

Local

More efforts needed to raise level of Arab universities

Kuwaiti Cultural Office holds cultural salon

CAIRO: Head of the Kuwaiti Cultural Office in Cairo Dr Ahmed Al-Mutairi stressed here yesterday the necessity of exerting concerted efforts to raise the level of Arab universities to cope with the various international classifications. This came in a statement by Mutairi to KUNA on the sidelines of the cultural salon held by the cultural office last night under the title "Arab Universities and Challenges of Global Classification".

Mutairi pointed to the importance of the cultural salon, especially after registration of Kuwaiti students in some Egyptian universities was halted in the interest of international quality standards, as students are the real wealth of the country and not natural resources. He said Arab universities were "a bit late" for international rankings, as parents are keen to send their children to study at classified international universities.

Mutairi urged for identifying the various shortcomings and challenges faced by Arab universities,

which make them occupy low positions in global rankings. He pointed out that Arab universities need full support and independent departments aware of the future to be scientific beacons that contribute to the graduation of scientists and workers who contribute to the building of their countries as well as research centers that provide research services to all sectors of the state.

Deputy Minister of Higher Education for Universities Affairs in Egypt Amr Adly said in his speech during the cultural salon that it is not possible to separate higher education and the economy, stressing the importance of international classifications of universities in this regard. "We have a real wealth of youth in the Arab world that must be exploited optimally," Adly said, stressing the need to increase national added value by providing distinctive educational and scientific activity that is consistent with global classifications. — KUNA



CAIRO: The Kuwaiti Cultural Office in Cairo honors deans of Egyptian universities. — KUNA

News in brief

Ramadan 'begins May 6'

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Astronomer, Historian and Member of the British Astronomical Association Adel Al-Saadoun said Monday, May 6 will mark the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan and that the moon's sighting will be possible with one's eyes. Saadoun told KUNA yesterday that the new moon will be at 1:45 am on Sunday, May 5. The rise of the moon from the horizon line at sunset time is 6.6 degrees, but the lengthening of the moon from the sun will be 9.5 degrees, indicating the moon's visibility according to astronomers, Saadoun explained. The crescent will be obscurely visible with the naked eye, although straightforwardly seen using binoculars or telescopes. Ramadan will be 29 days long, he added. —KUNA



11 vehicles to transfer bodies

KUWAIT: The Municipality announced yesterday that it will provide 11 modern vehicles to transport corpses from hospitals and health centers to land and air borders. Director of Funeral Affairs at the Municipality Dr Faisal Al-Awadhi said in a press release that the administration is keen to provide all services to the families of the dead, both citizens and residents. He added that the information systems center in the municipality will provide the names of the deceased to the relevant authorities in order to avoid any delays in completing the procedures and transactions pertaining to the deceased or their heirs. He explained that inquiring about funerals or burial dates as well as gravesites can be made through the Kuwait funerals app on Android or App Store. — KUNA

Kuwait, Hungary sign agreement to boost cooperation

BUDAPEST: Kuwait and Hungary signed yesterday an agreement to boost cultural cooperation between Kuwait's National Library and National Szechenyi Library of Budapest.

Kuwait National Library Director Kamel Abduljalil said in a statement to KUNA that the National Szechenyi Library of Budapest is considered one of the oldest libraries in Europe, containing several manuscripts and books about the Arabian Gulf that date back to more than 500 years.

Abduljalil noted that this agreement states to exchanging information and expertise about preserving documents, folders and records in all categories, and also ways of enhancing technological exchange of information by creating several activities and cooperative cultural projects. He said that the deal will be executed in April and for the next three years, and to be renewed automatically hoping that it will enhance the cultural cooperation between the two friendly countries.

National Szechenyi Library Director Dr Laszlo Tuske expressed his belief that this agreement will develop cultural coop-



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eration specially in the fields of translation, common exhibitions and digital electronics. He also showed eagerness for having a Hungarian cultural week in Kuwait next year. —KUNA

WFP seeks greater cooperation with Kuwait

ROME: The UN-affiliated World Food Program yesterday affirmed desire to expand its cooperation with Kuwait at the humanitarian level to include non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and welfare associations. The WFP made the affirmation during a meeting that grouped deputy and representative of the program Amir Abdullah with the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Italy, counsellor Sami Al-Zamanan, at the WFP headquarters. Yousef Jehail, the Kuwaiti representative at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and member of the WFP executive bureau, at-

tended the meeting.

Emerging from the session, Abdullah expressed in a statement to KUNA deep gratitude to Kuwait, namely HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, for continuing support for the WFP. Lauding the Kuwaiti generous donations and aid, Abdullah expressed desire to expand the cooperation to include private Kuwaiti philanthropic and welfare associations to help millions of people in need throughout the globe. He encouraged young and professional Kuwaitis to serve on the WFP management.

Zamanan said he explored with Abdullah the Kuwaiti assistance, the latest of which was a \$50 million donation for Yemen. The diplomat confirmed that the talks dealt with prospects of expanding the cooperation with Kuwait and employing Kuwaiti citizens in the international agency. — KUNA