

## Local

## Photo of the Day



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's flag is raised during a camel race held recently south of the country. Flags of Kuwait can be seen all over the country as celebrations gain momentum for the National and Liberation days on February 25 and 26 respectively. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

# Kuwait keen on bridging generation gap, integrate disabled people in society

## Kuwait participates in 57th Session of Commission for Social Development

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait affirmed its keenness to seriously work on bridging the generation gap and integrating disabled people in the society. As part of its commitment to the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, Kuwait is keen to activate the role of family in encouraging youngsters to connect with elders, a Kuwaiti official noted. This can be done through organizing voluntary programs, boosting social interaction between state and non-state institutions, establishing protocols, and adopting cooperation policies in accordance with the country's strategic plan, said Dr Amani Al-Tabtabaee.

Tabtabaee, director of the elderly care department at the social affairs ministry, made her remarks while addressing participants of the 57th Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD57) at UN Headquarters in New York. The Kuwaiti Constitution emphasizes all people are equal in human dignity, public rights, and duties before the law, and there shall be made no differentiation among them because of race, origin, language, or religion, she said.

Tabtabaee also mentioned the Kuwaiti woman make up

50 percent of workforce in the country, and that Kuwait is currently one of the top-five Arab countries in gender equality, and one of the top-ten Arab states in UN's Gender Inequality Index. She also highlighted the country's laws on disability, elderly, child, minors, retirement, and other affairs, reiterating Kuwait's keenness to provide opportunities to all these categories and integrate them in the society.

Furthermore, Kuwait seeks to build healthy and friendly cities that are suitable for older, disabled, and young people, she said, noting her country has implemented inclusive social protection programs for families. These programs tend

to improve the living and financial conditions of individuals who face social and economic crisis, Tabtabaee said, noting they also include schemes to back and enhance skills such as the case of the 'Own Effort' project, which aims to support low-income women entrepreneurs. Moreover, Kuwait is one of the countries that is institutionally equipped with strategies and facilities designed to limit and reduce the effects of natural disasters, she said, adding no human or financial losses have been reported during the 2012-2016 period.

Kuwait's participation in CSocD57 aims to support its



**NEW YORK:** Director of the elderly care department at the social affairs ministry Dr Amani Al-Tabtabaee attends the 57th Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD57) at UN Headquarters in New York. — KUNA

agendas that address inequalities, and counter challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage, and social protection policies, said Tabtabaee. CSocD57 tackles a number of issues such as empowerment of people

affected by natural and human-made disasters to reduce inequality, in addition to addressing the differential impact on persons with disabilities, older persons, and youth, she added. — KUNA

## 12 ovary tumor removals conducted at Adan Hospital

**KUWAIT:** Gynecologists at Adan Hospital in Kuwait have successfully carried out 12 delicate and complicated procedures by endoscopy for the removal of ovarian and uterine tumors. A team of doctors from the hospital performed the surgical procedures during a workshop, under the supervision of a visiting consultant surgeon from India, head of gynecology Abeer Al-Thaydi said. The operations involved the application of laparoscopy, which involves small abdominal incisions leading to reduced pain, bleeding and recovery time. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Head of gynecology at Adan Hospital Abeer Al-Thaydi (right) and the visiting consultant surgeon from India. — KUNA

## CEF, AFESD host 'Good Governance, Transparency' symposium

**KUWAIT:** The IMF Middle East Center for Economics and Finance (CEF) in Kuwait, jointly with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), recently held a high-level symposium on 'Good Governance and Transparency in the Arab World.' The event was hosted at the AFESD's Headquarters. The panel discussion was chaired and moderated by Dr Yousef Al-Ebraheem, Economic Advisor at Al-Diwan Al-Amiri. It included Dr Louis Marc Ducharme, Chief Statistician and Data Officer, and Director of the IMF's Statistics Department, as the keynote speaker; Dr Salam Fayyad, Distinguished Scholar and Lecturer at Princeton University and former Prime Minister of Palestine; and Dr Ziad Bahaa-Eldin, Founder and Managing Partner at Thebes Consultancy and former Deputy Prime Minister of Egypt.

Dr Ebraheem indicated that the symposium aimed at stimulating an open debate on the evolving economic challenges faced by policymakers in Kuwait and the wider Arab community. He discussed the importance of good economic governance and transparen-

cy for evidence-based policy making and overviewed key policies that are needed in the Arab world for closer economic cooperation, and highlighted the steps required to strengthen public sector institutions especially in conflict-affected countries.

Dr Ducharme's keynote address focused on the importance of transparent, high quality, and timely data for good governance. He highlighted the crucial nature of data quality for effective policy making, he outlined how the IMF and country authorities can work together to improve quality and availability of economic data and thereby strengthen economic governance in the region. Dr Ducharme concluded by highlighting the pressing nature of this endeavor, at a time when technological change can help statisticians and policy-makers reap substantial benefits from increased transparency.

Dr Ducharme highlighted the central role of economic data and statistics as a public good, whose quality has enormous bearing on many aspects of social life. The role as effective public good requires that statistics can be trusted by everyone as facts. Agreeing on statistical evidence is an essential first step to initiate any proper policy discussion. Creating trust in statistics is somewhat simple but it takes commitment and requires transparency, broad availability of data to the public, a robust governing framework, and time to establish track record. Dr Ducharme noted that the IMF's capacity development work and dialogue with the authorities has supported notable improvement in statistical quality in the region, with real time beneficial impact on policy making.

## Hereditary diseases center treated 12,000 families

**KUWAIT:** Health Ministry doctors appreciated the distinguished and effective level of the seventh international conference of

hereditary diseases, which was held in Kuwait recently. The doctors added that the number of beneficiaries from the hereditary diseases center reached 12,000 families, 80 percent of whom are Kuwaitis. Furthermore, they indicated that the center was founded in 1979 and presents preventive, treatment and rehab services for thousands of cases, pointing out its 'major role in serving thousands of citizens and expatriates.' Several private sector companies participated in the conference, reflecting their belief in joining in spreading awareness in the society.

