

## Prayer Timings

Fajr .....	04:54	Asr .....	14:31
Sunrise ..	06:16	Maghrib ..	16:50
Zohr .....	11:34	Isha .....	18:11

# Local

## Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

**By Day:** Mild and partly cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times south easterly wind with speeds of 15-45 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

## Weather

**By Night:** Rather cold and partly cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times south easterly wind with speeds of 15-40 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	28	20

Kuwait Airport	27	14
Abdaly	27	15
Jahra	28	16
Salmiyah	26	20
Ahmedi	25	22
Nuwaisib	28	15
Wafra	28	14
Salmiyah	25	14

**VACCINE REGISTRATION WEBSITE:** [https://cov19vaccine.moh.gov.kw/SPCMS/CVD\\_19\\_Vaccine\\_Registration.aspx](https://cov19vaccine.moh.gov.kw/SPCMS/CVD_19_Vaccine_Registration.aspx)

## Current account profits show decline

# Liquidity crisis forces govt institutions to take unusual steps

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: The figures which have been published by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance show a decrease in the current government account profits by about 91.5% at the end of fiscal 2020-2021 which is about 306,000 dinars, compared to 3.6 million dinars in 2019-2020, reports Al-Qabas daily.

This situation, the sources say, is due to the decline in current account profits revenues because of intense withdrawals to finance various operations and provide liquidity to spend on items mentioned in the general budget, at a time when

the revenues have been significantly declining which is directly linked to the downward trend in the oil prices and the impact of the repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### Measures

The same sources indicated the liquidity crisis has forced some government institutions to take unusual measures after the Ministry of Finance directed liquidity to only the necessary items in the budget, especially salaries and subsidies, which necessitated some agencies to increase the frequency of withdrawals from their bank accounts to finance

their operations.

With oil prices stabilizing at relatively moderate levels in recent months -- above \$80 a barrel -- sources expect the bank balances to 'bloat' again in the next few months and the government account balances to grow again by the end fiscal 2021-2022.

According to figures recently published by the Central Bank of Kuwait, the deposits by government institutions saw an increase of 360 million dinars in August, for the first time since the beginning of this year, after being subjected to monthly withdrawals since the beginning of

the year, either for reasons related to changing the investment strategy of some government institutions or because of the need to finance some of their projects.

The total deposits in local banks jumped by 492 million dinars to 44.3 billion dinars, with a share of 7.3 billion dinars for government deposits, compared to 35 billion dinars for private sector deposits.

Since the budget of the last fiscal year recorded a historical figure in the deficit, which amounted was about 10.7 billion dinars, government agencies have mobilized under pressure from the Ministry

of Finance, and they have begun to take strict measures, both at the level of providing liquidity, or at the level of rationalizing spending on the various items in the budget, including postponing considering requests to increase the capital of any of the parties during the current time.

### Payments

This is in addition to postponing many payments to contractors, while the exchange operations were limited to salaries and necessary items only.

When the crisis worsened fiscal

of the period of low oil prices prolonged, the government resorted to several solutions during the last period to maintain liquidity levels in the general reserve sufficient to pay the salaries and urgent obligations month by month, whether by exchanging assets between the general reserve and "generations" or by stopping the deduction of a percentage 10% of the oil revenues go to the Future Generations Fund, but all of these solutions remain temporary and not guaranteed in the event that laws supporting liquidity and transit towards financial sustainability are not passed.



KUNA photo

A motorcyclist flies in the air during the first round of the Kuwait Motocross Championship.

## 'Motocross' first round ends

The first round of the Kuwait Motocross Championship, organized by the Kuwait International Motorsport and Motorsport Club, concluded on Saturday at the motocross circuit in Kuwait.

The results of the first round of

the championship resulted in the contestant Abdullah Al-Ansari winning the first place in the clubman category, while the contestant Hussein Boutaleb came second and Ahmad Boutaleb third. The contestant, Muhammad Jaafar, ranked first

in the MX1 category, followed by Barak Al Jasmi second, and Badr Al Duwaisan third. The contestant Ahmed Al-Nuaimi won the first place in the MX2, followed by Abdullah Al-Shatti second and Bandar Al-Bahr third. (KUNA)

## 'Swindlers' case adjourned to Jan 6

# Woman gets 10 years jail for 'killing' maid

By Jaber Al-Hamoud  
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: The Criminal Court sentenced a Kuwaiti woman to ten-year imprisonment with hard labor, and gave her husband a suspended one-year prison sentence, in a case filed against them for torturing a domestic worker to death.

According to the case file, the two were charged with committing the crime of human trafficking, violence against the domestic worker, and forceful labor, as they took advantage of the victim's weakness.

The Kuwaiti woman was also charged with repeatedly assaulting the domestic worker by beating and torturing her,

causing burns and injuries throughout her body over long and successive periods, forcing her to work, and using violence, which led to her death, as indicated in the investigations.

The husband was found guilty of deliberately refraining from fulfilling his obligation to take care of the victim when she was unable to obtain for herself the necessities of life.

**Hearing adjourned:** The Criminal Court decided to adjourn to January 6, 2022, the case of misappropriation of the public funds filed against the former undersecretary of the Ministry of Health Khaled Al-Sahlawi, former as-

sistant undersecretary of the Ministry of Health Mahmoud Abdul-Hadi and 15 others. The case was adjourned in order to summon the officer in charge of the case.

During last week's session, Al-Sahlawi and Abdul-Hadi were arraigned before the court in connection with another case. They denied the accusation leveled against them, and their defense requested to summon the officer of the incident to hear his statements.

According to the case file, a Kuwaiti citizen had filed a complaint about embezzlement and the theft of public funds in the Ministry of Health through contracts concluded by the two defendants along with by others.

# Visa trading phenomenon back as corona dwindling

## Zero tolerance for residence trade: PAM

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: After the relevant authorities dealt successive heavy blows to fictitious companies and profiteers from the visa trade, this suspicious activity has resurfaced while the country is barely breathing from the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The daily monitored the return of the visa trade phenomenon, especially with the spread of advertisements on social media through which brokers are offering work permits and commercial visit visas, as well as facilitating transfer of residency, with each transaction having a cost.

A remarkable observation was that the brokers relied on a new angle to recruit workers, which is the commercial visa, the price of which has reached KD 400, with duration of only one month, and is non-transferable. The cost of a transferable commercial visa is up to KD 1,000.

According to the daily, the price of a free work visa ranges between KD 1,500 and KD 1,700. The person who purchases it obtains a residency title that is linked to his academic qualification, if any.

Other brokers did not stop their activity with the promotion of free work visas. They went on to announce the availability of the facility of residency transfer between companies with government, civil or craft contracts, with the transfer cost ranging between KD 500 and KD 650. For the visa of a "driver" position, the cost is KD 700.

According to an official source from the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), the majority of brokers of shell companies are active in Egypt and India for attracting job

seekers in Kuwait.

He highlighted the continued pursuit of these shell companies and visa-traders, indicating that the referral of about 2,000 such companies to the prosecution since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic revealed hundreds of those involved in the introduction of marginal workers into the country.

The source stressed that the Labor Protection Sector and the Inspection Department deal daily with dozens of complaints, adding that investigations are underway to figure out if there is a link between them and the visa trade phenomenon.

The daily contacted an official of a travel and tourism agency in Egypt.

Affirming that it holds a license in Cairo, he indicated the availability of commercial visas for those who wish to travel to Kuwait, but these visas cannot be converted into residencies.

When a security source was asked about this announcement, he said, "This type of visa allows the holder to convert it into a residence permit on the applicant's file only. However, it seems that the file approved for granting visas does not contain a sufficient labor estimate. It is therefore used on a monthly basis for new visits."

The source highlighted that there is a vigorous follow-up of the matter related to issuing and transferring commercial visas.

He said, "In the event of suspicions revolving around the files, coordination is carried out with the Public Authority for Manpower. Accordingly, measures are taken in this regard".

Despite the repeated warnings issued by the Public Authority for Manpower regarding the lack of the so-called "free" work permit in the country, the brokers, using fake accounts, still delude their victims, especially young individuals who wish to come to Kuwait, into thinking that the opportunity to work with this

type of visa is distinct and they can work anywhere in the country.

The cost of a free visa ranges between KD 1,500 and KD 1,700 and has a duration of one year. It was clear in the repeated advertisements that there are other countries that have become more willing for workers to reach them, such as the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Qatar, to work there, given that the visa system is easier than the system in Kuwait where government procedures have become very severe in an attempt to fight the phenomenon of visa trading.

It was clear from the comments on social media of an ongoing dialogue between brokers and those wishing to obtain work visas to Kuwait that the conditions of PAM regarding issuing new work permits, linking them to academic qualifications, and estimating the need for each file of employment, have proven to be a dilemma for the visa-traders.

In some adverts, they stipulated the necessity of having an academic qualification certificate stamped and certified by the Kuwaiti embassy and higher education authority in the country of issuance in order to be able to issue the permit with the required title.

According to an official source from PAM, there will be zero tolerance for the phenomenon of residency trade. Random recruitment of workers into the country will not be allowed.

He stressed that protecting employment and improving Kuwait's reputation is a top priority for the labor protection sector and the inspection department, where complaints are daily dealt with and investigated to determine the causes of labor problems, as well as to figure out if there is a link between them and the visa-trade.

The source highlighted the continuous coordination with the Residency Affairs Investigations Department of the Ministry of Interior in this regard.

## MEW denies claim

# Lack of fresh water in new 'residential' area

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: Residents have started living in West Abdullah Al-Mubarak area, which is one of the new residential areas, for more than 18 months, but their suffering continues day after day due to the lack of fresh water reaching the area. The people have not yet found a solution that is suitable and modern enough, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Their challenge in obtaining fresh water from its natural source, which is the water network in the area, has continued to persist without a solution despite the passage of time.

According to an informed source from the Ministry of Electricity and Water, the ministry is not responsible for the delay in the delivery of fresh water.

The project is still under the umbrella of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW), as it is in the warranty period. The ministry has not received the fresh water network so far in order to start the treatment and sterilization operation, which is the step that precedes the delivery of water to the area.

Whenever the ministry is notified of the network's readiness for treatment, it takes about two to three months to complete the treatment and sterilization process for a total of seven blocks that make up the area.

Regarding the criticism leveled at the Ministry concerning its earlier announcement of receiving requests to deliver fresh water from citizens before completing the network treatment process, the source said, "The process of opening the registration door is intended to complete the procedures and shorten the time so that the ministry can move forward with the matter once it is received by the network and without delay".

Meanwhile, an informed source from the Ministry of Public Works revealed that the ministry received the internal sewage network from PAHW, and it was connected to temporary treatment plants, adding that the rainwater drainage network was connected to a temporary tank until the completion of the main sewer.

He indicated that the ministry's network is ready to drain the water resulting from the treatment and sterilization of the freshwater network if it starts at any time, stressing that the ministry has no problem with draining the treatment water.

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