

Local

Kuwaiti women must prove they can do anything without external help: Maqroon

Co-op member believes women shouldn't wait for quota to achieve success

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: Women in Kuwait have achieved exceptional success recently in leadership positions, with the government empowering women through actual steps. For the first time in the history of Kuwait, the Supreme Judicial Council appointed eight female judges to preside over judicial departments in the courts, while the Municipal Council appointed four female engineers to its membership.

Some Kuwaiti women were able to reach international leadership positions, such as Maha Al-Barjas, Vice President of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and Rehab Borelsy, a member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Locally, Haya Al-Maqroon, a member of Al-

Shaab Cooperative Society, succeeded to gain the trust of the local community, which led to selecting



Maqroon says fighting corruption is her main goal

her as the first and only woman to succeed in a co-op election without a quota system or direct appointment. Kuwait Times spoke to Maqroon about her success, her future plans to improve Al-

Shaab Co-op and women empowerment issues.

Maqroon stressed women in Kuwait should never wait for recommendations or a quota system to achieve success, adding she is against the quota system. "Kuwaiti women should exert the same efforts that Kuwaiti men are exerting. Women have to work harder due to the obstacles they face. However, she has to prove she can do anything without external help," she said.

Maqroon pointed out that women in Kuwait are not moving towards achieving their goals. "Co-ops opened the door for women to participate in elections since the '60s, but women neglected them and it became a tradition that women are not allowed to participate in co-op elections," she said. Maqroon aims to improve the co-op society field. "Amending the legislation of co-ops related to transparency and governance is my main goal, to eliminate bribery and corruption, especially

since this field, in particular, has many suspicions of corruption," she said.

"One of the goals is also to contact officials to take advantage of unused lands, which will help to improve services and benefit residents," Maqroon added. She aspires to take a place in the Co-ops Union in order to control the prices of goods and protect consumers. Recently, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem announced his intention to submit an amendment to the National Assembly elections law, which will facilitate opportunities for more Kuwaiti women to hold leadership positions in the country.



Haya Al-Maqroon



KUWAIT: A picture showing an operation room inside Jaber Hospital. —KUNA photos



Doctors inside an operation room at Jaber Hospital.

At least 1,100 surgeries conducted at Jaber Hospital in six months

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Head of Surgery Department at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital Dr Suleiman Al-Mazeedi said the large surgical capacity of the hospital is due to having 28 operation theaters,

the most in Kuwait. He said at least 1,100 surgeries were conducted in the past six months.

Dr Mazeedi said operation theaters in Jaber Hospital are different, as each one is for a certain kind of surgery, with the possibility of adding other surgeries when necessary. He said there are theaters that are the first of their kind in the world, which works with the integrated system "Easy Suite 4K". The theater has the most modern equipment in the world, and information can be transmitted to any place in the world.

Surgeries can be transmitted live during

medical conferences and to seek medical opinions from anywhere in the world. The doctor can control most equipment in the room with a press of a button, in addition to conducting the most modern endoscopic surgeries. Dr Mazeedi said Jaber Hospital is characterized with various surgical specialties - general, ophthalmic, ENT, orthopedic, neurosurgery, cosmetic surgeries and obstetrics. Dr Mazeedi said the hospital has a surgical robot, and is the only surgery department that uses the robot. More than 50 surgeries were done with the use of the robot in the past six months.

Breeding snails for skincare in Kuwait

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Using snail skincare products has become very popular in the last few years. People are also using live snails on their skin to get the best results. A few people in Kuwait have also started breeding snails. Salman Al-Matouq is one of them, who has even started selling the escargots after breeding a large number of them. Kuwait Times spoke to him to get more information about this strange hobby.

Kuwait Times: How did you get the idea of breeding and selling snails?

Salman Al-Matouq: When I visited a dermatology clinic in Malaysia, they used a snail to treat acne on my face, especially after shaving. I was impressed with the results, and decided to use snails myself.

KT: When did you turn your hobby into a business? How many snails do you have now?

Matouq: In 2009, I started breeding snails as a hobby. Two years ago, I turned this hobby into a small business. I now have 117 snails.

KT: Do snails reproduce quickly and in large numbers? From where do you import the snails? How long do snails live on average?

Matouq: They reproduce quickly, especially dur-

ing their mating season between April and October. They produce abundantly and lay between 30 and 100 eggs. I import snails from Thailand and Malaysia. Their average age is 5-9 years. One of my snails is already eight and a half years old.

KT: Why do people buy snails? For eating or skincare?

Matouq: Around half of my customers buy for breeding, with the other half for skincare. I have never met any customer who buys snails for eating. But I know that in many countries, they do eat them. The gel and collagen of the snail have great benefits for the skin.

KT: Where do you keep the snails? Do they require a special environment?

Matouq: The proper environment for snails to live is a suitable temperature and special soil. I have a special big plastic box with coconut soil, far from cold temperature and air conditioning. They should always stay in a warm environment.

KT: How do you recognize the male from the female snail? And is there any difference in price?

Matouq: There are no male or female snails - they are hermaphrodites. All snails can lay eggs. Their prices depend on their size and age, ranging from KD 1 up to KD 80. For instance, I have snails that are five months old, which cost KD 4. Prices of adult snails that are ready for reproduction range between KD 10 and KD 25. Only snail breeders and experts can recognize the age of the snail from their size and shell.



KT: What are the most popular kinds of snails?

Matouq: I have three kinds of snails. Regular snails with dark skin, albino with white skin, and caramel snails with light skin. Caramel snails are of two types - albino caramel and regular caramel depending on the color of the shell.

KT: Are there other snail breeders in Kuwait?

Matouq: There are around 10 other breeders in Kuwait, but I think they don't have enough experience. Snails can get dehydrated if a proper environment is not provided.

Manpower authority points out rise in laborers working illegally for others

KUWAIT: The Public Authority of Manpower and other related authorities such as the Municipality, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry believe a rise in labor recruitment costs is not due to the coronavirus pandemic and the exodus of worker or a shortage of labor. Rather it is due to workers working for other employers other than their sponsors, who keep them under cover. The laborer receives a higher salary, and those who hired him needed him and pay him more.

Official sources at PAM said the rise in the numbers of workers escaping from their actual workplaces is notable. PAM is monitoring this issue, as the issue is in violation of rules and a loss for employers. Meanwhile it is a clear violation by those "shielding" the workers, adding that PAM, in cooperation with the Interior Ministry, will have this issue as its top priority and will start a wide-ranging campaign as part of the current interior ministry campaign to make sure every worker is with his sponsor. Any worker who is found working for others will be deported immediately, while punishment will be toughened against those who harbor absconding workers.

Sources said labor shortage in some sectors will be dealt with by allowing them to bring workers from abroad according to actual needs. The sources said the housing authority will distribute plots to hundreds of Kuwaitis, who will need laborers to build their homes. Construction prices have increased, not because of a rise in construction material prices, but also because contractors take higher labor charges from the house owner, with the excuse that workers escape to work for those who pay more.

They said the door is open for bringing in labor for all sectors, but the aim is to concentrate on the market's real needs to prevent residency trade and suffocating the Kuwait market with labor it does not need.

Kuwait Investment Authority prioritizes SDG-focused projects

DOHA: Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) Managing Director Ghanem Al-Ghunaiman stated Tuesday that the authority prioritizes investment in projects to serve sustainable development goals. The KIA has launched two initiatives, namely One Planet and Sustainable Markets, to enhance development and sustainability, said Ghunaiman during his participation in the second Qatar Economic Forum, hosted by Bloomberg in Doha. He added that the KIA checks up on its projects and investment partners' compliance with sustainability standards set by the two initiatives. The annual Qatar Economic Forum brings together global business leaders and heads of state to tackle some of the world's most pressing challenges, through the lens of the Middle East. —KUNA



DOHA: KIA Managing Director Ghanem Al-Ghunaiman attends the Qatar Economic Forum. —KUNA



WARSAW: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister, Ambassador Majdi Al-Dhafiri meets Polish Undersecretary for Economic and Development Cooperation, Africa and the Middle East Pawel Jablonski. —KUNA

Kuwait, Poland discuss cooperation

WARSAW: Kuwait Deputy Foreign Minister, Ambassador Majdi Al-Dhafiri and Polish Undersecretary for Economic and Development Cooperation, Africa and the Middle East Pawel Jablonski discussed Tuesday political, economic, commercial and cultural cooperation between the two countries. The two sides also touched on bilateral ties between Kuwait and Poland. Both sides discussed allowing Kuwaitis visa-free travel to Schengen countries. —KUNA