



baseball

Page 21

# ARAB TIMES

THE FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY IN FREE KUWAIT  
Established in 1977 / www.arabtimesonline.com



swimming

Page 22

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, JULY 19-20, 2019 / ZUL QAADAH 16-17, 1440 AH

emergency number 112

NO. 17133

24 PAGES

150 FILS

# Incidents ... PACI denial on ID travel

'All told'

**KUWAIT CITY, July 18:** As passengers contend with the end of issuance of residence stickers in their passports, airlines have reported a few incidents on their outgoing flights from Kuwait. An official from a national South Asian carrier shared that a few passengers who had failed to present their Kuwait Civil ID card were unable to board their flights. All passengers travelling this summer are therefore strongly advised to carry both their valid passport and Civil ID card for a hassle-free exit and entry.

The General Immigration Department of Kuwait, meanwhile, says it has not received any complaint from anyone saying that he/she was denied entry into any country because the passport of the traveler resident in country did not carry the residence permit stamped on the passport, reports Al-Rai daily quoting informed sources.

The daily quoting the same sources said the method adopted by Kuwait of printing the personal data on the Civil ID of the holder will not change. In case if the names are more than two and there is no sufficient space to print the names of the Civil ID the person's first and last name will suffice with the inclusion of the initials of the second and third name. The sources pointed out the Civil ID carries the full name in Arabic and Latin and in case of loss of the ID the Kuwaiti mission must be contacted to enable the person to enter Kuwait.

The sources told the daily before the implementation of the decision to do away with the residence stickers on the passport, Kuwait had informed all the countries throughout the world through their embassies in Kuwait and the Directorates-General of Civil Aviation of the decision to cancel the residence stickers and include the information in the Civil ID of the holder.

The sources added, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and DGCA of Kuwait also had informed all concerned authorities of these procedures adopted by Kuwait.

On the other hand, the Public Authority for Civil Information Wednesday denied what has been published by a local newspaper that the Civil ID card was not accepted as a reference of residence permit by some European countries.

PACI added since the issuance of Ministerial Resolution No. 135/-2019 to cancel the residence stickers, there has been coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation to inform all countries that the Civil ID to be treated as residence permit reference.

The sources stressed this is the case in more than one country, including several Gulf states.

Surprisingly, as published by 'kuwaitlocal.com, June 30, 2019', a resident said on June 14, 2019, he was returning to Kuwait Qatar Airways, from Los Angeles to Qatar and Qatar to Kuwait.

He claimed he was held up at the Qatar Airways counter at the LA airport, because of his residence permit.

He claimed his residence permit was recently renewed is valid up to May 7, 2020. "So, as per the new Kuwait regulations everything was mentioned in the Civil ID. I showed them my Civil ID and told them that the details of my residence permit were mentioned therein. The Qatar Airways counter screen displayed the Residence Permit page and not my Civil ID. They told me either I should have a letter from Kuwait mentioning that Residence Permit and Civil ID are the same to which I replied that the residence validity is mentioned in the Civil ID and so far it seemed mine was the first case in Los Angeles.

"They sent my passport and Civil ID for verification several times. I was saved because my old residence permit was valid till 1st July and it was stamped in the passport and luckily there was no cancellation stamp. So, miraculously I saved the day, and they allowed me to travel. Otherwise I had to cancel all the flight tickets and had to visit the Kuwait Consulate in LA and get a letter from them. This is just to share my experience.

Looks like the Airport Authorities are not aware of the changes regarding Civil ID. In the UAE on the Civil ID it is mentioned the 'Resident Identity Card', in Qatar it is mentioned 'Residence Permit', in Kuwait it says 'Civil ID' and unfortunately nowhere it is mentioned the word 'resident'.



Aerial view of Arabian Gulf Street. - Mohammad Alhajri-KUNA

## Indian warships to stay longer in Gulf

# Iran seizes foreign tanker ... claims smuggling

### NewsWatch

**KUWAIT CITY:** The Amiri Diwan, Thursday, mourned the death of **Sheikha Maryam Bader Abdulaziz Al-Malek Al-Sabah**.

Sheikha Maryam, who passed away at age of 26, would be laid to rest this afternoon. (KUNA)

**KUWAIT CITY:** The Supreme Judiciary Council has approved the proposal which was submitted by MP **Abdulwahab Al-Babtain** on the amendment of the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law, which aims to narrow the scope of travel ban orders on Kuwaitis if the value of the debt does not exceed KD 1,000, reports Al-Anba daily.

The Supreme Judiciary Council replied in a memorandum, a copy of which has been obtained by Al-Anba, that the proposal referred to the purpose of restricting the scope of the travel ban to exclude the debtor if the debt does not exceed KD 1,000.

The proposal stated in its explanatory memorandum that it is justified as settled by the courts that a citizen shall not escape from the country due to a small debt.

**AMMAN:** Jordan, Egypt and the power grid authority of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) agreed on Thursday to form a joint technical committee to set up time frames and draft a memorandum of understanding that would lay the foundation for the implementation of the electricity grid project between the Gulf power grid and Europe via Jordan and Egypt.

This came during meetings in the capital Amman, which included officials in the energy sector in Jordan and the Gulf Electricity Interconnection Authority and Egypt to discuss the power grid project between the Gulf electricity network with Europe through Jordan and Egypt in the presence of Undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity and Water of Kuwait, Engineer **Mohammed Bushehri**. (KUNA)

**MOSCOW:** A top Russian official says Moscow is ready to sell fighter jets to Turkey after the **United States** excluded Turkey from its fighter jet program.

**Sergei Chemezov**, head of Russia's state-controlled Rostech corporation, said in a statement Thursday that Moscow would be willing to sell its Su-35 fighter jets to Turkey if Ankara "expresses interest."

US President **Donald Trump's** administration announced on Wednesday that Turkey was being kicked

out of the F-35 program because it was buying the Russian S-400 air defense systems. The US said that Russian system would compromise the American fighter jet program.

Turkey began taking delivery of components of the S-400 last week in defiance of US objections. (AP)

**WASHINGTON:** Congress is heading for a showdown with President **Donald Trump** after the House voted to block his administration from selling billions of dollars in weapons and maintenance support to **Saudi Arabia**.

Trump, who has sought to forge closer ties with **Riyadh**, has pledged to veto the resolutions of disapproval that passed the Democratic-led House largely along party lines on Wednesday. Two of the resolutions passed with 238 votes, while a third was approved with 237. Each of the measures garnered just four Republican backers.

The Senate cleared the resolutions last month, but like the House, fell well short of a veto-proof majority. Overturning a president's veto requires a two-thirds majority in both the House and Senate. (AP)

**WASHINGTON:** US Senate minority leader **Chuck Schumer** called on the FBI and the Federal Trade Commission to conduct a national security and privacy investigation into **Russia-based FaceApp**, whose mobile software application alters users' photos, in a letter sent on Wednesday.

FaceApp's artificial intelligence application for editing photos requires users to provide it with "full and irrevocable access to their personal photos and data," which could pose "national security and privacy risks for millions of US citizens," Schumer said in his letter to FBI Director **Christopher Wray** and FTC Chairman **Joe Simons**. (RTRS)

**AMMAN:** Russia has sent special forces in recent days to fight alongside Syrian army troops struggling to make gains in a more than two-month assault in northwestern **Syria** to seize the last opposition bastion, senior rebel commanders said.

They said although Russian officers and troops had been behind front lines directing the operations, using snipers and firing anti-tank missiles, this was the first time Moscow had sent ground troops on the battlefield in the campaign that began at the end of April. (RTRS)

**DUBAI, July 18, (RTRS):** Iran said on Thursday it had seized a foreign tanker smuggling fuel in the Gulf, and the US military commander in the region said the United States would work "aggressively" to ensure free passage of vessels through the vital waterway.

The United States blames Iran for a series of attacks on shipping in the world's most important oil artery since mid-May, accusations Tehran rejects but which have raised fears the long-time foes could stumble into war.

It was unclear if the impounded ship was the same vessel Iran towed to safety on Sunday after sending a distress signal. Iranian state television had earlier said it was the same ship but the Revolutionary Guards statement did not confirm that.

The Guards said the impounded ship was smuggling one million litres of fuel in the area of Larak Island in the Gulf and had 12 foreign crew.

Oil prices rose after news of the seizure amid rising tensions between Tehran and the West over the safety of shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital gateway for energy exports.

Brent crude futures were up 54 cents at \$64.20 a barrel by 1230 GMT after hitting a session high of \$64.46.

Reuters reported on Wednesday that shipping companies were hiring unarmed security guards for voyages through the Gulf as an extra safeguard.

Although Iran has yet to name the vessel, shipping industry sources said they believe it to be the MT Riah. Refinitiv data showed that the last signal received from the vessel was on Sunday when it was in the Strait of Hormuz off the Iranian island of Qeshm, heading towards Oman from Larak Island.

Washington said it was aware of the report but had no evidence "at this time to suggest Iran's claims are true".

"The United States will continue to work with our allies and partners to safeguard global commerce and support freedom of navigation," said a senior US administration official.

The tanker's registered manager is Prime Tankers in the UAE. That company told Reuters it had sold the tanker to another UAE-based company, Mouj al-Bahar.

An employee at Mouj al-Bahar said that the firm did not own it but had been managing the vessel up to two months ago, and that it was now under the management of a company called KRB Petrochem. Reuters could not reach KRB Petrochem for comment.

Iran, which has some of the world's cheapest fuel prices due to heavy state subsidies and the fall of its currency, has been fighting rampant fuel smuggling by sea to neighbouring countries and by sea to Gulf Arab states.

The Revolutionary Guards said in Thursday's statement they had seized no other ship in the Gulf, as Western countries expressed concerns over alleged Iranian actions in the region.

Since mid-May, attacks on tankers near the Strait of Hormuz have unsettled crucial shipping lanes that link Middle Eastern oil producers to markets in Asia, Europe, North America and beyond.

Iran denies involvement but has

threatened to respond robustly to US sanctions that have followed US President **Donald Trump's** abandonment of a 2015 treaty in which Iran agreed to restrict nuclear work in return for the lifting of sanctions.

The Islamic Republic says it will continue to reduce compliance with the accord until it is allowed to resume normal oil sales, and has demanded European parties to the nuclear deal rein in the United States.

Washington, however, says it wants to increase pressure on Iran to renegotiate the accord, discuss its missile program and modify its behaviour in the Gulf, where the United States is allied to several Arab states opposed to Iran.

US Central Command chief General **Kenneth McKenzie** said the United States was talking to several countries about ensuring freedom of navigation in the Gulf. He was speaking in Riyadh at a news conference with General Prince **Fahd bin Turki**, commander of the Saudi-led coalition fighting the Iran-aligned Houthis in Yemen.

Indian warships escorting merchant vessels in the Gulf will remain deployed for the longer term, officials with direct knowledge of the matter said, as tensions between Iran and Western powers rise.

But the two ships, backed by surveillance aircraft, will not be part of a military coalition that the United States is assembling to safeguard the waters off Iran near the Straits of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil moves, the two officials said.

Since June following attacks on tankers that the United States blamed on Iran and Iran-aligned fighters, a charge Tehran denies, the Indian navy ships have been escorting Indian-flagged vessels in and out of the Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

"This is not going to stop, the situation being what it is, we will be there for the foreseeable future," said an official with knowledge of naval deployments.

India's navy, which has traditionally operated closer to home waters, has over past year or so begun deployments across the Indian Ocean stretching from the Malacca Strait in Southeast Asia to waters off Africa, largely as a response to China's expanding weight across the region.

But the maritime operation in the Gulf is also to heed Trump's call that major buyers of Middle East oil protect their own tankers, a second Indian official with knowledge of India's policy on the region said.

The issue figured during Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** meeting with Trump on the sidelines of a G20 summit in Japan last month and Modi told the US leader he had sent ships to protect Indian-flagged vessels, the official said.

Trump has been putting pressure on European and Asian allies to shoulder security responsibilities and not depend on the United States alone.

On Friday, US officials will speak to members of the Washington diplomatic corps about the new initiative to promote freedom of navigation and maritime security around the Strait of Hormuz, the State Department said.

## KAF honors 'Do the Write Thing' envoys

**WASHINGTON, July 18, (KUNA):** The Kuwait-America Foundation (KAF), in partnership with the National Campaign to Stop Violence (NCSV), hosted its annual ceremony honoring the "Do the Write Thing" (DtWT) National Student Ambassadors under the theme "Of One Voice, Of One Heart."

The event recognized and honored 47 young students from across the US who have "committed to making communities safe for themselves and future generations" by participating in the DtWT Challenge, where they shared their compelling stories of distressing and often tragic situations, as well as hope.

Continued on Page 2



KUNA photo  
Kuwait's Ambassador to the US and KAF Chairman.



KUNA photo  
DtWT National Student Ambassadors share their compelling stories.