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IWG visits National Council for Culture

KUWAIT: A delegation from the International Women's Group (IWG) visited the National Council for Culture (NCCAL), Arts and Letters on Wednesday 5 Oct 2022.

The delegation included Ghada Shawky, President of the IWG and spouse of the Ambassador of Egypt, Rima Al-Khalidi, Vice President and spouse of the Ambassador of Palestine and Patricia Campos, Vice President and wife of the Ambassador of the Republic of Mexico. Dr Issa Al-Ansari, Acting Secretary-General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters received the delegation, accompanied by Mohammed bin Reda, Director of the Department of Foreign Cultural Relations.

The delegation briefed Dr Al-Ansari on the group's activities and events and also heard from the Secretary-General of the Council's activities and the role they play in linking cultures between countries. It was agreed during the meeting to hold joint activities in cooperation between the NCCAL and the IWG in the near future. At the end of the meeting, Ghada Shawky presented an honorary shield on behalf of the International Women's Group.



KUWAIT: International Women's Group (IWG) delegation with Dr Issa Al-Ansari and Mohammed bin Reda.

Photo of the day



White-eared bulbuls perch on a tree branch as the waxing gibbous moon sets behind in Kuwait City on Oct 6, 2022. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Kuwait-funded initiative helps Gazan students stay in school

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: With the harsh conditions that people in Palestine and Gaza in particular are suffering from due to the siege imposed on the Strip by the Zionist entity, Gazans are struggling to obtain many of their basic rights. One of them is the right to join college, but many cannot do so due to the poor financial conditions in Gaza.

"Hibr Campaign" is an initiative that was established last year by Haya Al-Shatti, a Kuwaiti woman who decided to lend a hand and support students in Gaza by opening a donation link under the aegis of the International Islamic Charity Organization, to give an opportunity to Gaza's students to enroll into university and complete their higher education.

Kuwait Times met Shatti, founder of the initiative, to discuss her campaign that has already succeeded to reach more than 1,000 college students in Gaza and other areas of Palestine. Shatti spoke about the main impetus that led her to start the campaign. "After visiting Gaza on several

occasions, I felt I had to support the people there in a way that assists them over a long term and not just temporarily, and help them better their lives. I found education could be a great step towards supporting the people in the Gaza Strip," she said.

"I found outstanding students in Gaza facing extremely difficult conditions with no electricity, while their parents were suffering from a severe shortage of financial resources. So, I decided to launch the 'Hibr campaign' in Kuwait in Ramadan to support college students in Gaza. We aimed to raise KD 120,000 (\$360,000), but collected KD 200,000 (\$600,000)," Shatti pointed out.

Shatti elaborated on her choice to support the education issue. "I supported this issue because education should be a basic right for everyone due to its importance in building the future of mankind. When people live in difficult conditions such as poverty, they can overcome it over the years, but obtaining a college degree after passing a certain age is not easy, due to the difficult circumstances that the people of Gaza are living in," she told Kuwait Times.

"I am dealing with a class of people in Gaza who have already graduated and are academically superior. If we do not help them, it would be like destroying an entire family and not just the future of one outstanding student. I believe that these students, after finishing their studies, will be able to help their families by getting a decent job that would help them live a decent life, which is any person's natural right," Shatti added.

Shatti explained the campaign includes young Kuwaiti women volunteers who help in coordinating the campaign work. Their ages are similar to the ages of the Gazan students, which helps to get more support from them due to their knowledge of the importance of education at their age. "There is a huge number of students who graduated



Haya Al-Shatti

from schools and need our support to help join colleges, in addition to those who are already in universities. The previous campaign only covered the first year of college costs for more than 1,000 students in Gaza, and they still have more years to go to complete their degrees," she said.

"Due to the large number of students who still need support to complete their university education, we decided to set categories depending on the labor market's need to give top priority to students who are willing to study the required majors such as medicine, due to the great need and shortage of doctors in Gaza," Shatti explained. She said the campaign began independently, and later came under the International Islamic Charity Organization. "The donations collected is a combined effort between individuals and families in Kuwait and government and private schools and universities in the country," she said. Shatti hopes the campaign can be adopted by charities in other GCC countries to have a wider base to support students in the Gaza Strip.

India seeks to bolster defense ties with Kuwait: Ambassador

By Sajeev K Peter

KUWAIT: The visit of three Indian naval ships to Kuwait signifies India's commitment to establishing cooperative partnership with friendly nations of the Indian Ocean region and beyond, said Indian Ambassador Sibi George on Wednesday. During a reception hosted on board INS TIR on the occasion of the visit of the ships, the ambassador said: "Such enhanced cooperation would help both navies address maritime challenges together."

Three Indian naval ships - INS TIR, INS Sujatha and Indian Coast Guard ship INS Sarathi - arrived on Oct 4, marking a milestone in defense ties between India and Kuwait. The reception to celebrate the visit of the ships was attended by ambassadors, captains of the three ships - Capt Sarvpreet Singh, Capt Randip Ghosh and Capt Parithosh Pathak -, senior officers from Kuwait Navy and Indian Navy, Kuwaiti dignitaries and Indian community members.

The ambassador said he is happy to see the significant achievements India has made in building a very strong navy, which is contributing immensely in ensuring the safety, security and stability of the Indian Ocean and beyond. "I

am confident that in coming months, we will have more visits of ships and more bilateral engagements between Indian and Kuwaiti defense forces," he said.

George thanked the Kuwaiti leadership and Brig Gen Ahmed Mohammed Al-Bati, Kuwait Navy Director General, Operations and his team for the arrangements and support extended to the visiting naval team. The ambassador recalled the dispatch of an emergency medical team from India to Kuwait and then the supply of medical oxygen from Kuwait to India, which made Kuwait one of the largest suppliers of medical oxygen to India.

In his opening remarks, INS TIR Captain Sarvpreet Singh said India and Kuwait share a special bond that has been traditionally warm and friendly and is rooted in history. "This bond has been nurtured by excellent bonhomie and an environment of friendship and trust between our countries," he said. Kuwait has diplomatically facilitated many peace initiatives in the region in recent past and deserves accolades for the same," Singh said. "The senior leaderships of both Indian and Kuwaiti navies have very positive intent and focused interest to further cooperation and relations. The visit of the prestigious First Training Squadron is indicative of that intent," said Singh.

The ocean being a global common, India and Kuwait are maritime neighbors and share mutual stakes in each other's progress, prosperity and territorial stability, Singh said. "Our navies have a major role to play in advancing these national goals. We understand that cooperation between willing navies in maritime neighborhood has not just an additive but a multiplicative effect in keeping the seas safe," he pointed out.



A dance performance on board the Coast Guard ship INS Sarathi.



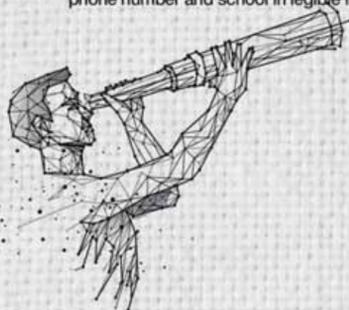
Indian Ambassador Sibi George addresses the gathering during a reception on board INS TIR at Shuwaikh Port on Wednesday.

Kuwait, Years From Now Student Art Competition 2022

10 October - 13 November 2022

We are excited to welcome each and every youngster to our Student Art Competition 2022. We hope everyone is ready to showcase and create beautiful artworks of Kuwait in the future. We're searching for great art - so get your paintbrushes, color pencils and markers ready. Let your talent flow and start painting. Good luck to our young artists!

- The competition is open to students aged 6-18 years under the categories of 6-8 years, 9-11 years, 12-14 years, 15-18 years and special abilities students.
- The competition is open to all schools in Kuwait (government and private).
- 5 winners from each category will receive valuable prizes.
- All participants will receive a certificate of appreciation.
- All schools and individuals interested in participating in this competition are welcome.
- You can use any drawing sheet, but of A3 size.
- All artworks must be hand drawn and not computer generated.
- All paintings should be submitted by email at art@kuwaittimes.com in PDF format only.
- Kuwait Times reserves the right to retain the drawings for future use.
- Participants should include on the bottom of the artworks the following: Name, age, email address, phone number and school in legible font.



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