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## PAM TO DISCUSS CANCELLATION OF OVER-60 DECISION



EXI Multispectral Image of Mars, showing volcanoes poking through the cloud layer. On 18 July, 2021, the EXI camera system onboard the Hope probe obtained a set of multispectral images of a fully-illuminated hemisphere of Mars - which looks very similar to observations routinely carried out by weather satellites orbiting Earth. — See Page 2

# Labor, computer staff still instructionless, yet to gear

Outside 60s must re-apply; 5,000 on temporary residencies

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: Minister of Commerce and Industry, Chairman of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) Board of Directors, Dr. Abdullah Al-Salman will call a meeting this week of the PAM Board of Directors to discuss the cancellation of the decision of the PAM Director-General, Ahmed Al-Mousa, not to renew the work permits of non-graduate expatriates who are 60 years and above, reports Al-Rai daily.**

According to sources, Al-Salman's move in this direction comes after the Fatwa and Legislation Department of the Council of Ministers, has concluded that the decision (No. 520 of 2020), which was issued in August 2020 and implemented as of January 1, 2021, is illegal.

Meanwhile, the Al-Qabas daily quoting an official at the Public Authority for Manpower denied what is being circulated in the social media platforms that the automated systems window to renew work permits for non-graduate expatriates 60 years and above has been opened.

The official told the daily, the order to stop the renewal for this category of residents is still in place, as neither the labor departments nor the computer section have received any new instructions about opening the system and programming it to accept renewal requests. The daily said the Resolution No. 520 of 2020 issued on 16 last August still holds water.

The source pointed out the labor departments Thursday witnessed an increase in the 'activity' from those 60 years and above wishing to renew their work permits. The source added, should PAM receive any instructions, the same will be made officially public.

The Al-Jarida daily quoting Residence Affairs Department of the Ministry of Interior said instructions have been given not to listen to the grievances of any individual who has reached the age of 60 and has left the country for good following the issuance of the decision by PAM not to renew the residence permits of those 60 years and above non-graduate expatriates.

The daily quoting Interior Ministry sources said, these people can however enter the country on a new visa.

The sources revealed about 5,000 expatriates have been granted temporary residencies to adjust their status, since the time the decision was issued, indicating that these expatriates can renew their work permits when the residence renewal window opens.

### Umrah only for vaccinated

**JEDDAH, Oct 10, (KUNA):** Saudi Arabia announced Saturday that starting from Oct 10, only vaccinated Muslims will get permits to perform Umrah or pray at the Grand Mosque in Makkah and the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah said it was decided that starting Oct 10, 2021, the issuance of permits to perform Umrah and prayers in the Grand Mosque and to visit the Prophet's Mosque will be exclusive to only vaccinated people who received two doses of the KSA's approved coronavirus vaccines.

### Opinion

## From King of Egypt to Haroun Al-Rashid ... state's reverence lies on decision of an enlightened ruler

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE reverence of the State is the decision of a ruler who measures matters based on what serves his people. He neither relies on them completely nor gives them full authority to act, especially if they are the kind who put their own interests above the interests of the state.

In history, there is a lot of evidence of such people who have caused the destruction of great states. On the other hand, the countries where rulers seek to serve their people have always had the highest rating in everything. This is due to the fact that an enlightened ruler is the one who sees his stability in the stability, progress and development of his country. The one who imprisons himself in an ivory tower of advisors is isolated from his people, and follows his illusions.

Take Hitler as an example. His political shortsightedness caused not only the destruction of Germany, but also a world war in which about 50 million people were killed.

Perhaps the Abbasid Dynasty during the reign of Haroun Al-Rashid is the clearest example of the destruction caused by treacherous advisors.

The Barmakids (an influential Persian family from Balkh), who were powerful during the reign of Al-Rashid, paved the way for the seizure of power by intrigues between members of caliph's family, and brought some of their followers to the palace.

At that stage, they had a great opportunity, which they seized cleverly. Zubaydah, Haroun's wife, was late in childbearing, so Jafar Al-Barmaki's wife advised him to marry one of her Persian maidservants. Her name was Marjel, and she gave birth to Al-Ma'moun. However, Zubaydah became pregnant in the meantime and gave birth to Al-Amin, who was six months younger than his brother.

Barmakids were basing their power on the fact that they were the ones who nurtured Haroun, and helped him take over after the death of his brother Al-Hadi. However, when he sensed their attempt to ignite strife between his two sons Al-Amin and Al-Mamoun, Yahya and Jaafar Al-Barmaki were arrested. Also, Al-Fadel bin Yahya - Haroun's brother through lactation - was arrested.

Barmakids were of Magian origins. Their great-grandfather was the servant of the Magian temple. When they converted to Islam, they did not abandon their grudges, and they thus made everything in the caliphate in their interest.

At the end of the reign of Al-Rashid, a conflict erupted over the succession of the throne between his wife Zubaydah - who sought allegiance to her son Al-Amin and was supported by her cousins from Bani Hashim and Bani Al-Abbas, - and the Barmakids who were in support of the other son of Al-Rashid, Al-Ma'mun - who grew up under their upbringing and in their care - and attempted to exclude Al-Amin.

However, this late awakening of Al-Rashid did not help in establishing the Abbasid rule. Only a few years later, war broke out between the two brothers, which led to the start of the countdown to the demise of the Abbasid Caliphate.

On the contrary, the third Saudi state, founded by the late King Abdulaziz bin Saud, was the builder of this large kingdom. In the early stages of the establishment of the state, and due to the scarcity of personalities who gradually became responsible in modern countries, he used a number of Arab advisors, including Muhammad Maarouf Al-Dawalibi, Youssef Yassin, Rashad Pharaoh, and Hafez Wahba. Although he listened to their opinions, he took the decisions that served his country and people positively.

It is narrated that on one occasion he consulted with them about a matter, and they indicated to him the opposite of what serves the interest of the country. He then told them in words that mean the following: it is true that we listen to your opinion, but our decisions stem from our convictions.

There are advisors - if they are loyal to the ruler - who play a major role in the renaissance of the country, provided that the decision-maker has the insight to foresee the benefit to his country. This is the case of Prophet Yusuf (Peace Be Upon Him) with the King of Egypt, who falsely imprisoned him after the wife of Aziz of Egypt claimed that the Prime Minister at that time - Yusuf (Peace Be Upon Him) - had seduced her.

Nonetheless, Almighty Allah freed him from that accusation, after the King of Egypt saw a vision of seven fat cows being eaten by seven lean ones, seven green ears of grain and the last dry ones. His advisors and dream interpreters were unable to explain the dream.

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An elderly Iraqi woman with an inked finger walks using a cane after casting her vote in parliamentary elections in Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday, Oct. 10. Iraq closed its airspace and land border crossings on Sunday as voters headed to the polls to elect a parliament that many hope will deliver much needed reforms after decades of conflict and mismanagement. (AP)

### Iraq votes

Iraqis voted Sunday in parliamentary elections held months ahead of schedule as a concession to a youth-led popular uprising against corruption and mismanagement.

But the voting was marked by widespread apathy and a boycott by many of the young activists who thronged the streets of Baghdad and Iraq's southern provinces in late 2019.

Tens of thousands of people took part in the mass protests and were met by security forces firing live ammunition and tear gas. More than 600 people were killed and thousands injured within just a few months.

Although authorities gave in and called the early elections, the death toll and the heavy-handed crackdown - as well as a string of targeted assassinations - prompted many who took part in the protests to later call for a boycott of the vote.

Polls closed at 1500 GMT (1800 local time) following 11 hours of voting. (AP)

### Day by Day

THOSE in Turkey, who have succeeded in disrupting our state, politically, economically and socially, want the state to apologize to them instead of them apologizing to the state for what they have done to the country.

They are doing this because they know our government is afraid of their shadow.

Kuwait is not at its best these days; everything depends on the disturbing decisions related to 'Corona'. The latest is the deportation of expatriates who are 60 years and above. God knows what will come next.

... Yet, tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

## MoH starts vaccination drive

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10, (Agencies):** Kuwait's Ministry of Health announced Sunday the launch of a Covid-19 vaccination campaign across several areas in Kuwait on October 11th.

In a press release, the Ministry of Health noted that the campaign would commence in Bneid Al-Gar, with a layout to cover several areas to provide the service to all age categories.

This campaign aims to raise vaccination rates, and to cover all workers who were not able to get the vaccine for any reason, it noted.

The ministry of Health have launched several vaccination campaigns to reach all parts of the community.

Health sources said incoming passengers can enter the country if they have received two doses of one of the unapproved vaccines, including (Sinopharma, Sinovac and Sputnik), provided that the person has received at least one additional dose of the vaccine approved in Kuwait (Pfizer, Oxford or Moderna) or one dose of the 'Johnson & Johnson', reports Al-Rai daily.

In the meantime, despite the opening of registration to receive the booster dose (third dose) of the "Covid-19" vaccine for all those 18 years and above, informed health sources said the conditions for immunization have not changed and therefore the procedures related to travel 'so far' remain the same.

Last week, the European Medicines Agency authorized the administration of a third dose of the "Pfizer" vaccine to adults over the age of 18, at least 6 months after the date of receiving the second dose, which is the same procedure that the Kuwaiti Ministry of Health announced yesterday that Kuwait has opened the door for registration for booster dose which will be given on priority basis - starting with the elderly people and those who are suffering from chronic diseases.

### NewsWatch

**KUWAIT CITY:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent, Sunday, a cable of condolences to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

In the cable, His Highness expressed sincere condolences and sympathies on the demise of Prince Abdullah bin Mohammad bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud bin Faisal Al-Saud, wishing solace for the royal family.

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

**DUBAI:** FaceTime calls seemed to be working in the United Arab Emirates on Sunday, an apparent loosening of longstanding restrictions on the Apple program in the federation of seven sheikhdoms.

There was no official announcement on the matter. The UAE's Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Apple also did not respond to a request for comment. Associated Press journalists could make FaceTime voice and video calls with good sound quality to people inside and outside the country.

The UAE, home to the oil-rich capital of Abu Dhabi and the free-wheeling financial hub of Dubai, long has blocked internet calling apps like WhatsApp and FaceTime, presumably due to security concerns and to protect the revenues of its monopoly state-run telecommunication companies. However, authorities have not publicly explained the ban. Apple iPhones and computers sold in the UAE typically do not carry the FaceTime calling app. (AP)

**WASHINGTON:** Raymond T. Odierno, a retired Army general who commanded American and coalition forces in Iraq at the height of the war and capped a 39-year career by serving as the Army's chief of staff, has died, his family said Saturday. He was 67.

"The general died after a brave battle with cancer; his death was not related to COVID," a family statement said. "There are no other details to share at this time. His family is grateful for the concern and asks for privacy."

Odierno died Friday; the family declined to say where. It said funeral and interment information was not yet available.

President Joe Biden lauded Odierno as a "hero of great integrity and honor." In a joint statement, the president and First Lady Jill Biden recalled that Odierno spoke at the funeral of their son Beau, who served under Odierno in Iraq and died of brain cancer in 2015. (AP)

## Enriched 20% over reported

**TEHRAN, Oct 10, (AP):** Iran has produced more than 120 kilograms (265 pounds) of 20% enriched uranium, the country's nuclear chief said, far more than what the U.N. nuclear watchdog reported last month.

Mohammad Eslami said in an interview with state TV late Saturday that under the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, the other signatories were to provide Iran with 20% enriched uranium needed for its research reactor.

"But it was not delivered," he said. "If we did not produce it by ourselves this would have turned into one of our problems."

Under the terms of the nuclear deal, Iran was prohibited from enriching uranium above 3.67% with the exception of its research reactor activities. Enriched uranium above 90% can be used in a nuclear weapon.

In September, the International Atomic Energy Agency said Iran's stockpile of uranium enriched to up to 20% fissile purity was estimated at 84.3 kilograms (185 pounds) up from 62.8 kilograms (138 pounds) three months earlier.

Scientists estimate that at least 170 kilograms (375 pounds) of enriched uranium is needed to make a bomb.

The nuclear deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, promises Iran economic incentives in exchange for limits on its nuclear program, and is meant to prevent Tehran from developing a nuclear bomb. Tehran insists its program is peaceful.

The U.S. unilaterally pulled out of the deal in 2018 under then-President Donald Trump, but Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia have tried to preserve the accord.

Tehran's strategy of deliberately violating the deal is seen as an attempt to put pressure on Europe to provide it with incentives to offset crippling American sanctions re-imposed after the U.S. pullout.

President Joe Biden has said he is open to rejoining the pact. The last round of talks in Vienna ended in June without a clear result.