

Kuwaitis & Gulf citizens entry through land border restricted from 8am-2pm

'Flow of travelers slow on first day of opening'



HH the Deputy Amir receives Al-Saleh.

KUNA photo

HH Deputy Amir receives interior minister

His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Thursday, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Khalid Al-Saleh. (KUNA)

Hold all those responsible for corruption: Group 80

'Preserving unity of Kuwaiti society vital'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: The "Group 80" has demanded the necessity of preserving the unity of Kuwaiti society, especially during this period that is witnessing many political disputes and cases of partisanship, reports Al-Qabas daily. A delegation from the group, which included its General Coordinator Adel Al-Zawawi, said this during their recent visit to the daily where they met the Editor-in-Chief Walid Abdullatif Al-Nisf and had a lengthy discussion concerning the national issues and the aspirations of the future Kuwait. The members of the group

stressed the need to preserve the Kuwaiti identity, and to commit to implementing the law regarding granting Kuwaiti nationality. They insisted that the Kuwaiti identity must always remain a national priority. The members did not hide their fears about the fact that the outcomes of the much-awaited parliamentary elections would not achieve the aspirations of the citizens. However, they affirmed their hope and optimism for the upcoming change. They called for the need to uphold national principles and protect

Kuwait's history from distortion. The members acknowledged the recent attack on the group, justifying it as a normal phenomenon sparked by different tendencies and agendas. However, they affirmed that they are steadfast in the face of this attack and are able to overcome all difficulties. Regarding the file of corruption, they insisted on the importance of the concerned authorities to continue their efforts to eradicate this devastating scourge from the society once and for all, and to hold those responsible for the corruption accountable of their actions, regardless of their positions or status.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: The Nuwaiseeb border crossing between Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia witnessed the entry and departure of dozens of Kuwaiti and Saudi citizens, as well as citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries since early morning - the first day of opening the borders between the two brotherly countries after a period of closure that exceeded six months due to the corona pandemic, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily quoting an informed security source affirmed that the Ministry of Interior had specified Nuwaiseeb border only for the entry of Kuwaitis and Gulf nationals, while Nuwaiseeb and Salmi borders could be used as exit, as regards the entry and exit movement to and from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The source revealed that any Gulf citizen has the right to leave for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia according to the instructions given in this regard by Saudi authorities, provided that they are in possession of a PCR certificate issued 48 hours before traveling and proving that they're free of corona, except for young children, to avoid the trouble of sending them back. He pointed out that some travelers were sent back, because they did not carry passports, being the only approved document the Kingdom has set for traveling in the corona crisis.

Visa

As for domestic workers or holders of Article 20 residency accompanying Kuwaitis or Gulf nationals, their entry into the Kingdom is subject to the existence of a visa issued by the embassy in Kuwait. The source pointed out that Kuwaiti authorities will grant entry to only citizens having PCR and Gulf citizens working in some state ministries, provided that the ministries they work have sent notifications to the Ministry of Health on their desire to return Gulf citizens to their places of work, but no instructions have been received in that concern. He pointed out that the entry of Kuwaitis and Gulf citizens through the Nuwaiseeb border is from 8am until 2pm and for exit, the two borders (Salmi and Nuwaiseeb) are constantly open, stressing employees are present around the clock. Regarding the number of passengers recorded on the first day, the source said "until now, they are in hundreds and will be counted daily". He concluded that most of the departing Kuwaitis had been cut off from their lawful activities throughout the corona pandemic.

School delaying MoE's decision on e-education

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: According to reliable sources from the educational sector, the Iranian School of Kuwait has been delaying the implementation of the Ministry of Education's decision No. 60/2020 which requires all Arab and foreign private schools to complete the second semester of previous academic year 2019/2020 via distance learning, reports Al-Jarida daily.

They explained that the school repeatedly requested the officials of the Private Education Sector to allow its students to resume studying inside its building under the pretext that the Iranian educational system prohibits distance learning. However, its requests in this regard were rejected. The Private Education Sector has taken necessary measures against the school in accordance with the rules and regulations, which eventually prompted the school to abide by the ministry's decision and start the process of completing the school year for its students remotely according to the approved plan.

The school will issue certificates to students who are expected to graduate in the final year within the next few days, based on the evaluation procedures and controls approved by the Ministry of Education. The sources affirmed that the officials of the Private Education Sector in the ministry have been following up the progress of the educational process in all private schools through periodic inspection rounds.



Marzouq Al-Ghanim receiving Iraq's Al-Halbousi.

KUNA photo

Speaker holds official talks with Iraqi counterpart

Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim held official talks on Thursday with the Speaker of Iraq's Council of Representatives Mohammad Al-Halbousi, who is on a three-day visit to Kuwait. The discussions revolved around bilateral relations and means of strengthening and developing them for parliamentary reasons, a state-

ment by the official parliamentary Al-Dostour news service read. The lawmakers also exchanged viewpoints on international topics and matters of joint interest, including the latest changes in the fields of economics and health. Following the discussions Al-Ghanim held a luncheon in the honour of the visiting lawmaker and his accompanying delegation. (KUNA)



FM receives Iraq's Al-Halbousi.

KUNA photo

FM hosts Iraqi top lawmaker

Foreign Minister and acting Defense Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah received on Thursday the Iraqi Parliament Speaker Mohammad Al-Halbousi, accompanied by a delegation, who was on a three-day official visit to Kuwait. The two sides discussed bilateral relations, regional and international issues, the foreign ministry said in a

statement. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocol Affairs Ambassador Dhari Al-Ajran, Assistant Foreign Minister for Arab Affairs Ambassador Fahad Al-Awadhi, Assistant Foreign Minister for the Minister's office Saleh Al-Loughani, and other officials from the Ministry. (KUNA)

Sector working on list of night shift workers

Power minister said expected to OK promotion of 940 employees

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17: Minister of Oil, Electricity and Water Dr Khalid Al-Fadhel is expected to approve the promotion of 940 employees in the Ministry of Electricity and Water on Sunday, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting sources from the ministry.

Sources disclosed the decision will be implemented retroactively starting from March 31, clarifying the promotion was delayed due to the corona pandemic.

Sources added the Financial Affairs Sector in the ministry approved the list of 1,200 employees who got excellent performance rating for the year 2019. Sources explained the performance evaluation of these employees was delayed due to problems related to the fingerprint and uncertainties surrounding their completion of 180 working hours as per the conditions stipulated by the Civil Service

Commission (CSC). Sources said the total amount due to these employees is about KD900,000; affirming the ministry will send the list to the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) on Wednesday to pave way for the payment of their excellent performance bonus. Sources revealed 34 employees, who submitted their grievances regarding their evaluation in 2018, will be included. Sources affirmed a special committee tasked to look into these grievances reviewed the files of the 34 employees, stressing that the decision to grant them the bonus is based on the relevant rules. Sources went on to confirm that the sector is also working on the list of night shift employees to pave the way for the payment of their night differential. Sources added the list of night shift employees in South Zour Station was submitted two days ago.

SCPD chief holds press confab

135 projects included in 2019-20 development plan, says Dr Mahdi

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 17, (KUNA): Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD) Dr Khaled Mahdi said total number of projects included in the annual 2019-20 development plan amounted to 135, as opposed to 132 ventures in the 2018-19 fiscal year.

This was mentioned in a speech by Mahdi on sidelines of a news conference, held by the General Secretariat of SCPD Tuesday, to announce results of the annual plan follow-up report of 2019-20 that ended on March 31, 2020.

He added that the continuous annual plan projects from previous plans amounted to 119, as well as 16 new ones, noting that the percentage of projects in the implementation phase for this year reached 50 percent.

The completed rate of ventures are in the following; 10 projects with seven percent done, three projects with two percent, 67 others at 50 percent, 51 ventures with 38 percent, in addition to four projects at three percent, he explained.

Number of challenges facing execution of projects reached 660, including 248 administrative challenges, 190 technical challenges, 103 of financial natures, 91 challenges for supervisory authorities and 28 legislative ones, he said, adding that 492 others were solved, accounting for 75 percent of the total hurdles that emerged in projects' execution.

The completion rate of projects are in the following; the Clean Fuels project amounted to 98.8 percent, Al-Zour Refinery project at 95.4 percent, Shagaya

Renewable Energy Park project reached 95.2 percent and Al-Mutlaa City project with 58 percent, he said. He explained the completion rate for the following projects: Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port project amounted to 52.7 percent, Kuwait International Airport Terminal 2 project reached 35.1 percent, Sabah Al-Salem University City project at 54.8 percent and Al-Sabah Hospital project was 73 percent. He indicated that 40 percent of the projects are in line with the schedule, 2 percent of the projects are ahead of schedule, while 58 percent are late. Meanwhile, Assistant Secretary-General for Planning and Follow-up Nadia Al-Hamdan said in a similar speech that the number of strategic projects in the development plan amounted to 22 projects. The total funds in the 2018-19 development plan amounted to KD 3.8 billion (about \$12.4 billion), as opposed to about KD 3.2 billion (\$10.4 billion) in the 2019-20 development plan. The percentage of spending on projects decreased from 71 percent to 67.4 percent compared to last year, Al-Hamdan added. She emphasized that the annual report monitors what was done during the 2019-20 development plan, pointing out that the results are based on data that the participants from the plan include in the automated follow-up system, in addition to field visits to projects to learn about the operational position of each project, monitoring the obstacles they face.

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