

Local

Kuwait sport needs tangible improvements to flourish: Speaker

High-level talks discuss efforts to propel Kuwaiti sports forward

KUWAIT: Kuwait's top lawmaker said yesterday that the local sports scene needs "tangible and practical" action on the ground to take off, subsequently boding well for his compatriot athletes. "We need to transform plans and suggestions into palpable realities," National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said amid parliament-hosted talks over efforts to propel the Kuwaiti sports sector to greater levels, in which a bevy of athletes were in attendance. Countries with vibrant sports scenes often rely on "meticulous plans" to keep the sector



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem



Kuwait Olympic Committee President Sheikh Fahad



KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi (second from left) speaks during a meeting to discuss efforts to improve the sports sector in Kuwait. —KUNA photos



Transition to pro sports 'progressing steadily'

sports sector in accordance with a clear strategy to develop Kuwaiti sports and create an environment that helps young athletes face global challenges.

Speaking during the conference, the minister indicated that achieving this kind of development requires collective efforts of the Public Authority for Sports and the National Assembly. He explained that a "legislative environment" is required to enable athletes, while noting at the same time that the authority prepares to launch a sports strategy soon after hosting several meetings recently, including meetings with international sports institutions. Minister Mutairi further pointed out that efforts to adopt the professional sports system in Kuwait are "progressing steadily", without giving a timeline for when the transition could be completed.

Director-General of the Public Authority for

Sports Hmoud Flaiteh spoke in the meantime about developing "Kuwait's competitive sports industry", noting that there are plans to reduce the number of games played in sports clubs to six: football, basketball, handball, volleyball, athletics and swimming. Meanwhile, individual games under the plan can be practiced in private clubs established for this purpose "following the success of this experiment in Kuwait," he added.

Kuwait Olympic Committee President Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah spoke during the conference on the committee's role in "developing the Olympic movement in Kuwait in accordance with the Olympic Charter". He added on the other hand that the committee is currently "unable to support clubs and federations" in terms of providing them with necessary facilities due to lack of budget. — KUNA

afloat, added the chief lawmaker, saying that similar procedures would "save Kuwait's sports sector". He went on to express confidence in the abilities of athletes and sports officials, whom he said were more than capable of transforming the industry.

Meanwhile, Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi affirmed keenness to upgrading the

Kuwait bowling open prepares players for world championship

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Competition is getting more intense at the Kuwait Open bowling competition, as the finals are drawing near, while delegations are lauding the tournament because of its high standard and timing. Most participants said the tournament is the best way to prepare for the world championship to be held in the UAE next month.

Head of UAE's delegation Hind Al-Hammadi said competitions help players gain more experience after two years of inactivity due to the coronavirus pandemic. She said the Kuwait Open is on the agenda of UAE athletes of both genders, as "we are counting on making a strong achievement during the world tournament in the UAE".

Hammadi lauded the organization and hospitality of the tournament and thanked the President of



Head of UAE's delegation Hind Al-Hammadi

International, Asian and Kuwait Bowling Federations Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, who is keen on presenting everything that promotes the game at all levels.

Meanwhile, Head of Qatar's delegation Khalifa Al-Kubaisi said he was happy with how the competitions are being conducted, and preparations by athletes for upcoming international events. Kubaisi said Qatar's participation is limited due to various reasons, including those who faced difficulty traveling and those in universities. "We hope that Qatari athletes benefit from participating, especially since the Kuwait Open is being held at an opportune time," he added. He said such events give confidence to athletes to get used to a competitive atmosphere, adding that Kuwait Bowling Center deserves to host more international events.

News in brief

Kuwait departs 2,739 people

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry said yesterday that 2,739 people were deported from the country from Sept 1 until Oct 17 (47 days). This was done at the instructions of Interior Minister Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah and follow up by Undersecretary Lt Gen Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah to hasten legal action against violators and deport them, the ministry said in a press statement.

Kuwait, Japan discuss ties

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Sabah yesterday had a phone call with his Japanese counterpart Toshimitsu Motegi. Both sides discussed the close bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and the latest development in the region.

Para team returns to Kuwait

KUWAIT: Kuwait national para table tennis team arrived in Kuwait with two medals, a gold and a bronze, won by player Yaqoub Al-Khalifa during the Costa Brava Spanish Open F20. The tournament saw the participation of France, Britain, Spain, Ireland, Germany, Russia, Netherland, Belgium and China. Chairman of the Paralympic Table Tennis Committee and head of the delegation Duaij Al-Hajiri said the participation in this tournament was successful, as Khalifa was able to win two medals, in addition to the positive performance of juniors Mohammad Al-Rashidi and Fahad Al-Otaibi, as they gained more experience that will help them during the West Asia Competition to be held in Bahrain next month. He said Costa Brava put an end to the long absence from participation in international events.

Shooting team's training camp

KUWAIT: Kuwait's clay target delegation, which is currently in Larnaca in Cyprus, participated in a training camp from Oct 12-18 in preparation for a tournament in which the best shooters of the world are participating. President of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Duaij Khalaf Al-Otaibi said three shooters from Kuwait, who are among the top 10 shooters in the world, were selected: Abdullah Al-Rashidi, Talal Al-Rashidi and Abdulrahman Al-Faihan. The competition is considered the tournament of the world elite based on their achievements, be it at the Olympics or tournaments during the year. But Otaibi said Faihan will not be able to participate due to personal reasons. The camp is also considered the start of serious preparations for the 2024 Paris Olympics.



Heritage Protectors, an exhibition to support people of Palestine

KUWAIT: The Center for Palestinian Culture opened yesterday its 54th exhibition of the Palestinian heritage at Dar Al-Fonon (gallery of arts). The exhibition, dubbed 'Heritage Protectors', was put together to support the people of Palestine and preserve the Palestinian heritage. The exposition, which lasts until October 21st, includes several embroideries, pottery products, frames and colorful silk cloaks. It also displayed the traditional Palestinian food, in addition to a corner for books' enthusiasts which offered the latest book editions concerning the Palestinian cause around the world.



Ooredoo supports ministries with 'Safe Education' campaign

KUWAIT: As part of its constant support to the efforts of the state and governmental bodies in the country, and the 'Safe Education' campaign, Ooredoo Telecom, the first to introduce innovative digital services in Kuwait, visited Maria Alqubtiya High School to ensure a safe return of students to schools in a healthy educational environment, along with encouraging students to continue adhering to the health instructions to protect themselves and others. Thus, the company distributed facemask masks and sterilization tools.

The 'Safe Education' campaign aims to educate all students and their families about the importance of adhering to the instructions of the Ministry of Health and the application of health requirements such as: maintaining a physical distancing inside and outside school classrooms and the need to wear



Mijbil Al-Ayoub

masks, in addition to their cooperation with school administrations in implementing precautionary measures to achieve security, safety and community prevention. It is noteworthy that the "Safe Education" campaign came as a result of a collaboration of the Ministries of Education, Interior, Health and Information, with the participation of Ooredoo Kuwait and other prestigious companies in the country, hence, the campaign will continue throughout the academic year 2021-2022.

Commenting on the school visit, Senior Director, Corporate Communications at Ooredoo Kuwait, Mijbil Al-Ayoub, said: "Successful companies must seek creativity and sophistication in adapting social responsibility initiatives. Creative responsible companies are committed companies that contribute to creating better societies, and this is what we always strive for in Ooredoo. Ensuring the safety of differ-



ent society members is everyone's responsibility, it is a shared vision that all must work towards achieving it, and we will continue supporting the governmental efforts in such initiatives."

"The school visit came as part of our constant support for the governmental efforts since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic until today. Further, our visit aimed to ensure a safe educational environment, which reflects Ooredoo's keenness in sustaining its leading position among the telecom companies in the country through its constant com-

mitment to completely support different social initiatives that fall under various areas including: education, healthcare, social and more," Ayoub added.

The campaign came in line with the start of the academic year 2021-2022 and the return of students to schools after the stabilization of the epidemiological situation as a result of the spread of the COVID-19, as the Ministry of Education is working in cooperation with the relevant ministries to establish all means to ensure the safe conduct of the educational process.