

Local

Zain Girgeaan celebration brings joy at the Social Care Centers

Company organized event for foster care children, special needs and the elderly



Dr Bibi Al Amiri and Aamer Al Enzi recognize Hamad Al Musaiibeh for Zain's efforts in making the event a success.



Al Amiri and Zain's team with special needs residents.

KUWAIT: Zain, Kuwait's leading digital service provider, announces the successful conclusion of the special event it organized to celebrate the Kuwaiti tradition of Girgeaan (candy distribution) at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's Social Care Centers. The event came in partnership with the Public Authority for Disability Affairs to share the joys and blessings of the Holy Month with foster care children, people with special needs, and the elderly.

The event was attended by General Manager of the Public Authority for Disability Affairs Dr Bibi Al Amiri, Deputy GM for Medical, Psychological, and Social Services and Disabled Care Centers Aamer Al Enzi, Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed Al Khashti, and representatives of ministries and embassies.

Every year, Zain is proud to partner with the Social Care Centers and the Public Authority for Disability Affairs to make this event a success as part of its annual Ramadan campaign. Through this collaboration, the company shares the joys of Girgeaan with foster care children, people with special needs, and the elderly who reside at the care centers. The event also witnessed special theatrical and traditional segments presented by the residents of the centers.

During the event, Zain's team joined in distributing Girgeaan (candy), gifts, and toys in an atmosphere that was full of joy and happiness. The company believes the Holy Month of Ramadan is a special time of the year, and it is always keen on sharing the blessings of this time with all segments, most importantly this cherished segment of the community. Zain believes in the importance of embracing the beautiful values of the Islamic religion as well as the noble traditions of the Kuwaiti heritage, all year round and especially in the Holy Month of Ramadan.



Event featured theatrical and traditional segments performed by care center residents.



Societal norms hinder women empowerment

By Ghadeer Ghloom

KUWAIT: Battling for women's empowerment is an issue that occupied humanity for ages and continues to do so. The continuous efforts to support women show that it is still being resisted and even rejected by people. Women in Kuwait are no different — they have also fought to gain empowerment and receive equal rights. While some say that empowering women and giving them equal rights is a necessary human right, others claim that it is against religion and societal norms.

Asma Al-Habib, who lives in Kuwait, shared her thoughts regarding social phobia from women's empowerment with Kuwait Times. Habib attributes society's treatment of women to several factors: the hierarchy and economic system in Kuwait and other GCC countries, some religious beliefs and people's upbringing.

Segregation reinforces social phobia

Habib said that individuals' upbringing and ideol-

ogy is mostly a result of their home and workplace environments and spending time on media platforms, which present the female gender in a certain manner that limits their capabilities and opportunities in life. This teaches both genders that females' roles are limited to a certain extent. Hence, men and women in society grow with a mindset which doesn't value women empowerment. There are other factors that contribute to creating a social phobia against empowering women, such as the norms and traditions that push towards dividing men and women from each other since a very young age.

At school, they receive their education and start their lives in an environment that does not prepare both genders to work together. This makes it difficult for them to accept seeing women given similar opportunities and rights as men because they are not used to seeing each other treated equally. Separating men and women from each other not only happens at schools, but also at many people's homes as boys grow up playing around the neighborhood or going to the Diwaniya with their father away from girls, whereas girls grow up indoors learning how to do chores with their mother, also away from boys.

Habib said that empowering women threatens social hierarchies because, nowadays, any girl is capable of studying almost any major she prefers and can make her own living. This fills in the financial gap that distinguishes different social classes, making differences in socioeconomic



status not as prominent as they used to be.

Religion and women

Many people claim that women empowerment shouldn't be supported due to religious reasons. However, Habib objected and told Kuwait Times that religion — Islam, for instance — cannot be claimed as an excuse to justify limiting women's lives and not giving them their equal rights. Like many other religions, Islam has different sects and these sects have different categories and several religious figures with different views and opinions. Therefore, making a generalization that Islam or any other religion is an obstacle for women empowerment is not reasonable.



KUWAIT: The lighted chain of crescents and stars adorn houses. — KUNA photos

Ramadan crescent, decorations creating whimsical atmosphere

KUWAIT: The arrival of the holy month of Ramadan creates a whimsical atmosphere in the streets of Kuwait as houses light up in celebration with the signature shapes of the moon and stars. The joyful adornments, a newly acquired habit, are suitably and adeptly placed in home fronts and entryways as a delightful sight welcoming visitors. The LED lights used are considered safe and energy saving as one can also control the brightness and color. The lights are not a burden to the household's power grid should necessary safety precautions be taken. —KUNA



In my view

The struggle between good and evil

By Khalid Al-Saleh



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I have been in journalism for 30 years, and from when I hand delivered the column until it started to be sent by fax, then email, I am attempting to monitor the reaction of my friends and colleagues to what I write, particularly with regards to the domestic situation. In recent years, WhatsApp became my quick way to send the column to colleagues and friends and receive quick answers, and as I like statistics, I used it in comments of my colleagues and friends, and I reached certain results.

In the '90s, following the invasion calamity, the Kuwaiti citizen was full of regret due to the betrayal that accompanied the invasion of his country. The glow of reform was moving faster than corruption, and due to that Kuwait was rebuilt with young arms that wanted change. All our columns during that era revolved around answering our enemies and confronting them, and encouraging the strong building spirit. The people's answers were in agreement with us, and harmony was the sign of what we wrote and heard.

In the 2000s — in its first five years — it was clear that corruption was still breathing under the soil of the homeland. The old groups began to repair their nets and the struggle began to start slowly. Corruption had more than one head, and each head had a programmed brain, and the seeds of discord began to bloom. Then we as writers became preoccupied with repelling these attempts and warning people against a column that sought to employ all the country's resources in its favor.

Reformists won some battles and lost others, yet the spirit of optimism never weakened. During the following five years, ie, 15 years after the invasion, Kuwaiti society was at the door of forgetting the invasion ordeal and solidarity during it. During those years, corruption chose its way in beating the structure of unity, with attempts to divide the society on sectarian and social bases. The struggle between the society's components began, so we were writing with caution in general and for no benefit, as social and sectarian strife is the harshest for any society.

Few writers then were busy with general advice and many resorted to self-defense. Most comments of friends and colleagues were busy with the strife too. There was a stronger will dictated to Kuwaitis, and corruption succeeded in developing its mechanisms and was able to rise above the differences that it stirred up, jumping towards sources of income to win them.

As soon as the first 10 years of the 21st Century ended, it was clear that corruption succeeded in instilling differences in Kuwait society and the flame of optimism began to fade, so most our writings were for restoring the spirit of optimism, but the comments of our friends were divided between encouraging and despairing towards reform.

Despite many writers continuing to encourage values and spreading the spirit of love, comments of the public in the second 10 years of the current century were full of bitterness and frustration. The spirit of optimism is no longer with us, as if there was someone who suffocated it and sorted the people of the country into groups fighting among each other.

Although I am still optimistic, yet I feel that there is a power that wants to spread frustration, encourage lawbreaking, spread wasta, burn the middle class with high prices, discriminate among the people with privileges and salaries, encourage the corrupt, distance the clean, naturalize those who do not deserve at the expense of those who do, limit tenders to certain groups and consider government work as either unemployment or processing interests.

The thing that hurts a nation most is for its people to lose the spirit of reform and the spread of frustration. We are today in need to return to the people; we need to hear their opinion in running the country and maintaining the democratic path and strengthening it. Countries are not built with songs and words of appeasement — countries are built with the hands of their children that are full of hope.