



Khorafi meets UNDP delegation

Parliament Speaker Jassem Mohammad Al-Khorafi (above center), met Monday with head of the United National Development Program's (UNDP) visiting delegation Salah Bourjini.

The meeting focused on UNDP's role in pro-

viding training to the National Assembly's employees.

The meeting was attended by the parliament's Assistant Undersecretary for training and development Abdulaziz Al-Saai. (KUNA)

Kuwaiti embassy in Japan holds Iftar

TOKYO, Sept 7, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Embassy in Japan held the annual Iftar — Muslim fast-breaking meal- at Ambassador Abdulrahman Al-Otaibi's residence in Tokyo, a statement by the Kuwaiti Embassy said on Monday.

Arab ambassadors to Japan attended the ceremony held Saturday night and which included a "guirgian" celebration.

The celebration aimed at presenting the Kuwaiti custom of guirgian where children visit different houses to collect candies during Ramadan.

The ambassador and his wife explained to their

guests the concept of guirgian, and noted that children carry hand-made bags to collect treats.

They also explained the meaning of the word "guirgian" which means a mix of something; in this case, it is candies and nuts.

Al-Otaibi noted Kuwait's role in supporting Muslim communities around the world, along with its notable attempts to maintain solidarity among Muslims.

He expressed his delight over meeting representatives of Arab embassies and their families, adding such events help boost bonds during the holy month of Ramadan.

'Continue inspections of markets'

Hikers hit malls during Ramadan

Lebanon offers security for investments

Kuwaitis invited to invest in tourism sector

KUWAIT, Sept 7, (KUNA): A number of Kuwaiti citizens called on the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Kuwait Municipality on Monday for inspections of markets and co-op societies throughout the year.

In statements to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), citizens said the inspection campaigns by supervision divisions at the Kuwait Municipality or the Ministry of Commerce and Industry should not be limited to the period before the Holy month of Ramadan, as many businessmen take advantage of consumers, and sell goods with a near expiration date.

Mohammad Al-Hassan, citizen, visited a wholesale store two weeks ago and noticed that most of the goods on display are about to expire.

Al-Hassan added, that the salesperson assured him that those goods are still edible, and will be removed within days, but when he recently visited the store, he noticed expired goods

BEIRUT, Sept 7, (KUNA): Lebanese Minister of Tourism in the Caretaker government Elie Marouni announced on Monday that the number of Arab and foreign tourists who visited Lebanon for the holidays has exceeded 1.5 million, adding that Kuwaiti tourists have contributed significantly to the economic and tourism activities in Lebanon.

Maroni said in a statement to KUNA that Kuwaitis are at the forefront of tourists contributing to revive Lebanese

economy, praising the Kuwaiti continuous support for Lebanon in various areas.

He anticipated that the number might increase by the end of the year to reach nearly two million tourists.

Maroni urged Kuwaiti businessmen to invest in the tourism and services sector, saying "we are ready to provide all facilities to them to secure the best investments and success in business." Maroni said Lebanon and Kuwait had signed an agreement on exchange of

tourism promotion during his participation in a delegation accompanying President Michel Suleiman at the Arab Economic Summit that was held in January in Kuwait.

He explained that the agreement is being interpreted into reality through the exchange and promotion of tourism between the two countries through organizing Lebanese exhibitions in Kuwait and Kuwaiti activities in Lebanon, in addition to the increase of travel activities.

were still there.

He warned the salesperson that he will inform the ministry, who then went into the storage room and brought out the same goods with an expiration date in 2015.

Al-Hassan said that the ministry cannot provide enough inspectors to cover all stores, but it can launch random inspections on stores, which would reduce violations.

Jassem Al-Ali said that the month of Ramadan is an opportunity for store owners to get rid of stocked goods, as many consumers do not look at expiration dates and buy large

quantities to be consumed during this month only.

He added, inspections at the beginning of the month were excellent, as many salespersons displayed their best goods, but a week later "the quality of goods changed".

As for Akbar Khan, a salesperson, he said, "although the negative and immoral phenomenon is there throughout the year, it increases during Ramadan", clarifying that salespersons in wholesale stores fight this phenomenon during the past years, as it affects all stores in the area if one was fined for violations.

Khan added, selling expired goods causes food poisoning, especially if those goods are stored improperly for long periods.

Meanwhile, Ramadan hikers of all ages in Kuwait use air-conditioned and long pathway malls as their walking turf.

People with sneakers roam commercial complexes to practice their favorite sport especially in the morning before shops are opened and before "iftar," Muslims fast -breaking time, security guard at one of the malls Ghanim Ziyad told KUNA.

Most of them start walking

by 8 o'clock in the morning, he said, adding that hikers age between 35-60 years.

The mall's management provides resting spots, newspaper stands, along with a medical care facility run in cooperation with the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society, he said.

Waleed Al-Kandari, a regular hiker at a mall said that he prefers air-conditioned malls with long walkways to practice his sport.

He said that hot weather during Ramadan makes it hard for him to have an outdoor walk while stationary treadmills are not his cup of tea.