



Group photo during the workshop entitled 'Introductory seminar on the activities of restoring family links'.

KUNA photo

KRCS, ICRC seek plan to expedite family reunification and assistance for missing persons

The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) stressed the need to develop continuous plans, provide regulatory frameworks, and discuss the challenges facing the Red Crescent and Red Cross societies worldwide in the field of family links, in order to propose solutions for family reunification and assistance for missing persons in reaching their families in the fastest and best way.

The Secretary-General of the KRCS, Maha Al-Barjas, said in her speech before an introductory workshop organized by the society on Monday, in cooperation with the re-

gional office of the Red Cross in the country, entitled 'Introductory seminar on the activities of restoring family links', that the society developed, during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic, a plan to respond to the needs of restoring family links.

Al-Barjas added that the association also worked on communication between families and on improving the capabilities and performance of workers and volunteers in this field, in great cooperation with relevant government agencies such as the ministries of foreign affairs, health and the interior.

She stated that the association intensified its efforts by distributing multilingual media materials entitled 'Do you want to search for a member of your family? We will help you' and a mobile phone line was allocated for rapid response to emergencies. Indeed, the association received 350 calls and 20 search requests during the COVID-19 crisis. (KUNA)

She pointed to the society's cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross regarding the search for people and family links, indicating that the process of tracing the missing and restoring

family links in the aftermath of crises and wars represents a "great challenge" for humanitarian workers because they go through complex stages that require special skills, and they have to prepare well and gain the necessary experience to deal with it.

For his part, Deputy Head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) regional delegation, Makram Souh, said in his speech that hundreds of thousands of people around the world are missing due to armed conflicts and other situations of violence, in addition to

natural disasters and the increasing migration in many parts of the world.

Souh added that the International Committee of the Red Cross and the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are working hand in hand to find out the fate of these people or find them and restore their contact with their families by exchanging Red Cross messages, securing telephone contact between them, organizing family reunification operations and seeking to clarify the fate of the missing persons.

He stated that the workshop came to shed light on the services of re-

storing family links provided by the International Movement of the Red Cross and the Kuwaiti Red Crescent, to discuss the challenges facing the provision of these services, and to discuss ways to enhance coordination and cooperation at the local and international levels.

He explained that embassies, consulates and diplomatic missions of countries play an important role in communicating with members of their communities who wish, as well as facilitating their return to their countries and the reunification of their families. (KUNA)

Arab Parliament, IPU initial 1st of kind technical accord

Sec-gens association names Moroccan as chairperson

MADRID, Nov 29, (KUNA): The Arab Parliament and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) signed, Monday, the first of its kind accord between the two entities to develop technical cooperation.

This came on the sideline of the IPU's 143rd conference.

Arab Parliament Speaker Adel Al-Asoomi and IPU's Secretary General Martin Chungong signed the accord.

The accord will develop relations between the two sides, boost gender equality, and protect and reinforce human rights.

After the signing, Secretary General Chungong affirmed that the accord was a turning point and a new stage in relations between the Arab Parliament and IPU.

Speaker Al-Asoomi, on his part, said that the two sides must work on measures to implement the tenets of the accord as soon as possible.

The IPU conference, which began last Wednesday, touched on challenges facing democracy and ways to battle division and bolster social cohesion.

The conference, ending this Tuesday, saw the participation of 120 countries.

The IPU was established some 130 years ago and includes 179 parliaments, 13 regional parliamentary authorities.

Meanwhile, member of the Kuwaiti parliament Adel Al-Loughani said on Sunday that the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments elected untested secretary general of the Moroccan parliament Najib Al-Khadi as chairperson.

Al-Loughani, in a statement after partaking in a meeting of the associa-

Food Bank distributes vouchers to 20,000 families

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 29, (KUNA): The Kuwait Food and Relief Bank announced the completion of the "Evenings Bank 4" project, which included the distribution of vouchers for purchases and foodstuffs to 20,000 poor and needy families in cooperation with the General Secretariat of Endowments.

Deputy Chairman of the Bank's Board of Directors, Mishaal Al-Ansari, told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on Monday that the provision of aid is carried out through the bank's database that is constantly

updated to add the needy families to this project.

Al-Ansari added that this distinguished charitable project provides food and drink to needy families, praising the close and solid cooperation between the Kuwait Food Bank and the Awqaf Trust, which is based on sound foundations aimed at the welfare of all.

He pointed out the bank's keenness on institutional work by making a comprehensive plan for the "Evenings Bank 4" project that includes the implementation mecha-

nism and methods of distribution for needy families, indicating that it is one of the largest charitable projects that it implemented in cooperation with a government agency to serve charitable work in Kuwait.

He stated that the food bank has an integrated team to manage charitable work and receive the needy to identify their needs through the bank's official website (<https://www.kuwaitfoodbank.org/>) in order to meet all their requirements and work to solve their daily problems.

tion as part of the 143rd conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), indicated that Al-Khadi was chosen during the session.

Al-Khadi succeeded Filip Shwab as head of the association.

Moreover, during the session, attended by secretary general of the Arab parliaments' general secretaries association, Jassem Al-Nisf (of Kuwait), the conferees adopted an agenda and amended some by-laws.

A Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation headed by National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim has been visiting Spain since last Wednesday, partaking in the IPU convention activities and sideline seminars.

Last week, Speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim has affirmed that criticism of some "erroneous practices in the democratic system and examining it

regularly" is not aimed at undermining the governing regime, but rather safeguarding it.

Al-Ghanim, addressing the general assembly of the 143rd Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), thanked organizers who have chosen the theme "contemporary challenges in the face of democracies," as a main topic for debates during the international gathering.

The speaker of the Kuwaiti parliament has indicated that it is not sufficient to address or adopt democracy with superficial rhetorical discussions. "The matter warrants in-depth culture and intelligence," he noted, also underscoring other core issues in this respect, namely the practicing, the obstacles, the social, economic and cultural dimensions of the issue.

Al-Ghanim called upon his peers to put aside slogans and purported "sanctities" when addressing "this file."

Masking any ruling regime, even in the cases where it has a democratic form, is the number-one hindrance in the face of the approach to renew and remedy its drawbacks, Al-Ghanim noted, stressing, "We should not be afraid when we point the finger at wrong practices; for democracy is a means not an objective; it is rather a practice and not a slogan and we ought not to turn into slaves for political paganism or legal statue even if they carry a democratic name."

Democracy is not sacred and nothing should prohibit efforts to correct or guide it where the practices are not right, he has stressed further.

In his lengthy address to his peers, Al-Ghanim cautioned that democracy may encounter serious threats and challenges where the society witnesses sharp polarization with parties getting embroiled in irresponsible conflicts.

Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince visits Kuwait, Qatar pavilions at Expo

DUBAI, Nov 29, (KUNA): Crown Prince of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of UAE Armed Forces Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan visited Sunday Kuwait and Qatari pavilions participating in Expo 2020 Dubai.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed viewed contents of the two pavilions, including exhibits and innovative projects, while exchanging conversations with the officials of the two sections on solutions and initiatives they presented in the areas of sustainability, said the Emirates News

Agency (WAM).

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed was happy to visit the pavilions of Kuwait and Qatar and got to know more about their important initiatives in future projects and their historic, cultural and social heritage, WAM added. The two pavilions were designed in a way that embodies the two countries' vision and their orientation towards the future, in addition to providing an opportunity to view their history, cultural heritage, achievements and their future vision, combining modernity and history, stated WAM.



KUNA photos
Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan during his visit to the Kuwait Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai.

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