

More than 200 guests attend gala dinner

# ABCK celebrates 32 years in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The American Business Council of Kuwait (ABCK) celebrated their 32nd year in Kuwait with a gala dinner at the Millennium Hotel. More than 200 guests including ambassadors, chairmen of various Business Councils, distinguished business leaders from various Kuwaiti companies and US military attended the event. The theme of the evening was celebrating the strong relationship between the American and the Kuwaiti business communities.

The Ambassador of the United States, His Excellency Lawrence Silverman, was present along with His Excellency Ambassador Sigurd Pacher of Austria, His Excellency Ambassador Frans Potuyt of the Netherlands, His Excellency Aldo De Luca, Ambassador of Switzerland, His Excellency Tatang Budie Utama, Ambassador of Indonesia, and His Excellency Sunil Jain, Ambassador of India. Additionally, the Commercial Attache from the Italian Embassy, Giovanni Sama, the Economic Counsellor of the French Embassy Philippe Galli and Ms Veronique Bertrand-Galli were present to help celebrate ABCK's longevity in Kuwait.

The evening featured Dr Juliet Dinkha, Chair of ABCK, as the hostess for the gala event. Dr Dinkha welcomed all the distinguished guests and introduced United States Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman who spoke on the close ties between the United States and Kuwait. He said, "One of the priorities of the US Embassy in Kuwait is to broaden and deepen trade and investment between our two countries, and it is great to have the ABCK as one of our long-standing and most important partners in this effort."

The first honoree of the evening was Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri, CEO of Rosette Group. Dr Dinkha spoke highly of Al-Anjeri's support of ABCK by the publication of The Correspondent, the ABCK magazine. The Correspondent has been in publication for more than 20 years and Al-Anjeri has created and published it for



US Ambassador Silverman in a group photo during the celebration.

the last two years, taking the magazine to a new level for ABCK and making it a magazine of distinction on American business in Kuwait.

Dr Ali Dashti, Vice-Chairman & CEO of KGL Logistics, was honored as the sponsor of the ABCK gala dinner. Dr Dinkha praised KGL and Dr Dashti for their support of ABCK for more than 10 years. KGL has been an active corporate member of ABCK and supporter of the American business community and has helped ABCK promote many of their initiatives and

programs in Kuwait. Dr Dashti said, "I want to thank the ABCK for allowing us to be part of their celebrations and want to congratulate them on their 32 years in Kuwait. KGL is an avid supporter of the ABCK and believes in the importance of common vision and shared synergies between Kuwaiti and American businesses. We look forward to supporting future initiatives and continued dialogue between our communities."

Dr Dinkha further honored other sponsors of the ABCK from the past year. These included Fluor, Honey-

well, Boeing, Ernst & Young, Qatar Airlines, Marafie, and American University of Kuwait, AIG, Al Mulla Behbehani Motor Co, Citibank, EQUATE and Hill International. Dr Dinkha highlighted that without the continual support of members and their companies, ABCK would not be as successful.

The finale of the evening was the sounds of Carol Souki and her band. They entertained the guests with a smooth blend of music.

Since 1984, the American Business Council of Kuwait Ltd (ABCK) has acted as an advocate for Ameri-

can companies in the State of Kuwait. ABCK is a non-profit organization comprised of American corporations, small and medium sized companies, and prominent business leaders and entrepreneurs, both American and Kuwaiti. Through the support of its members, ABCK has become the recognized voice of US businesses in Kuwait.

ABCK provides a platform through which executives pursue and discuss issues impacting business operations between the US and Kuwait. As a founding member of the Middle East

Council of American Chambers of Commerce (MECACCC), ABCK recognizes the importance of proactively encouraging an exchange of ideas between our members and Kuwaiti businesses. ABCK is also an active member of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce. ABCK offers both individual and corporate memberships. In addition to monthly meetings, we have social events to further enhance networking among the American business leaders in the community. For more information, contact Theresa Dommett at director@abckw.org.

## 'Heritage village keen to participate in vital forums that support tourism'

Village witnesses distinctive Gulf, Arab participation: Shalahi



KUWAIT CITY, March 28, (KUNA): Director of Sabah Al-Ahmad Heritage Village Saif Al-Shalahi affirmed the keenness of the village to participate in important forums that contribute to supporting tourism in the country and highlighting the role of youths in the sector.

Al-Shalahi said this on the sidelines of the village's participation in the first forum for tourism and youth, which kicked off on Monday. The village's participation came in the form of an information booth to showcase the most important activities and competitions that took place in Sabah Al-Ahmad Heritage Village this season.

He indicated that the village witnessed distinctive Gulf and Arab participation this season in the form of heritage exhibitions of the Gulf countries which highlighted the original Gulf heritage in GCC countries.

Al-Shalahi revealed that one of the most important contributions of the village in terms of tourism is its attraction of a large number of heritage lovers from GCC countries who participated massively in the official competitions of the festival, especially the birds, sheep and equestrian competitions.

He affirmed that the administration will intensify its participations in all internal and external forums in the coming period to highlight the touristic role of the Sabah Al-Ahmad Heritage Village, as well as the heritage, cultural and social aspects of the country.

Al-Shalahi said the number of visitors to Sabah Al-Ahmad Heritage Village exceeded 600,000 this year, most of who were from Gulf, Arab and other countries, adding that they enjoyed the village's distinctive facilities and participated in various activities.

He praised Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for supporting the organization of the festival and the construction of this distinctive village, which brought immense joy and pleasure to visitors from Kuwait, Gulf and other Arab countries.

It is worth mentioning that the first forum for tourism and youth was inaugurated on Monday, March 27 under the patronage and in the presence of the State Minister for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. It will continue for two days with the participation of many governmental and private institutions.



One more photo from the ABCK event to celebrate 32 years in Kuwait.

### 12th Gulf Water Conference/Exhibition opens

## Water, food & energy in GCC states 'interrelated' – Bahrain

MANAMA, March 28, (KUNA): Water, food and energy are increasingly turning into closely intertwined vital sectors in member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), says a senior Bahraini official.

Water scarcity and limited locally-produced food in the GCC states have prompted these countries to depend on each others to secure clean water and sufficient nutrition for growing populations in the region, said Dr Al-Zibari, Chairman of the technical consultative committee of the Bahraini Water Resources Council.

Al-Zibari, addressing inaugural session of the 12th edition of the Gulf Water Conference/Exhibition, on Tuesday, said link-up among water, food and energy is turning more complex with time, due to mounting demand for such resources and hiking consumption, along with populations' growth and changing consumption patterns.

This relationship among these factors is forecast to turn much more delicate due to global climatic change. The Gulf re-

gion is quite vulnerable to economic and environmental impact related to this phenomenon, he said warning against bids to achieve security in any of these sectors independently.

Attempts to attain food security with local production without considering limited water resources will lead to draining them in the long run, thus resulting in degradation of the agricultural field.

The Gulf region is in general short on water resources however the regional countries have managed to secure their needs by desalinating sea waters and digging wells.

Concurring with Al-Zibari, Khaled Bin Saeed Al-Ebri, the GCC assistant general secretary for economic and development affairs, said water scarcity has become one of the top challenges in the Gulf.

He also agreed with Al-Zibari that food, water and energy are connected and called for greater investments in water desalination and treatment.

### News in Brief

**PM sponsors hotel's 50th 'versary:** Under the auspices of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Sheraton Kuwait celebrated its 50th anniversary on Tuesday evening.

The celebration gathered Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ali Thanyan Al-Ghanim and Chairman of the Oriental Hotels Company Abdulaziz Al-Shey'e, as well as a number senior government officials and governors. (KUNA)

**Muslims dev discussed:** Kuwait's Ambassador in Accra Mohammad Al-Failakawi met with Ghana's Minister of Inner cities and Zongo Development Abubakar Siddique Boniface on activities of Kuwaiti institutions in the African country.

The two men discussed development of Muslim communities in Ghana through contributions of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), Zakat (alsm) House and charity societies, Kuwait embassy said in a statement, received by KUNA in

Kuwait Tuesday. Al-Failakawi explained that the institutions and societies of Kuwait were keen on supporting cultural, social and health capabilities of the Muslim communities in Ghana, it noted. (KUNA)

**Deputy FM meets Russian envoy:** Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met Monday with Russian Ambassador to the country Alexey Solomatina on Kuwaiti-Russian relations.

During the meeting, they also discussed the latest regional and international developments.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's Office Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar. (KUNA)

**Qodaibi's duration extended:** Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh has issued a ministerial decision to extend the service duration of Director General of General Customs Department Adnan Al-Qodaibi for three more months, as he took up this position following the retirement of Khalid Al-Saif, reports Al-Shahed daily.

### Minister opens 1st awareness exhibition of power conservation

Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Essam Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq inaugurated the first awareness exhibition on power conservation, affirming that the exhibition aims at spreading awareness about the importance of solar energy and conservation

of energy. He stressed the keenness of the ministry to develop the skills of its employees, revealing that 15 engineers were sent to Germany to study the experience of the use of renewable energy sources.

The minister highlighted the

positive impacts of the use of renewable energy and energy conservation on the environment, adding that the ministry is aiming at applying the Amiri desire to replace 15 percent of the energy used in Kuwait with renewable energy by 2035.

Photos by Rizk Taufiq

Top: Minister Al-Marzouq cutting the ribbon, and (above) taking a tour of the exhibition.