

Prayer Timings

Fajr	05:18	Asr	14:42
Sunrise ..	06:43	Maghrib ..	17:01
Zohr	11:52	Isha	18:23

Local

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Rather cold with light to moderate north westerly wind to light variable wind with speed of 08-33 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear with a chance for light fog forming at night.

Weather

By Night: Rather cold and partly cloudy with light variable wind to light to moderate north westerly wind with speed of 08-28 km/h with a chance for light fog forming over some areas.

Station Max Exp Min Rec
Kuwait City 15 14

Kuwait Airport	16	13
Abdaly	17	12
Jahra	17	13
Salmiyah	16	14
Ahmadi	16	14
Nuwaisib	16	15
Salmiyah	15	11
Jal Aliyah	14	11

VACCINE BOOSTER REGISTRATION: https://cov19vaccine.moh.gov.kw/SPCMS/CVD_19_Vaccine_Booster_Registration.aspx

PAS calls on MoE to help promote athletics & sports

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 2: The Public Authority for Sports (PAS) called on the Ministry of Education to hold a joint meeting to discuss the implementation of the decision regarding the participation of athletes in international tournaments held inside and outside the country, reports Al-Anba daily.

A letter was sent by the authority to the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education Dr. Ali Al-Yacoub.

The letter was based on the existing and continuous cooperation between the two sides and in reference to the provisions of the sports law, and the circulars, decisions and regulations issued in implementation of it for granting athletes from university students, institutes and various schools a full-time leave to participate in Olympic, global, continental, regional and Arab tournaments held inside or outside the country.

It requested for coordination to set a date for the joint meeting regarding sports sabbaticals that serve the general interest of all.

Migration

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The island has a history of taking in Lebanese, who first came in the 1980s, at the height of Lebanon's 15-year-civil war, and again in 2006, when Cyprus served as a base for evacuating civilians during the monthlong war between Israel and Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group.

Maalouf, 43, who made the move to Cyprus with her husband and two kids, said she was pleasantly surprised by how "easy" the relocation process was. She hasn't found work yet but has connected with Cyprus' close-knit Lebanese community.

"We were scared about this step," she said, but Cypriot immigration authorities "made that very smooth and very easy."

Cyprus' Interior Ministry spokesman Loizos Michael confirmed to The Associated Press that the government has "simplified procedures" for Lebanese nationals who wish to immigrate lawfully, "as part of humanitarian assistance" to Lebanon.

Additionally, incentives are offered to Lebanese businessmen who wish to transfer their businesses to Cyprus, Michael said, without elaborating.

Maalouf said her primary motivation was to shield her children from Lebanon's dire economic situation - runaway inflation has seen the Lebanese pound lose more than 90% of its value in less than two years - and provide them with a chance for a better future.

"It's scary when you're a parent, you're scared and you say, OK, I need to save my kids," said Maalouf.

The transition was easier for 47-year-old Elbacha and her family. They had bought a vacation home in Cyprus years ago in the town of Paralimni on the island's east coast and felt they already had a footing here.

Her elder daughter, Stephanie, has been studying at a university in Paris for two years now. Her younger daughter, 17-year-old Morgane, was fortunate to get into Cyprus' only French-speaking school in Nicosia, the capital.

Elbacha and her husband, also an architect, have set up a company in Cyprus and are both working. They have a sense of obligation to the country that has welcomed them, she said.

"We want to be feeling like we are not illegal in the country," she said. Cyprus has helped them "in every sense, and it's like we have to return this."

Elbacha is lucky, she says, especially when she remembers how powerless many Lebanese feel in the face of constant feuds and bickering among the political elite. Her home in Beirut sustained minor damage in the Aug. 4, 2020 port explosion, mostly broken glass. None of the four of them were hurt but some of her friends and relatives fared much worse.

Later that month, the family moved to Cyprus. The first five months here, she remembers feelings of guilt, like she was "betraying my country," she said.

Maalouf, who also ended up with her family in Paralimni, has little faith things will turn around in Lebanon anytime soon, despite upcoming general elections. "I've been hearing this since I was a teenager. Things will get better. We'll see and things never get better," she said.

For its proximity to Lebanon, Cyprus is in many ways ideal for both Maalouf and Elbacha. They can easily visit family and friends back in Beirut.

"The people of Cyprus are very warm and welcoming," said Maalouf. "We don't feel like strangers here." (AP)



Traffic was held up on the Fahaheel Road, opposite Mishref after the heavy downpour which hit Kuwait on Jan 1 and 2, 2022. Water puddles could be seen in many areas of the country after the rain. The Ministry of Interior, the Kuwait National Guard and other authorities are working round the clock to clear the roads of water and mud. Citizens and expatriates have been asked to only go out when necessary to protect their own lives and those of others.

Photo by Bassam Abu Shanab

Call for more women in top positions



A group photo of participants in the symposium.

'Law with doctors'

KMA slams attacks

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 2: Kuwait Medical Association (KMA) denounced the recent attacks on doctors in their workplaces, reports Al-Rai daily.

The first incident was an attack on a doctor at Umm Al-Hayman Health Center, and the second on two doctors at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital.

Chairman of the Complaints Committee at (KMA) Dr Maitham Hussein said the association has been reassured about the health and condition of the doctors, and its lawyer was appointed to defend them.

Hussain expressed disappointment over the repeated attacks on doctors recently, stressing that KMA will not allow these attacks to continue. He added the association is keen on protecting doctors through the law, while stressing the need to punish the assailants.

Meanwhile, Director of Funerals Department in Kuwait Municipality Faisal Al-Awadi revealed that the department needs to recruit more expatriates to work as grave diggers, dead body washers and take up other jobs in cemeteries, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Al-Awadi told the daily that the need for additional expatriate manpower is due to the increase of work load in cemeteries during the corona crisis as many procedures and conditions have emerged.

New service launched on Sahel app for loans

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 2: Yousef Kadhem, the official spokesman for the unified government application for electronic services "Sahel", announced the addition of a new electronic service by the Kuwait Credit Bank on the application. It is the payment of loan installments, whereby citizens can pay their loan installments of all kinds to banks, irrespective of whether it is a social loan or a real estate one directly via the app, reports Al-Jarida daily.

In a press statement, Kadhem explained that the parties participating in the first phase of the application are determined to provide more e-government services through it, in order to enhance the ability of users to access services directly through "Sahel", and carry out their transactions electronically.

In another development, the Deputy Director General for Public Relations and Development Affairs and the official spokesman for the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) Omar Al-Ruwaihi announced the launch of the service for issuing certificates of "To whom it may concern" electronically and exclusively on the "Sahel" application for government services.

He stressed that there is a wide demand for PAHW's electronic services through "Sahel" and other electronic systems, as they facilitate the issuance of citizens' certificates and faster transactions.

In a press statement, Al-Ruwaihi stated that electronic services contributed to alleviating the burdens on citizens, especially since the addition of the certificate issuance service would save the trouble for more than 70,000 citizens annually, without the need to visit the institution or its affiliated branches.

He revealed that the total number of paper certificates issued during 2021 reached 70,000.

'Kuwaiti women graduates outnumber men'

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 2: The head of the Women's Academic Affairs Committee at the Kuwait Society for Graduate Studies, Dr. Mona Al-Enezi, has stressed on the importance giving women more opportunities to achieve sustainable development while at the same time protesting against the decline in the percentage of women holding leadership positions, reports Al-Rai daily.

Speaking at the symposium on 'Academic and Social Women's Rights between Reality and Hope' organized by the Kuwait Society for Graduate Studies the day before yesterday, she emphasized on the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals for 2035, and believes in the pivotal role of women in the process of prosperity and development in the society.

The Symposium discussed the concept of women's empowerment and its role in achieving sustainable development and looked at the obstacles and solutions, and what is the legal aspect in accordance with international agreements."

Signed

Dr. Lubna Al-Qadi, head of the Center for Women's Studies and Research at the College of Social Sciences at Kuwait University, said "Kuwait had signed the implementation of the sustainable development goals in 2015 at the United Nations General Assembly and was one of the 160 other countries that signed this document," noting that "the fifth goal of the agreement is concerned with empowerment of women, i.e. the necessity of gender equality in the sense that women everywhere enjoy equal rights and opportunities with fellow men."

Al-Qadi added that "the percentage of Kuwaiti women in the workforce with university degrees is twice that of men, but the percentage of Kuwaiti women in leadership positions is only 21 percent at

the present time. This is in addition to the field of teaching, the number of Kuwaiti women is more than the number of men in the fields of medicine, Computer science, economics, and technical professions (allied health).

She pointed out that the number of females who obtained higher degrees at Kuwait University is more than the males, while the number of students graduating in 2019-2020 in the university's faculties was 4,118 females, a rate of 77.8%, compared to 1,174 males.

Reasons

She explained that "one of the reasons for not enabling women to hold leadership positions at the university at a higher rate is the failure of women to be chosen by the entrusted committees whose members are mostly men, in addition to the fact that some women professors do not want to contest.

She indicated that women are partners in achieving sustainable development, and their contribution has helped the progress of society, stressing that women deserve appreciation, equal opportunities and rewards.

In turn, lawyer Azra Al-Rifai said "the academic rights of women to assume leadership positions decreased in Kuwait from 13 to 10 percent in all state sectors.

The last time a woman held a leadership position at the university was Dr. Fayza Al-Kharafi as the university's director, unlike some Gulf countries, including Oman, which has reached 13%, in addition to the UAE.

Al-Rifai added that "the Kuwaiti constitution supports the role of women in society. Article 29 of the Constitution states that people are equal in human dignity and equal in rights and duties, and we always adhere to this article and demand its implementation.

She pointed out that "Kuwaiti women only obtained 30% of their legislative rights that they are supposed to obtain on equal terms with men, and job opportunities for women in the private sector are few, due to many fears among employers about women's legal rights, such as maternity leave and other benefits and reduced working hours. So we believe that the law has not been sufficiently implemented.

No decision made on online studies: MoE

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 2. (KUNA): No decision was made on switching to online studies for the second semester, said the Ministry of Education Friday.

Refuting Social Media posts and rumors regarding the resumption of online learning, the ministry pointed out in a statement that any decision on the matter would be coordinated with the Ministry of Health through the joint ministerial committee tasked with curbing the spread of COVID-19.

The alternating study groups' weekly system will continue as is taking into consideration the students' academic needs and health, added the ministry.

The ministry called on students to focus on their final exams at the current moment and await for official news only through credible sources.

Bonus for officers: The Supreme Command of the National Guard recently issued a decision to retroactively pay the allowances and bonus increment granted to military officers as per the approval of

the Council of Ministers, starting from April 2021, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources from the military sector.

Sources confirmed to the daily that the corresponding amounts had earlier been deposited into the banks, explaining the increased allowances and bonus were disbursed to the general officers, non-commissioned officers and civilians along with the monthly salary; but not retroactively.

Private hospitals eyed: About 78 percent of Kuwaiti married women opted to give birth in private hospitals in 2020 -- an indication that these women prefer private medical facilities than the government hospitals, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The Central Statistics Bureau's statistical report on births in 2020 showed that private hospitals witnessed 24,450 births among Kuwaiti women; compared to 6,942 in government hospitals.

On the other hand, majority of non-Kuwaiti women preferred to give birth in government hospitals --16,889 births compared to 3,807 in private hospitals.

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