

## Local



BAGHDAD: Iraqi President Barham Saleh meets with the leading parliamentarians of Iraq's neighbors, including Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. — KUNA



Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets with Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdulmehti.

# Kuwait's top lawmaker meets Iraqi president, PM amid talks

## Speaker Ghanem participates in Parliaments of Iraqi neighbors' Conference

BAGHDAD: The leading parliamentarians of Iraq's neighbors, including Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, met Iraqi President Barham Saleh in the attendance of chief lawmaker Mohammad Al-Halbousi yesterday. The meeting, held amid an ongoing conference hosting the chief lawmakers in Baghdad, focused on the talks' topics of discussion. The president thanked the lawmakers for their attendance of the talks, and their dedication to seeing a stable Iraq in a stable region. The lawmakers, in turn, praised the talks as "unprecedented," resulting in a positive outcome for the future of Iraq and its stability. Ghanem later attended a meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdulmehti, whereby both discussed bilateral relations and means to achieve "integration and cooperation" for the benefit of both countries. The meeting also discussed issues of mutual signifi-

cance and how to face fast-paced development in the region.

Ghanem had arrived in the Iraqi capital Baghdad earlier yesterday to participate in the Parliaments of Iraqi neighbors' Conference. Upon arrival, Iraqi Parliament President Mohammad Al-Halbousi, and Kuwait Ambassador to Iraq Salem Al-Zamanan received Ghanem at Baghdad International Airport. Ghanem left Kuwait, heading a Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation that headed to Baghdad as part of a tour that also includes Russia. Ghanem was seen off by Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Essa Al-Kandari, Minister of Justice, Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Dr Fahad Al-Afasi, Secretary General of the National Assembly Allam Al-Kandari, Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait Alaa Al-Hashemi and Russian Ambassador to Kuwait Nikolai Makarov. — KUNA



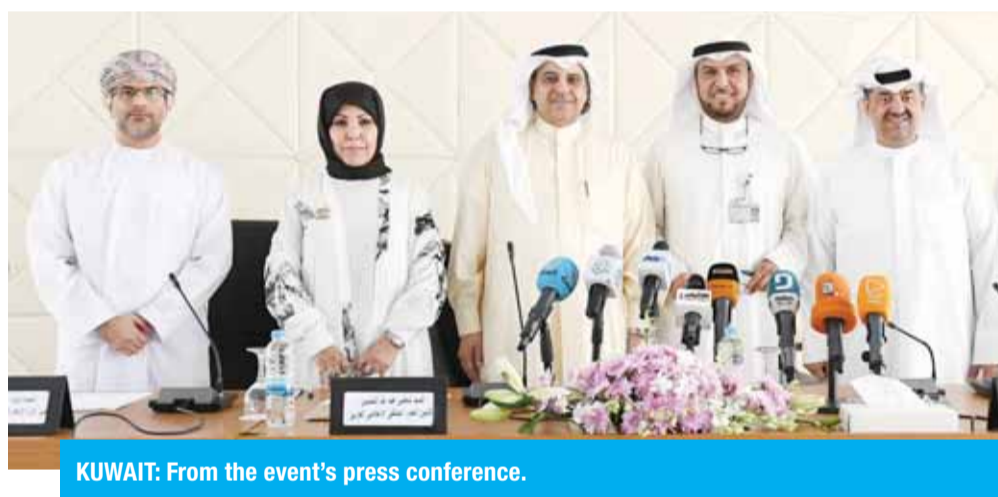
National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets with his Iraqi counterpart Mohammad Al-Halbousi shortly after arriving in Baghdad yesterday.

## Zain strategic partner of 16th Arab Media Forum

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced its strategic partnership of the 16th edition of the Arab Media Forum. The event, which inaugurates today (Sunday) at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center (JACC), comes under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Zain has been the strategic partner of the Arab Media Forum during the past eight consecutive years, as the company is keen on enriching the various media and cultural aspects within the community, being a leading private sector company in the country. Zain believes in the strong impact media has on individuals and communities, and it strives to reach out to all of the different segments of the society through this very vital tool.

This year, the 16th edition of the forum will feature the participation of over 250 Arab media figures and over 150 students of media and journalism from all over the Arab world.



KUWAIT: From the event's press conference.

The event will also feature 12 panel discussions, workshops, and open talks that will host high-profile executives from the Arab world, including foreign affairs ministers, media and information ministers, owners and executives of Arab media institutions, and more. In addition, the event will also feature many media personalities, journalists, authors, and actors. This year, the event hosts the Sultanate of Oman as the 16th edition's guest of honor.

Zain's strategic partnership of this forum highlights its social commitment, as the company believes in the importance of the role

press and media plays in the development of communities. Zain will continue supporting this very important sector which carries significant and informative messaging to the public at large and the communications world as a whole.

The Arab Media Forum has proven itself to be one of the region's most prominent events that attend to Arab media. Since 2003, the event brought together many ministers, editors-in-chief of local and regional newspapers, media executives, journalists, academics, authors, actors, businessmen, and social figures from all around the Arab world.

## KT Managing Editor guest lectures at GUST

KUWAIT: Kuwait Times Managing Editor Jamie Etheridge gave a guest lecture last week at Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) on the challenges facing modern journalism in Kuwait. Speaking to Prof Dr Rounwah Bseiso's Writing for

Mass Media class, Etheridge discussed journalism as the fourth estate, the rise of digital and social media, journalism vs other forms of news and information, and answered student's questions. — Photo by Noor Yacoub / GUST



## Gulf Bank champions arts with Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre

KUWAIT: Gold sponsor Gulf Bank is championing the arts, with sponsorship of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre's new production of 'Memoirs of a Sailor'. The Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre which brings back the 'Memoirs of a Sailor' musical, will run from April 24 to 27, 2019 and April 29 to May 2, 2019. The musical is an epic written by the late poet Mohammed Al-Fayez and composed by musician Ghannam Al-Daikan. With the participation of Kuwaiti veteran singer Shadi Al-Khaleej, dramatized and scripted by novelist Saud Al-Sanousi, it is inspired by the stories from the bygone days of Kuwait and its people, quoting from texts the "Memoirs of a Sailor" for the late poet Mohammed al-Fayez.

Falling under Gulf Bank's Corporate Social Responsibility program, the sponsorship is in line with the bank's long-standing commitment to raising awareness of Kuwait's heritage and traditions. 'Memoirs of a Sailor' tells the story of a sailor's hardships, as he longs for home and his family in a distant Kuwait, while working as a pearl diver. The tale covers a range of events, documenting the suffering, hopes and memories of the sailor throughout his journey.

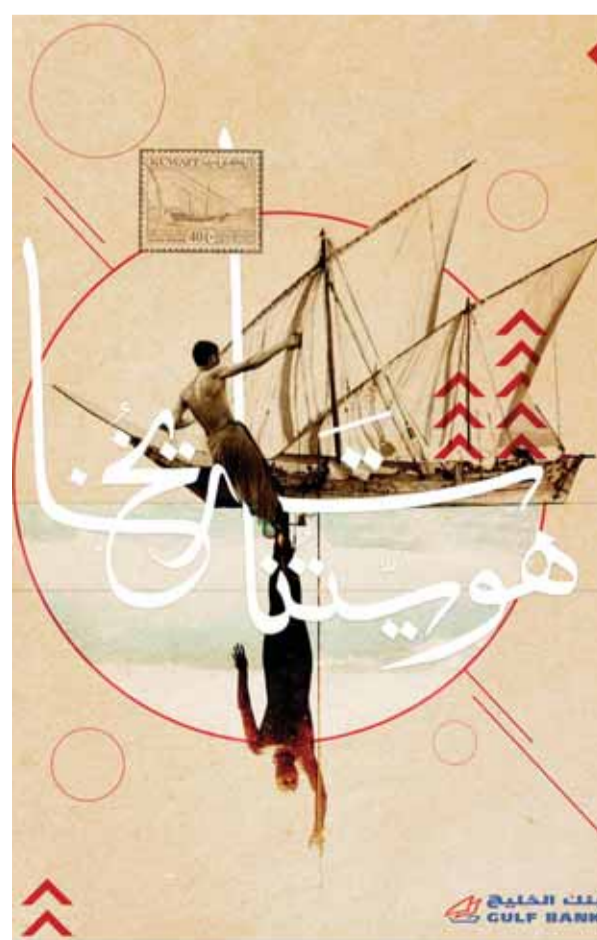
Ahmad Al Amir, Assistant General Manager for External Communication, Gulf Bank, said of the sponsorship: "Gulf Bank is committed to the promotion of Kuwait's heritage and traditions, which are a key component of its corporate social responsibility program. The bank supports a number of social activities and events throughout the year, that emphasize Kuwait's identity, highlighting its past, and preserving its traditions, and we are delighted to be sponsoring the renowned work of the late Mohammed Al-Fayez and Ghannam Al-Deikan."

The Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre is a multidisciplinary public space striving to entertain,

educate and inspire the people of Kuwait. Providing a space for dialogue to share and showcase skills and knowledge, the cultural center is a platform for educational and cultural exchange. Moreover, the cultural center functions as an influential entertainment and culture powerhouse and productive space for the region.



Ahmad Al-Amir



## Russian Parliament welcomes Ghanem's visit to Moscow

MOSCOW: Chairman of Russia's Federation Council Valentina Matviyenko described Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem's upcoming visit to the Russian capital as an "important event." Ghanem's visit is undoubtedly significant for both countries, Matviyenko said yesterday, indicating that Russia and Kuwait are linked with historic and fruitful partnership based on principles of equivalence, mutual interests respect, and mutual benefits cooperation. They enjoy steady bilateral economic and commercial ties, particularly in energy and investment, in addition to education, science, and culture, said the Russian top lawmaker.

"We are cooperating actively and coordinating our steps toward securing stability and security in the Gulf region and the Middle East in general," said Matviyenko. The Russian and Kuwaiti parliaments contribute jointly to addressing urgent bilateral and international issues, and that dialogue between them is so practical and transparent, she noted, expressing her hope that such characteristics would be the base for Ghanem's scheduled talks with Russian officials. Russian-Kuwaiti talks would include conducting a traditional evaluation of the current state of cooperation and future prospects between the Russian Federation Council and Kuwaiti National Assembly, in addition to overall issues related to their relationship, noted Matviyenko. "We will also tackle subjects and planned projects from all angles during our talks, particularly in fields of technology and economy," she said, indicating that humanitarian communication requires an exceptional support from both countries and parliaments.

The Russian-Kuwaiti talks would also address, in details, ways to boost cooperation between them and other countries as well, she added, expressing her conviction that both countries must invest more in their bilateral cooperation. The two sides will also emphasize in their discussions on a number of political, diplomatic, and parliamentary issues on regional

and international levels, including ways to crystalize joint efforts to resolve the turbulent situation in the Middle East, back a political settlement in Syria, and combat international terrorism, she mentioned. "We will consolidate all potentials toward enhancing Russian-Kuwaiti parliamentary efforts to achieve a further development in the two countries' cooperation and achieve stability and security in the entire Middle East region," affirmed Matviyenko. She recalled His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's visit to Russia in 2015 and meeting with President Vladimir Putin at Sochi resort, during which they discussed ways to bolster cooperation between the Russian and Kuwaiti parliaments.

Furthermore, Matviyenko expressed her appreciation to Speaker Ghanem and his fellow MPs for their active participation at the Inter-Parliamentary Union conference in Saint Petersburg in 2017, adding his upcoming visit reflects the solid mutual parliamentary cooperation between the two countries. The Russian-Kuwaiti parliaments communicate and interact consistently at international arenas, she noted, adding their stands toward several regional and international issues are usually similar. Matviyenko also expressed her conviction that Russian and Kuwaiti parliamentarians would support their mutual political initiatives, adding, thus, it is important they keep up their regular meetings, exchange of opinions, and hearing each other's views.

Moreover, the Russian Federation Council chief expressed sincere appreciation of the Kuwaiti leadership and parliament for their constant support of her country, parliament, and people. Both Russian and Kuwaiti lawmakers join forces to make "goodness" for their people via finding solutions to their bilateral relationship, international political, and economic issues without conflicting national interests of their countries and citizens, she said. The Russian and Kuwaiti parliaments' efforts aim to strengthen joint understanding, trust, and ties between the two countries and people, Matviyenko said, indicating that they also have a significant role in resolving the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East. Kuwait and its parliament enjoy distinctive trust and status in the region, she noted, adding such qualities prompted her country's government and parliament to keep up their coordinating steps with Kuwait toward regional and international issues. — KUNA