

## Local

## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Kuwait Grand Mosque, an architectural beauty in the heart of the city. — Photo by Mohammad Alhaddoud (KUNA)

# Malaysian House Speaker affirms two UN, WB awards to Amir 'well deserved'

## Kuwait is a strategic partner of Malaysia: Yusof

KUWAIT: A top Malaysian parliamentarian has affirmed that the two high-ranking United Nations and World Bank awards awarded to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah are well deserved. "Of course, His Highness deserves them. We have heard very good things about Kuwait and such high recognition makes us happy," visiting Malaysian Parliament Speaker Dato Mohamad Ariff Bin Md Yusof said in an interview yesterday. World Bank Group announced last Friday an exceptional award handed to His Highness the Amir in recognition of his support of economic and social development worldwide, and global peace. On September 9, 2014, His Highness was honored by the UN and named leader of humanitarian work.



### Friendship group meets Kuwaiti MPs

Yusof said that his official visit to Kuwait along with a delegation representing the Kuwaiti-Malaysian Friendship group aimed at meeting up with Kuwaiti parliamentarians to exchange views about regional and international issues of reciprocal interests. "I met with Kuwait's Speaker of Parliament Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem at the airport and we are very interested to know about how the Kuwaiti parliament works and to exchange views between our parliamentarians," he said. "Kuwaiti parliament is the most active parliament in this region," affirmed the Malaysian senior official.

Yusof added that Kuwait is a strategic partner of Malaysia, therefore, a Malaysian-Kuwaiti Friendship



Malaysian parliament Speaker Dato Mohamad Ariff Bin Md Yusof

Group was established following a meeting with Kuwaiti Ambassador to Kuala Lumpur recently. "We want to get the friendship group moving and maintain it that way," Yusof stressed. He said that this visit was scheduled last year and now since the parliament is in recess "we made Kuwait's visit as a priority and this is the first trip abroad."

The top parliamentarian also affirmed that Malaysia and Kuwait have things in common and "we want to work together to achieve our common agenda and have a common position both being members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)."

Asked about the recent position by US President Donald Trump to recognize the occupied Syrian Golan Heights as part of Israel, Yusof confirmed by saying "Obviously it is very wrong, Golan Heights is a Syrian territory and must remain a Syrian territory. It must be returned to Syria according to international law in this regard." "We oppose it without reservations," he went on to say. — KUNA

## Malaysia int'l Quran contest kicks off, Kuwait eyes top prize

KUALA LUMPUR: The 61st International Al-Quran Recital and Memorization Assembly has commenced, bringing together 99 Quran reciters from 86 countries, including Kuwait. Malaysia's Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Fuziah Salleh inaugurated the five-day event Monday evening at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC). She welcomed participants and jury members and noted that this year's edition is organized under the theme 'Compassion for the Ummah Brings Mercy.' "It is translated

through one's actions and superior personality," she said.

Seven countries, namely Azerbaijan, Montenegro, Kenya, Ivory Coast, Sweden, Norway and Austria, are partaking in the competition for the first time. Reciter Sultan Al-Sarram represents Kuwait in the contest. Malaysia's Quran competition is considered one of the oldest organized worldwide, Sarram said, voicing hope he would deliver a splendid performance and achieve great results.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Faisal Al-Enezi, head of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Religious Endowments and Islamic Affairs' delegation to the competition, said that the ministry attaches considerable attention to international Quran contests organized in many parts of the world. He noted the ministry had a special department to prepare and qualify national reciters to partake in these important events. He expressed best wishes for Sarram to better represent Kuwait and achieve the aspired results. — KUNA

## Burgan Bank hosts fun day for persons with special needs

KUWAIT: In cooperation with the Department of Public Events and Media in the Ministry of Social Affairs, Burgan Bank organized a fun day for persons with special needs at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center. As part of Burgan Bank's mission to integrate all segments into the society, the fun day falls under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labors' regular entertainment programs which constitutes several initiatives and recreational activities for the residents of the home.

Driven to highlight the importance of the special needs involvement within the social fabric of the Kuwaiti community, Burgan Bank organized the event to instill joy and happiness in the hearts of the special needs community by treating them to an entertaining day. The residents enjoyed a pleasant walk in Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center, a popular national icon for cultural exchange, exploration of creativity and self-expression in Kuwait and the MENA region. At the end of the engaging trip, lunch was served within the captivating and hospitable atmosphere of Villa Fayrouz. The residents expressed their gratitude to the bank for the memorable day and its ongoing initiatives that continue to empower them and their role in the Kuwaiti society.

Burgan Bank has continually affirmed its community commitment through the support of various and diverse social initiatives driven under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor also commended the bank's continued support of all three - the orphaned children, the Elderly and special needs segments.

The 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



Head of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Religious Endowments and Islamic Affairs' delegation to the competition Faisal Al-Enezi and Reciter Sultan Al-Sarram.

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.