



HH the Amir receives HH the Crown Prince and HH the PM.



HH the Crown Prince receives HH the PM.



HH the Crown Prince receives Minister Al-Saleh.

KUNA photos

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Pleasure Dining

Exquisite Menu

Salmiya - Salem Al-Mubarak St. - Marina Plaza Complex
Roof Top Above Zara Home
Reservation Tel: 95554591 / 2 / 3

Opening Hours: 12:00 Noon to 12:00 Midnight

Prayer Timings	
Fajr	05:08
Sunrise	06:33
Zohr	11:42
Asr	14:32
Maghrib	16:51
Isha	18:13

Weather	
Expected weather for the next 24 hours:	
By Day:	Partly cloudy with light variable wind to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h.
By Night:	Rather cold with light variable wind to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speeds of 08-28 km/h with a chance for fog forming over some areas and some scattered clouds will appear.

4 days forecast - Weather	
Thursday, Dec 12	Expected weather: Clouds will increase gradually with a chance for rain that might be thundery later on
Friday, Dec 13	Expected weather: Partly cloudy with a chance for scattered rain
Saturday, Dec 14	Expected weather: Partly cloudy
Sunday, Dec 15	Expected weather: Partly cloudy

Marine Forecast	
Station	Max Min Sea Today's
	Exp Rec Surf Waves
South Dolphin	- - - 4ft SW

Audiences of HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah met His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace on Wednesday. His Highness the Amir also received His

Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace on Wednesday. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Prime Minister

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace on Wednesday. His Highness the Crown Prince also received Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Interior Minister Anas Al-Saleh. (KUNA)

Top local firms plan to withdraw their products from the co-ops over 'prices'

Bedouns to be appointed in cooperative societies

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 11: Major food companies in Kuwait are currently studying the option of withdrawing their products from cooperative societies due to the constant disregard by Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies towards their requests to increase the prices of their products, reports Aljarida daily quoting informed sources.

They explained that these companies argue that their request is in line with global price fluctuations, the high prices of raw materials and the production costs, and due to the announcement made by the Competition Protection Authority (CPA) which initially distances itself from the union's practices that are harmful and against the competitiveness norms in the market.

However, CPA later expressed its understanding of the issue, and in turn consulted the Fatwa and Legislation Department for its opinion in order to reinforce its decision that is due to be issued. This decision would halt and ban such harmful practices, and work on enhancing the spirit of free competition and ensuring the principles of equal opportunities among competitors prevail.

The companies' choice to withdraw their products from cooperative societies is their last compelling option, after they had gradually implemented all means to request for review of the prices for more than four years. They see that their demand is deserving with the aim of curbing the losses they sustain.

According to the sources, the estimated losses are not less than KD one million annually for each major company. The prices at which many of its products are currently sold, after increase in costs by the country of origin, are not equivalent to their cost price, even without adding any other costs.

The companies affirmed that the price increase would provide an atmosphere of competition by leaving the option of choice to the consumer, and would preserve the quality aspect. This is the case in all Gulf countries, and countries that follow the free economic system, as well as Kuwait which is a member of the World Trade Organization. In this regard, the companies expressed their dissatisfaction toward the response they received from the Competition Protection Authority through a letter which stated that it lacked jurisdiction in such matters. This is despite the fact that Article No. 4 of the Law on Competition Protection No. 10/2007 categorically prohibits agreements, contracts, practices or decisions harmful to free competition, and no party may impose price stabilization and prohibit its fluctuation. In addition, Law No. 10/1979 gives Ministry of Commerce and Industry the right to supervise trade of goods and determine their prices, provided there is a public interest that requires it. The sources indicated that, according to the law on Competition Protection, the practices of the Union of Consumer Coop-



HH the Prime Minister receives the minister of Brunei.

KUNA photo

Prime Minister hosts Brunei minister

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met Brunei Darussalam's visiting Second Minister of Foreign Affairs Erwan bin Pehin Yusof and his accompanying delegation at Bayan Palace on Wednesday. The encounter was attended by Assistant Foreign

Minister for the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ambassador Ali Al-Said and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Brunei Salah Al-Muteiri. (KUNA)

Dr Al-Sharikah's role in promoting tolerance hailed

UAE forum honors Kuwaiti scholar

By Bader Al-Sulaiman

ABU DHABI, Dec 11, (KUNA): The sixth Assembly of the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies currently held in Abu Dhabi honored on Tuesday Kuwaiti scholar Dr Abdullah Al-Sharikah in recognition for his role in promoting values of tolerance and peace.

Al-Sharikah, director of the Kuwait-based Center for Moderation, was awarded the Al-Hassan bin Ali Award for international peace for his efforts in spreading principles of tolerance.

This is an honoring for the Kuwaiti society who is a passionate promoter of peace, coexistence and tolerance which embody the real values of Islam, he told KUNA on the sidelines of the honoring ceremony.

Dr Al-Sharikah underlined the importance of inculcating values of moderation particularly among youth to counter all forms of deviant and extremist ideologies and thoughts. He devoted the award for His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah: the leader of humanitarian action and the main supporter of moderation.

The sixth Assembly of the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies in Abu Dhabi



KUNA photo

Kuwaiti scholar Dr Abdullah Al-Sharikah during the honoring.

aims to elevate religious freedom, cooperation, and tolerance from mere possibilities to necessary ethical commitments and legal obligations.

The interfaith meeting was held under the patronage of UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, with

the theme "The Role of Religions in Promoting Tolerance: From Possibility to Necessity".

It was attended by about 1,000 international religious and cultural figures including Chairman of Kuwait's International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) and Amiri Diwan advisor Dr Abdullah Al-Matouq.

erative Societies, which forces distribution companies to sell products at prices controlled by the union, restrict competition and eliminate free market mechanisms, which are in the interest of the consumer and also prevent monopoly.

Meanwhile, Deputy Head of Union of Customer Cooperative Societies Khalid Al-Hudaiban revealed that a circular was sent to all cooperative societies in Kuwait concerning the mechanism for appointing illegal residents "Bedoun", reports Aljarida daily.

Al-Hudaiban said the circular obligates the cooperative societies to register Bedoun employees in Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) in order to be granted work permits. He stressed the importance of committing to the conditions and regulations related to recruitment and appointments.

Al-Hudaiban explained that the Union of Customer Coopera-

tive Societies received on Nov 25 a letter from Ministry of Social Affairs to appoint Bedoun residents in cooperative societies based on the recommendations of the Central System for Remediating Status of Illegal Residents (CSRSIR).

The circular stresses the need to verify the legal status of the appointed Bedoun residents to ensure they are registered at CSRSIR.

Al-Hudaiban affirmed the keenness of the Board of Directors of Union of Customer Cooperative Societies to appoint Kuwaiti citizens especially in supervisory positions, indicating that the union, in coordination with Ministry of Social Affairs, has implemented the replacement policy to a large extent.

He indicated that the number of Kuwaiti employees in cooperative societies has reached an unprecedented rate. In the meantime, the Finance and Legal Committee of the Mu-

nicipal Council has referred to the Executive Authority of the Kuwait Municipality - a proposal submitted by the members, Hamad Al-Mudalaj and Abdulaziz Al-Mojil - to exempt cooperative societies from the road works fees for displaying their products, reports Al-Rai daily.

After the meeting yesterday, the Committee Chairman Hamad Al-Mudalaj said, the bylaw of road works for major festivals was discussed to allow cooperative societies to organize temporary exhibitions during festivals. The proposal has been submitted to the executive authority before its approval during the next committee meeting.

The sources explained that the committee also discussed amendments of the exhibitions bylaw, and giving some facilities to the owners of these exhibitions after preparing a detailed report provided the exhibitors receive an invitation from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.