

'Prices of medicines to decline in private hospitals, pharmacies'

Panel eyes radical reform at overseas medical offices



KUNA photos
Top & above: Health Minister Al-Harbi during the inauguration of the specialized units at Jahra Hospital.

Al-Harbi patronizes opening of specialized units at Jahra Hospital

Minister of Health Dr Jamal Al-Harbi Thursday patronized inauguration of the specialized units at Jahra Hospital in presence of Jahra Health Regional Director Dr Ahmad Al-Husseini, Director of Jahra Hospital Dr Ghalib Al-Basis, and several specialists from within and outside

the hospital. The minister reiterated extending for another six months contract of the health insurance scheme for retirees, "Afia". He said the contract will be in two shifts after concluding procedures for the new tender. He revealed the extension of Amiri

Hospital Emergency Unit will be inaugurated in the next three months after expansion of rooms and bed capacity in the hospital. He noted Jaber Al-Ahmad and Sabah Al-Ahmad health centers will be declared open soon to accommodate more patients throughout the day.

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: In the next two months, medicines will witness a decline in prices in the hospitals and pharmacies of the private sector, reports Al-Shahed daily.

Informed sources indicated that the fall in prices could reach more than 25 percent, due to efforts exerted by the relevant Gulf committee responsible for making quotations and unifying the prices of medicines throughout GCC countries.

During the first phase of the task to reduce the prices of drugs, the committee reduced the prices of nearly 1,200 medicines in 2016.

Meanwhile, Head of the Parliamentary Committee for investigating violations in the Health Ministry and overseas health offices MP Salah Khorshid said a new round of campaign to offices in London and Washington will begin next week, reports Al-Wasat daily.

The daily quoting sources declared the intention of the committee to institute radical reform, especially in the employment policy at the overseas medical offices.

They added members of the committee returned from trips to France and Germany recently where they investigated important files, as directed by the National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim. They noted a meeting of the committee's technical office will take place to discuss outcome of the trip.

Contract

Sources explained the contract between overseas health offices and the hospitals is quite different from transacting with mediators, indicating the contract with hospitals entails an official procedure with specified conditions, while those of the mediators are not official. They reiterated mediators are considered the link between health offices and the hospitals.

Meanwhile, the committee on its trip to Germany and France recently recorded violations from one health office to another, and it's important to amend employment policy at the health offices through the appointment of Kuwaiti citizens only to reduce financial and administrative violations. They also stressed the significance of documenting violations so as to guarantee transparency and a neutral stance during investigation.

In the meantime, six medical centers in Jahra and Ahmadi health zones are waiting for the positions of the heads of doctors to be filled, reports Al-Anba daily.

Ministry of Health announced the vacancies for positions of the heads of Abdali Medical Center, and Kabad Medical Center, which is affiliated to Jahra Health Zone as well as Head of Bneider-Wafra-Sabah Al-Ahmad-Khairan) at Ahmadi Health Zone.

It also announced a vacancy for the Head of Primary Health Care Unit in Jahra Health Zone.

Meanwhile, Ministry of Health requested all its sectors to provide it with the existing and concluded agreements signed by the ministry with universities, international colleges, technical institutions and consultancy firms. Some among them will be extended while new agreements are expected to be concluded soon so that those projects are covered in the budget of the new fiscal year 2018/2019.



The Kuwaiti campaign is dispersing emergency relief in Yemen through five sectors, including food, water, education, shelter and healthcare.



KUNA photos
Kuwaiti donors are keen on providing further support to the Jordanian societies and commissions, especially for helping the Syrian refugees in the Kingdom.

Weekly roundup of Kuwait's relief efforts

Kuwait donates \$500,000 financial 'aid' to Jordan's charity societies

KUWAIT CITY, July 29, (KUNA): Living up to its status as a "humanitarian center," Kuwait continued its relief action and campaigns to all those in need in the Middle East region and beyond throughout the just-ended week.

On Monday, Kuwait has donated over \$500,000 financial aid to Jordan's charity societies active in humanitarian and relief work.

The donation includes \$134,000 from the Kuwaiti Society of the Revival of Islamic Heritage to support the programs of the Jordan's Takaful (Solidarity) Association and the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO).

Implement

Kuwait's Society for Social Reform (or Al-Rahma International Charity) has also provided \$333,000 to implement a portion of the activities of its office in Jordan. Kuwait's Zakat (Alms) House also offered \$28,000 for supporting the Jordanian Club for Deaf.

For his part, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan Dr Hamad Al-Duaij stated to KUNA that Kuwaiti donors are keen on providing further support to the Jordanian societies and commissions, especially for helping the Syrian refugees in the Kingdom.

The embassy follows up amounts of money spent through field presence, in addition to reports provided by the relevant bodies, affirmed the Kuwaiti diplomat.

The Director of the Takaful Association in Al-Ramtha, northwest Jordan, Khaled Nawasara said the Kuwaiti donation is part of the coun-

try's aid to support the humanitarian conditions of the Syrian refugees in Jordan.

It will go to the medical center the association runs, for the benefit of 6,000 refugees, he added.

Bassel Shahada, Head of the Society for Social Reform office in Jordan, has also voiced gratitude to the Kuwaiti government and people for their regular backing to their activities in the Jordan.

Meanwhile, Sherin Hussein, Secretary of the deaf club, commended the decision approving to include the facility as a beneficiary of the Kuwaiti aid, adding that it will help promote the club's many activities and programs.

On Thursday, Kuwait has signed a funding deal for two water projects at a hospital and a camp for the internally displaced persons with Yemeni local authorities in Al-Jawf province.

The project, dubbed 'Kuwait is by your side,' is part of a philanthropic relief campaign in the province, located to the northeast of Sana'a, Saleh Baqalqa, project coordinator, told KUNA.

For his part, Yemeni Chairman of the Relief Committee in the province and Director of the governor's office in Al-Jawf Abdullah Al-Hashedi thanked Kuwait, led by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, for financing relief projects in the province.

The Kuwaiti campaign is dispersing emergency relief in Yemen through five sectors, including food, water, education, shelter and healthcare.

The Kuwaiti-Yemeni relief organization includes a number of Yemeni and Kuwaiti associations aiming to deliver the assistance to Yemen.

'Need to amend law concerning Hajj, Umrah pilgrimages'

High prices ... tied to cut in number of pilgrims

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Directors of Faisal Al-Baseeri Hajj Caravan Nasser Al-Bassam revealed that reducing the number of pilgrims is the reason behind high prices of Hajj, indicating that the prices of all services have been raised, reports Al-Anba daily.

In an interview with the daily, Al-Bassam stressed the need

to amend and review the law related to organizing Hajj and Umrah pilgrimages, lamenting that any manipulation of the caravan prices will negatively impact the services rendered to the pilgrims.

He called on the government and parliament to enact new law for promoting Hajj and Umrah caravans, affirmed

the need to make the caravan licenses permanent instead of temporary.

Al-Bassam affirmed that investing in real estates by the state and Public Investment Authority for bringing together Kuwaiti and expatriate pilgrims and offering distinguished services to them is in favor of Kuwait.

News in Brief

'Fingerprinting attendance for all': "Half justice is worse than injustice", says Dr Faleh Al-Azeb, the Minister of Justice and State Minister for National Assembly Affairs, concerning the exclusion of a number of employees of the ministry from the fingerprint attendance system, reports Al-Rai daily quoting informed sources.

They explained that the minister had given directives to implement the relevant decisions of Civil Service Commission (CSC) from Aug 1. These directives are part of a series of procedures aimed at improving the work mechanism of the ministry and punishing those who violate the decisions.

The sources revealed that the punishment include referring for administrative investigations those who failed to record their attendance using fingerprint for one week, and suspending from work those who failed to record their attendance using fingerprint for 15 days.

'Family of 5 converts to Islam': Al-Najat Charitable Society announced converting an entire Bolivian family of five in South America and a 19-year old from Colombia to Islam, reports Al-Rai daily.

In this context, Deputy General Manager for Public Relations and Revenues Dr Jamal Al-Shatti declared the two cases of conversion to Islam happened after Allah the Almighty opened their hearts to the religion. He said the converts were able to identify great principles of Islam through a preacher who specializes in Spanish via a direct dialogue presented by the Online Preaching Committee.

He explained the committee was trying to introduce Islam to people of other religions online and it was on a weekend that head of the Bolivian family simply known as Hector aged 54 saw an advert on Facebook in Spanish discussing how to become a Muslim.

He noted other members of the family, including Hector's 86 year-old father, his 44 year-old wife, 18-year old son, and 17 year-old daughter converted.

It is worthy of note the online direct dialogue service has helped in converting 550 people from 59 countries.

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