

# Kuwait a reliable and altruistic partner: Sudan's ambassador

## Envoy praises Zain's Al-Kharafi for the company's steadfast commitment



Sudanese Ambassador Awadal-Karim Al-Rayah Balla discusses with local media.

Ambassador Awadal-Karim poses for a group photo with local media representatives.

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** Sudanese Ambassador to Kuwait Awadal-Karim Al-Rayah Balla affirmed that Sudan values its relationship with Kuwait, recognizing the country as a reliable and altruistic partner. The ambassador stated in a meeting with local media representatives that Kuwait offers assistance without imposing political agendas, making it an attractive collaborator for economic ventures and a trusted source of humanitarian aid.

"Kuwait's impartiality and commitment to non-interference stand out, evidenced by its role as a mediator in various conflicts. Sudan holds a deep respect for Kuwait's ability to foster reconciliation both domestically and within its regional sphere. As one of the earliest nations to acknowledge Kuwait's independence, Sudan prioritizes nurturing and strengthening its longstanding ties with Kuwait," he said.

Meanwhile, the ambassador praised Bader Al-Kharafi, Vice-Chairman and Group CEO of Zain Group in Kuwait, for the company's steadfast commitment to its employees amidst challenging circumstances, noting that despite the damages caused by the war, including destruction of cables and communication towers, Zain Group has ensured that its employees continue to receive their salaries. The Ambassador noted that Zain stands out as one of the few, if not the only, companies maintaining such dedication to its workforce despite the ongoing conflict.

He said that despite facing significant financial setbacks, with the company's income not surpassing 25 percent amid the prolonged war, Zain's commitment to its employees remains unwavering. On the

defense levels, Ambassador Balla stated that cooperation between Kuwait and Sudan has seen significant bilateral engagement, particularly in the realm of military education and training.

"Before the war, a substantial cohort of Kuwaiti military students have pursued rigorous military studies at the prestigious Sudanese Military College, fostering a robust exchange of knowledge and expertise between the two countries. Additionally, some Kuwaiti officers have pursued advanced post-graduate studies at Sudan's Command and Staff College. Reciprocally, Sudanese officers have also benefited from specialized military courses conducted in Kuwait, further enriching the collaborative landscape of defense cooperation between the two countries," the ambassador said.

### Economic, political ties

Regarding the economic and political relations between Kuwait and Sudan, the ambassador emphasized the existence of various joint committees, including ministerial committees and a political consultation committee, facilitating continuous dialogue and cooperation between the Foreign Ministries of Kuwait and Sudan. Additionally, both countries have forged bilateral agreements aimed at advancing mutual interests and strengthening bilateral ties.

He added: "There is ongoing collaboration with institutions such as the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and the Arab Investment and Export Credit Guarantee Corporation which underscores the commitment of both Kuwait and Sudan to foster economic development and prosperity through stra-

tegic partnerships and financial support."

He noted that Sudan is one of the Arab countries that benefits greatly and contributes to the Arab Planning Institute, saying "The institute sponsors training and even designs a national investment map for Sudan." Meanwhile, he revealed that Sudan was one of the first countries to receive a loan from the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. It was a loan to expand the railway to Sudan.

"Kuwait is the largest supporter of Sudan. The total debt exceeds \$15 billion. After the secession of South Sudan, there was a backwardness and debt interest accumulated," he said, adding that Kuwait's significant investments in Sudan span across agricultural, livestock, and communication sectors, underscoring the depth of economic engagement, where trade between Kuwait and Sudan flourished, amounting to approximately half a billion dollars.

Moreover, the ambassador highlighted Kuwait's invaluable humanitarian contributions to Sudan, which have left an indelible mark on the Sudanese people. Kuwait's unwavering support during crises, such as the devastating floods in 2020 and 2021, and its immediate response in providing humanitarian aid during the war, including the establishment of an air bridge, exemplify its steadfast commitment to assisting Sudan in times of need.

The aid, totaling over \$6 million, comprised essential supplies such as medicines, ambulances, medical equipment, as well as food and shelter provisions, delivered through numerous flights and a large-scale maritime shipment from Kuwait and it is still ongoing. Regarding the Sudanese community, the ambassador said that there are 20,000 Sudanese in Kuwait who



Sudanese Ambassador to Kuwait Awadal-Karim Al-Rayah Balla

work as medical staff, university professors, and at administrative positions, and others.

He added that the embassy provides its citizens with all consular services, whether authenticating, issuing documents or issuing and renewing passports, stating "The conflict took a toll on Sudan's infrastructure, notably damaging the passport factory in Khartoum, resulting in a seven-month hiatus in its operations. However, efforts to restore functionality were swift, with the installation of a new passport factory imported from Germany. Resuming operations just three months ago, issuing 3,000 new passports."

The ambassador called Sudanese community residing in Kuwait to explore the embassy's newly launched website (<https://www.sudanembassy-kw.com/advisr.html>), which offers a comprehensive range of services and resources, encouraging them to stay informed by following the embassy's social media on Twitter and Instagram.

## AUK students visit Kuwait Times and Kuwait News

By Ghadeer Ghoulom

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Times and Kuwait News welcomed a group of students from American University of Kuwait (AUK), offering them a firsthand glimpse into the world of journalism and the intricate operations behind the scenes. The students embarked on a comprehensive tour of the Kuwait Times building, delving into its various departments. Throughout the visit, AUK's students were introduced to Kuwait Times team, who explained the responsibilities of each department and the nature of the work carried out within.

Leading the tour was Jana Alnaqeeb, the PR and CSR manager of Kuwait Times and Kuwait News. The tour started off by visiting Kuwait Times studio, where the students were enlightened on innovative reporting techniques designed to engage younger audiences through visual content. Alnaqeeb then led the students to the editorial department, where they gained insights into the meticulous process of producing a traditional newspaper – from reporters crafting their articles, to editors refining them, and page makers and printers bringing the content to the public.

Alnaqeeb then took the students to the meeting room to learn about the significance of advertisements as a key revenue stream, while also discovering Kuwait Times' special editions. Journeying to the archives room, the students checked the historical editions of Kuwait Times before proceeding to the Press Printers, where they were acquainted with the operational aspects of the substantial printing machinery. Alnaqeeb concluded the tour with a visit to the Kuwait Times' art space, followed by an engaging session in the studio prepared by Kuwait Times' content creator Doha Al-Issa, who organized a lively game for the students to enjoy and earn a memorable experience.

## Kuwait staff chief commends army

**KUWAIT:** Chief of Staff of Kuwait's Armed Forces, Air Marshal Bandar Al-Muzain, said that the Kuwaiti army is the country's "impenetrable defense and deterrent sword" against internal and external challenges. Al-Muzain made the remarks while touring the 94th Saleh Al-Mohammad Mechanized Brigade, the Army General Staff said in a press release. During the tour, the army chief listened to a briefing about tasks and duties carried out as part of the brigade's training plans and programs, along with existing cooperation and coordination with other military sectors. Al-Muzain appreciated the high efficiency, capability, and preparedness of the 94th Saleh Al-Mohammad Mechanized Brigade's staff, according to the release. — KUNA



AUK students take a group photo with Kuwait Times team.



AUK students learning about the Editorial Department.



AUK students visit Kuwait Times warehouse.



AUK students explore Kuwait Times' archives.



AUK students at Kuwait Times art space.

## MoH lauds nurses, marks International Nurses Day

**KUWAIT:** The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, confirmed that the Ministry's aspirations to achieve notable health care will not be achieved unless qualified nursing staff play their role in improving the healthcare system. During the celebration of International Nurses Day on Sunday, Al-Mutairi said in a statement that the government's work program and the country's development plan are harnessing all resources and providing the necessary support for the development of nursing care.

He added that the nursing profession lies at the heart of a high-quality health care system that takes into account the rights and safety of patients, in accordance with international organizations. Al-Mutairi affirmed the Ministry's keenness to improve the performance of nursing staff through cooperation with the largest specialized international universities

and holding high-level training courses. Director of the Nursing Services Department at the Ministry of Health, Dr. Iman Al-Awadhi, stressed in her speech the importance of the role of nursing staff members in shaping a bright future in health services.

A large portion of the human workforce in health care belongs to the nursing staff. Al-Awadhi pointed out, noting that the celebration of International Nurses Day aims to show appreciation to the nursing personnel for the efforts made in providing care to all members of society. She also mentioned that the number of nursing staff in hospitals and health centers exceeded 22 thousand nurses, male and female, trained at the highest level.

A series of training courses came with the government work initiative 2024-2028; six courses were held recently, one of which included the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Oman College of Health Sciences. As well as holding courses in partnership with Johns Hopkins Hospital, Hamad Medical Corporation in Qatar, and the University of Beirut in specialized fields in intensive care, cardiac care, leadership, and nursing research. — KUNA

### In my view

## Cheating and its consequences

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We find ourselves amidst the intense atmosphere of student exams in schools and colleges, with hopes pinned on students focusing diligently on their studies to achieve grades and excellence. Yet, perennially, we witness the scourge of cheating, a phenomenon stemming from either moral shortcomings or deficiencies in upbringing.

Cheating is unequivocally condemned across all divine religions, being recognized as a morally bankrupt act. However, its prevalence persists, fueled by the proliferation of cheating mechanisms and the advent of facilitative methods. Often, students who resort to cheating fail to grasp the gravity of their actions. Graduating through deceit or being caught in the act isn't a trivial matter; it can have far-reaching consequences.

Unbeknownst to many cheaters, their actions could jeopardize their future prospects. The ramifications extend beyond academic repercussions: they risk being barred from professions where honesty is paramount. This reality underscores the grave repercussions of cheating, which may manifest later in professional inadequacy and compromised ethical standards.

Regrettably, cheating has morphed into an international phenomenon over the years, echoing sentiments expressed by former US President Donald Trump regarding the perceived irrelevance of university degrees in the face of rampant fraud. The distinction between a diligent learner and a deceitful achiever is stark and consequential.

While some students may inherently lack moral fortitude, others are victims of deficient upbringing. Divorce, for instance, can exacerbate this issue, severing parental guidance and support. Moreover, parents with questionable morals may inadvertently condone cheating, setting a perilous precedent for their children.

Such lax attitudes towards integrity can breed a generation indifferent to ethical standards, paving the way for future transgressions. Parents unwittingly nurture potential wrongdoers, encouraging a culture of dishonesty that imperils societal welfare and progress.

Consequently, the state is compelled to vigilantly monitor and penalize cheaters to safeguard the integrity of future generations. Success achieved through deceit often precipitates academic disillusionment, contributing to higher education dropout rates.

Collaborative efforts between the ministry of education and parents are imperative in combating this scourge and developing a morally upright society. By addressing the root causes of cheating and instilling ethical values from a young age, we can endeavor to mitigate the deleterious effects of this pervasive malaise.