

LOCAL

State spent KD2.9 bln in rent allowance for fiscal 2019/'20

67,102 houses distributed from fiscals 2013/'14 to 2020/'21



Photo by Rizk Taufiq
European Union Ambassador Dr Christian Tudor presents the award to Kuwait's Grey Zone Initiative.

Initiative focuses on rights of Kuwaiti women's kids

EU honors Kuwait's 'Gray Zone' with Chaillot Prize

By Shawki Mahmoud
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 7: The Ambassador of the European Union to Kuwait and Qatar, Dr Christian Tudor, handed over the Chaillot Prize for the Promotion of Human Rights in the Gulf Cooperation Council for the year 2020 to the Kuwaiti 'Gray Zone' Initiative, which works to recognize all the rights of children of Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaiti men and to highlight their issues.

Addressing the few invited people at his home due to health requirements imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, Dr. Tudor said, "We are very proud to award the Gray Zone Initiative, because of the efforts in advocating children born to Kuwaiti mothers married to non-Kuwaiti men and raising awareness of this humanitarian issue which became noteworthy and needed to be highlighted because it is in the defense of human rights which is at the core of EU policy and among the founding values of the EU, which include human dignity and freedom and respect for human rights. We do so in the hope of contributing to the creation of a better and more just world."

For his part, a Gray Zone spokesperson thanked the EU Delegation in Kuwait for this award because it highlights the efforts towards the urgent need for gender equality in nationality laws not only in Kuwait, but in



The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Sibi George called on the Minister of Oil and Minister of Higher Education Dr Mohammad Abdullateef Al-Fares, and

discussed bilateral ties, ways of enhancing cooperation in various fields including hydrocarbons, education etc., the issue of engineers, and Diaspora matters.

the region as well, and "we thank our comrades and partners for their endless support."

"We hope this will be a step among other upcoming steps towards calling for the naturalization of children of Kuwaiti

mothers." It is noteworthy that the Gray Zone Initiative has worked over the past three years to raise awareness about the various inequalities surrounding the legal rights of children born to Kuwaiti mothers.

Bid to collect rent of investment apartments online

KUWAIT CITY, June 7: A decision will be issued soon to collect the rent of investment apartments through the electronic payment system, instead of cash, in order to protect public health, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting sources from the economic sector.

In an exclusive statement to the daily, sources disclosed that from now on, rents will be collected online because banks have a way of sterilizing money. Sources cited several methods of steri-

lizing banknotes, including ultraviolet rays, high temperature or storing them for two weeks before allowing their circulation as a precautionary measure.

Sources clarified this is just a precautionary measure, it does not mean that the banknote could transmit coronavirus. They pointed out that even if the money is contaminated, the virus cannot move from the money to the air until a person inhales it and becomes infected or if the virus moves from

the money to the surfaces; hence, it is important to wash hands after being in contact with money as a precaution.

Sources added the government has implemented an online system for citizens and expatriates to pay fees electronically without the need to visit government facilities or service centers; such as paying fines, judicial fees, travel ban orders, telephone bills and other government services without any additional fee.

KUWAIT CITY, June 7: The State spent KD2.9 billion in rent allowance for fiscal year 2019/2020, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW).

According to the report that PAHW released recently; the number of housing units distributed from fiscal 2013/2014 to fiscal 2020/2021 totaled 67,102.

The report said Cabinet Resolution Number 1295 was issued during meeting number 65-2020 on October 26, 2020; stating the Cabinet was informed about the need to shorten the timeline for Mutlaa housing project, reduce the waiting period for housing grant applicants, issue building permits and assign the ministries of Electricity and Water, Commerce and Industry, Public Works, and the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) to coordinate with the Ministry of Finance in taking appropriate measures to arrange the financial requirements in their respective budgets to ensure speedy completion of the project.

Report

The report of the PAHW included the following:

■ The amount available at Kuwait Credit Bank is enough to grant real estate loans for 12,000 plots to be distributed within a year, but it will not be able to grant any additional loan.

■ Coordination with the concerned authorities to provide the necessary services for two housing projects in line with the authority's program.

■ Coordination with government agencies in implementing the Cabinet's decision to expedite the issuance of building permits.

■ Distributed 3,260 plots in South Abdullah Al-Mubarak housing project.

■ Distributed 9,002 out of 28,288 plots in Mutlaa Residential City.

■ Certificates for the remaining 19,286 plots in Mutlaa Residential City will be completed after providing the necessary funding for granting housing loans to citizens.

■ After assessing the existing and potential challenges, it was discovered that the number of housing units distributed as per the plan starting from fiscal 2013/2014 to fiscal 2020/2021 reached 67,102; while the number of housing units distributed since 1956 until fiscal 2013/2014 totaled 97,067.

■ Kuwait Credit Bank grants interest-free loans for the construction and purchase of houses with different payment periods that could reach more than 50 years.



KUNA photo
HH the Amir while receiving the education minister and Undersecretary Dr Al-Yaqoub.

HH Amir receives education minister

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace Monday the Minister of Education Dr Ali Fahad Al-Mudhaf

who presented the ministry's new Undersecretary Ali Mohammad Al-Yaqoub on the occasion of taking office. (KUNA)



KUNA photo
HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Monday Minister of Education Dr Ali Fahad Al-Mudhaf who presented to HH the Crown Prince the newly-assigned Undersecretary, Dr Ali Mohammad Al-Yacoub.

Sheikh Talal tours Mubarakiya area

Municipality team 'demolish' 155 violating buildings in Capital: Gov

KUWAIT CITY, June 7: The Governor of the Capital, Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, announced in cooperation with the Kuwait Municipality emergency team demolished 155 violating buildings out of the 193 against which warnings had been issued in the suburbs of Sharq, Al-Mirqab, Al-Qibla and Bneid Al-Qar, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Governor Al-Khaled disclosed this on the sidelines of his field tour in the Mubarakiya area, to follow up on the developments of the campaign to remove building violations, accompanied by the emergency team of the governorate's municipality branch headed by Zaid Al-Enezi, and a number of senior officials from the governorate's general office.

Giving a breakdown Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled indicated there were 74 violations in Bneid Al-Qar, 60 in the Sharq area, 15 in Qibla, and 6 cases in Al-Mirqab.

He pointed out 86 warnings

were issued in Bneid Al-Qar, 59 in Sharq, 34 in Qibla and 14 in Al-Mirqab area. He indicated the owners of 4 properties will initiate the demolition process -- two from Sharq region and two in Bneid Al-Qar.

He stressed the Mubarakiya area which falls under the supervision of the governorate will carry out what he called an inventory of all buildings in cooperation and coordination with the emergency team of the governorate municipality branch, particularly to identify violation on the rooftops of buildings.

The owners of these buildings will be warned to remove these violations before action is taken.

Governor Al-Khaled pointed out the campaign to remove building violations will continue until all building violations in the governorate are demolished and called on the property owners to cooperate with the emergency team of the governorate's municipal branch.

Minister's visit hailed

60 pct of co-ops buy produce directly from us, say farmers

By Faris Al-Abdan
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 7: Farmer Faisal Al-Dammak said the visit of the Minister of Social Affairs and Community Development and the Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Dr Mishan Al-Otaibi, confirms the implementation of Resolution No. 25 of 2021 which calls to support and promote the local agricultural produce in cooperative societies.

Al-Dammak told the Al-Seyassah daily, after hosting Minister Al-Otaibi and a number of farmers that at the present time, the farmers do business directly without a mediator, unlike what was happening in the past, but the last decision has ended the problems which the farmers were facing.

He pointed out the new decision was implemented at the beginning of this month, and now more than 60 percent of the cooperative societies are directly in touch with the farmers and buy their produce directly and said the prices are acceptable, as produce goes from the farms to the consumers directly.

He pointed out what the farmers produce is sufficient and covers the needs of the consumers and the best evidence of this is the Corona pandemic, because the agriculture produce in Kuwait at the present time is unlike the past when it comes to preserving the produce.

He explained that for the first time, Kuwaiti potato production continues until June, and its prices reached 200 fils per kilo, because there is intensity in production and a large number of farmers and government support.



Photo by Rizk Taufiq
Minister Dr Al-Otaibi with farmer Al-Dammak.

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