

Al-Khorafi briefs Pillay on role of Kuwait in protecting 'rights'

UNHC chief meets Amir

News in Brief

MoC sees partial reshuffle: The Minister of Communications, State Minister for National Assembly Affairs Dr Mohammed Al-Baseeri has partially reshuffled undersecretaries in the ministry, appointing Adel Dashti as the Assistant Undersecretary for Transportation Affairs, Quoblan Al-Eidan as Assistant Undersecretary for Consumer Services, and Rashid Al-Maei as an assistant undersecretary, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



Baseeri

The daily quoting reliable ministry sources said the Assistant Undersecretary for Planning Waleed Al-Najjar will act as Assistant Undersecretary for Finance and Administration, whereas the Assistant Undersecretary for International Services Samah Abu-Al-Banat will maintain his post stand, while standing in as Assistant Undersecretary for the Communications Department.

'Need to protect Arab investment':

Kuwait's Representative in the Arab League's Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) Fahad Al-Rashid called in Tunis Wednesday for adequate protection of Arab, especially Gulf, investments in the region.

Speaking to KUNA on the sidelines of an ongoing Arab conference on international donations and grants, the Kuwaiti official said: "Over the recent period, Gulf investments have been in jeopardy in some sisterly Arab countries due to insufficient protection." More protection is required for investments in the Arab world through the completion of relevant pieces of legislation and laws, he said, stressing the significance of delineating and unifying Arab investment bills. Furthermore, Al-Rashid called for sustained following-up and assessment of the implementation of plans and projects, and for fight against boring administrative bureaucracy. (KUNA)

PAAAFR chief to visit Vietnam:

Kuwait's General Consul in Vietnam, Najeeb Al-Bader, welcomed the visit of Director General of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources

(PAAAFR) Jassem Al-Bader to Ho Chi Minh.

In a press release, the ambassador said that such visits were in implementation of the memorandum of understanding on agricultural cooperation, signed between the two countries in 2009, with the aim of boosting bilateral cooperation in agriculture, livestock and fishing affairs.

He said that the PAAAFR chief would be meeting with officials in the agriculture and fish resources here, to identify areas of cooperation, noting that Vietnam was among the fastest growing East Asian countries in this area. (KUNA)

'Kuwaiti Hajj missions pioneering':

Kuwaiti Hajj missions are "pioneering" and present excellent services to pilgrims, said Kuwait's Consul in Jeddah Ali Al-Haifi on Wednesday.

Speaking to KUNA following a meeting of the Higher Hajj Affairs Committee held in Kuwait, Al-Haifi, who is also Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), said that Saudi officials praised Kuwaiti Hajj missions as being observant of rules and regulations. (KUNA)

By **Abubakar A. Ibrahim**
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 21: National Assembly Speaker Jassem Al-Khorafi emphasized the role of Kuwait in protecting human rights through the concerted efforts of the government, legislature and institutions dealing with human rights during his meeting with United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights Navi Pillay Wednesday.

Aimed at eliminating ambiguities and correcting misconceptions on the human rights issues in Kuwait, the meeting focused on the points highlighted in international human rights report on the situation in the country. Parliamentary sources affirmed the meeting yielded positive results as the speaker briefed Pillay on the human rights work in Kuwait. Sources said the commissioner was surprised after reading an English version of the Kuwaiti Constitution as it includes stipulations on protecting human rights and freedoms.

Sources disclosed the speaker commented on the human rights report on Kuwait and Pillay promised to convey these remarks to the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC). Sources confirmed Al-Khorafi also highlighted the achievements of Kuwait, particularly the election of four female parliamentarians for the first time in the history of the country, establishment of a human rights society, and implementation of the new private sector labor law which protects the rights of expatriate workers.

Sources explained Pillay did not convey any message as the meeting is part of her tour in the region to clarify various human rights issues. She arrived in Kuwait recently after visiting Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, MP Mohammad Hayef has asked Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Mudhi Al-Humoud to open an investigation on the alleged tour organized Wednesday by the American International School to Cairo, Egypt for male and female students.

Hayef pointed out the male and female students mingled with each other during the tour. He said this is an outright violation of Islamic values and Kuwaiti traditions. He urged the minister to take the necessary measures to prevent the spread of Western culture in Kuwaiti schools.

Also:

During her visit, Pillay met His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the speaker of Parliament Jassem Al-Khorafi, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Dr Mohammed Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, the minister of Social Affairs and Labour, Mohammed Mohsen Al-Afasi, the Minister of Higher Education Moudi Abdul Aziz Al-Hmoud, as well as other senior officials.

Ms Pillay also attended a meeting on Wednesday, April 21 with Civil Society representatives organized by the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Kuwait office and facilitated by Dr Ghanim Al-Najjar, Kuwaiti expert in human rights and a professor of Political Science at Kuwait University, Dr Tarek El-Sheikh, the Chief of UN-Habitat and the Resident Coordinator (ai) and the United Nations Country Team welcomed Ms Pillay, her delegation and NGOs that attended the meeting. Civil Society representatives had the opportunity to discuss with The High Commissioner a range of main human rights issues in Kuwait.



Top: Navi Pillay (center), during the meeting and (above), some of the officials and journalists at the event.

embassy ROW

By **Valiya S. Sajjad**
Arab Times Staff

will be closed for festivities on April 25.

Australia

The Embassy of Australia announced that it will be holding an ANZAC Day ceremony on April 25, 2010. For further information please visit the Australian Embassy website www.kuwait.embassy.gov.au

Britain

The Embassy of Britain has announced that anyone who has made an application for a UK visa at the New Visa Application Center can track their application online and receive updates by SMS on the progress of their application. The online tracking system is available free via the VAC website at www.vfs-uk-kw.com. For more information contact 2971179 or 24774900.

Canada

The Canadian Embassy has announced that it is located at Villa 24, Al Mutawakel St, Block 4 in Da'ayya.

Canada offers a registration service for all Canadians traveling or living abroad. This service is provided so that Consular Officials can contact and assist Canadians in an emergency in a foreign country, such as a natural disaster or civil unrest, or inform Canadians of a family emergency at home. The Embassy of Canada encourages all Canadian citizens to register online through the Government of Canada Travel Website at www.voyage.gc.ca

The Canadian Embassy in Abu Dhabi provides visa and immigration services to residents of Kuwait. Individuals who are interested in visiting, working or immigrating to Canada are invited to visit the website of the Canadian Embassy to the UAE at www.UAE.gc.ca

Germany

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Kuwait would like to inform the general public of the following changes in its appointment policy.

An appointment is necessary for all visa applications. Appointments can be made online on the website of the embassy: www.kuwait.diplo.de. Families and groups must schedule an appointment for each applicant.

Please note that during the summer there is high demand for appointments. We therefore request that appointments for each applicant be made as early as possible.

Frequent travelers do not need to apply in person at the Embassy. Frequent travelers who hold two Schengen visas during the last two years or a long-visa for the last two years, and can prove that they used the visas more than once, do not need to come to the Embassy in person and can submit their visa application via third person.

Apart from frequent travelers, only visa applications submitted personally by the applicant or through an approved travel agency will be accepted.

German Embassy cooperates exclusively with the following travel agencies: Aamar Travel & Tourism (tel: 22622627), Al Qabas Travel & Tourism (Tel: 22498155), Alshamel Travel & Tourism (Tel: 22976161), Travel Club (Tel: 22971177/05), NAS Travel Agency (Tel: 24372416).

Visa applications may be submitted: Sunday-Thursday from 8:00 am - 11:30 am by appointment only. Passports may be picked up Sunday-Thursday from 1-2 pm.

Italy

The Embassy of Italy informs the public that it

Japan

The Embassy of Japan has announced that it will be able to issue tourist and business visas to Japan for only two working days. Kuwaiti citizens can receive the visas in principle, in the afternoon one day after acceptance of the visa application.

The necessary documents have also been reviewed and simplified to promote tourism and investment in Japan. For further info check the embassy website www.kw.emb.japan.go.jp/index.htm or call 25309400.

Kenya

The Embassy of Kenya informed that visitors to Kenya can enjoy a reduction in cost of tourist visas by 50 percent, continuing through all of 2010. In recognition of the family travel segment, Kenya is giving a complete waiver of visit fees to children aged 16 years and below. For more information contact 25353314.

Nepal

The Embassy of Nepal informed that it has been functional in Kuwait since March 21, 2010, and the address is: House No. 184, St 804, Al Zahara, South Surra. Tel: 25243257, 25243254. The working hours are from 8.30 am to 2 pm Sunday to Thursday.

Netherlands

The Embassy of Netherlands has requested the Dutch citizens living in Kuwait to register with the embassy. This is aimed at helping Dutch citizens in an emergency in a foreign country. Registrations forms are available at the embassy in Jabriya, Block 9, St 1, Bldg 76, and is open from Sun - Thu 8-9 am and 1-3 pm.

Philippines

The Embassy of Philippines informs the Filipino community in Kuwait that embassy election supervisor, Taha Guinomia, would like to urge registered absentee voters in Kuwait to take note of the following for their guidance when coming to the embassy to cast their votes.

Letter: A to Cabanting - Precinct 1; Letters: C,D,E to Falame - Precinct 2; Letters: F,G,H,I,J,K,L to Mama - Precinct 3; Letter: M,N,O,P,Q,R to Ramos - Precinct 4.

All the above Precincts are located at the Embassy main building, Letters: S,T,U,W,X,Y and Z - Precinct 5 - located at the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO).

Voting will continue uninterrupted until May 10, 2010 at the embassy.

Turkey

The embassy announced that regular passport holders of GCC countries can obtain single or multiple entry visas valid up to 3 months upon their arrival at the Turkish international airports/border gates, as well as from the consular section at the embassy. Kuwaiti diplomatic and special passport holders are exempt from visa for tourism for up to 90 days.

Editor's note: The Embassy Row column is dedicated to serving the needs of all embassies in Kuwait by publishing information on their activities free of charge every weekend. All embassies are therefore welcome to send information on their functions to the Editor, Fax No. 24818267.

DISPATCHES

CONGRATULATIONS!

On behalf of the youth of Kuwait, LoYAC would like to congratulate the British people and the British Embassy on the occasion of the 84th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II.



www.loyac.org



La SENZA LINNERIA

NAUTICA

LASENZA GIRL

La SENZA : The Avenues: 22597199 - Al Othman Center: 22611124/5 - Al Kout: 23930904/6
Al Fanar: 25712430/1 - Kuwait Magic: 23730508 - Maghateer Mall: 24715013
NAUTICA : The Avenues: Phase 1, First Floor: 22597305
LASENZA GIRL : Al Fanar: 2712430/1

Ministry not to renew contracts

KUWAIT CITY, April 21: Senior officials from the Public Education Unit at the Ministry of Education disclosed the ministry will not renew contracts with many expatriate heads of the technical curriculum departments to pave the way for appointment of citizens, reports Awan daily.

However, officials noted the unit will renew contracts with specific department heads and instructors of particular subjects for one year in 2010/2011 academic year.