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Opinion

Your blessed tears are remembered by your people and loved ones

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

YOUR Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, you are not only the Amir, you are also the father of Kuwait and its people who still remember the tears you shed in the National Assembly on the day of its opening session on Oct 18, 2022.

In the Amiri speech at the time, you laid down the foundations upon which the relationship between the National Assembly and the Council of Ministers should be based. Unfortunately, the concerned parties did not heed them.

Those tears indicated the extent of your concern for Kuwait and what transpired in recent years in terms of the frightening decline caused by certain practices, which continued for more than three decades -- when

much ado about nothing prevailed over everything and empty talks produced nothing worth mentioning or remembering.



Al-Jarallah

On that day, Your Highness, many people bet that getting rid of this situation was just a pipe dream, because there was a deep State that extended its tentacles to all State institutions. Some of them occupied top positions.

They were the corrupt who moved everywhere. They were the stakeholders who adopted laws tailored to personal interests, and plotters who mastered the art of deception in directing constitutional and legal interpretations according to their whims, making it difficult to get out of the impasse.

Projects were tailored to their demands. They interfered in awarding tenders. They distorted the spirit of the judiciary by interfering in it. They used the State Audit Bureau as their tool and tampered with security, such that it would be at their service.

It is difficult for any ruler to change this situation, especially since the corrupt are among the people who say Kuwait is a State of constitution and law. The leadership is governed by this matter, but on the ground, they sabotage the very State of constitution.

Their bet has always been on setting minefields on the path of development and reforms in order to undermine the gains of any leader who attempts to rectify the situation.

However, fate has put you in front of all the mess witnessed by the people who have no despicable interests; believers of their motherland who want to see it

far from corruption and depravity.

Your tears did not drop in vain. You remedied the situation with surgical precision to remove the tumor by suspending seven articles of the Constitution that were necessary for the State and institutions to start the process of healing.

Everyone who met Your Highness heard from you that you would apply justice to everyone, even to yourself and to the seniors before the juniors.

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HH Crown Prince to receive citizens

KUWAIT CITY, June 29, (KUNA): The Amiri Diwan on Saturday conveyed to the gracious citizens greetings from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The Amiri Diwan also announced that His Highness the Crown Prince would receive citizens on Monday from 7:30 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. at the Diwan of the gracious Al-Sabah Family at Bayan Palace.

Fire tamed at Zour refinery

KUWAIT CITY, June 29, (KUNA): A limited fire that broke out at noon on Saturday at a storage facility in Al-Zour refinery has been doused.

Official spokesperson of Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC), Ali Al-Ajmi, in a statement to KUNA, expressed gratitude to squads of Kuwait Fire Force for their speedy and effective response, backing KIPIC personnel in containing the blaze rapidly.

He confirmed that the flames caused no damage or injuries.

The fire did not affect production and exportation operations at the refinery, Al-Ajmi affirmed.



On Saturday, June 29 afternoon, the Kuwait Fire Force, under the leadership of Major General Khaled Abdullah Fahd, acting Chief of the Kuwait Fire Force, successfully controlled a warehouse fire at a temporary work site in the Shuaiba Industrial Area. The fire, involving insulation and plastic pipes, was extinguished without any casualties.

Kuwait Fire Force photo

NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: The Kuwaiti Coast Guards and Army will carry out a drill with live ammunition in the Al-Sabbiyah and Boubyan areas from July 1-3, the army said in a statement on Saturday.

The exercise will be conducted from 5:30 AM until 1:30 PM.

The military urged people to avoid approaching the specified locations during the set period and dates for their safety, (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: Remittances from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region are projected to rebound by 4.3% in 2024, following a decline the previous year attributed to reduced remittances to Egypt, the region's largest recipient, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to a World Bank seen by Bloomberg Middle East, remittances to the MENA region are expected to increase to \$58 billion in 2024, up from \$55 billion in the preceding year.

In 2021, remittances reached a seven-year peak at \$67 billion, rising from \$59 billion in 2020, before declining to \$65 billion in 2022. The World Bank further anticipates a 5.5% rise to \$61 billion in 2025, as stated in their report.

The decline in remittances during 2023, down 15% to \$55 billion, was predominantly due to a significant decrease in flows to Egypt. This decline was primarily linked to reduced transfers through official channels, driven by a notable disparity between official and parallel foreign exchange rates, where at one point the dollar surpassed EGP70.

Recent factors such as the devaluation of the Egyptian currency, higher interest rates, successful reviews with the International Monetary Fund, and increased investments from the United Arab Emirates have bolstered confidence in the potential resurgence of remittance flows.

Additionally, the average cost of sending \$200 in remittances to the MENA region decreased from 6.7% in Q4 2022 to 5.9% in Q4 2023.

TEHRAN: The Iranian Electoral Commission declared on Saturday that a runoff would be held on Friday after neither of the two top candidates garnered the 50 plus one majority of votes in the first round of the snap polling held on Friday.

The second round of the polling will pit the reformist Masoud Pezeshkian against the fundamentalist Saeed Jalili. Both garnered the largest number of the ballots in the first round of the electoral process.

Mohsen Eslami, the commission's spokesperson, said at a news conference, that final results of the presidential election would be determined in the runoff on Friday.

He said Pezeshkian won 10,315,991 votes, 42.6 percent of the total ballots, amounting to 24,353,185 -- short of the 50+ votes required to win the top post. (KUNA)

Kuwait railway future takes shape with consultancy bids

Kuwait-Muscat network stretches 2,177 km across GCC

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 29: The Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport (PART) has affirmed that the consulting agreement tender

for detailed study and document preparation for the railway project is currently in the bidding phase, in preparation for the design commencement.

The Authority clarified that the tender was initiated on December 15, 2023, with several consulting firms submit-

ting bids. The technical evaluations were conducted by the Authority, followed by submission to the Central Agency for Public Tenders.

However, due to the expiration of the board of directors' term at the Central Agency last Thursday, June 27, 2024, procedures

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Dr. Al-Mashaan leads efforts to overcome hurdles

Terminal 2 project gains momentum

KUWAIT CITY, June 29, (KUNA): Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, emphasized Saturday the urgency of addressing and surmounting obstacles hindering the progress of the new passenger terminal project -- Terminal 2. She highlighted the need for effective solutions to expedite construction.

Following her meeting with Sheikh Hamoud Al-Mubarak Humoud Al-Sabah, President of Civil Aviation, Dr. Al-Mashaan stated to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that efforts are ongoing to develop Kuwait International Airport's infrastructure and

enhance its operational capabilities.

The discussion also encompassed matters concerning the General Administration of Civil Aviation, the Ministry of Interior, and the General Fire Force, with a focus on governmental performance. Dr. Al-Mashaan emphasized the commitment of all stakeholders to ensure outstanding issues promptly.

This meeting forms part of a series of regular sessions aimed at ensuring the timely delivery of the new passenger terminal project, addressing any

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KRCS delivers 40 tons of flour to Gaza Strip

GAZA, June 29, (Agencies): Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) is set to deliver 40 tons of flour in Gaza Strip, to help thousands of Palestinians.

In a statement on Saturday, KRCS chairman Dr. Hilal Al-Sayer

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KRCS team set to deliver 40 tons of flour in Gaza Strip, to help thousands of Palestinians.

KUNA photo

Kuwait repeats top IT ranking

KUWAIT CITY, June 29, (KUNA): The Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) announced that Kuwait has been ranked first in the Communications and Information Technology Sector Development Index (IDI) for 2024, issued by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), for the second consecutive year.

In a press statement, the Commission highlighted that the evolving index instills confidence in foreign investors, encouraging them to invest in Kuwait, create jobs, and transfer expertise. This is crucial for diversifying the country's sources of income.

The statement also mentioned that the IDI index measures the potential for safe Internet usage in terms of coverage and affordability. The

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Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, during her meeting with the President of Civil Aviation, Sheikh Hamoud Al-Mubarak Hamoud Al-Sabah, and a number of government agencies.

Municipality photo

Bid to modernize judicial system

Kuwait, Russia boost legal ties with new agreements

MOSCOW, June 29, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait, represented by the Ministry of Justice, signed with Russia on Friday two agreements for judicial and legal cooperation.

The accords were signed by the Kuwaiti Minister of Justice, Al-Awqaf and Islamic Affairs' Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi and his Russian counterpart, Konstantin Chuychenko, during the 12th International Legal Forum, hosted by the Russian city of Saint Petersburg. The Kuwaiti Ministry of Justice said in a

statement that signing the accords underlined the good relations tying the two friendly countries, indicating that they aim at establishing effective cooperation in combating crime.

One of the two accords includes procedural terms for criminals' extradition and prosecution regulations according to international norms.

The ministry statement added that the other agreement stipulates that convicts are given the right to spend their time behind bars in their home country.

Saint Petersburg Forum, founded in 2011, is one of the major platforms for global cultural, legal and political dialogue.

The current forum session, due to conclude today, kicked off on Wednesday.

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Al-Wasmi

Kuwait faces severe shortage of national medical personnel, expert urges reforms

Health Ministry seeks 1,000 graduates annually

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 29: Director of the Psychiatry Department at the College of Medicine in Kuwait University Dr. Sulaiman Al-Khudhari sounded the alarm about the shortage of local medical personnel that was evident during the Corona crisis; clarifying this is a global phenomenon, but it is more severe in the Gulf region.

He said Kuwait ranks fourth in the Gulf in terms of the number of doctors

compared to the population, with 22 doctors for every 10,000 people. He pointed out there are 17,000 doctors in Kuwait and only 4,000 of them are Kuwaitis, adding that the Health Ministry's annual need for medical manpower with various medical specializations is estimated at about 1,000 graduates.

In a panel discussion organized by the Women's Cultural and Social Society recently with the theme, "The scholarship plan for medical specializations is compatible with the quality of education and meeting the needs of the labor market", Al-Khudhari revealed the Kuwait 2035 vision aims to increase the capacity of hospitals by not less than 7,000 beds, which means doubling number of doctors and other medical personnel.

He talked about the scholarship problems and the difference in conditions between universities; pointing out that the Ministry of Higher Education made a mistake in making the circular on the suspension of scholarships in all universities in Egypt and Jordan, which came in the wake of the forged certificates crisis.

He pointed out the suspension decision was taken after the Ministry of Health sent a letter, stating that the quality of graduates from these universities is not good. He added: "This letter was based on the opinion of consultants, not a study. Why do we focus on a specific group of countries in terms of scholarships?!"

He presented a number of solutions to the shortage of medical personnel in the country; such as increasing the number of seats in the College of Medicine, organizing scholarships to Egypt and Jordan, opening the door for scholarships in other Arab and foreign countries, opening other medical colleges in Kuwait, negotiating to improve scholarship conditions and increasing seats in the universities included in the scholarship plan, a national unified examination for licensing, and ensuring a minimum level of medical knowledge.

On the other hand, former Dean of the College of Allied Medicine and member of the Kuwaiti Society for Quality Education Dr. Saud Al-Obaidi spoke about the college's failure in the special nursing education program that was added in 2022 and transferred to the Public Authority for Applied Education. He noted that there are more than 24,000 nurses in Kuwait; but the number of nationals among them is very small -- not exceeding four percent as their number is about 1,000.

Al-Obaidi also proposed a package of solutions, the most important of which is establishing a university hospital for the College of Medicine in Kuwait. He said Kuwait is the only Gulf country that has no university hospital.

He suggested increasing the spatial capacity of the college in order to enhance its ability to increase the number of students, professors and course. In this manner, the college will be able to implement its strategic vision, which includes establishing several bachelor's programs that serve the allied medicine sector, such as respiratory system, foot care, speech, hearing and clinical exercise physiology. Investors must be encouraged to establish colleges in the private sector that contribute to teaching specializations in allied medical sciences to meet the State's need for national medical professionals, he concluded.



KUNA photo
Minister of Social Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah inspects the new juvenile care complex in Al-Sulaibiya.

Al-Huwailah vows to enhance social care

Minister of Social Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah on Friday affirmed that efforts for developing social care would proceed.

Dr. Al-Huwailah, in a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) during her inspection of the new juvenile care complex in Al-Sulaibiya district, said construction of this facility is a significant step forward for enhancing the quality of life for delinquent juveniles and re-merging them into the community, in an effective and constructive fashion.

The ministry is keen on providing all kinds

of care and support for the hosted youth, said Dr. Al-Huwailah, also the Minister of Family and Childhood Affairs and the Minister of State for Youth Affairs, indicating that such a well-equipped facility would provide this segment of the society with comprehensive services.

Such a developed center also provides a suitable environment to boost the efforts to alter their behaviors and encourage them to acquire useful hobbies, explained the minister in her remarks to KUNA. (KUNA)

Cultural diversity celebrated

French Ambassador commends Kuwaiti women's achievements

KUWAIT CITY, June 29: The French Ambassador to Kuwait HE Claire Le Flecher, has expressed her deep admiration for Kuwaiti women, their culture, creativity, and accomplishments across various domains, reports Al-Qabas daily.

She made the remarks during the third edition of the Women's Diwaniya hosted at her residence, attended by a diverse group of female leaders.

"I greatly admire the culture and capabilities of Kuwaiti women, who have played a pivotal role in the societal building and renaissance," Ambassador Le Flecher stated. "They have excelled in numerous sectors, achieving significant milestones both locally and internationally."

She further expressed her honor in hosting the Women's Diwaniya, which serves as a platform bringing together Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti women from diverse fields including business, poli-

tics, arts, culture, and fashion.

"This initiative aims to provide an inspiring and empowering platform for talented and influential women to connect, share their stories, and foster strong networks of solidarity," Le Fleischer emphasized. "Similar to traditional diwanias, our women's Diwaniya convenes weekly, every Wednesday, presented in a modern and innovative format."

Highlighting the broader objectives of the gathering, she noted, "Beyond networking, this forum is about creating a space for candid discussions, sharing challenges, and celebrating successes. It aims to cultivate a culture of empowerment and resilience, fostering both personal and professional growth to drive positive societal change."

Le Fleischer expressed her delight in seeing new participants join each gathering, envisioning that by nurturing these connections and promoting collaboration, the influence of Kuwaiti women across all sectors will continue to expand, inspiring future generations to follow their lead.

In response, attendees of the Diwaniya lauded its cultural diversity, underscoring Kuwait's inclusive embrace of all nationalities and cultures.



Le Flecher

Sabah Al-Ahmad Center launches apprenticeship program for 2024

KUWAIT CITY, June 29: The Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity, part of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, announced the launch of the "Apprenticeship" program for 2024, under the theme 'Develop Your Practical Skills', reports Al-Qabas daily.

This initiative aims to train young Kuwaitis as professional trainers in technology, integrated sciences, and digital manufacturing.

Neda Al-Daihani, the center's general manager, stated in a press release, "Registration for the program begins on the 30th of this month and continues until July 13th. It is designed to familiarize trainers with the latest techniques and tools in technology, integrated sciences, and technological competitions. The program will feature intensive

workshops aimed at enhancing practical skills and developing educational capabilities among trainers."

Al-Daihani outlined the center's strategy, emphasizing, "Our plan includes offering intensive apprenticeship and on-the-job training programs to elevate the technical knowledge and skills of trainers. This will enable them to deliver high-quality training using the latest methodologies and techniques."

She added that "this year's program aims to cultivate a generation of skilled trainers who will contribute actively to the field. By enhancing the efficiency, skills, and educational capabilities of participants in technology-related domains, we aim to prepare them effectively for future roles in training and education."

More than 1,500 contestants participated

Charitable Society honors Qur'anic scholars at Al-Hashemi Competition

KUWAIT CITY, June 29: In a unique Qur'anic event, the Kuwaiti Charitable Society for the Service of the Holy Qur'an and its Sciences (Hoffath) honored the winners of the first Al-Hashemi Competition for the Sciences of the Holy Qur'an organized by the society under the patronage of Minister of Justice, Endowments and Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi and in the presence of Undersecretary Dr. Badr Al-Mutairi, officials of the society, several Ministry of Endowments officials and representatives of Al-Hashemi Family -- sponsors of the competition, reports Al-Jarida daily.

More than 1,500 contestants participated in one of the specialized competitions in Qur'anic sciences. The competition encourages young people not only to memorize and recite the Holy Qur'an; but also to fully understand it and the reasons for the revelation of the verses.

At the end of the awarding ceremony, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the society Abdulaziz Al-Rifai presented a Qur'anic plaque to the undersecretary of the Ministry of Endow-

Ministry denies rumor of prayer schedule changes

KUWAIT CITY, June 29: The Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs has denied the rumor spread on social media that it will call for Dhuhe and Asr prayers only as a measure to rationalize power consumption, reports Al-Shahed daily.

In a press statement, the ministry confirmed it is committed to rationalizing the use of electricity; but without affecting the rituals and five prayers. It added that worshippers are welcome to pray five times per day in all the mosques whose doors are open to all believers, while urging everyone to obtain information from official sources only to avoid facing legal problems.

ments as an expression of appreciation for the ministry's unwavering support for Quranic work in general and for its contribution to the success of the competition.

Preferential treatment stirs public outcry

Controversy over equivalency for university admissions resurfaced

KUWAIT CITY, June 29: The controversy over discrepancies in the equivalency of high school certificates for university admissions in Kuwait has resurfaced, particularly focusing on allegations of preferential treatment towards graduates from foreign schools, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This issue has gained prominence following the recent announcement of high school exam results for public school students, with implications for scholarships in medical specialties.

Parents have raised concerns about what they perceive as unfair treatment. They point out that while an American high school graduate achieving 93% is awarded a perfect score of 100% under the points system adopted by the Department of Special Education in the Ministry of Education, public school graduates do not receive similar treatment, despite their achievements in medicine.

The complaint highlights a change in the mechanism for equating American high school grades, where points are directly added and multiplied to reflect a 100% score, simplifying the equivalence process.

This contrasts with the stricter assessment criteria applied to local school graduates.

In response, educational sources have refuted the allegations, asserting that the equivalency mechanism follows international standards.

For instance, a foreign high school graduate earning an (A+) grade may receive a percentage between 97% and 100%, depending on the grading scale. Meanwhile, a (A-) grade might corre-

University opens doors for admission inquiries

KUWAIT CITY, June 29: Abdullah Al-Salem University has announced that it will welcome high school graduates and their families for inquiries related to admission and registration from Monday, July 1, 2024, to Thursday, July 4, 2024, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The University made this known through its official account on the "X" platform.

The reception will take place from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm at Khalidiya, Gate 3, Building 53, also known as the "Classes Building."

spond to 96%. This approach aligns with global practices where universities set specific percentage thresholds for admissions into various disciplines, including medicine.

Furthermore, these sources emphasize the necessity for foreign schools to maintain academic accreditation to ensure credibility in their grading systems. They also highlight ongoing coordination between universities and the Ministry of Higher Education to uphold rigorous standards in determining admission criteria.

In conclusion, the debate underscores the complexities inherent in aligning diverse educational systems within Kuwait's higher education framework. The challenge lies in upholding fairness for all students while upholding academic integrity and international equivalency standards.

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Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 60.984 net	BHD 136.198 net
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
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LOCAL



Al Mithin and Algharabally with Zain and PACI officials.

Partnership enhances customer service efficiency

PACI, Zain sign collaboration agreement

KUWAIT CITY, June 29: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) and Mobile Telecommunications Company - Zain announced the signing of a collaboration agreement. This partnership will integrate PACI's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) portal and 'Kuwait Finder' services with Zain's systems, allowing the company to significantly improve its customer service efficiency across multiple levels.

The announcement was made at a signing ceremony held at PACI headquarters, attended by PACI Acting General Manager Mansour Al Mithin, Zain Kuwait CEO Nawaf Algharabally, Zain Kuwait Chief Government Affairs and Business Development Officer Malek Jaber Al Sabah, along with other PACI officials and Zain executives.

PACI Acting General Manager Mansour Al Mithin welcomed Zain to the list of organizations benefiting from PACI's GIS services, which are provided to over 300 government and private organizations in Kuwait. The GIS portal offers capabilities and data that can be integrated with each organization's systems, enhancing the services they provide to their customers and users.

Al Mithin explained that PACI



Mansour Al Mithin and Nawaf Algharabally after signing the agreement.

makes processed data available through the GIS portal, which is compiled and updated via various projects such as spatial photography/videography, drone scanning, and other initiatives aimed at creating an advanced, highly accurate foundational map to serve Kuwait's developmental projects and empower the nation's business sector.

He emphasized the importance of these projects in supporting PACI's digital transformation efforts, particularly those related to logging building addresses. This has positively impacted the 'Kuwait Finder' app's data, strengthening the trust of its 2.5 million users and over 50 organizations that have integrated the app's interface into their own platforms.

Zain Kuwait CEO Nawaf Algharabally expressed his excitement about the collaboration with PACI, calling it a successful example of a strategic partnership between the public and private sectors. He noted that PACI's GIS data would significantly enhance Zain's Business Intelligence systems, improving service levels for Kuwait's largest customer base.

Algharabally mentioned that this partnership would pave the way for further collaborations with PACI. Zain plans to use PACI's geographic data and detailed 3D models for network planning projects, which will improve customer experience and operational efficiency, thanks to PACI's comprehensive scans of all areas in Kuwait.

He affirmed Zain's commitment to leveraging strategic partnerships with major public and private sector organizations to achieve full digital transformation and enhance the company's service offerings. The company strives to exceed customer expectations and deliver world-class services to the biggest family of subscribers in Kuwait.

The signing ceremony also included discussions on future collaborations between Zain and PACI in a number of other related areas to deliver enhanced services to citizens and residents in Kuwait.

Kuwait Fund strengthens int'l ties at OPEC forum in Vienna

Delegation explores avenues for collaborative action

KUWAIT CITY, June 29: The Kuwait Fund for Development concluded its participation in the Third Development Forum of the OPEC for International Fund for Agricultural Development in Vienna, Austria, which was held on June 25-26 under the theme 'Cooperation for Impact', reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The forum aimed to strengthen cooperation in supporting international economic development. It saw extensive participation from world leaders, ministers, heads of development institutions, international bodies, and private sector stakeholders discussing development strategies, financing projects, and opportunities to advance sustainable development and achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Minister of Social Affairs discusses with Assistant FM human rights cooperation



KUNA photo Minister of Social Affairs with Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Human Rights Affairs.

KUWAIT CITY, June 29. (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, and the Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Dr. Amathal Al-Huwaila discussed Thursday with Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Human Rights Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jawaher Ibrahim Duaij Al-Sabah cooperation for boosting human rights.

In a press statement, the Social Affairs Ministry said the meeting addressed a number of key issues related to women, the family, childhood, and people with disabilities. They mulled the State of Kuwait's human rights commitments as per the international conventions and their mechanisms.

Leading the Kuwait Fund's delegation was Acting Director General Walid AlBahar. Discussions over the two days focused on enhancing institutional capabilities, accelerating investment in smart infrastructure, developing human capital, and advancing

global sustainable development efforts, including urgent issues like climate change.

During the forum, the Kuwaiti Fund delegation also participated in the Arab Funds Coordination Group meeting and engaged in bilateral meetings.

Your blessed

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Perhaps, some were surprised by this move; because they did not know who is Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad whose words match his action. Your Highness, you lead by example as you appointed an appropriate person to the Crown Prince position, in addition to the premiership of the Council of Ministers or any major position. You chose what is best for Kuwait and its future.

Kuwait has started to witness the fruits of these measures. Today, there are no people milking the State and sucking its blood as it happened in the past.

They worked with all their might to keep it backward, so that they would have the pleasure of continuing to shackle the people through laws that served only their interests.

Today, these people are wondering: What is next? They bet that those quivering ran out of arrows. Thus, they sharpened their teeth and knives, but they lost their bet even before it began.

Therefore, we say to them: Kuwait has witnessed and will continue to witness many things, as long as "good is upon us." A good indicator of this is the announcement of major projects free of corruption.

These projects will be implemented through the government's agreement with countries or large companies. No local agent shall milk it and change its value several times, while the law is applied on everyone. As for fighting corruption, the seniors' files were opened to before that of the juniors and those involved will soon face the music.

Also, today, there is nothing to protect those who spread rumors or anyone who dares to harm the authority of the Amir in any way. This is due to the fact that accountability is the theme that spares no one; even those in the ruling house and even from some of the adventurers within it, when people imagined that every influential person was the ruler. All this has ended.

Here are the doors of the offices of ministers opening to the people, even the doors of senior officials. The people are certain that once the government announces that the unemployment rate will be zero in the near future, they are confident that any official will not fail to implement your directives, especially since you promised to monitor all officials. The people are standing in front of you. They believe that you will do them justice.

All these achievements will be written in history. When I told you, Your Highness, I wish I was younger so that I could work with more vigor for the sake of Kuwait; the people are convinced that life is not about the number of years, but the achievements. May Almighty Allah bless your life and this tremendous effort. Today, the people feel that they are in a fortified State, that the birth of the second Kuwaiti State has begun, and that your blessed tears were assets from which your people draw strength and determination to build the best leadership. We have said that "good is upon us." This is our promise to you, Your Highness.

Kuwait railway

Continued from Page 1

were temporarily halted until the appointment of the new board in June, after which they resumed.

Originating from a proposal by the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad in 2009, the GCC railway project concept was approved and subsequently underwent feasibility studies to ensure alignment across participating Gulf countries.

Initially overseen by the Partnership Authority under the Ministry of Transport, a feasibility study was conducted in 2012, updated in 2016, and included specifications aimed at ensuring compatibility and non-conflict during implementation.

The railway route spans 2,177 kilometers from Kuwait to Muscat, passing through all Gulf Cooperation Council nations.

The initial phase, approved by the Municipal Council on January 15, 2021, spans 265 kilometers in Kuwait, divided into two segments for expedited implementation.

The first segment covers 111 kilometers from Nuwaiseeb to Shaddadiya, southwest of Kuwait Airport T2, featuring four main passenger stations and facilities for maintenance and freight handling.

Passenger trains will operate at speeds up to 200 kilometers per hour, while freight trains will run at 120 kilometers per hour, powered by diesel, with a 200-meter right-of-way.

Kuwait repeats

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report noted that 99.7 percent of individuals and 99.4 percent of families in Kuwait have access to the Internet through subscriptions with Internet providers or telecommunications companies.

Furthermore, the index comprises two pillars and ten indicators. The Commission serves as a liaison between data and international organizations specializing in the communications and information technology sector.

Kuwait, Russia

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Minister of Justice and Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi reiterated Thursday Kuwait's keenness to upgrade the judicial system to keep pace global changes.

He made this statement to KUNA after chairing the plenary session of the 12th edition of the St. Petersburg International Legal Forum hosted by Russia during the period June 26-28.

Al-Wasmi stressed the importance of Kuwait's participation in the three-day forum which discusses a wide range of key topics related to the judicial system, new jurisprudence issues and latest legislative updates as well as the use of technology to modernize the judicial system.

Terminal 2

Continued from Page 1

challenges with external partners to meet required standards. Dr. Al-Mashaan underscored close collaboration with the Civil Aviation Authority to overcome obstacles and maintain progress in this pivotal project, integral to Kuwait's national infrastructure development and economic enhancement.

KRCS delivers

Continued from Page 1

said the project is executed in cooperation with Jordan National Red Crescent Society, to ease the suffering of Palestinians, mainly children and the elderly who face death every day due to lack of food.

He noted that the Society will continue aiding Palestinians in the face of the deteriorating conditions in Gaza.

Kuwait had sent tons of humanitarian aid to Gaza, as well as dozens of ambulance vehicles, since the beginning of the Israeli occupation attacks on October 7.

عمليات الخفجي المشتركة

AL-KHAFJI JOINT OPERATIONS

الشركة الكويتية لنفط الخليج
KUWAIT GULF OIL COMPANY (K.S.C.)

ارامكو لأعمال الخليج
ARAMCO GULF OPERATIONS

TENDER ADVERTISEMENT

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Each intending bidder may purchase the tender documents upon payment of **Saudi Riyals Five Hundred (SR 500) or Kuwaiti Dinars Forty (KD 40) only** which is non-refundable by visiting our Contracts Department at Al- Khafji, Saudi Arabia, or KGOC's Kuwait Office located in Al- Ahmadi, Tender & Contracts Section. The bidder may visit our KJO website: www.kjo.com.sa and follows the path; E- Services Tendering Contractors Ongoing Tenders to review part of tender documents, before purchasing.

The sale of Tender Documents will be effective from **June 26, 2024, until 10:00 AM, July 11, 2024.**

The bid proposal shall be delivered by hand-delivery or thru courier service to the Contracts Department in Al-Khafji Joint Operations, Al-Khafji, Saudi Arabia on or before the closing date **14:00 Hours, Monday, July 22, 2024** of the time stipulated in the tender document.

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Mr. Fahed Abushaar
Cluster Director of the St. Regis Kuwait, Sheraton Kuwait and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait

We are delighted to commemorate a milestone that holds a special place in the hearts of the people of Kuwait and marks a pivotal moment in the history of hospitality the anniversary of the first Sheraton hotel opening outside the United States of America. This historic event, in 1966, marked the dawn of a new era in Kuwait's hospitality industry, blending rich traditions with luxurious services and establishing a benchmark for excellence.

As the first international five-star hotel in Kuwait and the first hotel managed by Marriott International in the Middle East and Africa, the Sheraton Kuwait has proudly hosted guests from around the globe. Over the decades, it has been the preferred venue for countless international, regional and local conferences, playing host to many significant historical events and decisions. Renowned for its grandeur, the hotel continues to be a premier destination for social events, celebrations and weddings,

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Kuwait and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait expresses immense pride as the hotel celebrates a remarkable milestone of 58 years of achievements and success. This milestone would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our revered hotel owners and their commitment towards implementing the latest innovations across our properties. Mr. Abushaar extends his profound appreciation and heartfelt gratitude for the steadfast support and loyalty of all esteemed guests who have trusted our hotels as their preferred choice of stay. He also emphasized the continuous dedication of the entire team that uphold the highest standards of hospitality, while honoring Kuwait's noble customs and traditions, enabling us to continue leading hospitality in Kuwait.

'He was never not funny'

Martin Mull, hip comic and actor from 'Roseanne,' dies at 80

LOS ANGELES, June 29, (AP): **Martin Mull**, whose droll, esoteric comedy and acting made him a hip sensation in the 1970s and later a beloved guest star on sitcoms including "Roseanne" and "Arrested Development," has died, his daughter said Friday.

Mull's daughter, TV writer and comic artist Maggie Mull, said her father died at home on Thursday after "a valiant fight against a long illness."

Mull, who was also a guitarist and painter, came to national fame with a recurring role on the Norman Lear-created satirical soap opera "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman," and the starring role in its spinoff, "Fernwood Tonight."

"He was known for excelling at every creative discipline imaginable and also for doing Red Roof Inn commercials," Maggie Mull said in an Instagram post. "He would find that joke funny. He was never not funny. My dad will be deeply missed by his wife and daughter, by his friends and coworkers, by fellow artists and comedians and musicians, and the sign of a truly exceptional person-by many, many dogs."

Known for his blonde hair and well-trimmed mustache, Mull was born in Chicago, raised in Ohio and Connecticut and studied art in Rhode Island and Rome.

His first foray into show business was as a songwriter, penning the

1970 semi-hit "A Girl Named Johnny Cash" for singer Jane Morgan.

He would combine music and comedy in an act that he brought to hip Hollywood clubs in the 1970s.

"In 1976 I was a guitar player and sit-down comic appearing at the Roxy on the Sunset Strip when Norman Lear walked in and heard me," Mull told The Associated Press in 1980. "He cast me as the wife beater on 'Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman.' Four months later I was spun off on my own show."

His time on the Strip was memorialized in the 1973 country rock classic "Lonesome L.A. Cowboy" where the Riders of the Purple Sage give him a shoutout along with music luminaries Kris Kristofferson and Rita Coolidge.



Mull

Sensibilities

"I know Kris and Rita and Marty Mull are hangin' at the Troubadour," the song says.

On "Fernwood Tonight" (sometimes styled as "Fernwood 2 Night"), he played Barth Gimble, the host of a local talk show in a midwestern town and twin to his "Mary Hartman" character. Fred Willard, a frequent collaborator with very similar comic

sensibilities, played his sidekick. It was later revamped as "America 2 Night" and set in Southern California.

He would get to be a real talk show host as a substitute for Johnny Carson on "The Tonight Show."

Mull often played slightly sleazy, somewhat slimy and often smarmy characters as he did as Teri Garr's boss and Michael Keaton's foe in 1983's "Mr. Mom." He played Colonel Mustard in the 1985 movie adaptation of the board game "Clue," which, like many things Mull appeared in, has become a cult classic.

The 1980s also brought what many thought was his best work, "A History of White People in America," a mockumentary that first aired on Cinemax. Mull co-created the show and starred as a "60 Minutes" style investigative reporter investigating all things milquetoast and mundane. Willard was again a co-star.

He wrote and starred in 1988's "Rented Lips" alongside Robert Downey Jr., whose father, Robert Sr., directed.

His co-star Jennifer Tilly said in an X post Friday that Mull was "such a witty charismatic and kind person."

In the 1990s he was best known for his recurring role on several seasons on "Roseanne," in which he played a warmer, less sleazy boss to the title character, an openly gay man whose partner was played by Willard, who died in 2020.

Variety



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Kevin Costner in a scene from 'Horizon: An American Saga-Chapter 1.' (AP)

Film

Costner delivers a spectacularly unsubtle epic

'Horizon,' bold overstuffed Western saga

By Mark Kennedy

There's a scene deep into Kevin Costner's new Western when he and a woman are fleeing bad guys on horseback. They pause at a jaw-dropping vista and he turns to her: "You just gotta keep going," he tells her.

That should be the slogan of "Horizon: An American Saga - Chapter 1," the initial three-hour salvo in what could morph into a four-part epic about the West that could tax even the biggest cowboy fan.

Give Costner - co-writer, director, producer - his due. This is a labor of love he's been thinking about since the 1980s and he has skin in the game: He took out a mortgage on his 10-acre home in Santa Barbara, California, Well, one of his homes, at least. He's not a total idiot.

"Chapter 1" - "Chapter 2" is to be released in August and parts three and four depend on if folks keep going - is a sprawling, often unwieldy placesetter, introducing dozens of characters in different parts of the West who, one has to assume, will interact at some point. If they survive, that is.

It's a spectacularly unsubtle movie, from the opening moment when a group of ants on a hill of dirt are crushed by a surveyor's wooden stake. If there's any doubt what we must feel, listen to John Debney's ponderous, pretentious score, with its criminal overuse of cellos.

Costner scrambles the plot - crafted by him and Jon Baird - almost immediately by offering a climactic battle scene within the first half hour, one in which a small white settlement in Arizona's San Pedro Valley (thanks, southern Utah!) is sneak-attacked by Apaches during an innocent dance.

It's a slaughter and it lasts way too long - savagery on one side, noble victims on the other. Mothers are struck by arrows while carrying their babes, unarmed musicians killed without a thought. "Ready son?" asks a dad to his teenage son, handing him a rifle and facing certain death. "I think so, dad," comes the plucky reply. In the aftermath, a mother

cradles the corpse of her son and talks to it.

This slaughter shoots off a few story strands - some survivors (like spunky new widow Sienna Miller and her daughter) find shelter at a US Army camp led by an achingly honorable lieutenant, played by Sam Worthington. Another story arc sees bounty hunters go in search of the Apaches who attacked the settlement, seeking profit and revenge.

"Horizon" also shows the internal divisions within the Apaches, with the chief's hothead son and new father (Owen Crow Shoe) ready to keep fighting. "Their sons will hunt you," the chief warns. "I won't sing for your victory today." We learn that the white settlement violated agreements meant to calm the West.

Savager

Costner's universe is both fatalistic and inevitable. Both sides may be right and wrong, but there will always be another round of savagery. "There's no one on Earth going to stop these wagons from coming," an exasperated Army officer says at one point.

After an hour, Costner himself arrives, a quiet, strong loner who enters a Wyoming Territory settlement with the hope of a nice drink and some lady company and yet who leaves on the run, protecting a sex worker (Abbey Lee) and a boy in her care from psychotic horsemen who wish them harm.

Two hours into the movie comes another whole set of characters, with Costner's menu now completely out of whack. It's a wagon train led by Luke Wilson (never a cowboy, ever) who is facing some class issues - a well-off, oblivious couple are among the working-class muscle - and some Peeping Toms. It's all too much, but add to it a dash of anti-Chinese xenophobia, some budding romances and horrific scalping.

Director of photography J. Michael Muro doesn't romanticize anything, grinding the action in the smoke, heat and chicken-pecked dust of the West, so much so that you might taste grit in your teeth at some points. It helps that Costner has positioned

everyone on the top of a picturesque hillside, showing off their profiles.

Part of the problem of "Chapter 1" is that in addition to overstuffing it with too many characters, the editing is pretty bad. Viewers will struggle with some violent cuts in which Costner has jumped the action forward months within the same chapter without any clues.

Yet Costner is still an impressive director with a eye for the natural beauty of the American West and a soft spot for loners. Yes, "Horizon: An American Saga - Chapter 1" is a huge swing that cannot really stand on its own. But we owe it to him to ride beside him a little more. Let's see if he can stick the landing.

"Horizon: An American Saga - Chapter 1," a Warner Bros. release in theaters Friday, is rated R for "violence and some nudity and sexuality." Running time: 180 minutes. One and a half stars out of four.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: After nearly 30 years of fits and starts, the fourth Beverly Hills Cop movie is finally upon us. **Eddie Murphy** reprises his role as Axel Foley in "Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F," which debuts on Netflix on Wednesday. **Judge Reinhold** and **John Ashton** also return but they get some fresh blood in a detective played by **Joseph Gordon-Levitt** and **Captain (Kevin Bacon)**. **Taylor Paige** also joins the ensemble as Axel's daughter. The original "Beverly Hills Cop" which launched Murphy to stardom in 1984 is also streaming on Netflix now.

Meanwhile, **Emma Roberts** is "living her best Florida life" when she remembers her lifetime dream of being an astronaut in "Space Cadet." Unbeknownst to her, a friend ("Hacks" castmate **Poppy Liu**) embellishes her resume and she's accepted into a competitive NASA training program. It aspires to be a kind of "Legally Blonde" meets "Private Benjamin" (who wouldn't dream of such heights) and will be available to stream on Prime Video starting Thursday. (AP)

SANTA FE, N.M.: A court ruling on Friday put an involuntary manslaughter case against **Alec Baldwin** on track for trial in early July as a judge denied a request to dismiss the case on complaints that key evidence was damaged by the FBI during forensic testing.

Judge **Mary Marlowe Sommer** sided with prosecutors in rejecting a motion to dismiss the case.

Defense attorneys had argued that the gun in the fatal shooting was heavily damaged during FBI forensic testing before it could be examined for possible modifications or problems that might exonerate the actor-producer.

The ruling removes one of the last hurdles before prosecutors can bring the case to trial with jury selection scheduled for July 9 in Santa Fe.

At trial, attorneys plan to call witnesses from a court-approved list of more than 60 people. They include film director **Joel Souza**, who was wounded in the shooting as well as assistant director **Dave Halls**, who earlier pleaded no contest to negligent use of a deadly weapon, and an array of first responders, investigators, firearms experts and close-range witnesses to the shooting.

Baldwin isn't listed but has the right to testify at his own trial.

During a rehearsal on the set of the Western film "Rust" in 2021, Baldwin pointed a gun at cinematographer **Halyna Hutchins** when the revolver went off, killing her and injuring director **Souza** as the bullet became lodged in his shoulder. Baldwin has maintained that he pulled back the gun's hammer but not the trigger and has pleaded not guilty.

The FBI conducted an accidental discharge test on the gun by striking it from several angles with a rawhide mallet, eventually breaking the gun. Prosecutors plan to present evidence at trial that they say shows the firearm "could not have fired absent a pull of the trigger" and was working properly before the shooting.

Baldwin has twice been charged in Hutchins' death. Prosecutors dismissed an earlier charge, then refiled it after receiving a new analysis of the revolver that Baldwin pointed at Hutchins. (AP)

NEW YORK: Eagles singer **Don Henley** filed a lawsuit in New

York on Friday seeking the return of his handwritten notes and song lyrics from the band's hit "Hotel California" album.

The civil complaint filed in Manhattan federal court comes after prosecutors in March abruptly dropped criminal charges midway through a trial against three collectibles experts accused of scheming to sell the documents.



Baldwin



Henley

The Eagles co-founder has maintained the pages were stolen and had vowed to pursue a lawsuit when the criminal case was dropped against rare books dealer **Glenn Horowitz**, former Rock & Roll Hall of Fame curator **Craig Inciardi** and rock memorabilia seller **Edward Kosinski**.

"Hotel California," released by the Eagles in 1977, is the third-

biggest selling album of all time in the US.

"These 100 pages of personal lyric sheets belong to Mr. Henley and his family, and he has never authorized defendants or anyone else to peddle them for profit," **Daniel Petrocelli**, Henley's lawyer, said in an emailed statement Friday.

According to the lawsuit, the handwritten pages remain in the

custody of Manhattan District Attorney **Alvin Bragg**'s office, which declined to comment Friday on the litigation.

Lawyers for **Kosinski** and **Inciardi** dismissed the legal action as baseless, noting the criminal case was dropped after it was determined that Henley misled prosecutors by withholding critical information. (AP)

