

Humanitarian aid continues throughout week



Adailiya water towers consists of 31 towers distributed throughout Kuwait.— Abdullah Almuhareb-KUNA

Kuwait ranks 84 out of 100 countries in English proficiency index for 2019

Report shows retrogression from previous years

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 28: The level of English language proficiency continues to decline in the country as Kuwait currently ranks 84 globally out of 100 countries in the global English proficiency index for 2019, scoring only 46.22 points, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Kuwait ranked seventh in the Middle East out of 10 participating countries in the index compiled by "First Education Foundation" that specializes in language training and educational tour, preceded by Iran, the UAE, Jordan, Turkey, Qatar and Syria, while Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Oman came behind Kuwait.

The report ranked Kuwait at a "very low" level in the English language, retrogressing from previous years, indicating the country took 78th place out of 88 countries in 2018, and ranked 74 out of 80 countries in 2017. Despite the studies that show a direct relationship between the use of technology, the internet and proficiency in English language, the index did not reflect on the language level in the country, as the indicator revealed that the rate of internet usage in Kuwait reaches 98 percent, while the level is still very low in English. Report indicated the level of the English language for people between the ages of 26 to 30 years is higher than that of other age groups, which reflects the effect of teaching the language at university level.

Meanwhile, Muhammad-Bunde's visit to Kuwait saw him giving a speech at the Kuwait Diplomatic Institute, where the UN official listed several matters he viewed as priorities amid his one-year term. The peaceful settlement of disputes through conflict prevention and cooperation, the inclusion of women, youth and the disabled, poverty eradication and urging nations to commit to climate action were amongst the topics of his address. Speaking to KTV, he also alluded to the importance of "partnerships" between nations to solve shortages one nation might face compared to others. Where one nation lacks resources, another, with an abundance, may provide, he suggested. Last Monday, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) sent five trucks full of necessities, foodstuff, and relief aid materials to Syrian refugees residing in Jordan. Top official at KRCS Abdulrahman Al-Aoun told KUNA that Syrian refugee families in Jordan and nearby Lebanon are in need of such relief aid now. He affirmed that the society would continue to provide aid to the Syrian refugees throughout the upcoming period to assist them during their current predicament. In Lebanon, the KRCS provided foodstuff to some 2,940 families. According to head of the KRCS delegation in Lebanon Abdullah Al-Rashidi, the campaign involves the distribution of necessary food items to needy families in Lebanon. On a daily basis, the KRCS-run campaign also delivers around 6,000 loaves of bread to feed Syrian and Palestinian refugees, he affirmed. Lebanese humanitarian officials and nationals always receive the KRCS campaign positively.

Official lauds Kuwait support for UN agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 28, (KUNA): Kuwait continued its humanitarian efforts and activities this week in different parts of the world met by applause from senior officials and organizations.

In Kuwait, newly elected United Nations General Assembly President Tijjani Muhammad-Bande said that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's UN humanitarian leader accolade was "well-deserved" due to the country's "remarkable" global humanitarian record.

Discussions he held with officials, amid a visit to Kuwait, focused on how the country could support nations in need, individually or through collective efforts with other nations, he told KTV at UN House.

The UN official's discussions with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also touched on support Kuwait extends to UN agencies.

Kuwait has "taken the lead" for many years on humanitarian issues worldwide, particularly through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development initiatives, said the Nigerian diplomat, who was elected UNGA President in June, this year.

As a current member of the UN Security Council, Kuwait's efforts are "important for all of us," he pointed out, particularly its "engagement" with other member countries on crucial issues.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was handed the honor for his "exemplary humanitarian leadership" by former UN chief Ban Ki-moon at a ceremony in New York in 2014.

Meanwhile, Muhammad-Bunde's visit to Kuwait saw him giving a speech at the Kuwait Diplomatic Institute, where the UN

Al-Damkhi to grill Aseeri over defamation of MPs

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 28: MP Adel Al-Damkhi has been preparing a grilling inquest against the Minister of Social Affairs Dr Ghadeer Aseeri concerning misrepresentation and defamation of lawmakers, reports Aljarida daily.

According to a source, the inquest will be presented this week.

Al-Damkhi will base his interpellation on a statement attributed to the minister wherein she denied offending any GCC country and claimed that her blog was misunderstood. She reportedly said the attack from the lawmakers on her was aimed at impressing the electorate.

Al-Damkhi believes this statement can be considered defamation to the lawmakers.

Meanwhile, MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subai'e has indicated his intention to grill the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior, and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh if he fails to implement the law on everybody equally in terms of issues related to cybercrimes and fictitious accounts.

The lawmaker said the parliament has gone beyond the stage of just parliamentary questions and talks, declaring that the lawmakers will not accept a situation whereby dignity of people will face crisis because of reckless officials.

He reiterated, "The minister should be ready to stand on the podium for grilling if he fails to implement the rule of law on those fictitious accounts."

No trust ...

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In another development, MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subai'e has forwarded questions to Deputy Prime Minister, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs and Minister of Interior Anas Al-Saleh about the telecommunication towers.

Al-Subai'e asked the minister to submit a detailed list of these towers including the subsidiaries of telecommunication companies in charge of each tower, date of establishing each tower, licensed towers and unlicensed ones.

He asked if the Ministry of Interior collected any fees from the companies. If yes, he requested for copies of relevant documents. If no, he wants to know the reasons for not collecting fees.

He also requested the minister to provide him with the names of companies which own the unlicensed towers and the legal procedures taken against them.

US contractor

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In Al-Tahrir Square, the stronghold of the protests in Baghdad, activists held a large banner with a picture of president Salih written on it, "Thank you, Barham, for standing with the demands of the masses and not responding to the candidates of corrupt parties."

Activists and prominent Iraqi pages with large followers on Facebook and

Twitter have organized referendums about the president's decision, which revealed a great welcome and in high proportions, and others posted tweets praising the decision.

However, others questioned the president's motives and considered it part of a plan aimed at evading the responsibilities and constitutional duties entrusted to him.

Meanwhile, the sit-ins continued Friday, according to eyewitnesses, in Baghdad and the central and southern governorates of the country, rejecting Al-Eidani and calling for an independent candidate to be appointed as next prime minister.

The Iraqi Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani on Saturday warned against the complicated situation in Iraq, proposing that the legitimate demands of the demonstrators in Iraq should be realized.

"We are following with concern the situation in Iraq, which is suffering a deep crisis, and it is necessary for everyone to deal with the situation with a national spirit and responsibly, away from political pressure," a presidential statement quoted Barzani as saying.

Regarding assigning a candidate to head the next Iraqi government, Barzani pointed out that it appears that President Barham Salih is under great pressure, stressing that the choice must be based on constitutional foundations. He stressed choosing a national candidate to head the government and be acceptable to the political forces.

Iraq has witnessed unprecedented protests against the government and corruption since last October causing major changes in the political scene.

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