

Local

Women leadership roles lacking: Kuwaiti minister

NEW YORK: Despite the numbers of Kuwaiti women in the workplace being amongst the highest regionally, State Minister for Economic Affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel conceded that women face a lack of leadership opportunities. Speaking to United Nations women's status commission talks, she said Kuwait is taking an "innovative working approach" to achieve the fifth UN Sustainable Development Goal on gender equality, through "empowering the local workforce." It responds to the needs and aspirations of young people, girls and boys alike, to be partners in the decision-making and policy development process, she said, and to benefit from the experiences of their predecessors in this area. The plans are being spurred by the combined efforts of the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, Kuwait University Women's Research and Studies Center, the UN Development Program and UN Women, she said. The initiative stems from the vision of His highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and falls in line with Kuwait's 'New Kuwait' development strategy. Several indices have been placed as an objective, which the country aims to reach by 2030, she said.

According to Minister Aqeel, the plan, with an emphasis on the fifth goal, is the first of its kind in the Arab region. "This reflects Kuwait's full commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women in accordance with international obligations," the minister underlined, in regards to the UN targets. She reflected on Kuwait's dedication to women, through "building

a secure and stable social network for women, in the form of laws and regulations that preserve their dignity, enshrined in the Kuwaiti constitution." Through this direction, Kuwaiti women have been able to make numerous accomplishments in the political and economic domains, and violence against women has been limited. Despite gaining the right to vote and run for parliament in 2005, women's chance of winning in the elections remains bound by social convictions, Aqeel commented. This is why the government has taken steps to organize a series of specialized workshops aimed at developing the leadership skills of those wishing to enter the political landscape. It has also approved measures to encourage a three-fold rise in companies, which are focused on empowering women.

Political participation

Meanwhile, Kuwait asserted that women's political participation enhance peace and security at the national, regional and international levels. This came in the speech Aqeel delivered at the Security Council Arria-Formula Meeting on Women, Peace and Security. She highlighted several key issues, the most important of which was the centrality of women's participation in political processes in light of the security challenges facing the Sahel region, the steps required to achieve women's political empowerment and the role of the United Nations and international and regional organizations in promoting women's participation in peace and security in the Sahel region. "Studies

indicate that the role of women is central to all stages of the conflict," she said, adding that success and sustainability of peace processes are increased by the extent of women's involvement. She pointed out to the security challenges facing the Sahel region, with the continued deterioration of economic conditions and the consequences of climate change on the countries of the region, there is an escalating of conflict-related violence.

Aqeel referred to the affected people by these challenges, especially women and children, noting to a comprehensive solutions with developmental dimensions, in which women have an essential role in many sectors, including the military, civil, economic and political sectors. She stressed that it is the responsibility of Member States to ensure the political participation of women at all stages, stressing the importance of international and regional cooperation to prevent all forms of violence against women. In this context, she welcomed the appointment of 11 women out of 32 in the Government of Mali for the first time, and the Government thus achieved the goal of representing women by 30 percent in accordance with the 2015 Act on the Promotion of Gender Equality.

The Kuwaiti minister appreciated the regional initiatives taken by regional countries to involve women in the peace process, such as the launching of the G5 Sahel Women's Platform and the initiatives of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to empower women. She reiterated her support for the



Mariam Al-Aqeel

United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel and urged to complete and coordinate all ongoing efforts to ensure the successful participation of women in the peace process and development plans. "The Security Council has succeeded in setting a solid normative framework on women's issues and peace and security in general in 70 resolutions," she confirmed, adding that "We have a common challenge to implement these resolutions adequately, this is the same challenge facing the agenda of women and peace and security in general."

"As next year 2020 marks the 20th anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325, we have a responsibility to redouble and join efforts to make progress in the effective implementation of the agenda of women, peace and security in general and in the Sahel in particular," she said. — KUNA

Five wanted for selling 600 visas to workers

KUWAIT: The residency affairs department recently referred a human trafficking case to public prosecution, said security sources, noting that five fake farm owners had been involved in selling 600 visas to laborers they brought into the country and left them without any jobs. The sources added that two of the five suspects have already been arrested while search and arrest warrants were issued for the remaining three.

Cops held for robbery

Four citizens, including two policemen, and a Saudi man were recently arrested in Salmiya for multiple robberies, said security sources, noting that the gang had robbed several expats using a toy gun to threaten them. Case papers indicate that a Sri Lankan man had called police to report that a gang had stopped and robbed him. A police patrol rushed to the scene and managed to arrest the suspects, who confessed to committing several other robberies using the toy gun they had.

Fatal accident

A Bangladeshi man died in an accident that happened when a ready mix truck ran him over at Mina Abdullah, said security sources, noting that initial investigations showed that the truck's driver does not have a driver's license. The driver was detained pending further investigations.

Smuggling foiled

A Pakistani man was recently arrested in Salmi while trying to smuggle in a kilogram of 'Ice' (methamphetamine) hidden in secret places on his truck, said security sources, noting that the man was arriving from a neighboring GCC state when custom inspectors searched his truck and found the drugs.

Drunk harassers

Jahra detectives recently arrested three drunk citizens, including one sentenced to five years prison, for harassing women jogging in Na'eem area.

Fraud case

A female citizen reported that a hacker who managed to hack her lifelong friend's WhatsApp account contacted her twice pretending to be the real friend, and claimed that she needed money for urgent matters while being in Morocco. The woman told police that she transferred a total of KD 1,182 to her friend, before she realized that the account had been hacked. A fraud case was filed.

— Translated from Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa



KUWAIT: A tractor-trailer crashed into a concrete barrier on Sixth Ring Road near Saad Al-Abdullah yesterday. Jahra occupational fire station men responded, freed the trapped driver and handed him to paramedics, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate said in a statement. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

Municipality gears up for by-elections

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality increased its readiness level for the National Assembly's by-

elections to be held tomorrow. The municipality provided 740 cleaning workers and 57 vehicles to clean schools' parking lots and surrounding streets. The municipality said in that regard that the public cleanliness and road occupancy department issued 15 licenses for candidates' premises. In other news, the Municipal Council is set on Monday to discuss a letter from former Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor General Ahmad Al-Rujuib to change the name of the 'Occupational Abu Fatira' area to 'Aswaq Al-Qurain,' because it is closer to Qurain area, and because it is no longer classified as an 'occupational' area but rather houses various shops.