



Weekly Frankfurt, Kabul flights active

Saudi Aramco half-year net income plunges 50%

DUBAI, UAE, Aug 9, (AP): Saudi Aramco's net income plunged by 50 percent in the first half of the year...

514 new coronavirus cases, four deaths

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9, (Agencies): Kuwait's Civil Aviation Administration said on Saturday that weekly flights to Frankfurt and Kabul will be operating to gradually activate departures to and from the countries.

weekly flights from Kabul airport to KIA, centered on the Afghani peoples needs to travel based on health parameters.

514 new cases

Kuwait's Ministry of Health said Sunday 514 people tested positive for the coronavirus while four persons died of the disease in the past 24 hours.

ing treatment were 7,716.

Medical workers conducted 3,223 swab tests in the past 24 hours, raising total swabs since outbreak of the virus to 532,353.

Al-Sanad called on the public anew to abide by physical distancing and follow hygienic regulations.

The MoH announced earlier 713 people recovered from the virus to reach a total of 63,519.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced the suspension and closure of 31 commercial companies and shops from any activity...

The ministry affirmed these shops were closed for violating the laws and decisions on the supervision of goods, services, handicrafts, prices and others.

The ministry stated that the closures came according to a plan drawn by the commercial control teams...

The ministry indicated that some of the violating stores sell counterfeit goods while the car accessories stores exceeded the permissible limit for shading cars by 30 percent...

The ministry said that the closure operations covered several areas in the six governorates, stressing that it monitors companies through continuous inspection campaigns...

NewsWatch

\$677m 'owed'

US hospitals join to collect

RIYADH: An international arms embargo on Iran should remain in place beyond its October expiry...

"It is inappropriate to lift restrictions on the supply of weapons from and to Iran until Iran gives up its destabilizing activities in the region and stops supporting terrorist and sectarian organizations with weapons..."

Iran's persistent interference in the affairs of regional countries necessitates an extension to the arms embargo, which is set to end on Oct 18 under the Islamic Republics 2015 nuclear accord with world powers...

KUWAIT CITY: Regarding the leak of information related to the investigations carried out by the State Security Department concerning the "Malaysian Fund" (IMDB) scandal...

The source explained that the initial investigations, which were supervised by the State Security Department with the defendants involved in the Malaysian Fund scandal, were recorded in both audio and visual formats...

A traitor within the State Security Department was able to obtain the complete video and audio recordings. He then edited and divided it into short videos with the aim of obfuscating the issue...

KUWAIT CITY: An unidentified Egyptian woman has appealed to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Anas Al-Saleh, to help her sponsor her husband under Article 22...

In her appeal, the woman said she has a child and works as a teacher for a private sector. She added her husband suffered a stroke while on vacation in Egypt last year and remained in Egypt for more than six months as a result of which his visa expired automatically.

She said she is not the sponsor of her son and got a visit visa for her husband and is now in Kuwait since last February.

In her appeals she says she put her hope in God Almighty and in your honorable person to allow her to sponsor her husband because of his health condition and help them live a united family life. "I am the sole bread winner," the appeal concluded.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The US State Department has confirmed that it has raised the issue of the so-called 'American hospital debt' with the Kuwaiti government and was working to find a solution to it...

The daily added, this is the value of unpaid bills for advanced medical care that it provided to Kuwaiti citizens.

The daily in its Feb 18 issue quoting the Washington Post had published on the front page a story under the title, "Treatment expenses abroad touch one billion dinars..."

The sources stated that 45 medical centers, which include Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and MD Anderson in Houston and elsewhere, have worked unsuccessfully on their own and through the State Department to recover payments for cancer, heart, children and other care that they have provided to thousands of Kuwaitis.

In June, the medical facilities joined together in an unprecedented collective effort to seek repayment of the \$677.4 million in debt, and in July it enlisted a member of Congress to help solve the problem.

Amid the US claims that Kuwait owes \$677 million in accumulated 'hospital' bills over three years for treatment of Kuwaitis in the United States Al-Seyassah daily also learned from well-informed health sources that the Ministry of Health now looks to Pakistan to bring in dozens of doctors and specialists to work in its health facilities in the country, and are expected to arrive within a few weeks...

The sources explained this will fill the shortage in the number of doctors following the resignation of dozens of expatriate doctors. The sources told the daily agreements have been concluded with several countries to bring in trained medical and technical personnel, especially in vital specialties such as anesthesiology, intensive care and internal medicine.



A protester gestures during clashes with police as part of a protest against the political elite and the government after the deadly explosion at Beirut port which devastated large parts of the capital in Beirut, Lebanon on Aug 8. (AP)

Kuwaiti aid continues to pour into Lebanon

Planeloads of Kuwaiti aid flowed into Lebanon on Saturday just days after Beirut's deadliest peace-time explosion sparked unspeakable devastation across the Mediterranean city.

A pair of planes laden with medical supplies and food, organized by Kuwait, arrived in Beirut's international airport as part of ongoing aid delivery to a country still reeling from the tragedy, the Kuwaiti embassy in Lebanon said in a statement.

"We have just received two Kuwaiti planes carrying emergency aid as per instructions given by His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah," embassy advisor Abdullah Al-Shaheen told KUNA, pointing out that such support will continue "in this time of adversity."

Thanking Kuwait for the prompt aid, the Lebanese military said the two countries have stood together "through thick and thin," while Kuwait Red Crescent Society said it would ensure that families who had borne the brunt of the disaster will be the ultimate aid recipients...

A powerful blast in port warehouses near central Beirut on Tuesday killed more than a hundred people and left thousands without inhabitable homes, sending shockwaves that destroyed large swathes of the Lebanese capital. (KUNA)

- See Also Page 6

MPs 'tied to money laundering'

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh Arab Times Staff

Prosecution only authority to seize funds

More caught in web of laundering

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: In view of the recent explosions in Lebanon, MP Abdullah Al-Kandari submitted a proposal to form a committee or team that will make sure stores in Kuwait City, the surrounding areas, Kuwait International Airport, ports and land borders are free of flammable substances or explosives.

He said the committee members should include representatives of Kuwait Fire-fighting Force, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Oil, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Environment Public Authority and Kuwait Municipality.

He added the committee will double check the conditions of stores to ensure strict compliance with safety regulations. In another development, MP Riyadh Al-Adasani disclosed the Kuwait Financial Investigations Unit (KFIU) released reports showing that a number of current MPs are involved in money laundering and the balances of their bank accounts have increased dramatically.

He intends to reveal more facts in the upcoming session and then submit a full report to HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled.

On the other hand, MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subai'e posted on his Twitter account that the Ministry of Education announced that the non-Kuwaiti teachers will resume work Sunday. He said this announcement came at a time the ministry became sure that he is serious in his plan to grill Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Saud Al-Harbi. He added he will reveal shocking facts during the grilling.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The money laundering issue in Kuwait keeps weaving a spider's web as the 'Iranian Fouad Network' keeps trapping social personalities and officials in it, in addition to names of MPs and other influential people who appear to have links to the suspects, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In this context, the Ministry of Interior has announced that the State Security police had arrested a bedoun, identified only as S.T. He was picked from his posh 'Al-Salam' house in South Surrah on suspicion of money laundering, after investigations proved his wealth was beyond his means and was referred to the Public Prosecution for investigation.

Security sources revealed the task force which raided his home 'found in his possession some precious jewels, noting that investigations have proven that he has vast relations with a large number of influential people in the country and worked in partnership with a sitting Member of Parliament.

The sources explained, the man holding meetings and seminars in his diwaneya and was given wide media coverage. Taking part in the seminars were parliamentarians and representatives of civilian organizations.

The value of his house is estimated at more than one million Kuwaiti dinars. In addition to this he boasts of possessing expensive vehicles worth about one million dinars.

The sources added, the bank accounts of the accused have ballooned significantly in

recent years as a result of suspicious business deals, although he stated that he has accumulated his wealth by trading in lamps, watches and other things." The interesting fact is that the suspect's father is Iraqi, and holds proof that he is an Iraqi national.

In the new 'Fouad Network', informed security sources confirmed that investigations with the suspended employee from the Capital traffic department concluded that he was transferring vehicles registered in the name of Fouad Salehi to other people, as well as issuing vehicle registration documents for luxury vehicles through manipulation and forgery.

It stated that the suspect transferred vehicles to the names of people outside the official working hours and in the last hours before Fouad was arrested at the airport while attempting to leave the country as he became aware that the arrest process was imminent.

Also:

KUWAIT CITY: The Central Bank of Kuwait affirmed its close monitoring of the bodies subject to its control to verify the extent of their commitment in implementing all the legal requirements stipulated in Law No. 106/2013 regarding combating money laundering and terrorist financing, as well as the instructions and decisions issued by the Central Bank in this regard, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In response to a parliamentary question on the case of money laundering in the Malaysian Fund, the Central Bank ex-

plained that it is not within its competence to grant approvals to banks regarding the financial transfers that clients request to make. This is the responsibility of the bank in accordance with the instructions stipulated, as it must continuously follow up the movement of clients' accounts with it. It must also verify that the executed transactions are in line with the information available about them. The bank must also identify the purpose for which the funds are transferred abroad.

Regarding measures taken by the Central Bank and the Financial Intelligence Unit regarding the sums transferred to Kuwait from abroad on Aug 26, 2017 and deposited in a Kuwaiti company's account in a foreign bank in Kuwait or any other bank, the Central Bank said the concerned bank, in accordance with the existing obligations under the provisions of Law No. 106/2013, has performed the role entrusted to it in terms of following up these transactions, as it notified the Financial Investigation Unit about it without any delay, procrastination or laxity on its part in that regard.

Regarding seizing the amounts, Law No. 106/2013 does not give financial institutions or the Central Bank the authority to reserve or seize suspicious funds, but rather this authority in accordance with Article 22 is given to the Attorney General or whomever he delegates from among the attorneys, if he has sufficient evidence related to a money laundering crime or a terrorist financing crime or a predicate offense.