

Amiri Diwan launches third edition of KAFO initiative

EPA chief hails youth's interest in environmental issues

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Various vital issues including education, environment and health were discussed and presented the third annual Kuwait's Achievers for Future Opportunities (KAFO) forum held on Wednesday at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center. The event included various sessions on volunteering, sports, entrepreneurship, science and technology, media, arts and culture. Video presentation of previous achievements and projects was presented during the opening ceremony.

Work on KAFO, an initiative by the Amiri Diwan, started in 2015, and the first version of KAFO's website was launched in 2017. KAFO aims to create tools and channels to showcase young achievers and enable collaborative opportunities including knowledge transfer that leads to national development.

"KAFO is one of the Kuwait Youth Program (Kuwait Listens) projects launched in 2013 as a recommendation to launch a platform for Kuwaiti achievers. We studied the needs of the society

and the way of connecting achievers. Participants can build their CVs on the website and show the possible ways of cooperation, in addition to searching for achievers according to their specialization," Executive Manager of KAFO Fatemah Al-Mosawi told Kuwait Times.

"This fair is just a part of our activities that present the achievements of participants. We have nine ideas that we would like the public to know and participate in achieving them," she pointed out. KAFO has been hugely successful, and participants are increasing every year. "Over 500 participants attended today to participate in this event. Our platform includes over 3,000 achievers, and this number is increasing every year," concluded Mosawi.

Chairman and General Director of the Environment Public Authority Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah attended the event and praised the high interest of the achievers in environmental issues. "Various environmental initiatives were presented today, but we aim to have more. The previous environmental initiatives were great, although they



KUWAIT: Officials participate in the third annual Kuwait's Achievers for Future Opportunities (KAFO) forum held on Wednesday at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center. — KUNA

were presented by young people. The young achievers can also participate in improving the environmental situation in Kuwait through social media or drones that take pictures of the vegetation," he noted.

"We also cooperate with KAFO in taking samples of the waste in the sea or emissions produced by factories causing air pollution. Today, the young achievers move actively and this supports our efforts at EPA," stressed Sheikh Abdullah.



KUWAIT: The interior ministry yesterday celebrated the graduation of batches 44 and 45 of border security personnel and the graduation of batch 9. Assistant undersecretary for border security Maj Gen Sheikh Salem Nawaf Al-Ahmad expressed the supreme commandment's pride in border security forces and welcomed the new graduates into the force. Assistant undersecretary for education and training affairs Maj Gen Mazen Al-Jarrah and assistant undersecretary for backup services Maj Gen Zuhair Al-Nasrallah were also present.



KUWAIT: Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah yesterday received and honored Lt Col Saleh Al-Rashed from the traffic department, who was insulted by a sheikh for refusing to violate the law and pass illegal transactions.

Iran FM pitches Gulf security plan to neighbors

TEHRAN: Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif pitched the Islamic republic's Gulf security plan to neighboring nations yesterday, saying regional security cannot be provided by foreign powers. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani announced the plan at the UN General Assembly last month, calling on Gulf nations including arch-rival Saudi Arabia to join it but without giving details.

In an article published yesterday in Arabic by Kuwait's Al Rai daily, Zarif said that the plan, named Hormuz Peace Endeavour, offered the chance of "expansive security" and cooperation between Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain. Cooperation could include areas such as a regional non-aggression pact, combating terrorism, cybersecurity, energy and freedom of navigation, Zarif said.

"In order to save the region from the edge of ruin, we feel the necessity of realising a new discourse more than ever," he wrote in the article, a

translation of which was provided by his ministry. "The fate of the people and nations of the Persian Gulf is entwined ... either everyone benefits from security in the region or everyone will be deprived of it," Zarif said.

Tensions have risen in the Gulf since last year when US President Donald Trump unilaterally abandoned a 2015 nuclear deal between major powers and Iran and began reimposing crippling sanctions. They flared again this May when Iran began reducing its own commitments under the deal and the US deployed military assets to the region. Since then, ships have been attacked, drones downed and oil tankers seized. In June, Trump called off air strikes against Iran at the last minute after the Islamic republic's forces shot down a US drone.

Last month, twin attacks on Saudi oil infrastructure, which knocked out half the kingdom's production, drew accusations of blame against Iran not only from the US but also from its European allies. Tehran has denied any involvement in the attacks, which were claimed by Iran-backed rebels fighting a Saudi-led coalition in Yemen. The US has since formed a coalition with its allies Australia, Bahrain, Britain, Saudi Arabia and the UAE to escort commercial shipping in the Gulf. Tehran has warned that the planned US-led International Maritime Security Construct will only increase instability. — AFP

Kuwait: Turkish military operation threatens stability

KUWAIT: An official source at Kuwait's foreign ministry said on Wednesday the military operation launched by the Turkish army in northeast Syria posed "a direct threat to the security and stability in the region". The source urged Turkey and the parties to the conflict in Syria to exercise self-restraint and avoid resorting to the military option. "The military escalation risks

undermining the chances of political solution sought by the international community after the tangible progress made in the quest for peace in Syria," the source said.

The source was referring to the recent success of the Syrian parties in forming a constitutional committee under the mediation of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Syria Geir O Pedersen. Highlighting the need to realize the aspirations of the Syrian people and maintain Syria's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, the source called on all parties concerned to exercise self-restraint and avoid resort to military option that could exacerbate the suffering of the Syrian people. — KUNA