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# Kuwait marks 30th anniversary of key education landmark

## Late Amir lit torch of post-invasion education resumption

**KUWAIT:** It has been 30 years since the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad A-Jaber Al-Sabah lit the torch of education after Kuwait was liberated from the Iraqi invasion in 1991. During the 'Torch of Education' ceremony which was held at Bayan Palace, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad said "the Tyrant of Iraq sought to obliterate everything in Kuwait including education, but today Kuwait is gradually returning to normalcy."

Schools, which were once bustling with students who were eager for the pursuit of knowledge, were



**KUWAIT:** This archive photo shows the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad A-Jaber Al-Sabah lighting the 'Torch of Education' during a ceremony to announce the resumption of education after Kuwait was liberated from the Iraqi invasion in 1991. — KUNA

## Absconding maids should be deported, pay airfare: MP

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** MP Abdullah Al-Turaiji yesterday submitted an amendment to the law governing domestic workers in the country that calls to deport workers who flee their sponsors and make them pay for the ticket back home. He said the amendment aims at protecting the rights of the employers against the workers who flee homes without referring to the reasons for leaving work. Many domestic workers complain of ill-treatment and abuse by employers that sometimes reach the extent of beating and torture, forcing maids to escape to safer places. In some cases, workers flee to other employers for better pay and working conditions. Turaiji said in his amendment that people who provide shelter or work to the absconding maids should be fined KD 2 per day since the day of informing authorities.

Kuwaiti citizen Saleh Al-Rasheedi was yesterday released from the state security which held him for several days without stating any reason, MPs Saad Al-Khanfour and Mohammad Al-Rasheedi said on Twitter. MP Rasheedi said he will not let this incident pass without questioning those responsible.



Abdullah Al-Turaiji

shut down and turned into prisons and/or incarceration centers during the seven-month Iraqi occupation. After the liberation, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad gave instructions to draw up educational development plans in order to keep pace with education standards worldwide and enhance education in Kuwait.

Significant efforts were made to contribute to the Amir's vision of boosting education and indeed Kuwait witnessed a great progress, leading ultimately to a decrease in illiteracy. In fact, Kuwait always considered education to be an important pillar of society development, as stated in Article 13 of the constitution: "Education is a fundamental requisite for the progress of society, assured and promoted by the State."

Throughout the years, education in Kuwait developed in many phases. The beginnings were limited to learning and memorizing the holy Quran, Arabic and basic Math principles. Since then, education progressed and developed until the opening of the first school: Al-Mubarakiya in 1911, which was the foundation of education in Kuwait. Ten years later, the second school opened and was named Al-Ahmadiya. Moreover, the first school for girls 'Al-Wusta' opened in 1937, followed by Al-Qibliya, the second school for girls.

Education faced several challenges and setbacks: the Iraqi invasion and occupation in 1990-1991 and

## Efforts led to drop in illiteracy



the recent was the coronavirus pandemic. COVID-19 forced suspension of education for a couple of months, but the Ministry of Education worked hard on finding a solution to resume the school year as soon as possible, setting up an e-learning system through Microsoft Teams, which continued for about a year and half.

However, as Kuwait is accelerating COVID-19 vaccinations to reach herd immunity, Minister of Education Dr Ali Al-Mudhaf recently announced that schools will reopen their doors on October 3rd 2021, taking into consideration health measures to ensure safety of students and teachers as it is the top priority of the Ministry. — KUNA

## Fire reported at Sulaibiya carpentry

**KUWAIT:** Firemen put out a blaze reported in a carpentry workshop in Sulaibiya Monday night. The fire covered a 400-square-meter area, Kuwait Fire Force said in a statement. No injuries were reported as an investigation was opened to reveal the cause of the fire, it added.



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## Manpower authority teams inspect for daytime ban violations

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Public Authority for Manpower teams have been visiting construction sites to make sure contractors were abiding by a ban on laborers from working in open areas, which begins on June 1 and ends August 31. The daily ban, which starts at 11:00 am and ends at 4:00 pm, is an effort by the government to help guarantee safety of workers during harsh weather conditions. — KUNA

