

His Highness wishes swift recovery for those injured in incident

Amir expresses condolences over victims of Siberia mine fire

CSC denies news about employees leaving workplace after fingerprint

'Firefighting Force issues circular to record third fingerprint'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has denied the news that employees in government agencies usually leave their respective workplaces once they register their attendance through the fingerprint system in the morning and then return at the end of the working hours to record their time of departure, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The CSC made the statement after the daily published a report with the headline, "Employees steal working hours," on Wednesday.

It also pointed out that the reports spread on various social media platforms about the plan to implement the third fingerprint attendance system to record the attendance of employees in the middle of the day is untrue. It added these platforms have ignored the facts regarding State agencies in terms of non-compliance with working hours and some employees allegedly disrupting the work of auditors.

Denying

The CSC seems keen on denying the news without verifying the information; considering the daily obtained a copy of an official letter from the Ministry of Higher Education, which confirmed the installation of additional fingerprint devices on the ground floor of its headquarters.

The ministry then issued a circular for its employees to register their attendance in the morning by scanning their fingerprints twice -- on the ground floor and the floors where their workplaces are located.

The daily got a copy of the circular as well, indicating the employees must scan their fingerprints for the second time on the floors where their respective workplaces are located within 15 minutes after doing the same on the ground floor until the first fingerprint is accepted. In case they fail to scan their fingerprints within the specified period, the fingerprint recorded in the devices installed on the floors where their respective workplaces are located will be considered as proof of attendance.

In addition, the Labor Union at the ministry posted on its Twitter account that this step was taken after it demanded for additional fingerprint devices for employees on the ground floor in order to avoid any delay that is usually charged to the employees once the proof of attendance is presented.

The union thanked the ministry's officials for their immediate response to the demand of the employees, clarifying that the time of departure from work is registered through the fingerprint devices installed on the floor where the respective workplaces of the employees are located.

In a related development, Deputy Director General for Administrative and Financial Affairs in Kuwait Firefighting Force Saleh Al-Ansari issued an administrative circular to record the third fingerprint as proof of attendance for workers assigned in the external centers that operate under the shift system -- 48 hours work, followed by 96 hours of rest.

API initials MoU with NTEC to up skills of leaders

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25, (KUNA): The Arab Planning Institute signed on Thursday a memorandum of understanding with the National Technology Enterprises Company to empower leaders in government institutions and enhance their skills in line with the State of Kuwait's development plan 'New Kuwait Vision 2035.'

Director of the Arab Planning Institute, Dr Badr Malallah, said in a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on the sidelines of the signing that the memorandum of understanding is in line with the directions of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister and his desire to support middle management and push it towards enhancing government performance and raising the quality of institutional performance.

Malallah added that the leaders' preparation program will be directed to supervisory and leadership positions in the country to raise the quality of government performance in line with the development plan.

He explained that the program is an integrated process of tools in the field of training and will contribute to enhancing the knowledge and skills of supervisory leaders in middle management to reach higher levels in government administration.

For his part, CEO of the National Technology Enterprises Company, Anas Mirza, said in a similar statement that the Leaders Empowerment Program aims to develop leaders of state institutions and upgrade their capabilities to support the national development plan Mirza added that the transfer of modern technology requires the development of leaders in government institutions in line with the needs of the country to advance and reach the desired goals and achieve the goals of the New Kuwait Vision 2035.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday a cable to Russian President Vladimir Putin, expressing condolences over a fire occurring in a mine in Siberia.

His Highness the Amir expressed

sorrow over the victims of the fire and wished for the swift recovery of those injured in the incident.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

National Day greetings sent

HH Amir congratulates Suriname

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah addressed Thursday a cable of congratulations to President of Suriname Chan Sandokhi, on the occasion of his country's National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent the president of Suriname similar cables.



KUNA photo

Group photo after signing the cooperation protocol between Municipal Council and Kuwait Bar Association.

Bid to boost co-op, exchange of experiences

Municipal Council & KBA sign co-op protocol

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25, (KUNA): The Municipal Council and the Kuwait Bar Association (KBA) signed on Thursday a cooperation protocol aimed at enhancing bilateral cooperation and exchanging experiences between the two sides.

In a press statement after the signing ceremony, Municipal Council President Osama Al-Otaibi said that this cooperation would contribute to the quality of the council's decisions and regulations, as well as holding training courses for the council's general

secretariat employees to strengthen the legal aspects in performing their functional and professional tasks.

Al-Otaibi praised the initiative of the Lawyers Association to request the conclusion of a memorandum of cooperation with the Municipal Council because of its significant impact on providing the council with its extensive legal expertise.

For his part, Chairman of the Kuwait Bar Association, Sherian Al-Shirian, said that the cooperation protocol between the two

sides paves the way for more cooperation and coordination in the interest of both parties, pointing out that the association is keen to consolidate the bonds of fruitful and constructive cooperation with all state bodies and institutions.

Al-Shirian mentioned that the Municipal Council plays a clear role in formulating policies setting plans and deciding projects in everything related to the tasks and fields of urban, environmental and health activities of the municipal-



KUNA photos

A craft that reflected the content of the folklore of the people of Kuwait in the past.

Founding anniversary being marked

Sadu Craft Society worked for 30 years in preserving traditions of weaving: Sheikha

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 25, (KUNA): Director of Sadu Craft Society Sheikha Bibi Al-Duaij Al-Sabah said that the society has worked for 30 years in preserving the traditions of weaving and transferring them towards future horizons to enrich the local cultural identity and the development of national contemporary creative artistic development, pointing out that this culminated in inclusion of the Kuwaiti Sadu art on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO.



Sheikha Bibi

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on the occasion of the association's celebration on Thursday, the 30th anniversary of its founding, Sheikha Bibi added that the association worked on refining artistic methods and manual skills and passing them on to the younger generations within serious educational plans and programs and preserving the rights of primary craftswomen to motivate and honor their artistic gifts.

She pointed out that the association worked during that period to encourage young people to work manually and innovate in the field of weaving and weaving traditions and to persevere in highlighting the Kuwaiti cultural heritage and introducing it locally, regionally and globally.

She explained that the association was established in 1991 to preserve, document and introduce the rich and diverse heritage

of textiles, and strive to celebrate the values of the beautiful past through dedication to giving, determination and creativity at work, weaving a bond and cultural identity for present and future generations.

She pointed out that the Sadu Research Library is one of the Sadu Society's initiatives, and it is a specialized library to assist researchers and contains a variety of documents, books and publications on many topics, in addition to studies related to art.

Sheikha Bibi stated that the association has issued seven publications.

She pointed out that during the past ten years, the association provided several professional programs for traditional textile arts, including the 'Fun with Weaving' program for children, where they are taught the basics of traditional weaving in a fun and interesting way, and the 'Anasj' program, which is intended for adults to train participants in the arts of Sadu weaving.

She said that for the sake of development and modernity, the Sadi initiative was established, whose vision is embodied in encouraging artists in Kuwait to be creative and innovative, and a Sadi studio was also opened in 2019 to provide a creative space for design and innovation in various textile arts.

She mentioned that among the initiatives is also the 'Textile Tales' initiative, which is an exhibition and contemporary interactive awareness initiative aimed at honoring textile artisans and discussing modern trends to appreciate these traditional arts, as well as hosting sculptures and manual activities that seek to explore the new Sadu in Kuwait.

US will

Continued from Page 1

The Iranians are "very close," and "nearly able to build a nuclear weapon," General McKenzie said, adding, "I think they like the idea of being able to breakout."

Earlier Wednesday, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Mariano Grossi, who returned to Vienna from a trip to Tehran, said his talks with senior Iranian officials failed to address the outstanding nuclear verification issues.

The extensive negotiations "proved inconclusive," he told a virtual meeting by the IAEA Board of Governors as he presented the 35-member Board with his latest report on verification and monitoring in Iran.

Kuwait calls

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He also expressed Kuwait's readiness to support all initiatives and programs that would contribute to improving living and health conditions, including the "ZODIAC Initiative", which aims to strengthen global preparedness system to face pandemics that may appear in the future.

Kuwait contributed USD 300,000 to ZODIAC Initiative, in addition to USD 100,000 to a recently launched scholarship program bearing physicist Marie Curie's name, which aims to empower women and increase the number of women in the nuclear field.

This helps achieve the sustainable development goals, and is in line with Kuwait's 2035 vision that attaches much significance to women as being half the society.

The Kuwaiti diplomat also pointed out Kuwait's USD 500,000 donation to the IAEA's initiative for renewing laboratories in Seibersdorf in Austria, bringing its total contributions to the ReNual Project for renewing the agency's laboratories up to USD 1.5 million over the last years.

He noted that Kuwait's delegation follows up with the periodical reports issued by the IAEA Director General on implementing the UN Security Council Resolution 2231 regarding Iran's nu-

clear program.

In this context, Al-Otaibi urged Iran to ratify and implement the additional protocol so that IAEA would be able to provide credible assurances concerning the absence of undeclared nuclear materials and activities in Iran.

He recalled Kuwait's participation in the conference's first session on establishing a nuclear and WMD-free Middle East, while looking forward to the second session headed by Kuwait in a few days' time, stressing full keenness to achieve its goals and urging the participation of all concerned countries.

Manila rejects

Continued from Page 1

forces at the shoal for humanitarian reasons, it said.

But defense chief Lorenzana told reporters he was not aware of any Philippine government commitment to remove its navy ship, which has been grounded upon the shoal since 1999.

"We can do whatever we want there and it is they who are actually trespassing," he said.

Chinese coast guard ships have surrounded the shoal in a years-long territorial standoff and tried to block Philippine supply boats in past years. In the latest confrontation, Chinese coast guard ships used water cannons to forcibly turn back two supply boats manned by Philippine navy personnel last week, sparking outrage and warnings from Manila.

Following the Chinese blockade, the United States said it was standing by the Philippines and reiterated that an armed attack on Philippine public vessels in the South China Sea would invoke U.S. mutual defense commitments under the two allies' 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty.

The Philippine navy successfully transported supplies and fresh personnel to the Sierra Madre this week then left without any major incident after Lorenzana talked with China's ambassador to Manila. President Rodrigo Duterte, who has nurtured close ties with Beijing, angrily condemned the Chinese blockade in a video summit of Southeast Asian leaders with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Xi did not specifically react to Duterte's remarks but said China will not bully its smaller neighbors.

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