

Local

Arab Media Forum launches Lebanon support campaign

Kuwaiti airlift supports Lebanon for 8th consecutive day

KUWAIT/BEIRUT: The Arab Media Forum Authority launched on Wednesday, in cooperation with the Arab League, the largest remote youth rally for humanity, themed 'For Lebanon Initiative' in support of Lebanese people, due to the massive explosion that hit Beirut Port last week. "What is happening in Lebanon requires a serious international support, with strict and active global united efforts to offer the country aid during such tough circumstances," the Special Envoy of the Arab League Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs Sheikha Hessa Al-Thani said in press remarks. She expressed her gratitude and appreciation for the partnership with Arab Media Forum and offered her total support to this initiative. "Our brothers in Lebanon are in urgent need of all forms of aid due to the destructive explosion that struck Beirut," the Secretary General of the Arab Media Forum Madi Al-Khamees said, calling on everyone to offer assistance to Lebanon.

Participations and ideas

The Arab Media Forum launched the largest humanitarian youth initiative all over the Arab World, to welcome participations and ideas to offer aid to Lebanon. The 'For Lebanon Initiative' was launched with the participation of Honorary Chairperson of Gulf Society for the Disabled Sheikha Suhaila Al-Sabah, United Nations Secretary General's Special Adviser Dr Ahmad Al-Muraikhi, Director of the Centre for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies Sultan Barakat, Head of the United Nations Office for

the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) Regional Office Iyad Nasr, United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) Regional Representative for the Gulf Khaled Khalifa, along with a number of Arab and international authorities' representatives, and the participation of 300 presenters of initiatives from all over the Arab nations.

Relief aid

In other news, the Kuwaiti airlift continued on Wednesday transporting relief and humani-



Largest remote youth rally for humanity

tarian needs to Lebanon for the eighth consecutive day, with the arrival of two planes carrying about 100 tons of urgent needs, following a recent explosion at Beirut Port. Abdullah Al-Shaheen, a counselor at the Kuwaiti embassy in Lebanon, said that the two planes were loaded with about 100 tons of foodstuffs, as the total since the start of the launch carried 605 tons. There is full cooperation with the Lebanese authorities represented by the leadership of the



BEIRUT: Food aid is loaded out of a Kuwait Air Force plane that arrived at Beirut International Airport on Wednesday. — KUNA

Lebanese Army through securing all facilities and delivery, in addition to the shipments that were delivered to the Red Cross and presented by the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, he added.

He indicated that the airlift will continue with the arrival of more planes loaded with aid in the coming days, to support Lebanon in this unfortunate circumstance. — KUNA

Kuwait Minister greets youth on anti-COVID-19 efforts

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri said Wednesday the Kuwaiti youth have proven their competence in the novel coronavirus pandemic. "The COVID-19 pandemic, which shook the world and has affected countries' economies and negatively impacted sustainable development and international trade, through which Kuwaiti youth proved in a way that astonished the state with the extent of its great responsibility in helping the most institutions in the country in confronting this pandemic," the minister said in a statement marking the World Youth Day.

Kuwaiti youth contributed to hospitals, cooperative societies and were professionally trained to qualify in filling deficiency of human resources that were likely to occur in some government institutions such as the municipal apparatus, the fire department, the Kuwait Red Crescent Society and others, he boasted. The minister pointed to their active role in distributing goods and food in restricted areas and delivering medicines, helping the elderly, people with special needs and many other crucial actions. He added that the government of the State of Kuwait pays special attention to youth and supports them in various fields and levels, noting that his



Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri

Conrad Lesa, United Nations Resident Coordinator ad interim in the State of Kuwait, said: "The vast majority of pressing challenges humanity currently faces, such as the COVID-19 outbreak, wars, hunger, civil unrest and climate change require concerted global action and the meaningful engagement and participation of young people to be addressed effectively." With young people playing a key role in the management of this outbreak and the recovery following the outbreak, young innovators are already responding to the virus through social impact innovation, he said. Around the world, several initiatives are being developed to leverage young people's efforts to generate and deliver support to at-risk populations or populations affected by the pandemic, he added. Many youth-driven technology innovation hubs are sup-

porting startups to develop effective solutions to address COVID-19 around the world, the UN official noted. The young population is also pivotal in curbing the spread of infections by being disciplined and complying with the recommendations of WHO and government authorities, a huge responsibility but one that can never be under-estimated nonetheless, he said.

Eltayeb Adam, UNICEF Representative to the Gulf highlighted that youth in Kuwait constitutes 72 percent of the total population, which reflects the cruciality of their role in contributing to the development and enhancement of the future of Kuwait. Subsequent to the COVID-19 outbreak, youth volunteers in Kuwait were at the frontlines supporting the Government efforts in halting the massive spread of the virus, he said. The youth volunteered in hospitals, NGOs, cooperative societies and other critical service centers to enable the country to respond to the nation-wide needs, he added.

"Shortly after declaring the COVID-19 as a global pandemic, a total of 3,000 youth volunteers registered through the Public Authority for Youth, and the numbers kept increasing following the individual youth initiatives responding effectively to the society's needs," he said. "In Kuwait, young people stood up to the challenge and went above and beyond. Once again, we witness their incredible ability and creativity to find innovative solutions to all sorts of challenges," added Adam. "Today's youth possess unique digital skills that we need to reimagine a new, better and sustainable world," he concluded. In 1999, the UN General Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998) that 12 August be declared International Youth Day. —KUNA