

LOCAL



PAAAFR works with state bodies to grow trees along roads and at parks.



KUNA photos

Planting requires concerted efforts: PAAAFR

Unquestionably, tree-planting has become a national and international prerequisite that necessitates the concerted efforts of governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

The Middle East Green Initiative and the recently held climate change conference, known as COP26, came to serve the ultimate goal of coordinating action to boost green areas worldwide and stop the rise in global temperatures.

The Middle East Green Initiative

was launched in March with a view to growing 50 billion trees and boosting forests in the Middle East region.

The importance of reversing the effects of climate change is tangible across the Middle East and North Africa, where the impact of rising temperatures is already affecting livelihoods and opportunities.

The initiative is mainly meant to plant 50 billion trees across the Middle East (including 10 billion at home in Saudi Arabia), through af-

orestation, restore an area equivalent to 200 million hectares of degraded land reducing 2.5 percent of global carbon levels, and contribute to reducing carbon emissions resulting from hydrocarbon production in the region by more than 60 percent.

The UK hosted the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 31 October-13 November 2021, bringing parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of

the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The main goals of the COP26 are to secure global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach and adapt to protect communities and natural habitats.

These events, together with previous gatherings, came up with a slew of concrete and effective commitments to increasing afforestation, nature reserves, parks,

planting and environmental rehabilitation.

In this context, Kuwait's Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) underlined that it is necessary to grow new types of plants and trees in Kuwait in a bid to ease its hot weather conditions.

Therefore, it said in a press release, a copy of which was obtained by KUNA, that it is trying hard to plant the Sidra tree along highways, main roads and residen-

tial and desert areas.

Unlike palm trees, the Sidra tree is an evergreen shrub or tree that stands scorching heat, thrives in the harshest environments and consumes little water, the authority said.

From now on, palm trees would only be planted in houses and farms, rather than along roads or at public parks, the authority underlined, pointing out a plan to grow Sidra trees at nature reserves. (KUNA)

'Endless conflicts put millions of children's lives at high risk'

Kuwait keen to promote children's rights

By Dalal Sharar

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20, (KUNA): As millions of children return to schools after a long break due to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, many other kids are living under dangerous circumstances in several regions because of endless conflicts.

In 1989, world leaders made a historic commitment to the world's children by adopting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child — an international agreement on childhood.

Tomorrow is the 32nd anniversary of this agreement, which is a great chance to remind the world to mobilize efforts to protect the lives of children wherever they were.

Kuwait's Ambassador to the UN, Mansour Al-Otaibi, expressed to KUNA his deep concern about the suffering of children in areas of armed conflict.

During its non-permanent membership in the Security Council 2018 and 2019, the State of Kuwait called on the council's sessions to end the grave violations that children are exposed to in areas of conflicts, said Al-Otaibi.

"A better future for every child", is the slogan of this year's World Children's Day, he added.

Ambassador Al-Otaibi reiter-



Mansour Al-Otaibi, Kuwait's Ambassador to the UN

ated Kuwait's keenness to work to promote children's rights, adding that the Kuwaiti constitution states in its ninth article that "the family is the foundation of society."

He affirmed Kuwait's support for the efforts made by the UN to preserve the dignity of children and protect their rights, pointing to Kuwait's strong partnership with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

For her part, the Director of

the UNHCR in Kuwait, Nasreen Rabiean, affirmed that the recruitment of children causes psychological and physical harm to victims and that most of child soldiers are internally displaced because of armed conflicts.

She said that this phenomenon has very serious consequences on children because it causes disturbances to the child, who needs psychological treatment, noting its impact on their educational attainment, and creates generations

that do not know the language of dialogue and tolerance but rather fighting and violence.

The UNHCR, in partnership with UNICEF, is working on a program to reduce the phenomenon of child recruitment, especially refugees or displaced children, and to conduct awareness campaigns in communities to show its impact on children and societies, she added.

According to a report of the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, on (the impact of conflicts on child recruitment), there are 8,521 children who have been recruited out of 23,946 others who have been subjected to various forms of exploitation in the midst of conflicts.

The US State Department said in a report on Human Trafficking, that there are 14 countries in which children face the risk of recruitment in conflicts around the world, including six Arab countries: Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Libya, Sudan and Somalia.

In continuation of the Kuwaiti role in supporting international organizations concerned with child protection, Kuwait was ranked seventh among the ten donor countries in 2018 by UNICEF, with an amount of USD 61.6 million, while the total donations provided by Kuwait to the organization since 2013 exceeded USD 200 million.

Kuwait handled 'pandemic' with high proficiency: MoH

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20, (KUNA): The Health Ministry said on Thursday that it had handled the COVID-19 pandemic in Kuwait with high proficiency, leading to the curb of the virus spread.

This announcement came in a statement by Secretary General of the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization (KIMS) Dr. Fawaz Al-Refai at the Ninth International Congress of Person-Centered Medicine on behalf of Ministry of Health Sheikh Dr. Basel Al-Sabah.

Al-Refai affirmed that the ministry had done well in facing the pandemic, indicating that the lessons learned

from the predicament will better the country's medical crisis response in the future.

Meanwhile, head of the Kuwait Medical Association (KMA) Dr. Ahmad Al-Enizi said that the current congress witnessed participation from various local and international medical experts.

He indicated that KMA was keen on bolstering medical services in Kuwait via participating in such events.

KMS, the International College of Person-Centered Medicine (ICPCM), and the World Medical Association is organizing the two-day event.



Photos during the Ninth International Congress of Person-Centered Medicine. KUNA photos

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