



Above: Some photos from the Armed Forces Day celebration. Photos by Leah Qartal

Bangladesh Embassy marks 50th Armed Forces Day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22: "Kuwait has special place in the hearts and minds of the people of Bangladesh", mentioned H.E. Ambassador of Bangladesh during his speech delivered in the reception arranged by the Defence Wing of Bangladesh Embassy. The reception on the occasion of 50th Anniversary of 'Armed Forces Day' of Bangladesh was arranged on 21st November at the Al Taj Ballroom of Hotel Millennium. Major General Khaled Belal Al Obaidi, Assistant Chief of Staff, Logistic and Supply, Kuwait Armed Forces graced the reception as Guest of Honour and as representative of Chief of Staff Kuwait Armed Forces.



The ceremonial cake being cut.

The colourful reception began with the welcome speech of Brigadier General Mohammad Naser, Defence Attache of Bangladesh in Kuwait. He thanked the Guest of Honour Major General Khaled Belal Al Obaidi for attending the reception. He also thanked all the distinguished guests and highlighted to them that the "Armed Forces Day of 21st Nov holds special importance not only for the members of Bangladesh Armed Forces but also for the people of Bangladesh. Our armed forces, since its inception, is known as armed forces of the people. And to earn this reputation and confidence of the people, performance and sacrifice of the armed forces in the 1971's liberation war of Bangladesh has

played a vital role". Further highlighting on the professional development of Bangladesh Armed Forces, Brigadier Naser mentioned that Bangladesh Armed Forces has put in its best effort to be professional not only in domestic front but also internationally. As a recognition of that effort, Bangladesh Armed Forces is now among the top troops contributing armed forces under the banner of United Nations. Bangladesh also has a Military Contingent deployed in Kuwait since 1991.

H.E. the Ambassador of Bangladesh Major General Ashikuzzaman said in his speech that Kuwait and Bangladesh are strategic partners in different fields including military. Relation and bond between these two countries are inseparable and historically connected.

The ambassador expressed thanks and deep gratitude to H.H. the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his government on the occasion of 50th Armed Forces Day of Bangladesh. The ambassador further expressed with great respect and honour the contribution of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and valiant soldiers, men and women in the war of Independence of Bangladesh.

In celebrating the 50th Armed Forces Day of Bangladesh on 21st November 2021, the Defence Wing, Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh organized a reception at Millennium Hotel and Convention Centre, Kuwait. The reception was attended by a large number of ambassadors of different countries, members of the diplomatic and civil societies of Kuwait, Defence Attaches resident in Kuwait, officers of Bangladesh Military Contingent to Kuwait and members of Bangladesh community. Earlier in the morning, Bangladesh Military Contingent in Kuwait also celebrated the day through a program held at their Headquarters at Sobhan Military Area. Distinguished guests of the program observed a colorful parade and various other professional activities of the contingent.

Cost of 'communications' in Kuwait lowest among world

'Kuwait residents have access to 4G network'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22: The usage of Internet in Kuwait increased 12% during 2020 compared to 2019 especially the mobile broadband networks as a result of the preference for wireless communications, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily quoting Communications and Information Technology Commission (CITC) said the monthly cost of a broadband subscription basket ranges from 5 to 6 dinars per month in Kuwait (equivalent to 16 to 20 dollars), and is among the lowest in the world and revealed there are about 5.6 million people who subscribe to mobile broadband communications in Kuwait, with a penetration rate of more than 100% at a rate of 1.3 subscriptions per person. The communications via optical fibers currently have a 45% share, compared to 31% in 2019, and the speed of the majority of connections is 53%, or about 10 megabytes or more.

Reasonable

The commission stated that the monthly cost of the basic plan provides a reasonable amount of calls and data, and this varies depending on the type of connection, and is at least 5 gigabytes for a fixed broadband connection, while it ranges from 500 megabytes to 1.5 gigabytes for a mobile broadband connection.

In terms of a fair comparison between countries, the prices represent a percentage of the average per capita income in the country or region, and the prices of fixed broadband communication are ranked second in terms of the cheapest prices in the world, according to data issued by the CITC which also revealed that all residents in Kuwait have access to the fourth generation network for mobile phones. This is in addition to Kuwait being one of the pioneers of the fifth generation technology and covers about 97% of this network.

The commission stated families in Kuwait spend an average of 5.1% of their annual income on communications and information technology and regarding the spread and use of devices, the CITC stated almost all people in Kuwait use mobile phones and the Internet on a daily basis, while 88% of homes own computer devices, such as PCs, laptops and tablets, while the Smart TVs saw an amazing growth in accreditation rates during the past 5 years, as the prevalence rate in the Kuwaiti domestic sector increased from 3.4% in 2015 to 74% in 2020.

Meanwhile, the sources say digital age is developing rapidly, as "we see individuals and institutions using digital technologies in homes and workplaces at an unprecedented rate, and in 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic doubled the speed of adopting digital methods for living, working and transactions to reach new high levels."

Accountants shun accounts, finance depts

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 21: A number of ministries and government institutions have sounded an alarm bell and warned against employees with financial and accounting backgrounds of turning their backs to finance departments and moving to jobs in the same ministries and institutions which are not related to finance, reports Al-Anba daily.

The sources stated 6 government institutions have said a number of employees with financial and accounting backgrounds have left their departments, which resulted in many observations such as violating the budget implementation rules, violating the circulars of the Ministry of Finance regarding the rules and procedures necessary to close accounts and prepare the final account, and not giving accurate figures when preparing the draft budget, disbursing financial allowances to non-accounting personnel, and transferring a number of university degree holders majoring in accounting to a non-financial departments.

The sources confirmed that there is a recommendation that all government agencies should study the reasons for employees leaving the financial and accounting departments and find solutions to address them, with the need to adhere to the decisions of the Civil Service Commission regulating the disbursement of allowances and financial benefits for the financial departments.



Part of the seminar organized by the National Diwan for Human Rights. KUNA photo

Number of experts participates

Rights Diwan holds seminar 'against domestic violence'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 22, (KUNA): The National Diwan for Human Rights, represented by the Family Rights Committee, organized on Monday a seminar themed "renouncing domestic violence" with participation of officials representing government departments, the National Assembly and public welfare societies.

The participants in the gathering, holding of which coincided with the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women, falling on November 25 every year, that violence constitutes explicit breach of human rights, noting domestic violence affects not only women but also all members of the family and the whole society as well.

Hoda Al-Shayji, member of the Diwan and Chairperson of the committee, said in a statement to KUNA that the seminar was organized out of keenness on attaining objectives related to boosting and protecting human rights and respecting public liberties.

The Diwan, represented by the women commission, invited a number of experts, she said, noting the Diwan role in boosting awareness of women rights and protecting them against all forms of violence.



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TGS poster

TGS hosts Olympian Dashti

When young Lara Dashti walked out at the head of her team at the Tokyo Olympics she made history. Lara is the first-ever female Olympic flag bearer of Kuwait. And the second Kuwaiti female Olympic swimmer. Last month, she made history again by winning gold at the Arab Championship for short-distance swimming in Abu Dhabi. But irrespective of these achievements and accolades, which she has managed to collect at the young age of 17, there is something different about Lara.

She is a very special Kuwaiti teenager.

Highly focused, exceedingly well-spoken, mature and hardworking, her life revolves around swimming and academics. Despite her crazy training schedules and tournament travels, Lara is a stellar student. What is also interesting is her strong work ethic. A role model and a youth icon, Lara Dashti not only breaks stereotypes about Arab women athletes, but she also draws attention to the potential that is there in the Arab youth. Tune in to this story of her journey next Thursday on Radio Kuwait.

Unified Command

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noble objectives set by Their Highnesses and Royalty, the leaders of the Arabian Gulf Cooperation Council States," said the minister in a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on sidelines of the gathering.

These goals will contribute to broadening inter-GCC military cooperation, attain defense interaction among the council member states and boost capabilities "of our armed forces to face various challenges and threats," Sheikh Thamer Ali stated further to the Kuwaiti news agency.

Bahraini Defense Affairs Minister Major General Abdullah Al-Nuaimi chaired the session that grouped GCC countries' ministers of defense and Dr. Nayef Al-Hajraf, the GCC Secretary General.

The ministers discussed during the session some recommendations, latest developments on the regional and international arenas.

GCC Defense Ministers held Monday the 18th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council, (Joint Defense Council), in Riyadh with the attendance of Kuwait's Acting Defense Minister and Interior Minister.

In a statement, GCC Secretariat General said the meeting was attended by Bahraini Defense Affairs Minister Major-General Abdulla Al-Nuaimi, besides Dr. Nayef Falah M. Al Hajraf, GCC Secretary-General, and Assistant Secretary-General for Military Affairs

at the GCC General Secretariat, Maj. Gen/ Ahmed Al-Ali.

The participants in the meeting discussed several military related topics, it added.

It is better

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There is a desire among a large segment of Kuwaitis to have new legislative and executive authorities that are completely different from what we have had in the past.

There are those who quote the current Prime Minister's unwillingness to continue. Whatever the truth of this matter is, it is better for him to let it go, and ask not to return to his position so that things do not return to its previous nature of procrastination and cause more economic, financial, and political losses of course which negatively affects the image of the country as a whole.

Today, on the eve of the consultations to form a new government, the ambition of the popular majority is for a prime minister and ministers other than the current team which has caused an increase in the regression at all levels as a result of leaving matters to incompetent people.

This is the least that can be done if what is required is to get out of the current impasse. Three-quarters of the reason behind this impasse can be attributed to the catastrophic failure of the administration, which cannot be tolerated.

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