

Local

Defense Minister pledges to upgrade aviation equipments

Kuwait eyes excellence in educational process



KUWAIT: Defense minister inspects Abdullah Al-Mubarak Air Base. —KUNA photos

KUWAIT: Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Al-Abdullah has pledged steady efforts for upgrading the defense aviation capabilities in equipment and personnel. The military said in a statement on Thursday that the minister, who made the vow during an inspection of Abdullah Al-Mubarak Air Base accompanied by top brass, expressed satisfaction with the dedication and sincere efforts, exerted by the air force personnel for serving the homeland, singling out their sacrifices during peak of the coronavirus by backing up state institutions and participating in relief operations.

He conveyed greetings from His Highness the Amir and the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to the personnel at the air force base.

The minister urged the air force personnel to double their efforts and maintain constant coordination with the other military divisions. Officers carried out a presentation about the Caracal helicopters, a number of which have been recently delivered to Kuwait. They also shed light on specifications and advantages of other aircraft, namely the C-130 transport and Sikorsky planes.

In another development, Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr Hamad Al-Adwani on Thursday affirmed necessity and keenness of benefiting from experience of advanced nations in the teaching sector. The minister, who made the affirmation during a meeting with ambassadors of sisterly and friendly states to discuss a host of issues concerning the key field, affirmed Kuwait is seeking to study other nations' experience and stay abreast of latest qualitative steps at this level.

During the meeting, Kuwaiti officials and Canadian

diplomats, namely the Ambassador Aliya Mawani, discussed a (proposed) memo for educational cooperation and prospects of transferring Canadian expertise to the country. The memo is designed to attain the political leadership vision with respect of reforming the educational system and attaining Kuwait development vision 2035, minister Al-Adwani said, noting the particular objective of preparing the youth to be much competitive and productive.

It is also in line with the ministry objectives, attaining excellence in the educational process, upgrading works and elevating the level of competence among scholastic and administrative staff. Minister Al-Adwani also received the deputy head of the US mission and the charge d'affaires, James Holtsnider, the Canadian ambassador, the Omani ambassador Amer AlKhrouri, the Jordanian envoy Sagr Bou-Shtal and his Tunisian peer Al-Hashemi Al-Ojaili to discuss various issues in the educational realm. — KUNA

Zain 'strategic partner' of NUKS USA 38th annual conference

KUWAIT: Zain, Kuwait's leading digital service provider, announced its strategic partnership with the 38th annual conference of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students in the United States of America (NUKS USA). The event is set to run from 24-27 November in Los Angeles, California under the patronage of HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. Zain participated in a press conference held at Intercontinental Downtown LA hotel to unveil its programs and activities. The conference was attended by Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed Al Khashti, NUKS USA Director Yousef Ashkanani, Zain and NUKS teams, and representatives from sponsors.

During his speech, Waleed Al Khashti said: "We're proud to be in LA today to announce Zain's strategic partnership with the 38th annual NUKS USA conference, which we've proudly been a main supporter of since 2002." Al Khashti added: "Every year, Zain strives to bring the best programs for Kuwait's students in the US, and this year we're excited to present several new activities throughout the conference's three-day period. First off, we'll start with our popular sports seminar, through which we'll host many

Kuwaiti sports figures who travel to the US to speak and meet up with the students."

Al Khashti continued: "Zain also sponsors a special talk named "Create Your Own Opportunity", which features a number of prominent young Kuwaiti entrepreneurs who have launched their own startups and worked at some of the world's biggest tech companies like Microsoft and Amazon. The speakers will share their success stories, experiences, and leadership and entrepreneurship tips with the students."

Al Khashti further explained: "In addition to our special talks, NUKS students always wait for Zain's sports tournaments in the US every year, usually football competitions filled with excitement and thrill. This year, we thought of bringing something entirely new, and so we're organizing an all-new padel tournament for the students, especially since this emerging sport has been so popular among youth in Kuwait and the world. In addition to all this, we'll also host special on-stage entertainment segments with valuable prizes for the students during the conference."

Zain is proud to continue its strategic partnership with NUKS USA, as it is considered a main supporter of the union for nearly 20 years. NUKS USA is considered the largest gathering of Kuwaiti students abroad, and Zain's support comes in line with its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy towards the youth and education sectors. The company is proud to have become an integral part of the union's success, through which it connects with the country's youth abroad.



Al Khashti and Ashkanani during the press conference in LA.

The National Union of Kuwaiti Students in the United States of America (NUKS USA) serves nearly 14,000 Kuwaiti students studying in the United States. The union aims, through its events and programs, to connect Kuwaiti students with each other on one level, and with their nation and the latest updates of the Kuwaiti community on another.

NUKS USA was publicized in the USA and was granted the recognition of the United States government. The achievement is considered a proud milestone for Kuwait's youth and is a direct result of the great relations between the State of Kuwait and United States. Such a recognition is a clear reflection of the strategic relations between the two nations.



KUWAIT: Ambassador of France to Kuwait Claire Le Flecher honors French language teachers in Kuwait. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Embassy marks Int'l Day of French Language Teachers

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Embassy of France held a reception on Wednesday in honor of the International Day of French Language Teachers. Ambassador of France to Kuwait Claire Le Flecher honored French language teachers in Kuwait, saying this reception comes within the framework of the International Day of French Language Teachers at the initiative of President Emmanuel Macron as part of a plan for the French language and multilingualism.

"This day is an opportunity to thank the 1,000 French teachers in Kuwait whose mission is to create meaning for generations by opening up to the French-speaking world and dreaming of the French language," she said. Flecher revealed that at the initiative of the French Embassy and Institut Francais in Kuwait, a regional training course in French as a foreign language will be held in February in Kuwait, where 70 participants from five countries (Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait) will be there.

The ambassador affirmed the reception honors the continued and growing momentum of cooperation between the two countries, with commitment from the Kuwaiti Ministry of Education, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, public and private institutions, as well as the Institut Francais in Kuwait, confirming that the signing in March 2022 of a Declaration of Understanding to enhance educational cooperation is an important outcome.

On the sidelines of the event, Anwar Al-Kandari, director-general for French language at the ministry of education, told Kuwait Times that the celebration of World Teachers' Day is considered an artistic and social day when teachers in Kuwait of all nationalities meet, noting that as the representative of the ministry of education, he is proud to be a part of it. "It is joyful to see teachers, fellow professors and students whom I taught gathered on this celebration," he said.

Kandari revealed that the ministry will introduce French to tenth-grade students in the coming three years, explaining the ministry will seek the opinion of parents and the concerned authority before this subject is introduced in the curriculum. He noted there is a plan to develop and improve the curricula. "Over the next three years, there will be an advanced French curriculum that is completely different from the current one. It will be introduced in the tenth grade of public schools with the approval of parents," he said.

"We are always keen to take the opinion of parents in our activities. This week, we held a workshop in Ahmadi, and we were keen to have parents take part in community participation. We will present the idea to the parents, and if the matter is accepted, it will be implemented," Kandari added.

French is the fifth most spoken language in the world (after Mandarin Chinese, English, Spanish and Arabic). More than 235 million people speak French daily, and nearly 300 million people can express themselves in French. French has been taught in Kuwait since 1966, when it was introduced to the Kuwaiti school system. A community of nearly 1,000 French teachers who teach in public and private schools, secondary schools, institutes and universities were invited.

French is the third language that is taught in Kuwait, after Arabic and English, an indication of the permanent relations between the two countries. Nearly 30,000 learners choose the French language every year, public and private systems combined, including 10,000 students who study French at the baccalaureate level every year. The Council for the Promotion of Francophonie in Kuwait was established in 2021 to provide a space for dialogue and exchange on issues and challenges of Francophonie residents of Kuwait. It brings together French-speaking ambassadors, and the honorary presidency was unanimously attributed to HH Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah.

In my view

Restructuring of administrative responsibility-V

By Yousuf Awadh Al-Azmi



Local@kuwaittimes.com

You cannot tackle hunger, disease and poverty unless you can also provide people with a healthy ecosystem in which their economies can grow." - Gro Harlem Brundtland

No doubt the health sector in any country is considered the most important backbone of administrative development. In Kuwait, the government is exerting much appreciated efforts by all to show the health structure at its best, and like any job, there should be objective observations and valuable suggestions in general efforts in managing and directing the health sector in the country. This column is only for these efforts that are to be evaluated, observed and be objective.

When we speak about the health sector, we mean health ministry, and particularly the public health sector, not the private one, which is out of the focus of the column. Everybody knows that the two sides of the health sector are the patient and doctor. So all the abilities and efforts of the health sector are destined for those two sides. They are the essence of the health sector's development.

Any health facility built in the world must be at the service of the patient and doctor, and because of this, it is important to focus our attention where the defect, if it exists, lies. Many are those who know that the largest financial budgets are pumped into the health sector, so we are talking about billions of dinars, not just millions. Maybe the most important noticeable impurities are a lack of balanced financial payments for this sector, as money goes up in the air and is not spent according to scientific bases. You will find many forms of defects that are clear and noticeable:

- Although treatment and medicine in the health sector is free or semi-free, we see an increased number of pharmacies. Rather there are chains of pharmacies spread in a way that draws ones attention, and this calls for a quick and objective look into this phenomenon which seems to have things that may be illegal!

- It is important to consider the feasibility of the decision to allow a public sector doctor to work in the private sector, and evaluate the experience fairly and naturally, and have solutions that safeguard the rights of all.

- The issue of giving health insurance to all citizens in a way that suits public interest, as this is expected to stop unrealistic squandering and is possible to bring financial returns to the state, at least by covering hospital's expenses. Also, it will show the truth of the patient's health condition and evaluate the relationship between the patient and doctor, to discover malingerers getting certain gains, like being allowed to be absent from work or have favorable advantages due to the illness they claim. Based on the above, it is very important to have a system that makes sure about the claims, whether the patient is actually sick or not.

- Reconsider the salaries of doctors in a way that makes them motivated and not in need for extra income, such as working in the private sector, which may affect their productivity. Besides following the doctors scientifically and providing them with the most modern development and an attractive and comfortable environment so they can be dedicated to their job and care for patients.

- Stop administrative jobs for doctors, as it is not realistic for a doctor to study and qualify technically and medically, then when time comes to benefit from their knowledge and competence, they are appointed as an official responsible for administrative affairs (as an example and not exclusively)!

- Bringing in the best qualified medical staff to run and operate new hospitals. In fact there is no harm to have international companies that are competent and trusted to manage and operate hospitals in a way that maintains the state's rights. The above is just very few of many things. They are just ideas regarding the health sector, which is one of the most important sectors of the country.