

Local

Al-Hamra hosts Diplomatic Women's Committee to journey through 'Tabassar'

Exclusive exhibition offers look at late Amir's life, legacy



KUWAIT: Members of the Diplomatic Women's Committee are seen in a group photo during their visit to Tabassar exhibition at Al-Hamra Shopping Center. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Members of the Diplomatic Women's Committee tour the exhibition.



Diplomatic Women's Committee members listen to an explanation during the visit.



Members of the Diplomatic Women's Committee are seen during their visit to the exhibition.

KUWAIT: As part of its continuing tribute to His Highness the late Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's life journey, Al-Hamra Real Estate Company recently welcomed the Diplomatic Women's Committee at Al-Hamra Shopping Center. Women delegates representing over 30 countries toured the retrospective exhibition which highlights His Highness the late Amir's memorable milestones.

In collaboration with prominent local talent, Jassim Al-Nashmi, founder of Manmade Studio, designer, architect and artist, the brand identity and title of the exhibition is called Tabassar or 'Enlighten', which was inspired by the memorable words of the late Sheikh Sabah during one of his notable speeches, in which he reflected on the many blessings bestowed upon Kuwait and shared his gratitude to the Almighty for security, safety, stability, peace, tranquility, well-being and a good life.

The exhibition dated from his childhood in 1929 until his demise in the 2020 (may his soul rest in peace) pays tribute to the late Amir's outstanding contributions as a humanitarian leader, inspirational leadership, his rise as a formidable pillar of the local and global communities, and role as the 'Dean of Arab diplomacy' among other lifetime achievements. The late Amir of Kuwait forged exceptional diplomatic ties, peace and was responsible for giving women the right to vote and run for office in 2005, creating a landmark amendment to the Kuwaiti election law.

The tour was followed by a visit to the award-winning skyscraper which is the tallest building in Kuwait, Al-Hamra Business Tower, to learn more about the iconic sculptural form. Among the VIP guests were Sheikh Halah Bader Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the committee's Media and Public Relations Officer as well as other committee members who expressed their admiration of the several of the rare photographs and footages as well as of the landmark tower, which stands as a symbol of national pride.

Commenting on the visit, Bibi Al-Hamad, Senior Executive - Communication and Digital Marketing of Al-Hamra Real Estate Company said: "It was an honor to share His Highness the late Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's legacy with some of the most distinguished women from across the world, moreover, celebrate the life of a man and leader who pioneered the rights of Kuwaiti women at a challenging time, signifying one of the most important and dynamic movements in Kuwait's history. As one of the first companies to sign the Women's Empowerment Principles in Kuwait, Al-Hamra Real Estate Company continues to support the cause of women through strategic collaborations with global and local likeminded entities." The exhibition will be live until the end of 2021.

India opens to tourists after...

Continued from Page 1

Visitors from the approved countries can acquire a tourist visa online and need only monitor their health for 14 days after arrival. But those from Britain, the European Union, China, Brazil, South Africa and elsewhere are subject to additional measures including COVID tests on arrival. The

first half a million visas were also free.

Rajeev Mehra, president of the Indian Association of Tour Operators, said that arrivals were expected to reach only around five percent of pre-pandemic levels in the coming months. "We are getting inquiries and we are giving them quotations but when they see expensive airfares, they tell us will try and come later," Mehra told AFP. "If things remain stable globally, we expect a full house during October 2022 season." Goa, a popular tourist destination in southern India, will see its first charter flight from Britain land on Dec 13, the Times of India reported in late October. — AFP

100 schools reopen in...

Continued from Page 1

weeks, education officials said. Many of the schools are located in remote, mountainous or island communities considered to be low risk for virus transmission. "I cannot guarantee that this will be 100 percent successful, but in our assessment, we have high hopes that this pilot will be a success," Education Secretary Leonor Briones said last week.

Students in kindergarten, grades one to three, and senior high school are eligible to take part in the trial. Class sizes are capped and time in the classroom limited, with strict rules on mask wearing, hand washing and social distancing. A "blended learning" program, which involves online classes, printed materials and lessons broadcast on television and social media, will continue.

Schools in the national capital region also have been pushing to resume face-to-face lessons, but so

far they have not received the green light. Oliver Sanchez, principal of Filemon T Lizan Senior High School in Navotas City, said most parents wanted their children back in the classroom. "I think they got tired of teaching their children," Sanchez told AFP.

Nearly 30 percent of the country's 110 million people are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, though the rate is almost 70 percent in the capital Manila. Authorities began rolling out jabs for children as young as 12 this month. The Philippines has recorded more than 2.8 million infections since the start of the pandemic, but the daily case rate has fallen dramatically in recent weeks.

There have been growing calls for the UN's children fund and many teachers for a return to in-person learning amid concerns the prolonged closure was exacerbating an education crisis in the country. Fifteen-year-olds in the Philippines were at or near the bottom in reading, mathematics and science, according to data from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Most students attend public schools where large class sizes, outdated teaching methods, lack of investment in basic infrastructure such as toilets, and poverty have been blamed for youngsters lagging behind. — AFP

Over-pumping cuts Morocco...

Continued from Page 1

And as the fresh water of the river recedes, salty seawater is creeping up the groundwaters around the riverbed, spelling ruin for farmers as much as 15 km inland.

Outside the village of Karbacha, Ahmed Hedaoui farms several parched fields, but this year his melons are pale, yellow and deformed. "Even the wild boar don't want them," said the 46-year-old, wearing a baseball cap against the autumn sun. "This year, I invested almost 300,000 dirhams (around \$34,000) to improve this soil. I installed two pumps to irrigate the melons, but I've got nothing to show for it," he said. "Everything's dead because there's hardly any rain and the river is salty."

Seawater can hold up to 35 gm of salt per liter, while freshwater usually has less than half a gram - but the brackish river water here contains as much as seven grams. That has spelled disaster for wildlife in the area, according to Benata. "The flora and fauna won't get away unscathed," he said. Salt seeping into the soil is an existential threat for Hedaoui's cousin Mustapha, who is struggling to grow artichokes in a nearby field.

Mustapha was a French teacher who turned to farming, but because of water shortages, today he only farms around a third of his 57 hectares. "It's been two months now since this field was irrigated with freshwater," he said. "We don't use the river water because the salt destroys the soil for years."

What was the mouth of the river is now also filling up with rubbish, spoiling one of the richest natural reserves in the area. Hedaoui, like several other farmers AFP interviewed in the area, blamed "bad water management" and an excess of infrastructure, including two pumping stations and three dams along the river. The second pumping station, which started six months ago in the nearby town of Zaio, can in theory irrigate 30,000 hectares of farmland. But for Mustapha, it was "the knockout blow for the farmers of the lower Moulouya".

Abderrahim Zekhnini, 61, has given up on his family's 200-hectare farm. He complains that water pumped from the river is shared unequally, with fruit farmers getting preferential treatment. But Mohamed Bousfou, the regional director of the agriculture ministry, defends the policy, arguing that dead trees take far longer to replace than seasonal crops.

"Orchards are given priority in water distribution over the vegetable crops, because we are seeing an exceptional drought," he said. He also dismissed over-pumping as a reason for the salinification. "Definitely the pumping stations have an impact on the flow of the river, but studies were carried out upstream to avoid any imbalance," he said.

The agriculture ministry forecasts worsening drought across Morocco in coming decades, with precipitation falling 11 percent and average temperatures rising 1.3 degrees Celsius by 2050. That could cause stocks of water for irrigation to reduce by a quarter, it said in a study. But for many of the Moulouya basin's farmers, the crisis is already here. "What gets me the most is seeing my children forced to go and find work elsewhere, on other farms, rather than on our own land," Zekhnini said. — AFP