**Humanitarian ties**

KUWAIT: Promoting humanitarian and political relations of mutual interest was a focus of a meeting held on Tuesday between the National Assembly’s Human Rights Committee and a visiting European Union parliamentary delegation. Some topics, including legislations pertaining to human rights and the law regulating workers at home, were discussed with the delegation today, MP Jamal Al-Omar, head of the committee, told reporters following the meeting. These legislations were lauded by the delegation, he stressed. — KUNA

**35th anniversary**

RIYADH: The Gulf Cooperation Council’s (GCC) Secretariat marked on Tuesday the 35th anniversary of founding, in the presence of some senior Saudi officials, and Arab and Gulf diplomats. Addressing the celebration, GCC Secretary General Abdalatif Al-Zayani expressed his gratitude to GCC leaders for their efforts to achieve integration since the council was established in 1981. “It is a source of pride to witness further successes and achievements of the council over 35 years,” he said. — KUNA

**In Brief**

KUWAIT: The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) opened the 19th edition of its international music festival on Tuesday evening with a function to honor Suleiman Al-Mullah, a Kuwaiti musician. The festival is part of the celebrations marking Kuwait selection as capital of Islamic culture for 2016. It takes place at Abdul-Mohsen Abdel-Redha Theater until May 24. It is being held under auspices of the Minister of Information Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. Addressing the opening ceremony, NCCAL’s assistant secretary-general for the artistic and theatrical affairs sector Dr Bader Al-Duwaish said the festival is one of the most prominent activities listed on the annual agenda of the Council. “The event provides a platform for musicians from Kuwait and the Gulf region to compete in offering their inspiring music,” he said. Duwaish thanked Sheikh Salman who is also minister of state for youth affairs and NCCAL president for his kind patronage of the event. He said that Mullah’s rich music contributed to the efforts to bring people with different cultures close to each other through building bridges of friendship among them. Duwaish added that NCCAL’s department of folklore and popular heritage worked out a 73-item agenda for 2016-2017, including 12 activities at Al-Qurain Cultural Festival, eight activities at the popular heritage festival and 40 events at the Kuwait – capital of Islamic culture for 2016 celebrations. During the opening ceremony Sheikh Salman honored Al-Mullah along with the artists Abdullah Al-Ruwaished, Matraq Al-Matraq and Masha’el in recognition of their distinguished works. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah praised yesterday the preparedness of workers in his ministry for the Ramadan TV viewing season. The TV shows include epic operas exclusively run by Kuwait TV, including The Vendor of Beans, Stories, The Deceitful Lady, and A Special Case, in addition to religious and cultural and patriotic programs as well as children’s programs and game shows. — KUNA

**International music festival opens in Kuwait**

KUWAIT: Information Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Humoud Al-Sabah honored veteran Kuwaiti singer Abdullah Al-Ruwaished during the 19th edition of the international music festival. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

KUWAIT: Singer Mesha’el performs during the festival. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

KUWAIT: Information Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Humoud Al-Sabah honors Kuwaiti musician Suleiman Al-Mullah. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

KUWAIT: Abdullah Al-Ruwaished performs during the festival. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

KUWAIT: The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) opened the 19th edition of its international music festival on Tuesday evening with a function to honor Suleiman Al-Mullah, a Kuwaiti musician. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

KUWAIT: Kuwait Towers seen through the window of the ruins of the Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Castle in Kuwait City. The castle used to host a museum during the 1970s. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

KUWAIT: Information Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Humoud Al-Sabah honors Kuwaiti singer Abdulla Al-Ruwaished during the 19th edition of the international music festival. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

KUWAIT: Information Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Humoud Al-Sabah honors Kuwaiti musician Suleiman Al-Mullah. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

KUWAIT: Information Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Humoud Al-Sabah honors singer Mesha’el. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

KUWAIT: Kuwait Towers seen through the window of the ruins of the Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Castle in Kuwait City. The castle used to host a museum during the 1970s. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

KUWAIT: Abdullah Al-Ruwaished performs on stage.

NCCAL’s assistant secretary-general for the artistic and theatrical affairs sector Dr Bader Al-Duwaish speaks during the event.

Information Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Humoud Al-Sabah honors Kuwaiti musician Suleiman Al-Mullah.

Information Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Humoud Al-Sabah honors singer Mesha’el.