

In Brief

KUWAITI AID TO BASRA

KUWAIT: Kuwait yesterday launched an aid campaign for the second consecutive year to lift displaced families in the southern Iraqi city of Basra out of misery. In a statement, Kuwait's Consul General in Iraq's third largest city Yousef Al-Sabagh said that the aid is part of Kuwait Red Crescent Society's (KRCS) 'Kuwait is by Your Side' campaign. — KUNA



NEW WARD IN IRBIL HOSPITAL

IRBIL: Kuwait's Consul-General in Irbil Dr Omar Al-Kandari and Health Minister of Kurdistan Regional Government Rekwat Hama Rasheed have inaugurated a Kuwait-financed new ward at Irbil Emergency Hospital. He added that the new ward, which comprises 36 beds, would help the hospital cope with the growing influx of victims of the ongoing military operation to liberate Mosul from the so-called Islamic State (IS) group. — KUNA



WATER PROJECTS IN KYRGYZSTAN

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Peace Society for Humanitarian and Charitable Works continued to deliver humanitarian aid to people in need in Kyrgyzstan. Director General of Kuwait's Peace Society for Humanitarian and Charitable Works Dr Nabil Al-Oun said yesterday that the 35th Kuwaiti expedition launched three major projects to provide fresh drinking water in three villages in the capital city of Bishkek. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A photo showing Kuwait City landmark buildings taken from a bridge at the Jamal Abdul-Nasser Road. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

ICRC ORGANIZES GCC, ASIAN NATIONAL SOCIETIES' MEETING

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: A three-day trans-regional meeting between national societies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and several countries from South Asia and Southeast Asia kicked off yesterday at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Salwa. The event is being held to discuss the Red Cross and Red Crescent movements' humanitarian activities to support migrants in the GCC. Ralph Wehbe, Protection Coordinator-ICRC Regional Delegation Kuwait, said the event was organized to benefit migrant workers.

"This conference is organized to better help migrant workers. The people involved here are mostly national societies and groups that care for migration issues. But in order to help migration cases, we need to hear from everyone from Asia, GCC and South Asia, especially our counterparts on what their programs are; we want to explore policies and probabilities," Wehbe told Kuwait Times on the sidelines of the conference. "By talking together, we can enhance policies and hear everyone's concerns, making sure that issues on migration are tackled towards a better outcome," he said.

Organized by the GCC Regional Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Deputy Chairman of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society Anwar Al-Hasawi welcomed this step in his opening speech and stressed on the importance of assessing the needs of migrant workers and their families in the GCC in order to ensure that the movement's activities, which fall within the purview of national

societies, and their response, are in favor of migrants.

"Migration is a very important topic that needs more attention from the Red Cross and Red Crescent," said Deputy Head of the GCC Regional Delegation of ICRC Rania Machlab. She also stressed on the importance of facilitating communication between the GCC and Asian national societies to tackle such issues. She added that the regional delegation organized this meeting with an aim of further developing communication channels between both sides to eventually benefit migrants.

The meeting's outcomes included practical recommendations that were agreed upon by the national societies in both regions to develop the resources needed for disseminating family link restoration services provided by the Red Cross and Red Crescent to the migrants before they leave their country of origin. Such recommendations include ways to prevent the loss of contact between migrants and their families, improving communication channels between national societies to address any challenges facing them in this field and assessing the needs of the movement's family restoration link services in situations of disaster.

The meeting was attended by national societies from countries in the GCC and Asia including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Pakistan and India. The ICRC has been operating in Kuwait since the 1990-91 Gulf War. It focuses on humanitarian needs remaining from that war or arising from current armed conflicts and other situations of violence in



KUWAIT: Officials from societies in GCC, South Asian and Southeast Asian countries pose for a group photo on the sidelines of the meeting. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

the wider region. The regional delegation in Kuwait covers the six countries belonging to the Gulf Cooperation Council.



The meeting in progress.

BURGAN BANK CELEBRATES HEALTH AND FITNESS MONTH

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank is celebrating 'Employee Health and Fitness Month', aimed at promoting a healthy lifestyle through work-site wellness and fitness programs. Dedicated entirely to the wellbeing of the staff, the 'Employee Health and Fitness Month' will be rolled out throughout May and represents yet another value-adding Burgan Bank initiative.

'Employee Health and Fitness Month', a global event that started nearly three decades ago, is a pioneering undertaking for Burgan Bank that reflects its true commitment to providing a healthy, dynamic and stimulating work environment. It also reflects its commitment to being a catalyst for positive change in society, starting with its employees, who are the bank's greatest asset. The 30-year old tradition has exhibited evidence of the values of investing in employee health and fitness and how it serves as a powerful strategic component of any organization, which puts people first.

On this topic, Halah El-Sherbini, Group Chief Human Resources and Development Officer said: "By addressing current health and fitness topics among its employees, Burgan Bank aims to drive lasting behav-

ioral change and incorporate a culture of robust wellbeing that will inspire the wider community. Through these innovative initiatives that convey socially impactful messages, Burgan Bank seeks to inject new thinking around health and fitness and make small advancements within the society it thrives in as often ground-breaking progress starts with a small step."

As part of the program, Burgan Bank employees will be offered creative incentives and discounts to health and fitness venues, and will be reminded of the importance and long-term benefits of opting for nutrition and healthy eating through the distribution of health tips and snacks followed by the importance of exercise and maintaining proper posture in the office work space by a renowned international chiropractor.

Wholesome wellness is imperative for both the employees and the employer as it strengthens performance and productivity, boosts cognitive skills, motivation and mental strength, sparks creativity and innovation, while reducing stress, absenteeism and health care costs. Investing in health is proven to have wide-spread benefits for individuals and the society as a whole.