



KUNA photo  
HH the Heir Apparent Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received recently His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Sabah. Various issues were discussed.

# Cannot make friends easily, don't feel at home – survey

Salmiya ranked bottom rung on ladder

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28:** The latest Expat Insider report by InterNations ranked Salmiya as the worst city in the world for expats, with a rank of 66/66 followed by Rome, which came in 65th, and Seoul, which ranked 64th. In a new ranking by InterNations Spain's third-largest city Valencia has been named the best destination for expatriates, reports Al-Rai daily quot-

ing <https://www.internations.org>

The Expat City Ranking 2020, done after an extensive survey, has ranked three other Spanish cities in the top ten – Alicante (2nd), Málaga (6th) and the capital Madrid (9th). Ranking 8th, Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) has made it in the top ten for a fourth successive year while Abu Dhabi, taking the 10th spot, is the best-rated Middle Eastern destination this year, according to the ranking.

The Expat City Ranking is based on the annual Expat Insider survey by InterNations, considered the largest global community with some four million members in 420 cities around the globe.

With such a diverse membership, InterNations is seen as a valuable source of information for people who live and work abroad. According to InterNations report, Salmiya does not only rank last in the Expat City Ranking in general, but it is also the worst rated city in the Getting Settled Index (66th out of 66).

Indeed, the Kuwaiti city places last or second to last in three out of four subcategories in this index, with only the Local Language subcategory getting a better – but still below-average – result (40th). The majority of respondents doesn't feel at home in Salmiya (54% v/s 21% globally), finds it hard to make new friends (59% v/s 33% globally), and disagrees that it is easy to get used to the local culture (52% v/s 21% globally).

**Tragedy averted:** Al-Jahiz's historical tragedy almost re-occurred at the National Library of Kuwait when a part of its shelves suddenly collapsed, threatening the life of the librarian and a visitor, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Fate was merciful to librarian Khaled Al-Deen, who was able to jump and escape from the dozens of books which suddenly fell on him while he was working.

His father Ahmad Al-Deen – a politician – narrated that his son who works as a librarian in the National Library of Kuwait has been suggesting since 2015 to fix the shelves because they are not stable and defective even if the library is new; but government bureaucracy prevented it.

Ahmad added that towards the end of working hours on Thursday, his son Khaled was sitting with a visitor to help him over some matters when the shelves collapsed and nearly hit them had it not been for the fact that fate was merciful to them.

He disclosed Secretary-General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters Kamel Al-Abd Al-Jalil was immediately notified and pictures were sent to him to explain the incident.



Photo by Bassam Abu Shanab

A pool formed after heavy rain in the area in Hawally.

## 'Don't pick strange objects'

The Ministry of Interior has issued a warning against touching or picking up strange objects which could be uncovered by rains.

They could be hazardous un-explored ordnance, it clarified in a statement,

encouraging citizens and residents to be cautious and vigilant.

In case of suspecting any strange object, call the ministry emergency hotline (112) for the safety and security of all, the ministry advised. (KUNA)

## UCCS requests to waive off its shares in 'Al-Durra Company'

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28:** Ministry of Social Affairs received an official letter from the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies (UCCS) requesting to waive its shares in the Al-Durra Domestic Labor Recruitment Company after three years of its establishment, reports Aljarida daily.

After more than three years since the establishment of Al-Durra Domestic Labor Recruitment Company, the company failed to achieve the desired goal in terms of expanding the circle of countries that export domestic labor force and creating new markets in addition to the current limited ones. The company also failed to fill the severe shortage that the market is currently suffering from, or reduce the costs of the recruitment process.

According to sources, the Ministry of Social Affairs, represented by the National Cooperative Projects Committee, recently received an official letter from the Union of Consumer Cooperative

Societies, requesting to waive its shares in the company.

The percentage of the union in Al-Durra is the largest among the shares of the other four entities, which are the Public Institution for Social Security, the Public Authority for Minors Affairs, Kuwait Airways Corporation, and the Kuwait Investment Authority.

The sources explained that the approval of the union's Board of Directors to waive its share in the company, which would result in its withdrawal from its Board of Directors, is a clear indication of the disastrous failure that the company has reached. The union's continued membership incurs additional losses in addition to the actual losses which it is currently sustaining, as it has hit the value of the capital, due to mismanagement, lack of vision, failure to operate the company, as well as the existing conflicts caused by some parties upon the hijacking of its leadership.

## Other Voices

# 'Every cloud has a silver lining'

"FOR TWO decades or more, the global media has been leading the news of the Arab region, and what happened in a number of countries in terms of revolutions, conflicts, wars, devastation, and painful events that claimed the lives of many Arabs, others were displaced students were deprived of education and families of decent life," columnist Dr Moudhi Al-Humoud wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"Unfortunately, the news of the Arabs in the media only declined when a bigger calamity befell the world, namely the Covid-19 pandemic, which did not exclude anyone. It affected rich and poor countries, developed and developing nations, and the number of victims exceeded the number of Arabs killed on all the fronts.

"Students all over the world are deprived of education, and the economies of the largest and richest countries have been disrupted, and the world united and gathered its forces to confront the crisis and address its effects to protect humans and return normalcy to the world. As we move forward the world is still looking for way to confront this dreadful epidemic.

"In our Gulf region, news of the health crisis was not the only focus, but the increasing political interest in the countries of the region with news of the Israeli, Emirati and Bahraini agreements, and with the beginning of the manifestations of reducing the Iranian role in the region and limiting its military expansion in some of the countries.

"News has recently dealt with the holding of the virtual international meeting of G-20 countries in Riyadh on November 21 and 22. They are the countries that represent two-thirds of the global population and whose production amounts to more than 80% of the total global production, as well as their share of 75% of international trade.

"They met to commit this time to the health of people and humanity and to pump among them more than \$21 billion dollars to meet research and vaccine needs to combat the disease, and pledged five trillion dollars to the global economy to combat the economic and health effects of the pandemic.

"Perhaps we do not know what happened to the whole world, including the advanced ones, that made efforts to save people in general, and the Arab world in particular, from some of its crises.

"These changes are occurring and accelerating in the world and affecting the region, negatively and positively, and we alone were preoccupied with our internal problems and forgot the future and its generations, until the Corona crisis, exposed our problems and highlighted them, and this took us by surprise.

"As our oil prices decline, news of financial corruption increases, and the political and electoral appointments became a reality. We turned a blind eye and gave a deaf ear to forged certificates and did not move a finger about who obtained them, on the strength of which they climbed the steps of the ladder and occupied highest positions; we facilitated the encroachment on public property, and the violations varied in their forms without punishment or accountability.

"We say again, 'Every cloud has a silver lining'. The problems that have been revealed may push us to seize the available opportunities to address them if the intentions are correct, because the next National Assembly elections gives us an opportunity, and the next ministerial formation also gives another opportunity.

"To review public policies is a responsibility and an opportunity so let us seize these opportunities as a people and a government to bring about change, and not waste them so that we don't lose the nation, rather we protect it."

### Also:

"I wish the National Assembly will be dissolved, and parliamentary life suspended for a few years until the surrounding regional political situation stabilizes," columnist, former ambassador Ahmad Al-Dawas wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"Our MPs are ignorant of the misfortunes and tribulations around them and the world because their practices undermine the security and stability of the homeland instead of strengthening its internal front. They always want to clash with power. If the situation goes on as is how can we believe and trust them. Kuwait is almost lost because of the performance of some of them.

"I wish you, MPs to take into consideration the interest of country. Some of you who are 'ignorant' have dared to demand the 'appointment' of a popular prime minister; the mistake I call grave. Any change in the current political system will be disastrous to the country. Here are some examples.

"The King of Cambodia, (Norodom) Sihanouk, during his rule of 50 years gave his country security and happiness, while Vietnam the neighboring country was bogged down in war with US and North Vietnamese forces. The fighting spread and some Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia, as they fled the American forces. So there was a coup in Cambodia, carried out by the communists, who removed the king and put him under house arrest inside his palace.

"Here chaos and fear reigned throughout the country, and events developed; so the Communists took over power and began to execute many teachers, doctors, lawyers, engineers, state employees, politicians, policemen, singers and actors, and inflicted casualties on about two million people; a third of the country's population.

"In the African Continent, Cameroon was a stable country but its English-speaking population felt they were being sidelined in all aspects of life and political representation. When they protested, the government treated them as terrorists, and chaos reigned over the country and the northern parts of Cameroon became vulnerable to the operations of the criminal Nigerian 'Boko Haram' group. The Islamist extremists entered

Cameroon and carried out suicide bombings; a quarter of a million Cameroonians fled their country; their homes were occupied, and thousands rushed in and plundered the homes of the fleeing Cameroonians.

"The king of Nepal ruled in security and stability but a group of people asked him to carry out some constitutional reforms. The situation evolved so that people took part in popular demonstrations denouncing the authority, and the situation deteriorated and a civil war erupted.

"In the midst of this the king stepped down, monarchy was abolished and the country was declared a republic, but the people paid a heavy price. Thousands of citizens died, and ethnic and class conflicts arose with the corruption of officials, the army and the police, instead of achieving cohesion within a framework of national unity.

"Paraguay was the Switzerland of South America; its condition deteriorated when the military seized power. From these examples we can learn lessons that any change in the existing political system may have tragic consequences.

"What confirms to us the sincerity of these analyses is that the situation in Egypt, Iraq, Libya and Yemen is better during the monarchy, but following the revolutions, the internal situation deteriorated.

"We are now afraid for our country to be lost this time, as some MPs have started incitements against the prime minister through threats of interpellations undermining his position because he is a revered Sheikh.

"The country looks impatient until the state accepts the calls for a popular prime minister and here the disaster begins, so God willing, a civil war will not occur in Kuwait, but certainly the Kuwaiti society will be torn apart if an ordinary citizen who favors his comrades or his tribe takes the position. This group may say the rule is for us now, or it may turn against the established regime.

"Enough is enough to what happened to Kuwait. Give thanks to your Lord for the blessing of security and stability, while the regional situation is dangerous and the peoples of the world are suffering from crises and deteriorating living conditions."

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"In every election, we notice everything that is said is not implemented. They say we are against sectarianism, yet sectarianism is always on the rise. They say we are against tribalism, yet it is accepted in society through the capability of some," columnist Dr Ali Al-Zoubi wrote for Al-Shahid daily.

"They say we are against racism, yet their racism incessantly rises above our heads. They swear that they are against corruption, yet they ride the horses of corruption day and night soon after being elected.

"They declare that they are against the use of 'wasta' (influence), yet the number of parachute appointments escalates over the chairs once they reach Abdullah Al-Salem Hall.

"In other words, they claim that they are contesting the elections in order to combat corruption, monitor tenders, stop the wastage of public money, question any minister who falls short in his work, and alleviate the suffering of citizens.

However, once they succeed, they accompany the corrupt, monitor tenders to benefit from them, and question any minister who obstructs their deals! If you ask them about the homeland and the citizen, they would tell you with bravado: 'What does a homeland mean? What does it mean to be a citizen?!'"

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"The service lawmaker, and you, students of the service lawmaker ... elect this lawmaker ... and stay away from him," Iqbal Al-Ahmad wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"Beware and make sure to choose the candidate who speaks for the people ... Be careful not to elect the service lawmaker. A direct question – Is the problem with this candidate or the lawmaker whose first and last concern is to clear out his voters' transactions and electoral rules?"

"I assure that the problem is not with the lawmaker; rather the problem lies in the one who opens the doors wide to receive this lawmaker, who leaves his basic work inside Abdullah Al-Salem Chamber or through his delegates, and moves from one ministry to another carrying files, papers and transactions awaiting someone to seal, sign or pass it on illegally, or give it priority over others if it is legal.

"The State is the one that opens the doors for this lawmaker and others – the doors of the ministries and services. Otherwise if the government is really serious about limiting or eliminating this type of lawmaker, it could simply issue direct instructions to all its ministries to prevent any transaction from being received from the lawmakers in the National Assembly... and the matter is over."

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"The recent report of the State Audit Bureau which was circulated by the media – proved that the Ministry of Education was unable to implement the integrated system for educational reform, which is part of the education quality projects mentioned in the State's development plan," columnist Dr Essa Mohammad Al-Deamirai wrote for Al-Rai daily.

"Despite spending about KD 71 million in the past 10 years, and despite informing the ministry officials about the bureau's reports over the last period, no effort has been exerted to address violations, or at the very least, issue a directive to solve such issues and stop the wastage of millions of dinars.

"On the other hand, such expenditure confirmed that the project completion rate reached 48.3 percent only, even if the deadline for completion ended on March 31, that is, with the onset of the corona pandemic which has been used as an excuse in such cases.

"This means violations in the project continue and nothing has been done to address them! The assessment revealed the low rates of disbursement on the project during the years of its implementation, which leads to a delay in benefiting from the project."

— Compiled by Ahmad Al-Shazi

تطورات مرض فيروس كورونا COVID-19

وزارة الصحة الإعلام الصحي

Saturday 2020/11/28 السبت

319 إصابة جديدة NEW CASES الإجمالي Total 142,195	1 حالة وفاة جديدة NEW DEATHS الإجمالي Total 875	586 حالة تعافي جديدة NEW RECOVERIES الإجمالي Total 135,889
77 إجمالي الحالات في العناية المركزة TOTAL SERIOUS CASES	5,431 إجمالي الحالات التي تتلقى العلاج TOTAL ACTIVE CASES	4,242 مسحة جديدة NEW TESTS الإجمالي Total 1,086,669

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### Package 'costly'

## Return of '34' mullied

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28:** Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) will hold a meeting next week with National Aviation Services (NAS) to coordinate and discuss the appropriate mechanism for the return of expatriates from the 34 banned countries, as well as the final plan for the return of domestic workers after the National Assembly elections, reports Al-Anba daily quoting official sources from KAC.

Sources disclosed the officials and executive management of the two companies will attend the meeting; indicating the agenda include determining the value of the 'package' around KD 600 to KD 700 for the obligatory quarantine period of 14 days, corona test (PCR) and –return flight.

Sources said the Council of Ministers will issue the decision to allow the return of expatriates from the banned countries after reviewing the return plan of DGCA, KAC, Jazeera Airways and NAS.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Justice, represented by the Information Technology and Statistics Sector, announced the launching of the service for subscribing to text messaging service, registration on the ministry's website, and verification of the applicant's identity through integration with 'Kuwait Mobile ID' application, reports Al-Anba daily.

The sector revealed that the applicant must activate the 'Kuwait Mobile ID' application, while the authentication will be sent through the application.

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