

Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:35	Asr	15:30
Sunrise ..	05:05	Maghrib ..	18:44
Zohr	11:54	Isha	20:12

Local

VACCINE REGISTRATION WEBSITE: https://cov19vaccine.moh.gov.kw/SPCMS/CVD_19_Vaccine_Registration.aspx

Weather

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Very hot and humid over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 12-38 km/h.
By Night: Hot to rather hot and humid with light variable wind to

light to moderate north westerly wind with speeds of 08-38 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.
Station **Max Exp** **Min Rec**
 Kuwait City 48 37
 Kuwait Airport 48 39
 Abdaly 49 34

Jahra	49	38
Salmiyah	44	35
Ahmadi	45	37
Wafra	48	34
Salmiyah	48	35
Jal Aliyah	49	34
Managish	-	33

Prayer Pride

has tarnished and become dark. Some small holes in one of the curtains were made by pilgrims who ripped out pieces to take home as souvenirs.

"The kiswah is changed annually and it used to be transported by camel from Cairo to Makkah in a big ceremonial procession," says Ziad.

"The museum has a large collection of embroidered fabrics from both inside and outside the Holy Kaaba, including the three large curtains from the outside door, the large belt that goes around the Kaaba, and some curtains from inside the Kaaba, including the curtain that covers the Door of Repentance."

The latter is an exquisite curtain embroidered with heavy gold and silver threads on red velvet. It covered the door that leads to the flight of steps ascending to the roof of the Holy Kaaba.

Hanging in the same gallery as the curtain of the Door of Repentance is a large panel painted in gold on a black background by Sultan Mahmud Khan. Sultan Mahmud ruled the Ottoman Empire from 1808 to 1839 and was an accomplished calligrapher. In days gone by, Muslim sultans, kings, and emperors were all proud to become calligraphers, as the art form possessed the highest status. To become a qualified calligrapher under the guidance of a master was considered an honor. A lengthy period of study with many hours of practice a day was required, culminating in extremely difficult examinations.

In a treatise on calligraphy by Sultan Ali, the Ottoman ruler advised the calligraphy student, "You will abandon peace and sleep, even from your tender years."

Another example of Sultan Mahmud's work is a ten-meter long calligraphic panel made with gold and silver thread, which is also from inside the Holy Kaaba. The calligraphy gives the full name of the Sultan and his ancestors and also bears his signature.

On display nearby is a large cabinet specially made for the safe keeping of copies of the Holy Quran. It's decorated with beautifully carved Quranic verses and was made in Yemen in 1581 AD.

Arabic calligraphy is also evident on a collection of Umayyad gold dinars. The Islamic caliphate had reformed the coinage of the region by replacing pictures with words, with inscriptions generally being quotes from the Holy Quran. The printed information beside the coins states that the first Islamic gold coin, or dinar, was minted during the reign of the Umayyad Caliph Abd Al Malik bin Marwan towards the end of 696 AD. The collection of gold dinars on display ranges from 697 AD to 749 AD, when the Umayyads were succeeded by the Abbasids.

In the next room is a collection of amber and other semi-precious stones inscribed with Islamic calligraphy. The tools of the calligrapher's trade are also on display: reed, metal, and jade pens, knives, small spatula for mixing pigments, pen cases, ink pots, and scissors. A video narration explains the calligraphic process as well as the art of paper-making and its preparation for the writing process.

In a book titled, "The Harmony of Letters, Islamic Calligraphy from the Tareq Rajab Museum," the scholar Dr Nabil Safwat remarks on the simplicity of the calligrapher's tools. He also points out the technical importance of the pen and its symbolic power.

"It was believed that he who knew the art of trimming the pen knew the art of writing," Dr Safwat wrote.

"Indeed the traveling calligrapher, apprehensive of the impending danger of highwaymen, used to blunt or chop off the nib of his pen. There

Continued from Page 2

were two reasons for this. The first was a desire to protect professional secrets: the cutting of the reed pen was an art in itself, almost unobtainable except from a master willing to demonstrate the technique. The second reason was that it was believed that possessing a pen prepared by a master calligrapher for his own use was a way of connecting to, and acquiring some part of, the master's creativity, knowledge, energy, and power."

Dr Safwat stated that since the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) was instructed by God to "obtain knowledge from the power of the pen," the writing instrument is held in high esteem in the Islamic culture. Hence the expression, "A well-cut pen in the hand of a master calligrapher is mightier than the sword." Calligraphy developed into an art form as a result of Muslims trying to beautify their writing in order to make it worthy of recording the Holy Quran.

In room after room there are masterpieces of the calligrapher's art from all parts of the Muslim world, evidence of how all Muslim countries contributed to the art form's development with different styles. From Indonesia there is a Holy Quran inscribed on dried palm leaves with a hot nail, dated 1843 AD. Strips of palm leaves were arranged in narrow horizontal panels and sewn together so that the book measures about a meter and a quarter across when open.

From Iran there is a delicate glass ewer, decorated with a series of birds and an inscription that translates as "blessing to the owner." It was made in Khorasan in the late eleventh or early twelfth century AD. In the same room is a wooden box in the shape of a yurt, the tent dwelling of Central Asian nomads. Quranic inscriptions were carved into it and it dates from the same time period as the ewer.

A very fine cotton material with Quranic verses woven into it was made in India in 1698 AD. One has to marvel that such a fragile fabric that looks as light as air, could have survived from the late Moghul period in such pristine condition.

Stretching across an entire wall is an incredible piece of incised calligraphy on paper, made in Syria during the early twentieth century. The calligrapher first wrote verses from the Holy Quran in neat, tiny rows across seven meters of paper and then proceeded to cut them all out. The result is an awe-inspiring testimony to what can be accomplished with tremendous skill and patience and a very sharp knife.

Many scholars agree that out of all the various dynasties that produced outstanding calligraphers, some of the most gifted and inspired were the Ottoman Turks. The Ottomans developed a script called diwani, which refers to the word diwan as used to describe a state council or government office. This very elaborate, decorative script characterised by diagonal flourishes, was used primarily for official documents by the Ottomans and later also in Arab countries. The museum contains a room featuring government documents and letters issued by various Ottoman sultans, Egyptian kings, and other royalty, each one an exquisite work of art.

Tareq Rajab once commented that even if you can't read Arabic, you can look at calligraphy as you would a painting and enjoy it as you would abstract art.

The Tareq Rajab Museum of Calligraphy is located in Jabriya, directly across from the New English School. Visiting hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m., and on Fridays in the afternoon and evening only. Admission is 2 KD.

MEW team in Eid action

Abandoned vehicles, boats lifted

By Mohammad Ghanem
 Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 26: Deputy Head of the 2021 Emergency Team at the Electrical Networks Emergency Department of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Hamad Al-Mansouri said the team carried out a number of campaigns during the Eid Al-Adha holidays, which resulted in issuing 27 warnings and lifting 7 abandoned vehicles and boats from in front of the entrances to power transformers in the Farwaniya Governorate.

Al-Mansouri told the Al-Seyassah daily this impeded the entry of emergency engineers to these power stations when need be to carry out maintenance work during power outage to homes and properties, especially in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Al-Rabiya.

Al-Mansouri also said director of

the Electrical Networks Emergency Department and head of the team, Faraj Al-Dosari, is doing his best to remove all obstacles that threaten the power distribution networks and impede the uninterrupted power supply in cooperation and coordination with the Kuwait Municipality, which spares no effort to provide support and assistance to the team to accomplish its assigned tasks.

He explained the team "includes a group of Kuwaiti engineers and technicians known for their efficiency and experience in their field of work."

He said the Kuwaiti cadres have been working hard and diligently to remove the infringements on the entire electrical distribution network, which is an important part of the electrical network in general, and maintaining it and its integrity is one of the important national tasks.



The Tareq Rajab Museum of Islamic Calligraphy in Jabriya is the first museum of its kind in the entire Arab world. It houses a magnificent collection of some of the world's finest examples of calligraphy, including works of unsurpassed beauty by some of the Ottoman sultans.

New 'tragedy' in offing

Al-Mutla'a housing project postponed indefinitely

KUWAIT CITY, July 26: "The Board of Directors of the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) rejected the request of the Ministry of Public Works to reopen the bidding process for companies for the South Al-Mutla'a purification plant project. This means that the housing project in Al-Mutla'a is now postponed indefinitely", reports Al-Rai daily quoting informed sources from the Ministry of Public Works as saying.

They went on to say, "This decision taken by the agency's board of directors during its last meeting has left the ministry with no choice but to cancel the project and re-propose it again. This will result in postponing the housing of the owners of the plots

of Al-Mutla'a city until the implementation of the project; otherwise the tragedies of the people of Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential area will recur with the residents of Al-Mutla'a city."

The sources indicated CAPT's tendency to possibly cancel the project and ask the ministry to re-submit it, revealing that the rehabilitation process is expected to take more than a year.

Stressing that the ministry intends to submit a letter to the agency asking it to reconsider the issue of opening bids, the sources called for "investigating the procedures for offering qualification and the reasons that previously called for closing the bidding door, despite the competing compa-

nies submitting several inquiries that were not answered."

It is worth mentioning that the South Al-Mutla'a City Purification Plant Project, which has an estimated cost of KD 175 million, is considered one of the major development projects related to services and infrastructure.

The plant's capacity reaches 400,000 cubic meters of water per day. The project also includes the design and construction of a main electrical transfer station to produce 16 megawatts, and the design and construction of a control and distribution system for treated water which will include a treated water control center.



Firemen tackle the blaze at Al-Na'eam scrapyard.

'First of its kind'

Project on cards to hone skills of locals

KUWAIT CITY, July 26: The Public Authority for Youth Affairs announced the launch of the "Preparation and Qualification of Legal Assistants" program as part of the "Job creators" project, which is included in the state's development plan. The aim of the program is to qualify Kuwaiti youth and support their abilities in various fields so that they are able to perform their duties and tasks to the fullest and contribute to the implementation of the state's Kuwaitization plan, reports Aljarida daily.

The Director General of the Public Authority for Youth Affairs Dr. Meshal Al-Shaheen explained that an intensive field training program will be used to train Kuwaiti youth for employing 54 legal assistants who hold a diploma in law. It will end with their appointment in lawyers' offices and in legal advisory roles. This will happen with the cooperation of the Bar Association, which oversees the training program and provides career opportunities for the participants.

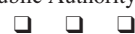
Program

This program is the first of its kind in Kuwait. The profession of legal assistant lawyer was created in coordination with the Public Authority for Manpower and the Supreme Council for Development and Planning.

The professions of assistant financial lawyer, administrative assistant, and legal assistant have been placed on the professional lists approved by the Public Authority for Manpower in order to assist in the process of Kuwaitization of legal jobs in Kuwait, and to open the way for young Kuwaitis to work.

The authority is introducing the "Job Creator Project" with the aim of creating qualification and employment opportunities for newly graduated Kuwaiti youth from various disciplines and fields in the development projects of the State of Kuwait after training and refining their capabilities in systematic ways through accredited training qualification programs that are supervised by specialists with curricula that are in line with the latest technologies and modern scientific methods as well as with the requirements of the labor market.

The program "Preparation and Qualification of Legal Assistants of Lawyers" is a sub-project within the "Job Creator Project" included in the state development plan of 2021/2025, which works on preparing integrated programs within the projects of the national youth policy, approved by the Council of Ministers, and charged with implementing the Public Authority for Youth.



Children are not allowed to enter ski and bowling halls as per the decision of the Corona Emergency Committee and Council of Ministers, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting sources.

Sources warned the necessary measures will be taken against any establishment proven to have violated the directive, indicating the ski and bowling halls are among the establishments banned from catering to children.

Sources explained the bowling halls of the Public Authority for Youth Affairs are not closed, but the Corona Emergency Committee sent a letter to the Council of Ministers on the need to take a decision in this regard as these bowling halls continue to receive children.

MP requests PM to cancel 60s decision

'PAM move random, illogical'

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
 Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 26: MP Adnan Abdulsamad has called on His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid to cancel what he regards as random and illogical decision issued by the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) to obligate expatriates -- who are 60 years old and above -- to pay KD2,000 for the renewal of their work permits.

He pointed out this decision is aimed at covering the real reasons behind the lopsided demographic structure issue, warning this will increase the cost of technical services.

Meanwhile, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim congratulated Abdullah Al-Rashedi for winning the bronze medal for Kuwait in the skeet shooting competition at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.

Al-Ghanim said the victory of Al-Rashedi proves that the Kuwaiti youths are capable of having great achievements especially in the field of sports.

In another development, Al-Ghanim greeted Speaker of the Parliament of Maldives (People's Majlis) Muhammad Nashed on the occasion of the National Day of Maldives.

On the other hand, the parliamentary Education, Culture and Guidance Affairs Committee will discuss the return to school plan for year 2021/2022 on Tuesday.

Committee Chairman MP Hamad Al-Matar disclosed that senior officials at the ministries of Education and Higher Education, Kuwait University and private universities will attend the meeting; as well as the representatives of several non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

He affirmed the committee is keen on reopening schools and universities in the upcoming academic year, indicating the health protocols should be strictly implemented like arranging classes throughout the week to limit the number of students in each classroom and social distancing. He warned that closing schools for a long period is more harmful than covid-19.

Also, Al-Matar clarified on his Twitter account that the recent decision to close facilities providing services to children is not applicable to nurseries.

He urged the Ministry of Social Affairs to remain committed to its decision to open nurseries because of the essential services they provide to families. He revealed the ministry submitted its pledge regarding the opening of nurseries to the committee before the Eid Al-Adha holiday.

Moreover, MP Thamer Al-Suwait submitted a bill to establish the Public Authority for Urban Planning that will be affiliated to the Ministry of Finance with an independent budget.

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