

# MoH collecting debts owed to it by overseas treatment patients

Mechanism eyed to electronically link health offices



KUNA photo

Chairman and Director General of Environment Public Authority (EPA) Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad and the Kuwait Dive Team headed by Walid Al-Fadil signed a cooperation agreement for the removal of waste and sunken ships and boats that lie at the bottom of the Kuwait Sea. - See Page 7

## Chairperson needs to submit reports to undersecretary

## Info's Al-Mutairi heads committee in charge of purchasing distinguished TV, radio productions

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 31: The Ministry of Information formed a committee in charge of purchasing distinguished television and radio productions, headed by Assistant Undersecretary for Television Affairs Turki Al-Mutairi with a number of department directors and observers as members, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The daily obtained a copy of the ministry's administrative decision the committee's functions as follows:

Study annual plans for television and radio productions, as well as the News Sector, which will be approved by the undersecretary.

Purchase productions through a distinct procurement system based on the needs of the approved program plan.

Study and evaluate offers submitted by artistic production establishments through the distinct procurement system.

Select the shows or programs that are suitable for broadcasting on television and radio in accordance with the approved program plan.

Request the artistic production establishments to submit information and documents deemed necessary for the completion of its work.

Oblige the artistic production establishments to include in their offers the technical and financial statements on the productions submitted through the distinct purchase system.

2.5m sqmtrs site previously allocated

## Construction of workers' residential cities remains subject of an ambiguous decision

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 31: The Municipal Council previously allocated a site measuring 2.5 million square meters for the construction of a residential city for workers in South Sabah Al-Ahmad - same size as Abdullah Al-Salem suburb, which is part of the approved Kuwait Municipality plans, reports Al-Rai daily.

Since the allocation of the site, the Project Sector in the Municipality has been working hard to implement the project and other residential cities for workers that were finally placed among the priorities of the Council of Ministers, especially during last year when several areas were locked down to the spread of coronavirus. The lockdown led

Refer television works it intends to purchase to the Watch and Control Committee to know the latter's opinion on the technical aspects of the productions.

Approve or reject the decisions of the Watch and Control Committee.

Approve or reject the final recommendations to purchase productions and the cost of these productions.

Explain the factors considered to

to the opening of several files, the most important of which are issues related to demographics, bachelors and marginal employment. Meetings and decisions regarding the implementation of such projects ensued, but nothing happened so far.

Despite the large number of workshops which were held and are still being held until now, there have been conflicting opinions on the legality of assigning the construction of workers residential cities to the Ministry of Public Works, Public-Private Partnership Authority or other public entities. Therefore, the direction is completely lost, such that the residential cities for workers remain the subject of an ambiguous decision.

approve the productions or not; taking into consideration the media, technical and financial aspects.

Follow up contracting procedures -- whether buying or leasing.

Ensure that approval is obtained from the regulatory authorities.

The chairperson must submit reports to the undersecretary, detailing the committee's work, its findings and recommendations.

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 31: Through a specialized team headed by the Assistant Undersecretary for Financial Affairs Hisham Al-Dulaimi, the Ministry of Health is currently collecting the debts owed to it by patients seeking overseas treatment and those accompanying them.

At the same time, it is studying the development of a mechanism to electronically link health offices in order to tighten the prior control of the ministry on the process of sending debts of patients at the end of their treatment period within the country of treatment, reports Al-Anba daily.

### Books

According to health sources, the team headed by the Assistant Undersecretary for Financial Affairs Al-Dulaimi is currently comparing data in the books issued by the health offices regarding patients' debts with their passports to ensure they entered the country of treatment. It is also reviewing their travel decisions and extensions to ensure that the invoices received from these health offices are for patients, while maintaining the confidentiality of patients' information.

The sources explained that the team is currently viewing the data of patients and their companions, and following up the claims process for debts that are owed by them as a result of increase in allocations. It is doing this in coordination with the Overseas Treatment Department in accordance with the relevant procedures. It also continues to send the books of debts of patients to their workplaces and collect their debts through their employers.

It is also coordinating with the authorities that send patients at their own expense to work on collecting the debts that were recorded on them.

The sources affirmed that the team will evaluate the performance of health offices and develop proposals and recommendations related to the management and development of the mechanism for applying electronic services to facilitate the completion of transactions and the safety of exchange.



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HH the Crown Prince receives Speaker Al-Ghanim.

## HH Crown Prince receives senior officials

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace on Sunday National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim.

His Highness the Heir Apparent hosted, separately, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Others in his today's audience were Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh and Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah as well Minister of Interior Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. (KUNA)

### Other Voices

## Will phoenix rise from the ashes?

By Ahmad alsarraf

We are living in a grave political, moral and social crisis caused by the accumulated mistakes that happened over a long time, which our governments failed or did not want to address.

In the next few days, my articles will focus on shedding light on some of these problems and solutions to them, avoiding as much as possible the issues that we are tired of recalling such as the demographics, the bedouin and the financial situation. For example, the late Abdul Rahman Al-Ateeqi, in 1977, when he was minister of finance, had warned of the danger of relying on one source of income, and hundreds came after him and issued the same warning and we are the same after 55 years.

I am not in the position of advisor to the designated president, nor am I the most useful as advisor for there are those who surpass me in understanding and more knowledgeable, but the experiences that I have accumulated over a period of nearly seventy years, and 30 years of my writing may give me an edge to address the relevant person, the designated prime minister, he may find something useful in what I will say as it represents the real concerns of faithful citizens, or what remains of them with the daily serious decrease in their numbers.

What happened in Kuwait nearly three years ago is a phenomenon that did not and will not be repeated in any

other country of the world. Within days, citizens and residents discovered that 90% of the state's streets and roads are damaged. How could that have happened were it not for the state of complete erosion that afflicted the government administration?

Kuwait of January 2021 is not the Kuwait of yesteryears. The stage we are in now is the most dangerous, and the domination of the next government over our capabilities will mean one of the two things: Either continuing the march of decline in all its forms so our country shall be transformed into a more marginal and poor country and more backward and repulsive not only in terms of expertise and talents, but also its citizens and residents.

How we wish, our country, like the phoenix, will rise from the ashes of corruption, scandals and the rubble of administrative backwardness, and return to its former glory, something better than what we are now.

We lack nothing. Our country is one of the easiest countries to administer because of the few structural problems we have and the ease of re-bonding with which was disintegrated due to the clumsy policies that were followed.

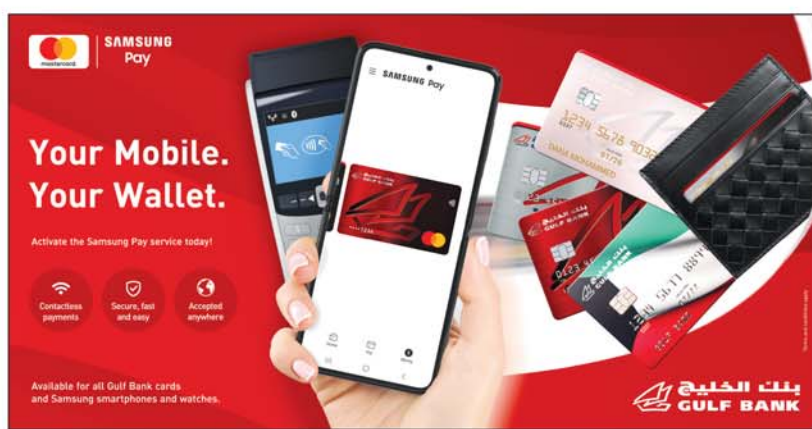
I hope that His Highness the Prime Minister will be patient enough to what I will write in the coming articles, knowing that I have previously raised the white flag of surrender and losing hope in any reform, but under beautiful pressure, I decided to go back and say that there is a glimmer of hope for a better tomorrow, with a bit of doubt after the outlook of our brothers turned from admiration, tinged with envy to pity.

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## Gulf Bank Introduces "Samsung Pay" Digital Wallet Service



Ahmad Al Amir

As part of its commitment to drive innovation and advance customer satisfaction, Gulf Bank has launched "Samsung Pay", a new payment method that enables credit, debit and prepaid cardholders to pay using their Samsung devices, including smartphones and smartwatches. The mobile payment and digital wallet service works using Gulf Bank's Tap & Pay contactless payment technology, making the shopping experience much more convenient and secure for customers.

In conjunction with the launch of the

Samsung Pay service, Gulf Bank is also offering customers 10% cashback on all restaurants and coffee shops in Kuwait when customers make payment with their Credit or Prepaid Card using Samsung Pay from February 01, 2021 to March 31, 2021.

Samsung Pay is backed by Mastercard's advanced Tokenization platform, offering users higher transaction security and greater transparency while making purchases. The technology replaces sensitive cardholder information with an alternate card number or token that is used by the payment device and merchant, reducing the possibility of fraud. Introduced recently, Mastercard's MDES for Merchants (M4M) offering also protects the interests of merchants, as shopping

10% Cashback on all Restaurants & Coffee shops in Kuwait when customers use Gulf Bank Credit or Prepaid cards with Samsung Pay during Introductory Offer

goes increasingly digital and more businesses tap into e-commerce potential.

Mr. Ahmad Al Amir, Assistant General Manager of Corporate Communications at Gulf Bank, said: "Now more than ever, we are looking to introduce banking services that prioritize convenience and speed, without compromising security. We are proud to launch the Samsung Pay digital wallet service, which will allow our customers to pay for purchases in-store and at points of sale using their Samsung smartphones and smartwatches. With this new service, customers can pay for their purchases at any store in Kuwait or abroad using only their mobile phones or smartwatches and complete their shopping experiences with more ease and security than ever before."

Mohamed Debbagh, Director, Country Business Development, Kuwait, Mastercard added, "The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of contactless and accelerated the shift towards digital across various industries. Mastercard has been at the forefront of integrating issuers' cards with popular mobile wallet services and as banks look to expedite their digital transformation efforts, we're in a unique position to leverage our expertise in technology and act as an enabler for products that can assure consumers of both convenience and security at the same time."

Samsung Pay is available at most local stores and points-of-sale that accept contactless payments or operate Tap & Pay technology, offering increased security by relieving customers of the need to carry cash or their bank cards.

To activate Samsung Pay, customers can start by adding their Gulf Bank card details on the Samsung Pay application, available for download on Samsung smartphones. To pay using a Samsung smartphone, the user can launch the application, enter their password, and wave their phone over the point of sale terminal equipped with contactless payment technology. In order to launch Samsung Pay on a smartwatch, customers must press and hold the "Back" key, rotate the bezel to select the "Add Card" option, then follow the instructions that appear on the screen.

To learn more about Gulf Bank's various cards and related services, customers can visit the Gulf Bank website at [www.e-gulfbank.com](http://www.e-gulfbank.com).

### 'Long history, experience'

## Investing in S. Kuwait's labor cities vital: PUMC

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 31: The Chief Executive Officer of the Public Utilities Management Company (PUMC) Saleh Al-Othman called for investing in labor cities in the south of the country, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a press statement, Al-Othman explained that the company has a long history and experience extending since 1980 in providing integrated services in the field of labor housing, which is one of the purposes behind establishing the company. It manages labor housing cities in the following areas - Amghara area in Jahra with a capacity of 7,788 workers, Riggaa area with a capacity of 1,518 workers, Sabhan area with a capacity of 3,168 workers, and Shadadiya area with a capacity of 8,096 workers.

He said the company wishes to contribute its expertise in expanding its activity by establishing labor cities in this field, and providing integrated services for workers.

Al-Othman highlighted the company's constant keenness to provide more advancement and progress in the field of labor housing through the study the company conducts about the reality of the needs of these labor cities, and works on achieving them in order to promote it and showcase it at the appropriate civilized level, by adding more advanced services than the above.

He called for approval of the allocation of land for the labor cities by the municipality, affirming that the company will build and invest in the labor cities in the south of the country, and manage, operate and maintain them.

## Ministries, govt bodies owe MEW 46mn dinars

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 31: The Ministry of Electricity and Water said government institutions and ministries owe the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) 45.971 million dinars, after the ministry collected 21,348 million dinars from the accumulated debt.

The Ministry sources stated this debt has accumulated over the years and MEW has not made necessary arrangements to collect the overdue money upon recommendations of the Council of Ministers and its decisions in this regard, including Resolution 1116 of 2009.

However, the sources stressed it is important that the government institutions and ministries take the initiative to settle their bills.

Meanwhile, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has called on the citizens to take to book an appointment through the electronic platform launched by the PAHW last November to receive 'To whom it may concern' certificate in the two projects assigned to them - Al-Mutla'a for the suburbs (N8-N9-N10-N11) and South Abdullah Al-Mubarak.