



People enjoying early morning at the Salmiya beach.

Photo by Bassam Abu Shanab

Systematic campaign targeting Kuwait politically, financially underway: govt

'Ties with Arab states on mutual respect'



Minister of Education Dr Saud Al-Harbi visits one of the schools in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate to check on the preparedness before the reopening of the schools.



Work on cracked pipe ongoing.

'Arrange periodic visits to expat laborers' accommodations'

Submit monthly reports on contracts of MPW, Al-Failakawi instructs all sectors

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Undersecretary of Ministry of Public Works Ismail Al-Failakawi has called on all sectors of the ministry to submit a technical report to him on a monthly basis regarding the progress of work on all technical and administrative contracts of the ministry, irrespective of whether they are construction or consulting services contracts, as well as contracts related to chapters two and three, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The circular issued by Al-Failakawi required all sectors to arrange periodic visits to the accommodations of expatriate laborers working on these contracts and submit a periodic photocopy report about them every three months to the undersecretary's office.

The circular stipulated holding a monthly meeting with the assistant undersecretaries and directors of departments for discussing the various

items related to spending the operational budget and comparing it with the approved budget, spending the capital budget, and following up the payments of contractors.

During the meeting, which is to be held in the first week of each month, work developments related to the ministry's contracts will be discussed, the most important of which is the completion rate of work on these contracts, and cross-checking the completion rate of work with the approved timetable based on the monthly payments.

The discussions will also determine the percentage of disbursement for maintenance and operation contracts and their comparison with the estimated monthly value highlighted in the contract, and to ensure that alternative and future contracts for operation and maintenance are signed before the expiry of the existing contract.

The follow-up process will include the submission of contracts

- both initial and final, the disbursement of guarantees and any entitlements to subcontractors and the contractor apparatus to close the contract, in addition to following up the contractors' claims, and ensuring they are reviewed and decided upon.

Meanwhile, the Assistant Undersecretary of the Sanitary Engineering Sector Waleed Al-Ghanim visited the Jahra Pumping Station and inspected the repair work on one of the pipes near Amghara Bridge.

Al-Ghanim stressed the need to expedite the completion of the repair work of the pipe, especially since the technical teams withdrew large quantities of water from the area.

He said work would continue at the site for at least five more days after discovering presence of abundant groundwater in it, in addition to the water coming from the cracked pipe.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: A high-ranking government source affirmed that "the talk about preventing Kuwaitis from leaving Egypt or holding them hostage there has no basis at all", reports Al-Rai daily.

In this context, the Kuwaiti Embassy in Cairo announced that it is closely following developments and staying in contact with the Kuwaiti citizens in Egypt, especially students. He denied reports that Egyptian authorities are preventing Kuwaitis in Egypt from booking return flights to Kuwait through other transit countries.

The Kuwaiti government source warned "there is a systematic campaign targeting Kuwait, not only politically but financially".

He stressed that "Kuwait's relationship with all Arab countries are based on mutually established and steadfast respect, saying it is also rooted in policies His Highness the Amir laid and established but Kuwait does not accept interference from any party in its internal affairs, whether Arab or otherwise."

Racism

He pointed out that "the Kuwaiti policy does not recognize racism in dealing with others. Rather, it is built on the fundamentals kindness and peace". He added "this policy is unique in dealings and doesn't mix or generalize issues, so what is good is good and what is bad remains bad."

The source stated the proportion of Egyptians compared to other foreigners working in the first rows in Kuwait exceed 90 percent.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti Embassy in Cairo issued a statement saying that Kuwaiti citizens who wish to leave Egypt have been informed that they can book with any airline that works with the Egyptian airports, aside from the countries specified by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, under Kuwait's suspension of air traffic between Kuwait and Egypt in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

MEW appointments: Minister of Electricity and Water and the Minister of Oil, Dr Khaled Al-Fadhel, has issued a decision to appoint Engr Saad Marzouq Al-Rashidi as Director of the Distribution Networks Department, reports Al-Seyasah daily.

The minister has issued another decision to appoint 14 departments' heads in several sectors - applicants who had passed the written exams and oral interviews. This decision is the first after its suspension due to the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. The sources added, similar decisions are expected to be issued later to appoint managers and observers who also will be subjected to oral interviews.

All vacancies are expected to be filled before October 2020.



No regard for social distancing as hundreds of expatriates visit the Jleeb Al-Shuyouk make-shift markets.

Photos by Bassam Abu Shanab

Female security officers to be paid soon: MoE

Debts owed to Higher Education Ministry exceed KD 26 mn: Harbi

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Saud Al-Harbi revealed that the amount of debts owed to Ministry of Higher Education and its affiliates, as per the final accounts for the last fiscal year, is KD 26,215,381, reports Al-Rai daily.

In response to a question by MP Khalil Al-Saleh, the minister said the amount of debts that are difficult to collect is KD 2,598,621, due to the age of these debts, as some of them date back to more than 20 years, and the ministry does not have the documents related to them.

Dr Al-Harbi indicated that 98 percent of the debts recorded from the total debts owed to the government are students' debts, and decisions were issued concerning them to dismiss or withdraw from the academic scholarship program with the financial claim.

He explained that the ministry is working hard towards settling the aforementioned

account balance, and has taken all measures to collect those amounts.

It formed the Financial Claims Committee based on the ministerial decision No. 2014/8/2018 issued on 09/08/2018 and took all legal procedures for collecting the amounts owed to the government by filing lawsuits to claim debts.

Meanwhile, Assistant Undersecretary for Financial Affairs in the Ministry of Education Yousef Al-Najjar said the salaries of female security officers in Farwaniya Educational District will be paid for the months due within 10 days, after obtaining their account numbers, reports Al-Rai daily.

Al-Najjar confirmed that there is coordination between the Ministry of Education represented by the Financial Sector and the Public Authority for Manpower to disburse these dues as soon as possible, affirming the ministry's keenness not to further delay the payment.

'Alternatives to Lebanese products available'

Co-ops union assures availability of commodities in the local market

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Head of the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies (UCCS) Fahad Al-Kashti reassured the stability of the Kuwaiti markets and the availability of products and items, stressing there are alternatives to Lebanese products from Egypt, Jordan and Turkey, reports Al-Rai Daily.

In a statement to the daily, Al-Kashti said that Lebanese products in the cooperative societies are limited, and most of them are vegetables and fruits, while several alternatives are available from neighboring countries.

Al-Kashti stressed that the union monitors the cooperative markets, and closely observes the prices on a continuous basis to preserve market stability, and it will not allow any price increase outside the permissible limits.

He stated the Union will confront all violations by all means with deterrent measures in its capacity to maintain the reasonable prices for consumers.

Al-Kashti indicated the last period witnessed the availability of different types of commodities from all countries of the world, in quantities sufficient for 6



Fahad Al-Kashti

months, saying "we will study the market to find out the actual need for each type." He pointed out that the directives of His Highness the Crown Prince to provide all forms of support to the brothers in Lebanon are evidence of the stability and durability of Kuwait's condition and the availability of all services, goods, and products.