

Local

Speaker Ghanem returns from Lebanon after Arab Economic Forum participation

President Aoun lauds Kuwaiti leadership's sincere support towards Lebanon

KUWAIT/BEIRUT: Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem returned to Kuwait from Lebanon yesterday after he attended the 26th Arab Economic Forum. On the sidelines of his participation, Speaker Ghanem had met with Lebanese President Michel Aoun, designated Prime Minister Saad Al-Hariri, and other top Lebanese officials.

President Aoun lauded Friday His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's sincere support and stance towards his brethren in Lebanon. In a statement by the Presidential office during his meeting with Ghanem, President Aoun affirmed the strong Kuwaiti stance on issues pertaining to Lebanon's security and welfare as well as issues connected with the Arab region.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah dealt with various dilemmas plaguing the region in a wise and thoughtful manner, said President Aoun, who commended the Kuwaiti role in defusing the Lebanese civil war, which swept the country in the past. On the strong Kuwaiti-Lebanese relations, the President said that it was a natural reflection of both countries' desires to boost ties further. In regards to the verbal message conveyed by Speaker Ghanem from His Highness the Amir, President Aoun thanked His Highness Sheikh Sabah for his brotherly gesture and sincere wishes for Lebanon and its people.

He asked Speaker Ghanem to convey a similar message to His Highness the Amir and the people of Kuwait, wishing them further progress and welfare. According to the pres-

idential office, President Aoun had reviewed with Speaker Ghanem the Lebanese government's plans to develop the country economically. President Aoun also touched on the issue of Syrian refugees, affirming that the world most bring on a peaceful solution to the crisis.

After meeting with President Aoun, Speaker Ghanem said that the leaderships of Kuwait and Lebanon were seeking to further bolster relations on all possible fields.

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No travel ban to Lebanon
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Speaking to the press at Baabda Palace, Ghanem said that His Highness the Amir's message to President Aoun reflected the Kuwaiti leadership's keenness on supporting and assisting Lebanon 'through thick and thin.' He commended the Lebanese honorable stance during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and subsequent liberation in 1991.

In regards to agreements signed during President Aoun's visit to Kuwait recently, Speaker Ghanem said that "all the agreements between Kuwait and Lebanon were either already unanimously approved by the National Assembly or in the process of being accepted."

No travel ban

Answering a question regarding a travel ban on Kuwait citizens to Lebanon, Ghanem said that there was no such policy being implemented, noting that as of now, there were around 14 flights between the two countries on a daily basis. Ghanem also answered a question regarding President Aoun's invitation to His Highness the Amir to visit Lebanon, affirming that it would occur when the date and time were suitable.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's ambassador to Lebanon Abdelal Al-Qenaei praised Kuwait's parliamentary diplomacy, led by Speaker Ghanem. The Ambassador added that the participation of Kuwait's National Assembly speaker at the Arab Economic Forum upon an invitation from Lebanon's Prime Minister-designate Saad Al-Hariri was an opportunity to exchange views on the economic aspects of Kuwait and Lebanon. Qenaei noted that Ghanem had conveyed Kuwait's views on various economic and political issues, praising his active parliamentary diplomacy to convey Kuwait's view to the Arab and the world.

Parliamentary ties

Speaker Ghanem also held talks during the visit with Speaker of the Parliament of Lebanon Nabih Berri, after which he praised his country's 'distinctive' parliamentary relationship with Lebanon. During talks, the Kuwaiti side benefited significantly from Berri's long parliamentary experience and reiterated its 'special' ties with the Parliament of Lebanon, he said. The two sides also discussed bilateral coordination regarding their membership at the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in addition to the Arab Inter-parliamentary Union's emergency session on the Palestinian cause, slated for July 21 in Cairo, he added.



BEIRUT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets with Lebanese President Michel Aoun. — KUNA

The Kuwaiti top lawmaker also lauded the harmony existing between the two countries on all levels, including leaderships, parliaments, and governments, adding his meeting with Berri has embodied that harmony.

"We wish Lebanon all the best and perpetual peace and stability," Ghanem said, hoping for a swift formation of the government in the country. He also reiterated confidence in the wisdom of the Lebanese leadership, wishing the Kuwaiti-Lebanese parliamentary coordination with other Arab parliaments con-

tributes in achieving the desired positive outcomes. Furthermore, Al-Ghanem thanked Lebanon for its good generosity and well reception of the Kuwaiti delegation, pointing out the close and brotherly ties the two countries and people share mutually. Before leaving Beirut, Head of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party Walid Jumblatt held a dinner banquet Friday night in honor of Speaker Ghanem and his accompanying delegation. A number of Lebanese officials attended the banquet. — KUNA

Zain awards annual caricature competition winners

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, awarded the winners of the first three places of the 'Ramadan Caricature' competition. Zain sponsored the competition, organized by the Kuwait Caricature Society, for the second consecutive year during the holy month of Ramadan.

Zain's sponsorship of this competition for the second year running came in line with its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy towards the support of artistic initiatives, through which the company encourages efforts that contribute to offering the opportunity for talented people to unleash their creativity in the various forms of art, including caricature.

The competition witnessed positive participation from caricature artists in Kuwait, featuring 53 submissions that centered around the traditions of the

Holy Month of Ramadan. Zain awarded the winners of the first three places: Meshal Al-Shimmiri, Zainab Dashti, and Hawrah Ali Yateem.

Zain believes in contributing to the development of the communities in which it operates, and considers it a very important part of its overall success. The company considers art as a core element of the community's development process, and it will continue to support initiatives and programs that cater to the further progress of art.

Zain's sponsorship of this competition for the second consecutive year springs from the company's core belief that social responsibility is a significant corporate element. The company believes that supporting initiatives such as this one provides talented people with the opportunity to help them highlight and develop their skills.



KUWAIT: Zain officials with the winners.

ABK kicks off internship program

KUWAIT: In its efforts to provide youth with real work experience, Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently launched its summer internship program with Lothan Youth Achievement Centre (LOYAC) and Manpower and Government restructuring Program (MGRP). ABK's partnership with LOYAC and MGRP further solidifies its

commitment towards investing significant time to the professional development of Kuwaiti Youth.

ABK's Summer Student Development Program will be spread across five weeks and will give the students a platform to participate in real-life challenges in the competitive field of banking, and gain an in-depth understanding of the current market expectations in terms of technical proficiencies and soft skills. ABK prides itself in being an ardent supporter of education and youth, and the Summer Student Development Program is one of numerous opportunities the bank avails to youth with the objective of encouraging them to consider a career in the banking industry.



Burgan Bank joins forces with Ahmadi Music Group

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, one of the leading financial institutions contributing to the societal progress, continues to promote one of Kuwait's most prestigious music and arts organizations, Ahmadi Music Group. As a devoted supporter of social and cultural advancement in Kuwait, Burgan Bank continues as lead sponsor of the popular long-standing music group for the fourth consecutive year.

Ahmadi Music Group's many performances are considered one of the fastest growing and highly regarded artistic and musical experiences in Kuwait. Performing with the highest musical standards, the Ahmadi Music Group, operational locally and internationally for more than 65 years, conducts concerts and performances on globally famed platforms. Making its mark locally, the Group has contributed to the artistic and cultural life of Kuwait through its performances both choral works and fully-staged opera. It is



Loulwa Al-Ayoubi

worth noting since the start of 2017, Burgan Bank supported the creation of a youth orchestra and sponsored the first ever classical music performance by Ahmadi Music Group at Jaber Al Ahmed Cultural Center which brought together young local and international musicians for two complete symphonies by Beethoven and Faure, establishing a momentous occasion in Kuwait and bringing out the best of what classical music has to offer.

Loulwa Abdulla Al-Ayoubi, Acting Group Head of Investor and Corporate Communications, Burgan Bank said: "We are firm believers in art and culture as powerful means to improve community experiences, enrich lives and create an overall positive

impact in society. Music brings people together, promoting diversity and inclusion. By supporting world-class artists, we are also encouraging Kuwait's youth to embrace art and develop artistic talent, enabling their empowerment and the elevation of Kuwait's artistic standing abroad."

Richard Bushman, Director of Ahmadi Music Group said: "We would like to thank Burgan Bank for its unwavering support over the years. Kuwait has a thriving and creative pool of promising young talents that we are eagerly tapping into. With the bank's contribution, we are able to continue exploring and nurturing new talent and elevate our artistic offering".

Burgan Bank's support of this initiative falls under its dynamic full-fledged community program entitled 'ENGAGE' - Together to be the change. This program sheds light on important aspects affecting every segment of the society by promoting social welfare through educational, cultural and health driven initiatives.

Burgan Bank's approach to 'ENGAGE' begins with a vital principle that as a leading Kuwaiti financial institution, its conduct and policies should be aligned with the needs and interests of the community.

Field trip for NBK trainees to Air Ambulance Center



KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) concluded the first session of its Summer Internship Program 2018, a two weeks courses custom-made for high school and college students. The session has ended by a visit to Air Ambulance Center where the students had the chance to tour the center and get to know more about the air ambulance functions and responsibilities. The students had the chance to see also the helicopter used in rescue operations and were closely introduced to the daily work of the center from the minute the patient contacts the dispatch center.

The Summer Internship Program is made up of four sessions, five-hours daily over two weeks each. The program features a mixture of theoretical and practical training dedicated to provide the interns with valuable knowledge on a variety of subjects such as: teamwork, creative thinking, the means of self-expression and modern banking, in addition to helping them having a greater exposure to daily banking work procedures.

This annual program demonstrates NBK's long-standing social involvement as well as its national commitment towards providing

young generations with the appropriate opportunities to experience how the actual professional banking issues and transactions are handled and processed.

The second session will start on the 15th of July, while the third and the fourth sessions will take place on 29th of July and 12th of August respectively. It has been 17 years since the establishment of this program. NBK views the Summer Internship Program as an extension to its educative initiatives and as part of its corporate social responsibility.