



KOSPI	USD/KRW
2,985.70	1,188.50
▼ 8.59 (0.29%)	▲ 2.00

markets  
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# Visit visas resume for 53 countries

Must apply online

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25:** The Ministry of Interior has once again started issuing visit visas to citizens of 53 countries, after a hiatus of about two years. The visas were stopped following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic to protect the citizens and residents from infection, reports Al-Rai daily.

The visas were then available on arrival at the Kuwait International Airport but now the visa has to be applied "online" and obtained before arriving in the country.

The sources told the daily the applicant must not forget to upload the vaccination certificate along with the visa application, and if approved must pay the fees before registering on the "My Immunity" application. Upon arrival in Kuwait it is mandatory to produce a negative PCR test certificate acquired 72 hours before travel.

The 53 countries are Spain, Germany, Andorra, Ukraine, Ireland, Iceland, Australia, Estonia, Portugal, Czech Republic, Denmark, Sweden, Vatican, the United Kingdom, Norway, Austria, the United States of America, Japan, Greece, Italy, Belgium, Bulgaria, Bhutan, Brunei, Poland, Turkey, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Republic of Hungary, Georgia, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Singapore, Switzerland, Serbia, France, Finland, Cyprus, Croatia, Cambodia, Canada, South Korea, Latvia, Laos, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Malaysia, Monaco, New Zealand and Holland.

The Public Relations and Security Media Department at the Ministry of Interior announced the electronic visa system (E-Visa), has now been updated on the Ministry of Interior website for the 53 countries, in addition to some residents of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries whose professions are stipulated in the Ministerial Resolution No. 220/2008.

They include doctors and pharmacists, lawyers, engineers, consultants, judges and members of the public prosecution, university professors, journalists and media professionals, pilots, systems analysts, computer programmers, managers, businessmen, members of the diplomatic corps, owners and directors and representatives of companies and commercial establishments as well as holders of Saudi Premium Residency.

## Day by Day

THE government has yet to make up its mind whether to renew or not to renew the work permits of non-graduate expatriates who are 60 years and above.

This is happening because the government is still hesitant in spite of the court verdict declaring the decision not to renew their work permits 'null and void'. To add insult to injury in hospitals they are regarded as visitors because they don't have health insurance.

By God, Your Highness the Prime Minister, this does not happen anywhere in the world.

If you want them, say so, if not, say goodbye to them. Other Gulf countries are waiting to welcome them.

Your Highness, it is true the Minister of Interior is working in a 'caretaker' capacity and God willing, he will return to his position. All we want from you is to show mercy to this category of people instead of insulting them.

... Yet, tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

## US will act if Iran nears N-breakout

WASHINGTON, Nov 25, (KUNA): US Special Envoy for Iran Rob Malley warned that his country is looking at "other efforts, diplomatic and otherwise," if the Iranians dig their heels in the talks to revive JCPOA while getting close to nuclear weapon.

In an interview with the National Public Radio (NPR) to be broadcast on Friday, he said the US won't "sit idly by" if Iran starts "getting close, too close for comfort" with advances in its nuclear program.

"They are getting very close to having enough fissile material, if they chose to enrich, at weapons grade for a bomb," Malley told the US broadcaster.

"How close they are to a bomb has to do with weaponization, and there they are -- further away.

"But again, we're not going to wait and see them get so close, and we hope that this could be resolved diplomatically and it should be," Malley added.

Meanwhile, Commander of US Central Command Gen. Kenneth McKenzie said, "Our president said they're not going to have a nuclear weapon." "The diplomats are in the lead on this, but Central Command always has a variety of plans that we could execute, if directed," he told the TIME magazine.

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Aid offer in pandemic

## Kuwait calls for ME free of nukes, WMD

NEW YORK, Nov 25, (KUNA): Kuwait has renewed its insistence on establishing a nuclear and weapons of mass destruction (WMD)-free Middle East, which will help preserve international security and peace.

This came in a statement delivered by Kuwait's Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi during a UN General Assembly debate on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report on Wednesday evening.

He stressed that Kuwait is keen to participate annually in the discussion of the IAEA's report just out of its belief in the importance of the pivotal role IAEA plays in promoting the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

"With Kuwait's 57th anniversary of joining IAEA, my country continues its close cooperation with the Agency's various departments, aiming to benefit from its programs and capabilities required to implement vital projects for social and economic development," Al-Otaibi said.

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## Opinion

### Today's free advice priceless tomorrow

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

DURING the five years preceding the Iraqi invasion, every government in this country has been a government of real challenges. After liberation, those challenges intensified because the basis was, and still is, to get out of the bottleneck and walk confidently towards sustainable development.

This has become a slogan that is out of reach due to drowning in details that the demons of interests have decorated as priorities, while what is actually required is completely elsewhere.

Therefore, today after the bitter experiences that the country has gone through in the past three decades and the problems faced by the three governments of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad that led to total stagnation in all aspects, it has become imperative than ever before to bring in ministers of competence.

The new Cabinet formation should be one that will devote itself to remedying the heavy files sitting on their desks and on the conscience of people, and not one with members whose names have been recycled despite being proven to have failed in the recent past and not being up to the responsibility entrusted to them.

Therefore, if the expectations regarding the return of certain names, according to what is being circulated, to some ministries are true, it is as though nothing has been done. That is because those who failed during circumstances that were less stressful than the current ones will not be able to secure financial liquidity and address the negative aspects that led to the downgrade of Kuwait's credit rating.

The same applies to Health, Public Works, Education, Economy and Commerce ministries. In each of those ministries, there are dilemmas that need skilled surgeons to uproot the cause of the disease, and not those who "salute" and do nothing, because that would always make matters worse.

Kuwait has many specialized competencies and people qualified to manage. This fourth government of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, which will enter the fray without the obligations of the past stage, must dedicate itself to working seriously and outsmarting the maneuvers practiced by the MPs in order to achieve their own electoral interests. Otherwise, the people will hold His Highness the Prime Minister responsible for any failure through the choosing of this type of Cabinet.

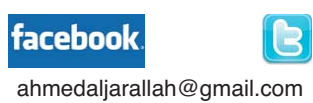
Unfortunately, the successive governments contributed to the spread of corruption through favoritism in projects, and the overpricing of tender bids, in addition to the deliberate delay in their implementation by opening the door for change orders, and deliberately prolonging the documentary cycle due to conflicting competencies, some of which have passed more than 25 years old and are still under implementation. Whenever any of it is finished, a scandal or rather scandals emerge.

During the past decades, some political currents and parliamentary blocs, because of the government's failure to address them, have hampered the economy with many restrictions. This led to the failure of major projects, such as the northern economic zone, the Silk City, and the border free zones, as well as the failure to implement Tony Blair's plan, and the closing of the country to investors and tourists. In addition, the relations with neighbors were affected, which made us confused, as if we were walking in a dark tunnel but only getting out of a hole to hit a wall.

All this is in the hands of His Highness the Prime Minister. He must live up to the trust granted him by the political leadership, and work confidently to get the country out of the impasse, so as not to repeat the history of his previous government, whose main feature was confusion. As the saying goes - "Those who refuse to accept advice that costs nothing today, will tomorrow buy it with regret at the most expensive price."

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## Newswatch

**KUWAIT CITY:** Deputy Foreign Minister Majdi Al-Dhafiri met on Thursday with visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Dr. Ali Bagheri and his accompanying delegation.

The two officials discussed during the meeting bilateral ties and means to develop them. They also touched on regional and international developments.

A dinner banquet was held in honor of the visiting Iranian official.

Earlier, Dr. Bagheri met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Dr. Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah. (KUNA)

**BENGHAZI:** Libya's top electoral body on Wednesday disqualified the son and onetime heir apparent of the late dictator Muammar Gaddafi from running for president in elections to be held next month, citing his previous convictions.

The name of Seif al-Islam Gaddafi appeared on a list of ineligible candidates issued by the country's High National Elections Committee. He can appeal the decision in court in the coming days.

Seif al-Islam had been sentenced to death by a Tripoli court in 2015 for using violence against protesters in a 2011 uprising against his father, but that ruling has since been called into question by Libya's rival authorities. (AP)

**JERUSALEM:** Israel is moving ahead with plans to build a massive Jewish settlement on the site of a long-abandoned airport that the Palestinians had hoped would one day service their future capital in east Jerusalem.

It's one of several settlement projects that are advancing despite condemnation by the Biden administration, which along with the Palestinians and much of the international community views the settlements as an obstacle to resolving the century-old conflict. (AP)

**ISTANBUL:** Turkish riot police on Wednesday broke up a protest in Istanbul by demonstrators denouncing the government's economic policies and the surging cost of living. Dozens of protesters were detained.

The protesters, mostly members of left-wing groups, were starting to gather in Istanbul's Kadikoy district, located on the Asian side of the city, when police intervened. Demonstrators were chanting slogans calling for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government to resign. (AP)



The second-placed winning photo by Kuwaiti photographer Fahad Al Enzei.

KUNA photo

## Kuwaiti wins 2nd

Kuwaiti photographer Fahad Al-Enzei, won the second place at the 50th annual National Wildlife Federation Photo Contest held in the United States.

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Enzei said, the photo was taken in the frozen shores of Hokkaido Island in far northern Japan, as competition for food during winter can breed conflict.

He witnessed this encounter when he visited a spot where white-tailed sea eagles were feeding on fish, when a brazen red fox moved in to grab a bite, the eagle gave the fox what looks like a good slap with its wings, Al-Enzei said.

Number of photos this year reached more than 40,000, organized by one of the largest American non-profit organizations, founded on February 3, 1936, and aims to protect the environment and wildlife and raise awareness of the importance of preserving them around the world, he added.

Al-Enzei, during his artistic and scientific career in the field of documenting wildlife and birds, has won about 230 international and local awards. (KUNA)



KUNA photo  
Kuwaiti photographer Fahad Al-Enzei

## Losses noted at KPTC

### MP faults imagery of military exercise in 'House of People'

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh  
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: MPs Abdulkareem Al-Kandari and Shuaib Al-Muwaizri criticized the military exercise held recently in the Assembly building.

Al-Kandari said the presence of military equipment and holding military drill inside the Assembly building are unacceptable, considering the iconic image of the legislature. He stressed the need to stop the distortion of the legislative institution, especially after instructing the security guards to control the hall.

Al-Muwaizri argued such a drill is not enough to justify the existence of military forces inside the house of the people. He pointed out that the officers and civilians cannot be blamed as they are just following orders. He said this is a violation of the Constitution and does not take into consideration the people, while hinting on what might happen in the coming period.

National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim and his accompanying delegation on Thursday met Spanish Parliament Speaker Meritxell Batet a day before the 143rd Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly in Madrid, Spain on Nov 26-30.

They discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations between the two friendly countries, as well as cooperation between Kuwait's National Assembly and the Cortes Generales.

They also tackled common regional and international issues; in addition to exchanging views on the items in the agenda of the 143rd IPU Assembly.

Secretary General of IPU MP Hamad Al-Matar, Treasurer MP Salman Al-Azmi,

member MP Osama Al-Menawer and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Spain Eyada Al-Saeedi attended the meeting.

Also, Al-Ghanim sent a cable to Parliament Speaker of Suriname Marinus Bee to greet him on his country's National Day.

He also sent condolences to his Russian counterparts - Chairman of the State Duma Vyacheslav Volodin and Chairman of the Federation Council Valentina Matvienko - for the victims of the recent fire incident in a mine in Siberia.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the parliamentary Public Funds Protection Committee MP Abdullah Al-Turajji revealed the committee found out during its meeting on Thursday that Kuwait Public Transport Company (KPTC) continues to incur losses because of its bad administration and lack of decisions to protect public funds.

The lawmaker pointed out that the committee looked into the report of the State Audit Bureau (SAB) about the investment of KPTC from Jan 1 to June 30, 2021, which did not mention any achievement in this regard. He said the recorded losses reached KD 29 million.

He added that KPTC signed contracts with consultants in the last fiscal year valued at KD 81 million in spite of the major losses. He said the violations included allocating bonus for the members of the board of directors at KPTC amounting to KD 30,000, in addition to the allowance for attending the meetings of committees.

Lastly, MP Marzouq Al-Khalifa submitted a proposal to establish a branch of the Boulevard in Jahra.

## Manila rejects China demand to remove ship from shoal

MANILA, Nov 25, (AP): The Philippines' defense chief rejected on Thursday China's renewed demand that it remove its outpost on a disputed South China Sea shoal and said Chinese coast guard ships should leave the area and stop blocking Manila's supply boats.

Philippine forces use a grounded warship, the BRP Sierra Madre, as an outpost on the submerged but strategic shoal that is at the center of an ongoing dispute with China.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the Second Thomas Shoal lies within the exclusive economic zone of the Philippines under the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, which

China has ratified. He said a 2016 ruling by a U.N.-backed arbitration tribunal also invalidated China's claims to the busy waterway, leaving them without any legal basis.

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs asked the Philippines Wednesday to "honor its commitment" and remove its grounded vessel on Ren'ai Jiao, the name Beijing uses for the shoal, which Filipinos refer to as Ayungin. Chinese coast guard ships have allowed Manila's boats to bring food and other supplies to Filipino

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