

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: High-rise buildings spread across Kuwait City's landscape. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

Istanbul hosts Kuwait Cultural Days to further cement bonds

Kuwaiti artists to display their work at the famous Taksim Square

ISTANBUL: The Turkish city of Istanbul will be hosting the 'Kuwait Cultural Days' today, an event aimed at further cementing bonds between Turkish and Kuwaiti people, and to highlight culture of the Arab Gulf country. "This is a very important event because it bolsters interaction of knowledge and culture, as well as strengthens relations with Turkey, and promotes the culture and civilization of Kuwait," Mohammad Al-Mohammad, Kuwait Consul General in Istanbul, said yesterday.

The event - co-organized by Kuwait Consulate, Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Art and Letters (NCCAL) and Turkey's Ministry of Culture and Tourism - will emphasize Kuwait's keenness on culture as a major tool to spread awareness about civilizations among peoples, Mohammad said. Kuwaiti artists will be displaying their work at the famous Taksim Square,

he said, like paintings, photos, sculptures, traditional clothes and food, as well as books. The diplomat said officials from the NCCAL would meet with Turkish officials to discuss cultural exchange programs.

Tahani Al-Adwani, NCCAL's Assistant Secretary General for Financial and Administrative Affairs, said the Council was keen on reaching out to peoples of the world to enrich culture in Kuwait and promote the country's own culture and heritage. Adwani, also Acting Assistant Secretary General for Antiquities and Museums, said in a statement that the Kuwait Cultural Days reflected strong relations with Turkey and its people. Kuwaiti and Turkish bands will be performing throughout the event, she noted. NCCAL works on preserving culture and heritage of the State of Kuwait, as well as promoting them in other countries. — KUNA



Officials to discuss cultural exchange programs



ABK marks Int'l Day of Sign Languages

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) is celebrating the International Day of Sign Languages today, with the bank highlighting that it currently provides services for customers with hearing disabilities at seven branch locations across Kuwait.

The International Day of Sign Languages is celebrated globally and aims to raise awareness of the importance of sign language and the importance of being able to communicate with people that have a hearing impediment. According to the World Federation of the Deaf, there are approximately 72 million deaf people worldwide.

In a move to improve communication with its customers with hearing disabilities, ABK holds sign language training courses on a regular basis for branch staff. The courses focus on providing specialized training to staff responsible for assisting the bank's special needs customers with their banking needs.

ABK is committed to playing an active role in the communities it operates in, and to encourage a stronger sense of belonging among all individuals in those communities. The bank currently provides sign language services at its Head Office, and at the Shaab, Jabriya, Qurain, South Sabahiya, Al-Firdous and Jahra 1 branches. ABK provided 23 staff with specialized training so that they could assist special needs' customers with their banking needs, and all trained staff wear badges showing that they know how to communicate with sign language.

Ibtakar's Women Leadership, Dialogue program launched

KUWAIT: Ibtakar's Women Leadership and Dialogue program was formally launched recently at an event hosted by the German Embassy. Ambassador Designate Stefan Mobs shared insights on current affairs in Germany, while Ruth Brodesser, Head of Cultural Affairs, disseminated information on Germany for the participants. Oliver Oehms, CEO of AHK German Industry and the German Business Council in Kuwait, spoke on the German economy and entrepreneurship. Dr Fabian Blomberg from the Konrad Audenauer Foundation gave a brief introduction to the institute and an overview of the upcoming trip highlights. Ibtakar's Director Dr Alanoud Alsharekh congratulated the 10 participants on being chosen for this competitive program, which had over 110 applicants, and hoped that this initiative will bring closer understanding of the importance of women's leadership in Kuwait. This event was attended by Khalifa Al-Ghanim, CEO of Fouad Al-Ghanim and Sons Automotive company, whose kind support made this program possible.



Kuwaiti Sheikha joins US museum's executive board

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Sheikha Hessa Al-Sabah will soon become a Board of Trustees member in the Museum of Fine Arts Houston (MFAH) in the US state of Texas, said a Kuwaiti museum of ancient Islamic antiquities. In a statement released by the Kuwaiti museum yesterday, Sheikha Hessa, who is the facility's director, said she intends on using her new position as a platform to familiarize the outside world with Kuwait's rich history and culture. Enlisting the services of Sheikha Hessa is a testament to MFAH's "storied relationship" with the Kuwaiti Islamic museum, the statement cited MFAH chairman Richard D Kinder as saying. The partnership, which dates back decades, has yielded a number of pivotal deals over the years, he added, which have proved equally beneficial to both sides. As one of the largest museums in the US, MFAH's collection spans more than 6,000 years of history, with approximately 64,000 works from six continents. — KUNA



Sheikha Hessa Al-Sabah

Arab League shines light on media's role 'amid trying times'

CAIRO: The Arab League said yesterday that the media's role has become increasingly significant given the tumultuous situation in the region. The remarks by the bloc's assistant secretary general for media and communications Bader El-Din Alalali came amid talks involving media personalities from across the wider Arab region. On the

gathering, he said it was a chance for participants to exchange views on the latest media trends, in addition to existential challenges facing the Arab media industry. The media's role entails such initiatives as "fighting extremist ideologies and promoting virtues such as tolerance," added the official, besides depicting Arab civilization in a positive light. The talks are significant given the unrest that has plagued a number of Arab nations, according to the Arab Media Forum's secretary general Madhi Al-Khamees, who expressed hope that the event would prove beneficial for the Arab media industry. Some of the Arab world's most recognizable journalists and media personalities, including KUNA's Deputy Director General for the Editorial Sector and Editor-in-Chief Saad Al-Ali, have turned up for the talks. — KUNA



CAIRO: Arab Media Forum's secretary general Madhi Al-Khamees (left) speaks during the meeting. — KUNA