a steel sheet in the middle, inlaid with gold, dating back to India at the end of the sixteenth century AD.

tween Italy and the Arab world, said Abduljelil.

Meanwhile, Italian Ambassador

to Kuwait Carlo Baldocchi also addressed attendees of the inauguration ceremony, including some renowned experts in antiquities, indicating that the exhibition was held as a result of coordinated efforts by Sheikha Husa Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah and professor Cortolla.

The exhibition is sponsored by Minister of Information, Minister of Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, in coordination with the Italian embassy in Kuwait.

The event, marking the 60th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between the State of Kuwait and Republic of Italy, is scheduled to remain open until January 14.

The "Al-Sabah Collection" that started to take form in the 70s of the past century is said to comprise more than 30,000 items depicting various Islamic ages.

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Dec 14, (KUNA): Chairman of the Public Authority for Anti-Corruption (Nazaha) Abdulaziz Al-Ibrahim affirmed on Tuesday Kuwait's full belief in the necessity of strategic planning for policies to prevent and combat corruption.

This came in a speech by Al-Ibrahim before the 9th Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, hosted by Sharm El-Sheikh.

Al-Ibrahim said that the State of Kuwait, after undergoing the first round of the implementation review mechanism, headed towards developing its legislation and institutional oversight mechanisms in the field of combating corruption, "seeking to fully comply with Article VI of the Convention and was keen to take the necessary legislative and institutional measures in this regard."

He explained that Kuwait, after undergoing the second round of the review mechanism, prepared its report to respond to the self-assessment lists and inquiries of review experts in an adequate manner.

He pointed out that this was done "by highlighting the legislative, procedural and institutional efforts made by the State of Kuwait in order to consolidate the ingredients for the effective implementation of the provisions of the agreement."

Preventive

He also stated that the Anti-Corruption Public Authority is regularly and continuously keen on preparing, developing and implementing educational and awareness programs aimed at strengthening preventive measures related to preventing corruption.

Al-Ibrahim pointed out that the State of Kuwait issued its first national strategy to enhance integrity and combat corruption, "belief in the necessity of strategic planning for policies to prevent and combat corruption."

He explained that this strategy deals with its axes of various strategic dimensions that ensure the effectiveness and consistency of national efforts and ensure that they achieve the goals of combating corruption in the public and private sectors.

He added, "The strategy has become one of the main ingredients supporting the implementation of the State of Kuwait's long-term development plan entitled 'Kuwait Vision 2035' in line with the requirements of achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030."

At the same time, Al-Ibrahim indicated that "the societal crises that our national societies have experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic had a reality impact on exploring the importance of planning to face the dangerous repercussions that accompany times of emergency and crises."

He stressed that "we must go in order to find and develop action plans to combat corruption in light of crises and emergencies."

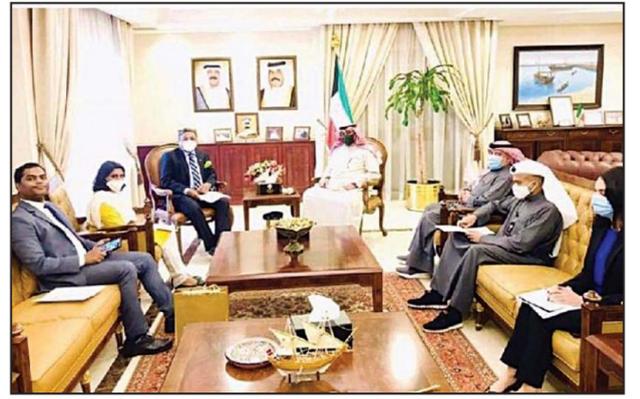
He pointed out that "the State of Kuwait is always striving for continuous interaction and full cooperation with the conference, its secretariat and the government work teams emanating from it," stressing "the permanent readiness of the government of the State of Kuwait to enhance relations of cooperation with the secretariat of the conference and all the states parties to the agreement."

Al-Ibrahim explained that the policies and experiences of the State of Kuwait that were reviewed before the conference, "are only a brief summary of the efforts made by the country in the context of combating corruption."

In his speech, he expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Office of the Eighth Session of the Conference, the Conference Secretariat, and all the work teams emanating from the conference, "for the great and distinguished efforts they made and are doing in order to implement the provisions of the Convention and to enhance international cooperation in the matter of preventing and combating corruption."

He also expressed his thanks and gratitude to the leadership, government and people of the sisterly Arab Republic of Egypt, "for the warm reception and generous hospitality and good organization of the conference's work."

The Public Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) is participating with a high-level delegation that includes a group of authority specialists in the meetings of this ninth session, which started Monday and will continue until Friday.



Indian ambassador meeting with Al-Khubaizi.

Indian envoy calls on Kuwaiti officials

Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Sibi George met Ambassador HE Misha'al Ibrahim Modhaf, Assistant Foreign Minister, Consular Affairs, Kuwait on Dec 14 and discussed bilateral ties, and Diaspora matters including the issue of Indian engineers, nurses, workers stranded in India, Covaxin and issues of mutual interest.

The Ambassador also met HE Dhari Ajran Al-Ajran, Assistant Foreign

Minister for Protocol Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on Dec 13 and discussed ways of furthering bilateral cooperation.

The Indian envoy also called on HE Waleed Ali Al-Khubaizi, Assistant Foreign Minister, Asia Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kuwait, on Dec 13. Both sides reviewed all issues of bilateral relations, including Diaspora issues, and matters of mutual interest.

Hand over land in W. Hadiya to PAHW: Al-Ghareeb

MP queries about number of clinics, hospitals in Mutlaa residential area

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 14: MP Marzouq Al-Khalifa has forwarded queries to Minister of Education Ali Fahd Al-Mudaf about the number of schools in Mutlaa residential area.

He wants to know how many of these schools are ready to receive the students and the date of opening.

He also asked Minister of Health Dr Basel Al-Sabah about the number of clinics and hospitals in the area and date of inauguration.

He asked Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and Minister of State for Social Affairs and Societal Development Meshaan Al-Otaibi about the schedule of connecting power and water supplies to the area.

MP Abdullah Al-Turajji forwarded queries to Al-Otaibi about the contents of monitoring institutions on the contracts signed by the Computer Department at the Ministry of Social Affairs from 2017 to 2020.

He requested for copies of the comments of the State Audit Bureau (SAB) and Financial Controllers Bureau (FCB), as well as the measures taken by the ministry to address these comments.

Authorizations

He also demanded for copies of the authorizations that the minister issued to the undersecretary and assistant undersecretaries to sign contracts in 2017. He wants to know if they complied with regulations on the maximum amount for which they were authorized to sign.

He inquired if the Purchasing Committee at the Computer Department, which was formed by the minister who was in office in 2017 consisted of representatives from the Inspection and Audit Department. He requested for a copy of the report that the Inspection and Audit Department submitted to the minister in 2017.

He demanded for copies of the contracts and projects implemented by the Computer Department and the Public Authority for Handicapped Affairs (PAHA) from 2018 to 2021 showing the names of the owners of contracting companies and their commercial licenses. He asked if any of the owners of these companies is a relative of the minister of social affairs who was in office from 2018 to 2020.

He asked for more details like the method of settling the relevant tenders and the contracts signed directly with certain companies without floating public tenders.

He requested for information about the retired consultants at the office of the minister from 2018 to 2020, includ-



Dr Basel Al-Sabah

ing their curriculum vitae and salaries. He demanded for a copy of the curriculum vitae of the former director of the Computer Department identified only as RN including work experience in the public and private sectors.

Investigations

The lawmaker asked about the reason behind assigning Vedetchri Company to automate services in charities without obtaining approval from the Ministry of Social Affairs and if investigations in this regard were conducted.

He asked if Al-Dar Company controls the data of the beneficiaries of public support provided by the ministry, if the company is operated through servers located outside Kuwait, number of the company's engineers working in the ministry and if their sponsorship is under the company.

MP Yousef Al-Ghareeb submitted a proposal to hand over land in West Hadiya to the Public Authority of Housing Welfare (PAHW) as one way of solving the housing problem.

In a relevant development, MP Abdulkarim Al-Kandari criticized the refusal of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) to hand over land located in Qairawan to PAHW under the pretext that it is covered with plants. He said the PAAAFR should be ashamed as it has neglected its responsibility to develop plants throughout the country. He called on the concerned minister to implement the decision of the Municipal Council to hand over the land to PAHW regardless of the objection of PAAAFR.

Moreover, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim sent a cable to Bahraini Speaker of the Council of Representatives Fawzia Bint Abdulhaz Zaintal and Chairman of the Shura Council of Bahrain Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh to greet them on the National Day of their country.

Cooperation, security

Continued from Page 1

He affirmed Bahrain's keenness, during its presidency of the 41st Summit, on following the implementation of the agenda of the joint action, achieving may key steps that are in favor of the GCC interest.

The Bahraini King underlined the significance of abiding by the contents of the Al-Ula statement that calls for the full implementation of the vision of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, in line with a certain timeframe.

This also includes the accomplishment of the economic unity potentials and the joint development programs as well as the security and defense systems, in addition to coordination of stances to boost GCC solidarity and stability, the King made clear.

Oman's Deputy Prime Minister for Cabinet Affairs Fahad bin Mahmoud Al-Saeed said on Tuesday his country's welcomes its upcoming Gulf Cooperation Council Summit chair but seeks to maintain holding the talks' main sessions within Saudi Arabia.

The Omani official praised the huge role and efforts pursued by Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman in the benefit of the six Gulf Arab states forming the bloc.

Oman hopes that this "honest affir-

ity" amongst the bloc's nations lasts thanks to the efforts of its leaders, governments and people, he added.

Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council Dr. Nayef Al-Hajraf said Monday that the security of all GCC member states is inseparable, particularly amid the instability in the region and the world.

Addressing the 42nd GCC Summit hosted by Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, the GCC chief hailed the recent inauguration of the GCC unified military command, under the patronage of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman.

It has sent a clear message of peace and resolve to defend the Gulf region security and safety of its peoples, he said.

He underlined the need for bolstering joint action to retain the GCC status as a pivotal pillar for security, stability and development of GCC states.

He commended the GCC role in unifying and harmonizing the member states work to overcome challenges of organized crimes, terrorism, drug trafficking, cyber and cross-border crimes.

He lauded the GCC leaders instructions for all relevant bodies to embark on a comprehensive economic development drive to meet the aspiration of Gulf peoples for more welfare and prosperity.

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