



ice hockey

Page 14



Page 9

markets

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021 / RABEE'A AL-THANI 13, 1443 AH

emergency number 112

NO. 17845

16 PAGES

150 FILS

FATWA OPINION AWAITED ON KD 500 RESIDENCE FEE

Residence renewal banned for 100



KUNA photo

Part of the ceremony to announce free bus rides within the Mubarakiya area instituted by Kuwait Public Transport Company (KPTC).

A free ride!

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17, (KUNA): Free bus transportation will be offered from and to Mubarakiya area via four stops throughout the Capital District, said Kuwait Public Transport Company (KPTC) Wednesday.

CEO of KPTC Mansour Al-Saad told KUNA, during the opening ceremony of the service attended by Governor of the Capital District Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, that the service will operate from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm local-time with bus trips available every 30 minutes.

The four stations will be situated in the parking lot of Sharq Mall, the yard near Jahra Roundabout and the Sheraton Hotel, Sanabel Complex, as well as the Ministries Area in Mirgaba area, he revealed.

Uranium highly enriched

Iran raises N-stockpile

VIENNA, Nov 17, (AP): The United Nations' atomic watchdog says it believes Iran has further increased its stockpile of highly enriched uranium in breach of a 2015 accord with world powers.

The International Atomic Energy Agency told member nations in its confidential quarterly report Wednesday that Iran has an estimated stock of 17.7 kilograms (39 pounds) of uranium enriched to up to 60% fissile purity, an increase of almost 8 kilograms since August.

Such highly enriched uranium can be easily refined to make atomic weapons, which is why

world powers have sought to contain Tehran's nuclear program.

The Vienna-based agency told members that it is still not able to verify Iran's exact stockpile of enriched uranium due to the limitations Tehran imposed on U.N. inspectors earlier this year.

The IAEA has been unable to access surveillance footage of Iranian nuclear sites or of online enrichment monitors and electronic seals since February. The agency's chief, Rafael Mariano Grossi, told The Associated Press this month that the situation was like "flying in a heavily clouded sky."

'Security key'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: The State Security police has compiled a list of names of 100 expatriates of various nationalities who are prohibited from renewing their residencies in the country when they expire, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The daily said, these people have no option but to leave the country with their families when their residence permits expire.

Informed security sources said a vast majority of those prevented from renewing their residence are Lebanese, and the rest are of different nationalities, most notably Iranians, Yemenis, Syrians, Iraqis, Pakistanis, Afghans, Bangladeshis and Egyptians.

The sources stressed that Kuwait's security is a red line, and no person who represents any kind of threat to the security of the homeland will be allowed to live on its land.

Issues

The sources explained some of the Lebanese are suspected of being first or second degree relatives of Hezbollah, while people of other nationalities, including those who were found guilty of committing serious crimes such as money laundering or involved sensitive issues, or are on the list of people undesirable to live in the country in public interest.

The sources indicated that a number of those who are prevented from renewing their residence discovered this when they visited the residence affairs departments in the six governorates, and they were asked to leave the country with their families immediately.

The sources pointed out that the State Security is working in all directions to preserve the country's internal security, noting that clear instructions were issued by senior security leaders not to be lenient in that regard, and not to respond to any pressures or "intermediaries", whoever they may be.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), Dr. Abdullah Al-Salman, has addressed the Council of Ministers in anticipation of an opinion from the Fatwa and Legislation Department whether the board of directors has the right to impose a fee of 500 dinars on non-graduate expatriates who are 60 years and above - the issue that has been moving in a vicious circle for about 15 months with no solution in sight, reports Al-Rai daily.

Imposing

The daily quoting sources say imposing any fee by the state should be implemented by a law through legislation and not a decision. However, it seems Al-Salman's question in this regard is not all he is looking (for a legal answer), as he is seeking answer to another question, whether the PAM board of directors has the right to exclude certain category of residents from paying fees for renewing work permits such as in the case of Palestinians, children of Kuwaiti women and those born in Kuwait or does this procedure also require a law, or at least a decision by the Council of Ministers?

The sources pointed out Al-Salman wanted to be satisfied with the opinion of the "Fatwa and Legislation" in order to avoid this decision being labeled "invalid", especially since the "Fatwa and Legislation" department had said the decision issued by the "suspended" Director General of the authority not to renew work permits of the above mentioned category of expatriates was null and void.

The sources revealed that if the "Fatwa and Legislation" finds that the decision to impose the 500 dinars fee is incorrect, the PAM Chairman of the Board of Director will issue a decision to renew work permits for these expatriates according to the old fee, and without referring to the Board of Directors.

Sources explained that this fatwa does not mean the abolition of the requirement of universal private health insurance, given that this is a regulatory measure and not a fee.

Opinion

Invest in brains, capabilities, get out of the shell of racism

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

GIVEN that creative people are the most valuable thing a country can have, the competition for scientific pioneership has become the goal of all societies that are striving for progress and development.

It is on this basis that the Saudi royal order was issued to open the door to naturalizing jurists, and medical, scientific, cultural, sports and technical competencies, in order to contribute to promoting development and progress, and to benefit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in various fields.

The first of these decisions was to grant citizenship to a group of scholars in various fields in order to continue rejuvenating and expanding the circle of competition locally and internationally.

Before Saudi Arabia, the UAE had also amended its citizenship law, allowing it to be granted to investors, scientists and doctors, in addition to granting golden residency permits to a large number of foreign talents.

These two countries and many others in the world seek to localize scientific competencies, and attract manpower by granting them citizenship because they see them as an added value to society.

The United States of America annually grants more than 250,000 citizenship. Therefore, it was not a surprise to see during the war for liberation of Kuwait tens of thousands of soldiers who hold American citizenship but are of Asian, Latin American, and Arab origins.

These countries make their progress by opening up to others, and not through isolation in accordance with the Nazi method that made the Aryan race a measure of belonging. Therefore, tens of thousands of university professors and experts who were not of Aryan origin were executed. Millions fled Germany and became the makers of the civilization of the countries in which they settled.

Unfortunately, Kuwait, which was a forerunner in opening up to the world, began to withdraw within itself when sparks of racism raged in an unprecedented manner in the past three decades. Instead of granting citizenship or permanent residency to those who served the country, it took a series of decisions that reflect ignorance, and even hostility towards the national interest.

The latest of such hostility was a ban on the renewal of residency permits for all expatriates over the age of sixty years under the pretext of not having high education certificates.

When the implementation of this decision began, we suddenly discovered the extent of our loss of many experiences. What was even worse was that there are those who look down on those who spent their lives serving this country. It has hence become normal to hear the phrase "Instead of granting him citizenship, give him a few dinars and wish him farewell" from someone or to read in an article, as if the country is full of scientists and experts, and does not need more experienced workforce.

The owners of this chauvinistic thought should see the progress and development that the other Gulf countries have achieved by abandoning their rigidity. This logic is what made about

Continued on Page 3

Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

Other Voices

What a failure!

By Ali Ahmed Al-Baghli

Former Minister of Oil

DURING my early childhood, I used to walk everyday with my late father at the Abdul RazzaqDarwaza, which is located downtown, because our house was located in the Abdul Salaam neighborhood branching from Dasman Street, which is "Ahmed Al-Jaber" now.

I used to be naughty when I was a child. Because of that, my mother (May God prolong her life) used to insist that my father take me to his shop in Al-Zal (carpets) and Al-Bashout markets near Souk Al-Mubarakiya and Al-Gharabi Street (Palestine Street) now.

After passing by Abdul RazzaqDarwaza, we would enter Bin Daij Market with its amazing shops where sweets and fabrics are sold. When we passed by Bin Daij and drank a little water from the public water cooler, we would look at the sweet shops - "Kakoli" and others - and the shops selling spices.

We then walked to the Bishts Market where I used to spend my whole day. I would wander around the markets that surround it such as SouqWaqif and the new street "Abdullah Al-Salem" with its luxury stores, restaurants and cafes.

I recall these memories of my childhood whenever I pass by Abdul RazzaqDarwaza. It used to be an open ground surrounded by four traffic lights. For two years now, Darwaza has been closed... It is still closed to traffic, and the Ministry of Public Works and the Public Authority for Road and Land Transport did not work on repairing it.

As far as I can remember, they recently asked for KD 4 million to build a pedestrian tunnel and a road above for cars to pass through. However, our rational government, which is claiming bankruptcy these days, did not respond and the situation is still the same.

On a visit to the "Capital of lights" Paris last September, I stayed in a hotel close to the famous Champs Elysees. I was surprised to see that on the first Sunday of the month, the street was closed to cars, and only pedestrians and cyclists could walk on it.

This is the widest street in the world... Wide enough for eight cars at least. It is surrounded by the roundabout of the Arc de Triomphe, which Napoleon had built several hundred years ago.

On the other end is the Place de la Concorde, on which you can see one of the obelisks of the ancient Egyptians, the remains of which were discovered by French archaeologists. So they were rewarded with a number of obelisks whose historical value was not determined by our Egyptian brothers.

Every time I pass by the Abdul RazzaqDarwaza in Kuwait City and Fahd Al-Salem Street, which is full of buildings that are about to fall and parking lots, tears almost fall from my eyes because of our miserable conditions.

Why should we go far to the "Capital of Light" Paris when there is a beloved sister country, the State of Qatar, which is much smaller than Kuwait? The political leadership there decided to host the matches and activities of the FIFA World Cup (the World Cup) for 2022 and the Arab Cup Championship 2021. Six football stadiums were built there in the blink of an eye - Al Bayt Stadium, RasAboud Stadium, Al Thumama Stadium, Bin Ali Stadium, Education City Stadium, and Al Janoub Stadium.

In addition to the disaster of Abdul RazzaqDarwaza and Fahd Al-Salem Street, we built Jaber Stadium. The construction took several years with flaws that exceed the number of years of its construction.

ali-baghli@hotmail.com



The Boulevard, one of the Riyadh's Season major tourist attractions, was established in four months in an area covering 900,000 square meters. The Boulevard includes a fountain, theatre, music hall, garden and several cafes and

restaurants. It also contains exhibitions from various activities in addition to the health and fitness club and a boutique hotel, which makes it an integrated project that offers an exceptional visitor experience.

KUNA photo

New amnesty bill framed

MP queries conscription

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 17: MP Abdullah Al-Turajji asked Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali about the budget allocated for the enforcement of Conscription Law No. 20/ 2015. He wants to know how much has so far been spent on conscription, pros and cons of conscription recorded by the relevant institutions, reason behind the insistence on imposing conscription despite the fact that 94 percent of countries around the world do not enforce it including the United States of America, United Kingdom and a number of Gulf countries. He inquired about the benefit of imposing conscription, considering nationals are allowed to volunteer in Kuwait Army.

He also submitted a bill on nullifying the law, pointing out that most of the armies around the world tend to reduce the number of individuals owing to the advanced technology.

He highlighted the negative consequences of conscription, especially on the career and social life of graduates. He added that one year conscription is useless, because one year is too short to train an individual to be a professional fighter.

MP Marzouq Al-Khalifa sub-

mitted a bill on granting general amnesty to those convicted of committing certain crimes on Nov 16-17, 2011.

Article One of the bill stipulates granting amnesty to those convicted of engaging in acts criminalized in Articles 134, 135 and 137 of Law No. 16/1960; first paragraphs in Articles 26 and 34 of Law No. 31/1970; and Articles 16 and 20 of Law No. 65/1979.

The lawsuits filed by individuals are not covered by this bill, while the covered crimes will be nullified and the consequent procedures. These crimes will not be mentioned in the disclosure statements of the beneficiaries.

MP Osama Al-Shaheen submitted a proposal for the banks to pay interest to their clients semi-annually or quarterly. He pointed out that such a system will have a positive impact on the shares of the banks and increase their value which will in turn boost the national economy.

Meanwhile, MP Abdullah Al-Mudaf forwarded queries to Minister of Oil and Higher Education Dr Muhammad Al-Fares about the criteria adopted by Kuwait National Petroleum Corporation (KNPC) and its subsidiaries concerning promotions. He requested for a list of officials who applied for promotion and copies of their annual performance evaluation.

News watch

AMMAN: A visiting Kuwaiti security official on Wednesday re-affirmed the State of Kuwait's support for rendering the Middle East a region clear of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) underscoring the need to restrict nuclear energy to peaceful applications.

Kuwait's renewed official stance was manifested by the assistant undersecretary for research and studies, Abdelaziz Al-Salem, in remarks to KUNA during his participation in the 12th "Amman Security forum" that kick-started in the Jordanian capital earlier today. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations Wednesday to Sultan Haitham bin Tareq of Oman, expressing his sincere felicitations on the 51 anniversary of Oman's national day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir lauded the outstanding development achievements that have been witnessed in various realms in the sultanate.

His Highness wished that the Sultan would enjoy good health and wellbeing and hoped Oman would enjoy further prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent similar cables. (KUNA)