

Ministry keen to provide citizens latest medicines: Dr Al-Azmi

'FDA okays world's most expensive new drug worth \$ 2.1m'

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a new drug, the world's most expensive drug (\$2.1 million), to treat spinal muscular atrophy in children. About 60 cases of the disease have remained in the country, according to the head of the Pediatric Emergency Unit at Al-Adan Hospital, Dr Marzouk Al-Azmi, says Al-Rai daily.

In this context, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for

Medicines and Medical Equipment Dr Abdullah Al-Bader stressed the Ministry's keenness to provide the citizens the latest medicines for the treatment, pointing out that this concern was behind the implementation of the system of rapid registration of medicines.

Al-Bader told the daily the implementation of the system of rapid registration of drugs contributed to the adoption of medicines during record periods not exceeding a maximum of

3 months, while the course of registration of drugs in the past was up to more than a full year.

On the possibility of the ministry providing the new drug for the disease of spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), Al-Bader explained that once the requirements and conditions of the purchase are met, the ministry will spare no efforts in providing it, as there is a system and mechanism governing this either by the medical departments or when the presenta-

tion to the control authorities.

He referred to the directives of Minister of Health Dr Bassel Al-Sabah and Undersecretary Dr Mustafa Reda to provide the latest treatments for citizens, especially those suffering from chronic and rare diseases, stressing that the ministry is prioritizing the treatment and safety of patients according to the highest quality standards.

The pediatric consultant, head of the pediatric emergency unit at Al-

Adan Hospital, Dr Marzouk Al-Azmi, said that the disease of children's spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is a genetic disease that affects about one in every 10,000 live births and makes the muscles weak.

He explained the disease causes the patient problems in the movement and worsen with time and leads to paralysis and difficulty in breathing and ultimately to death, pointing out that there are several types with the disease beginning at different ages. He pointed

out there are about 60 such cases in Kuwait saying the new genetic medicine promises good results and may be a milestone in the treatment of the disease, but the price is high.

Dr Al-Azmi expressed his confidence that the Ministry of Health will provide the new drug whenever it becomes available, especially since the treatment is currently being done through a drug that is valued at thousands of dollars and has not achieved the desired results.

Non-activation of all provisions of law on disabled persons slammed

Rights of these people have been stolen: speakers

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: A number of people with disabilities, activists and lawyers criticized the non-activation of all the provisions of the Law on Persons with Disabilities, although it is considered one of the best laws issued in this field, saying the rights of these

people have been stolen and their cases marginalized, reports Al-Anba daily.

This was disclosed during the Najla Al-Naqi Symposium. The speakers stressed on the necessity of mobilizing energies to serve people with disabilities and to support their social, functional, educational and legal rights.

In the field of disability activist Ali Abdulkarim touched on the problems facing this category, including the delay in the disbursement of prosthetic devices, and the lack of freedom to choose the companies that supply wheelchairs with specifications and measurements that fit their health conditions, as well as "abuse of the Public Authority for Persons with Disabilities in the completion of their transactions in the ministries, saying "we do not know who represents us in the body, they do not communicate with us."

Activist Issa Al-Qallaf, a disabled person himself, stressed that the doors of the officials are shut in their faces. He called for the nomination of representatives from among the disabled people in the National Assembly or Municipal Council and not through elections, as they are more aware of their issues and rights than others.

Al-Qallaf considered that the most basic rights of disabled people are neglected, pointing out the limited scope of jobs that are provided for this category and their lack of suitability for their conditions and scientific qualifications, and as an example said the decision to ease the working hours for them in Ramadan is not applied.

11,000 staff with 30 yrs experience

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: The latest statistics issued by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) revealed that about 11,000 employees in the governmental sector - 8,000 Kuwaitis and 3,000 expatriates - have 30 years experience, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The statistics on governmental sector workers for the first quarter of the current year also showed that 116,000 employees including 88,000 Kuwaitis have 10 to 19 years experience; 99,000 have less than five years; 82,000 have five to nine years; and 50,000 including 40,000 Kuwaitis have 20 to 29 years.



HH the Crown Prince with Ambassador Mohammad Khalaf.

Crown Prince receives Kuwaiti envoy to Cuba

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Kuwaiti Ambassador in Cuba

Forged certs issue surfaces again

MoE halts site allowance for engineers

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: The Ministry of Education has suspended payment of site allowance for engineers assigned in its general diwan and educational districts until further notice, reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources.

Sources disclosed more than 200 male and female engineers in the educational installations and Engineering Affairs and Information System departments have been negatively affected by the decision.

Meanwhile, Assistant Undersecretary for Financial Affairs Yousif Al-Najaar said the suspension came after the Civil Service Commission (CSC) cancelled the allowance from the salary certificate, considering that the allowance as any extra time paid after performance of the task is not for all engineers.

Al-Najaar disclosed the Financial Sector paid the allowance retroactively for five months in May to a big group of engineers, but it was not paid to other beneficiaries due to problems in the integrated systems; affirming that the allowance will be paid soon through the manual system.

The allowance ranges from KD100 to KD200 for an engineer whose actual site work exceeds 12 days per month.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Education has announced extension of the period for new Kuwaiti teachers to hand over their work for the second semester of school year 2018/2019 until June 3, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources said the ministry set the deadline for the hand over on May 2 and then

decided to extend it until June 3 to ensure that the procedure will be smooth and thorough.

Meanwhile, the file of forged certificates issued by the American University of Athens surfaced again when the Ministry of Higher Education referred the issue to the National Assembly, reports Al-Qabas daily.

This came in the form of a statement containing the names of 216 graduates and the response of Minister Hamid Al-Azmi to questions raised by MP Mohammed Al-Dalal on the validity of information that a number of citizens have received certificates from that university which has sparked controversy in the local community.

The statement, a copy of which has been received by the daily, shows the university's various fields of specialization, among which are the names of Kuwaitis who have acquired certificates in science, including 85 doctorate, master's and bachelor's degrees in administrative sciences, 81 certificates in engineering, 10 certificates in law, 8 in Science and one in Computer Engineering.

Furthermore, Assistant Undersecretary of Scholarships, Accreditation and Cultural Relations Fatma Al-Sanan announced that the registration for scholarships at the Ministry of Higher Education for school year 2019/2020 will be from June 9-20, reports Al-Rai daily.

She disclosed the specializations covered by the scholarship program will be posted on the ministry's website next week; indicating the list will include new specializations required by the labor market such as Meteorology, Aviation Engineering, Airport Operations, e-Security and Foot Therapy. She said all interested students should submit the required documents which are posted on the website.



Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques receives Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanim.

Saudi King receives Kuwait Parliament Speaker in Makkah

Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz received at Kuwait National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim at Al-Safa Palace in Makkah on Sunday.

Al-Ghanim had an Iftar (breakfast) meal with King Salman alongside Crown Prince of Dubai Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum, President of the holy mosques

in Makkah and Madina Dr Abdulrahman Al-Sudais and senior officials in the presidency, Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

The Iftar was attended by King Salman Advisor and Governor of Makkah, Prince Khaled Al-Faisal. (KUNA)

MoH deposits excellent performance bonus in bank

KUWAIT CITY, May 27: The Ministry of Health has started depositing the excellent performance bonus of deserving employees in the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) such that the money will be in the

bank accounts of beneficiaries within three working days, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources disclosed the sectors and departments whose excellent performance bonuses for employ-

ees have been deposited into CBK include the Overseas Treatment Department, Kuwait Institute of Medical Specialization, Technical Affairs Department and Office of the Minister.

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Amir calls

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"Unfortunately, what we see and experience is the misuse of social media, which have often become tools of demolition and questioning of intentions, and spreading the spirit of hatred and hatred among members of society," he regretted.

His Highness the Amir highlighted His and the government efforts to empower youth and increase their contributions to the state building and society development.

He noted that he has repeatedly stressed, on several occasions, that youth is the true wealth of the nation, and that they have both His attention and the attention of the Government, as they are the most precious of our wealth, and the best investment.

"Since the first Youth Conference in 2013 under the slogan "Kuwait hears" the government has studied the important recommendations issued by it, accelerated their implementation, and took measures to enable our youth to develop their capabilities and skills, address their issues, and overcome the obstacles they face.

"As a follow up to these efforts, Al-Diwan Al-Amiri recently launched the Kuwaiti Youth Project under the title "Kuwait is proud" which aims to honor and nurture this promising generation and enable them to contribute to the national responsibility of participating to the development process to build the present and future Kuwait," he said.

His Highness the Amir also recalled his initiative to establish the National Center for Innovation, through which to develop the ideas and innovations of young people, and turn them into projects of economic feasibility for their benefit and the benefit of the country.

"You young people, as I said on more than one occasion, are the source of hope," he concluded.

Employer charged

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May 23, 2019. Earlier, the Department of Labor and Employment revealed that Dayag died after suffering hemotoma and concussions.

Meanwhile, the Al-Anba daily said another Filipina died inside the Adan Hospital. She was reportedly working for a family in Qairawan.

The daily quoting a source said in principle the death is not suspected as a felony, but the final report will take weeks, stressing that if the report on the death is criminal.