

## Prayer Timings

Fajr .....	04:34	Asr .....	14:46
Sunrise ..	05:54	Maghrib ..	17:11
Zohr .....	11:33	Isha .....	18:28

# Local

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)

## Weather

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Night: Fair with light to moderate freshening at times over coastal areas north westerly wind with speeds of 12-40 km/h.  
By Day: Rather hot with light

to moderate north westerly wind with speeds of 12-38 km/h.

Station	Max Rec	Min Exp	Salmiyah	31	24
Kuwait City	34	24	Ahmadi	32	24
Kuwait Airport	34	20	Wafra	34	19
Abdaly	34	19	Salmiya	31	18
Jahra	34	21	Jal Aliyah	33	20
			Managish	-	-

## Agencies refusing to provide info: journalists

# Move prevents scribes to play role, expose financial, admin corruption

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: Although the Right to Information law was issued to promote the principle of transparency and integrity in economic and administrative dealings in order to ensure rational management and optimal use of state funds, resources and properties, and in embodiment of the first goal of the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority, the actual practice of the law entirely excludes the fourth estate from this entitlement, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Several government agencies are refusing to provide journalists with information on the grounds that they are not covered by the Right of Information law and its executive regulations. This prevents the journalists from exercising their legitimate role in exposing financial and administrative corruption at various levels, and reflecting international and local interest in fighting corruption.

One of the government agencies said in its response to a

press request submitted in this regard, "In accordance with the provisions of the articles of Law No. 12/2020 regarding the right to access information and its executive regulations, it is clear that the interest is absent with regard to the required information contained in the request form. You are an editor in a newspaper, and it does concern any of your rights."

The agency explained that the law defines the request as every request submitted by a person to the entity to view or obtain information and administrative decisions that affect his rights and copies of documents associated with them, according to the form prepared for this purpose.

A person is "every natural or legal person who has an interest in accessing or obtaining information and decisions".

According to article 10 of Chapter Four on "Request to obtain information from the law", if the request contains

more than one information, and if some of it falls within the scope of the protection of privacy specified in this law, the entity must divide the request whenever possible, otherwise it will be rejected.

Article 12 of Chapter Five related to "Protection of Information" stipulates that the entity is prohibited from disclosing information in the following cases:

1 - If confidentiality is established by virtue of the constitution, a law, or a decision of the Cabinet, based on a proposal by the concerned minister, considering the papers included in it are confidential and for the period specified by the Cabinet.

2 - If the information contains a commercial secret and its publication would weaken the commercial and financial interest of the stakeholders.

3 - If disclosing the information would cause a serious

and grave danger that would affect the state's economy or prejudice public confidence in the currency or public health or the environment.

This raises more questions about who is responsible for depriving the fourth authority of its natural right to access information, especially when enacting the law on which great hopes were placed in the possibility of opening corruption files that were unavailable for access before the issuance of the law.

In addition, follow-up sources asked, "How is the government's approach and the parliamentary and popular desire to fight corruption upright, when the print, audio and visual media are deprived of one of the tools that enhance their role in combating corruption in all its forms, given that they represent the fourth authority in society after the three executive, legislative and judicial authorities?"



Heavy traffic on the Fourth Ring Road opposite Hawalli as people return from their jobs in the afternoon.

Photo by Bassam Abu Shanab

## 'Rise in flight rates due to demand, few seats'

End travel restrictions: citizen

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: Despite the Cabinet's decision to raise the capacity of incoming passengers to Kuwait International Airport to 10,000 per day, the air transportation market is still witnessing a steady rise in flight ticket prices, which have reached record limits due to limited number of seats and increased demand to return to the country, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Head of the Union of Travel and Tourism Offices Mohammad Al-Mutairi explained that the prices of tickets for those coming from India, the UAE and the Philippines are high. The ticket rates have increased to 500 percent due to the decisions related to limited number of seats per day, without raising the capacity.

The prices of tickets for passengers from Dubai, India and the Philippines range between KD 300 and KD 400. Considering that those coming from India and the Philippines are mostly domestic workers, the citizens who are waiting for the arrival of these

workers end up being burdened.

Al-Mutairi called for the abolition of travel restrictions, saying, "It is unfortunate that we were the first to implement these restrictions, and we will be the last to lift them".

He indicated that there are approximately 2,000 seats per day that are not used by some airlines due to which they must be redirected to India and the UAE immediately.

Al-Mutairi highlighted his demand to open the airport with full operational capacity, similar to neighboring countries, in line with the governmental promises of doing so when the vaccination rate reaches 80 percent.

He said, "The need for the air transportation market is higher and greater than the current situation due to several reasons, including the desire of tens of thousands of residents to return to the country following a eight-month ban. The solution is to reopen the skies but by taking health measures".

Al-Mutairi stated that many countries of the world have slowly resumed air traffic to the normal rates, and that these countries' vaccination rates are lower or equal to the vaccination rate in Kuwait, which has the highest vaccination rate in the world.

## 60 illegals nabbed

# 20 fake maids offices raided

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: The Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior

stated, in continuation of the campaigns carried out by the Residence Affairs Sector to arrest violators of the residence law, and flush out fictitious domestic workers hiring offices, the department raided many such offices in the Hawalli Governorate upon instructions from the Assistant Undersecretary for Residence Affairs Major-General Anwar Al-Barjas, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to the daily, officers of the department raided 20 such offices when it received information that an Asian was sheltering runaway workers and offering them for work on hourly or daily wage basis and arrested 60 violators of the residence and labor laws.

Saudis arrested: Personnel from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) have arrested two Saudi brothers

for robbing expatriates and targeting groceries, reports Al-Rai daily.

One of the brothers reportedly posed as Municipal officer and one of them even impersonated a senior police officer.

According to a security source, the gang, consisting of two brothers and a Saudi, carried out their criminal activities over a period of 10 days, until the CID men got the smell of their activities, and further investigations conducted by the detectives revealed the identity of the suspects following which police set a trap for them and caught one of the brothers red-handed.

The security source stated that the suspects have so far confessed to committing 7 groceries thefts and robbed a number of expatriates and spent the stolen sums on "fun".

The source pointed out "investigations with the suspects are still underway to know more about the crimes they have committed."

## FM reiterates backing for Libya

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Foreign Minister and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr. Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, who chairs the 156th session of the Arab ministerial council, and Libyan Foreign Minister Najla Al-Manqoush and UN Under-Secretary for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs Rosemary A. DiCarlo, co-chaired an international meeting held in Tripoli on Thursday to support Libya's stability.

Addressing the event, the Kuwaiti foreign minister reaffirmed Kuwait's unwavering and principled position based on backing Libya's national unity authority, supporting Libya's security and stability and fulfilling the Libyan people's expectations.

He called in Libyans to give top priority to the country's supreme interests, find peaceful solutions, decry all forms of violence, abide by relevant UN Security Council resolutions and support the action plan of the 5-5 Joint Military Commission, which was adopted in Geneva and called for pulling all mercenaries and

foreign fighters and forces out of Libyan territories in a gradual and balanced way that ensures proper preparations for parliamentary and presidential elections as scheduled on December 24, 2021.

The Kuwaiti minister also reiterated that Arab countries are keen on Libya's security and stability and that the Arab League's Council, during its 156th ordinary session in September, approved Resolution 8675 that was adopted on September 9, 2021, at the ministerial level.

He elaborated that the resolution stressed commitment to Libya's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity, objection to all types of foreign interference, and total support for the new authority, including the presidential council and national unity government, in its tasks enshrined in the roadmap, leading up to parliamentary and presidential elections on December 24, 2021, backing Libya's stability initiative and implementing UNSC Resolutions 2510, 2670 and 2571 and the outcomes of Berlin conferences.



Kuwaiti Foreign Minister and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr. Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, who chairs the 156th session of the Arab ministerial council, and Libyan Foreign Minister Najla Al-Manqoush and UN Under-Secretary for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs Rosemary A. DiCarlo, co-chaired an international meeting held in Tripoli on Thursday to support Libya's stability. Addressing the event, the Kuwaiti foreign minister reaffirmed Kuwait's unwavering and principled position based on backing Libya's national unity authority, supporting Libya's security and stability and fulfilling the Libyan people's expectations. Above: The Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Dr. Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah with the President of the Presidential Council of the State of Libya. (KUNA)

## Minister reshuffles top MPW officials

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: Minister of Public Works Dr Rana Al-Faris recently reshuffled the assistant undersecretaries; including Eng Walid Al-Ghanim as Assistant Undersecretary for the Sanitary Engineering Sector, Eng Abdul-Mohsen Al-Enezi as Assistant Undersecretary for the Government Center Sector in addition to his task in the Major Projects Sector, Eng Abdul Aziz Al-Sabah as Assistant Undersecretary for the Maintenance Sector, and Eng Abdullah Al-Sabah as Assistant Undersecretary for Planning and Development Sector, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The daily obtained a copy of the decision which also stipulates the appointment Eid

Al-Rashidi to the Supervision and Audit Sector, Eng Ayed Abdullah Al-Azmi to the Advisory Sector, Kefaya Al-Najdi to the Financial and Administrative Affairs Sector, and Eng Ghunaim Al-Mutairi to the Coordination and Follow Up Sector.

Meanwhile, Kuwait University issued a decision to double the registration fee for paper-based academic aptitude tests to KD10 for each subject, and that the increase is based on the approval of the university's Supreme Council, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The daily obtained a copy of the circular issued by acting University Director Dr Badr Al-Badawi, which indicates this increase will be applied starting from academic year 2021/2022.

## 'Prolonged closure'

# 'Corona pushes anxiety levels among children'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Consultant Dr Bibi Al-Amiri attributed the increase in anxiety cases in children to the repercussions of the Corona pandemic, indicating the result of a simple survey showed that anxiety cases among children increased from seven percent to 30 percent, reports Al-Anba daily.

She pointed out the increase in anxiety cases among children is due to the prolonged closure during the pandemic. She said doctors found out while reviewing anxiety and depression cases, that the condition of those suffering from psychological disorders has worsened.

In a press statement, Al-Amiri revealed a symposium was organized under the auspices of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the ministries of Health and Education; focusing on mental health in schools. She said the importance of the symposium lies in the participation of several disciplines, organizations, experts from Kuwait and a number of teachers.

She said one of the most important issues discussed is that mental health and education are vital for learning, meaning the education provided by schools does not achieve learning without the presence of mental health at its side. She added this is for the information to reach the intended person and develop his intellectual abilities and social skills to be successful and productive in the community; therefore, mental health is essential in the educational plan and schools, as there will be no learning without it.

## Investigation

Meanwhile, employees of the government center sector in the Ministry of Public Works are awaiting recommendations of the investigation committee regarding the violations that affected two contracts for the maintenance and repair of devices, equipment and mechanisms of the government center for testing, quality control and research, especially after the intervention of the Public Authority for Anti-Corruption (Nazaha) in this matter and its request for some clarifications on the information about the entire process, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to informed sources, the events related to this matter officially date back to the end of 2019, but it actually began on November 7 when the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Works issued an administrative decision to form a financial, technical and legal committee to investigate the violations. After the committee held more than 20 investigation sessions and prior to the submission of its recommendations, a decision was issued to cancel the committee and form another one headed by the Director of the Audit and Inspection Department.

The sources explained, "The subject of the investigation was primarily focused on examining the extent of suspected violations or waste of public money in the contract. Before canceling the first committee on May 20, it conducted an inspection of the devices, equipment and laboratories. In the report it prepared with the result of its work, the presence of some irregularities were highlighted. The report was handed over to the new committee."

Meanwhile, Nazaha requested to be provided with the details of the performance evaluation of one of the employees, the reasons and justifications for referring the investigation, and the procedures followed to initiate it.

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