

In Brief

PREMIER'S BIOGRAPHY

KUWAIT: Author and columnist Abdullah Abbas Bowair published his eighth book, a biography chronicling the life of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Born in 1967 in Jebba, Kuwait City, Bowair is a businessman and author of seven books that highlight the lives and careers of ruling family members. He writes regularly for several Arabic language local dailies, in addition to Kuwait Times. His columns mainly focus on national unity. A biography researcher, Bowair is currently working on his PhD.



ARAB-MEXICO RELATIONS

KUWAIT: The Arab Cultural Week in Mexico, which began on March 22, concluded yesterday with the participation of a number of Arab diplomats, including Kuwaiti Ambassador to Mexico Samih Johar Hayat. The Arab Cultural Week in Mexico, held under the auspices of the Mexican Foreign Ministry, succeeded in building new bridges between Mexico and the Arab world, Ambassador Hayat said. Mexican Foreign Minister Jose Antonio Meade opened the Arab Cultural Week last Tuesday to mark 70 years of Arab-Mexican relations. —KUNA



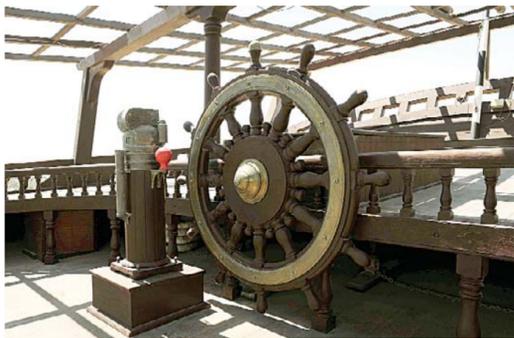
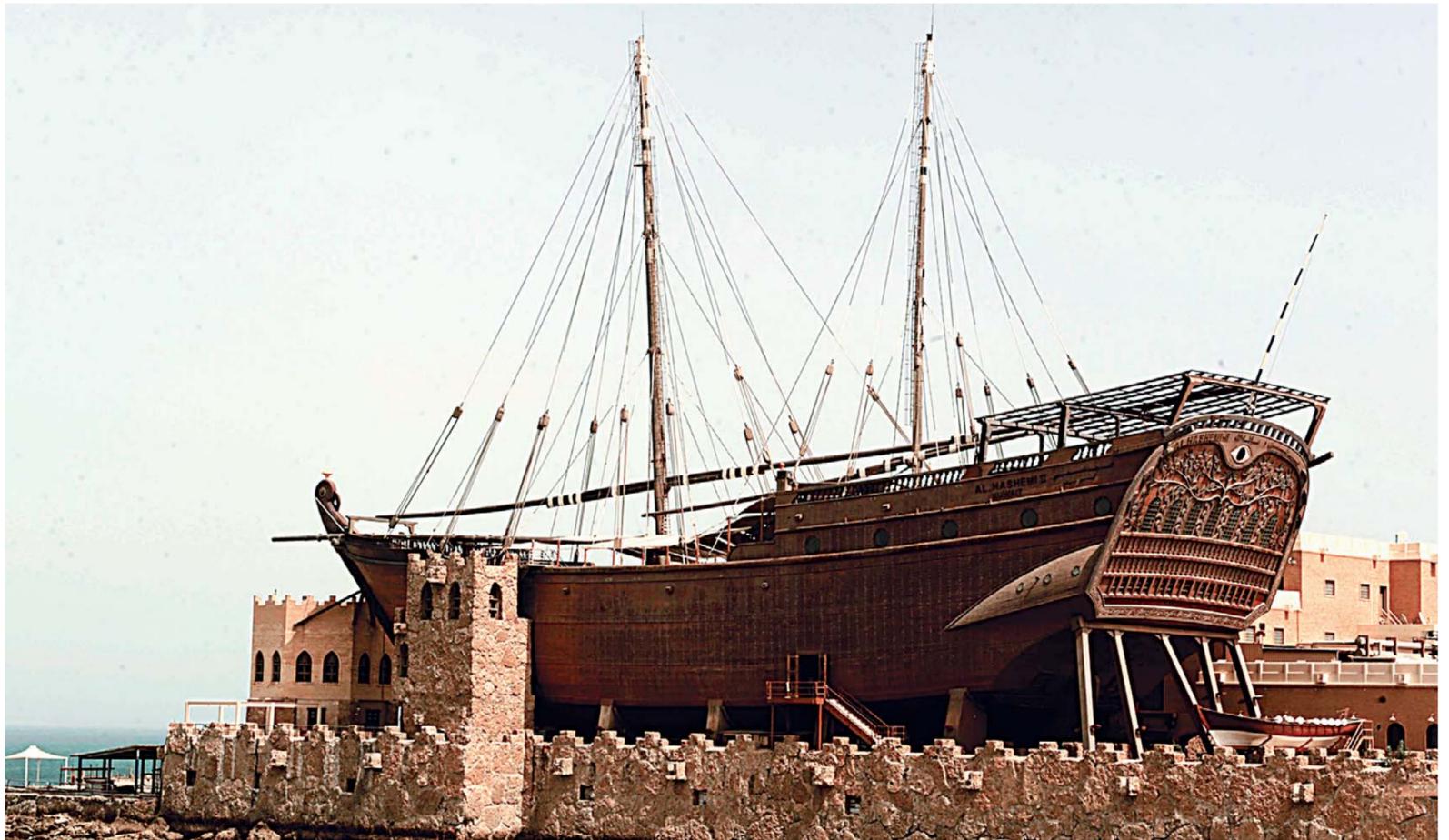
ARGENTINEAN COMMITTEE

KUWAIT: The Argentinean-Kuwaiti parliamentary friendship committee arrived in Kuwait yesterday on an official visit. The committee is scheduled to visit the National Assembly, Kuwait University (KU), Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), and Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR). —KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Fifteen years have passed since Al-Hashemi-II, world's largest wooden ship, was erected as a landmark showcasing Kuwait's marine heritage. With measurements of 83.75 m long and an 18.5 meters beam, Al-Hashemi-II sits on 6,000 square meters of land. The large dhow-type ship was laid down in 1997 and was completed in 2001, costing \$30 million. The ship, owned by Husain Marafie, sits next to the Radisson Blu hotel and is used as a ceremonial hall. The vessel also houses a restaurant. —KUNA

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GLOBAL URGENCY: GHANIM KUWAIT PLANS ANTI-CYBER PIRACY LAWS

HANOI: Sustainable development has grown into a global urgency that must be "gradual, realistic and applicable," National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim said. "It is no longer a dream, an outlook or a mere world goal sought by all, but it has come to be a reality people live in," Ghanim told the 132nd Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly in Hanoi yesterday.

There are countries that have made much progress in sustainable development while others have just commenced, the Kuwaiti top legislator said. For a third category, the issue is just a "headline and a far-reaching dream."

According to Ghanim, sustainable development is a global, rather than a national affair. For instance, the water issue in Africa, terrorism in the Middle East and pollution in the industrial North are not confined to certain countries or regions, he said. Ghanim called for focusing on basic principles when addressing the issue, noting that development is based on accumulation, experience, scrutiny and continuous examination.

The chief parliamentarian said that Kuwait's National Assembly is ready to cooperate with the IPU and world parliaments to produce an overall 'Hanoi Declaration' that reflects relevant concerns of all people on the planet, and reinforces the concept of sustainable development globally.

Cyber piracy

Meanwhile, MP Saif Al-Azmi said that the Kuwaiti National Assembly is planning to issue legislations intended to combat cyber piracy and warfare. He added that the National Assembly is seeking to examine other nations' experience in the field, in preparation for issuance of laws aimed at facing electronic piracy and wars.

The Middle East is currently witnessing instability, thus such legislations are necessary, Azmi said in a statement after taking part in a youth parliamentarians' forum, held on sidelines of the IPU Assembly. He called on the international community to enact such legislations to stem such kinds of wars, adding that participants in the forum spoke about their countries'

experience in the field, warning that the online war fares could trigger major international catastrophes.

Some major powers have declared that computerized networks of their sensitive installations are often targeted with piracy and espionage, aimed at stealing data and information. MP Azmi also called for 'new mechanisms' for fair water sharing among nations of the globe, with aim of averting possible break-out of wars or struggles over this vital living resource.

Dr Khalil Abdullah, another member of the Kuwaiti delegation, said the IPU conference contributed to bolstering cooperation among parliaments of the participating states. Speaking after a meeting of the IPU board of governors, Abdullah indicated that the Kuwaiti delegation presented proposals during the meetings, aimed at enhancing parliamentary work.

Elaborating, he said participants in the board meeting examined the IPU activities last year, various reports dealing with administrative and financial affairs. However, the Kuwaiti MP criticized the IPU for being largely inactive, at a time the world "is suffering from a lot of rhetoric but little action."

Parliamentary experience

Meanwhile, Secretary of Kuwait National Assembly Allam Al-Kandari said that the Kuwaiti delegation is eager to showcase Kuwait's parliamentary experience in the IPU Assembly. He added that Kuwait's eagerness to showcase its parliamentary experience came after the IPU meetings which discussed the Spanish, Australian, Vietnamese, and Saudi legislative outlooks. He indicated that it was very important for IPU member parliaments to showcase their experience in order to boost cooperation among the IPU members. The 132nd IPU Assembly kicked off Saturday in Hanoi, Vietnam with participation of more than 600 lawmakers from 113 countries. The Kuwaiti delegation is led by National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim and includes in addition to Kandari, Azmi and Abdullah, MPs Faisal Al-Shayae, Dr Awda Al-Rowaei, Saleh Ashour, and Madi Al-Hajeri. —KUNA



Marzouq Al-Ghanim

50 PHARMACISTS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL HEALTH ECONOMICS EVENT

KUWAIT: Chairman of Kuwait Pharmaceutical Association (KUPHA), Pharmacist Hani Darwish Zakaria, announced that KUPHA will participate in Kuwait Conference and Exhibition on National Health Economics that will be convened from 10 - 12 May 2015 at Al-Baraka Hall of Crowne Plaza Hotel Kuwait. The conference will be convened by His Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Dr Ali Saad Al-Obaidi, the Minister of Health, will be the Chairman of the conference. Commenting on this, Zakaria said, "The Patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister and the Chairmanship of His Excellency the Minister of Health reflect Kuwait's leadership keenness on healthcare services. We, at Kuwait Pharmaceutical Association, are an important and integral component of healthcare services delivery cycle for Kuwait's citizens and residents; and we are pleased to be part of this event."



Hani Zakaria

Commenting on the conference, Zakaria said, "Pharmaceutical services represent an important component of Health Economics value chain. It is vital for any healthcare services system. It, also, represents a significant portion of the healthcare services costs borne by governments whether fully or partially. We believe that we, in Kuwait, need to use health economics practices in order to develop better and

more effective healthcare policies. Health Economics will, also, help us follow the accelerated pharmaceutical developments locally, regionally, and globally. We believe that implementing and utilizing Health Economics practices is not a luxury anymore. Rather, it is a mandatory, long term, and continuous process that will positively affect both patients and the inflated healthcare budget."

KUPHA Chairman presented a practical example of implementing Health Economics practices in evaluating the introduction of a new medicine to the market. Zakaria said, "We need to define all the criteria that we should consider in prescribing a new medicine to a certain disease. Is it enough to use the medicine when it is approved by the international authorities? Should we take the cost of the medicine, its side effects, period required for cure into consideration? What weighting values should we apply for each factor? How can we evaluate comparatively two or more similar pharmaceutical products? Health Economics help evaluate all relevant factors to build decisions based on sound health and economic bases that allow the best return on the Government's healthcare investments.

Professional level

Commenting on Kuwait Pharmaceutical

Association, Zakaria said, "KUPHA aims at improving the professional level of pharmacists and associated pharmaceutical sciences that will be reflected on improved healthcare services. We are also keen to preserve and watch the ethical practices that govern our business. We work closely with all related organizations locally, regionally, and internationally to achieve our objectives. Notably, KUPHA is mainly cooperating with the Ministry of Health and other sister organizations of GCC countries. Finally, KUPHA aims at building professional and social relations among its members and with other professional associations.

KUPHA Chairman concluded his statement by saying, "We highly value Kuwait Conference on National Health Economics. We are confident that it will come up with the necessary recommendations that will positively impact healthcare services in Kuwait and our profession. Accordingly, we have decided to nominate (50) members of KUPHA to participate in the conference. An invitation has already been sent to all our members and we will announce selected candidates on April 25th, 2015. This is an important event that we hope it convenes periodically in order to boost the level of healthcare services in Kuwait. Finally, I would like to thank NoufEXPO and Kuwait Advancement for Conferences and Exhibitions Management Foundation (KADCEM) for their efforts to organize this conference."

BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES MOTHER'S DAY COMPETITION WINNERS

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced the three winners of its latest competition for all its 'Buba' Kids account holders, in celebration of Mother's Day this year.

Young participants were required to honor their mothers using a descriptive statement stating why their mother is the greatest icon.

Three winners were selected to win a cash prize of KD 50/- each. These winners are Mark

George Zaher Poulies, Judy Rami Rabea Zahabi and Nivedithakaran Prabhakaran. Burgan Bank congratulates the three lucky winners and wishes that it played a part in highlighting the optimal role that mother's play in the lives of many children.

The BuBa Kids account is a savings account, with a minimum opening balance of KD 10. Children up to 14 years old are entitled to a

free branded ATM VISA Electron card which offers them discounts at selected merchants. To find out more about Burgan Bank's BuBa Account as well as the latest promotions, customers are required to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch or contact the call center on 1804080. For more information, customers can visit the bank's website on www.burgan.com.