

Local

Kuwaiti air force chief impressed by Kuwaiti troops in 'Restoration of Hope'



RIYADH: Commander of the Kuwaiti Air Force Major General Abdullah Al-Foudari poses with members of the Kuwaiti army taking part in the operation 'Restoration of Hope' in Yemen.



KUWAIT: Commander of the Kuwaiti Air Force Major General Abdullah Al-Foudari has commended the air arm of the Kuwaiti army taking part in the operation 'Restoration of Hope' in Yemen. The remarks of Kuwaiti Air Force came as he paid an inspection visit to the Kuwaiti troops in the operation stationed in Saudi Arabia a day earlier, read a statement by the Defense Ministry's Moral Guidance and Public Relations Department yesterday.

Foudari conveyed Kuwaiti Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah's greetings to the troops. He also urged them to remain committed to fulfilling their duties, assuring the soldiers of the Kuwaiti leadership's steadfast support. — KUNA



174,000 millionaires in Kuwait in 2017

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Kuwait was recently ranked 17th worldwide in terms of the number of wealthy citizens, with 174,000 millionaires in 2017, a nine percent increase compared to 2016 when the total number of millionaires was only 159,000, according to the 2018 International Wealth Index (IWI) issued by the French IT consultancy company Capgemini. The report added that as a result of capital growth by 5.6 percent, the total number of wealthy

people is increasing in Kuwait despite a recent GDP drop by 2.5 percent because of oil price decreases and a 3.3 percent drop in the real estate market. On the other hand, the report said Saudi Arabia stood 16th with 179,000 millionaires, while the US topped the list with over five million millionaires, followed by Japan with 3,162,000, Germany with 1,280,000 and China with 1,256,000 millionaires.

Unified classifications

The acting manager of the non-governmental manpower department at the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) Ghadeer Al-Qadiri said the program has started preparations for the ISIC4 and ESCOS projects involving developing the international unified industrial classification of economic activities

and crafts that started in 2016 and ended in Jan 2018, when over 90 percent of the 126,000 licenses had been regulated.

Health insurance

The Ministry of Health (MoH) received approval from auditors to extend the contract of the company registering health insurance and issuing health insurance cards to expats for six months, said informed sources. The sources explained that the extension will be valid from July 28 until Jan 27, 2019 without any extra cost for MoH. The sources noted that the tender recently offered for bidding had been cancelled and will be re-offered after amending its conditions, during which it will be difficult to suspend the service. On a different concern, the sources said MoH also got the approvals needed to

renew a contract with a local company specialized in providing e-payment services at various clinics and public hospitals for three years effective from June 8, 2018 at a total cost of KD 3 million.

PAAET registration

The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training's (PAAET) registration dean Dr Rabah Al-Nejadh urged high school graduates hoping to join any of PAAET's colleges and institutes to apply online. Nejadh added that PAAET has 18,000 seats in 2018-2019 and that applicants will be subjected to aptitude tests. She also noted that the first term of the academic year will be allocated for Kuwaitis and the children of Kuwaiti women, while other applicants would be accepted in the second term.

News in brief

Old passports obsolete as of July

KUWAIT: Old Kuwaiti passports will be rendered invalid as of July 1, 2018, the Interior Ministry said yesterday, citing an executive order issued by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. As per the Kuwaiti minister's instructions, urgent cases will be given priority when issuing the current e-passport, such as patients seeking medical treatment abroad, read a statement by the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry. It added that six centers interspersed nationwide have been authorized to issue e-passports, all of which will be receiving applicants all week long from 8 am to 1:30 pm and from 4 pm to 8 pm. — KUNA

Inflation up 0.36%

KUWAIT: Data revealed by the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) has shown that the annual consumer prices registered in May 2018 increased by 0.36 percent year on year (YOY). The CBS said in its monthly Consumer Prices Index (CPI) bulletin yesterday that CPI rose in May to 0.09 percent, compared to April as a result of high prices of major groups in the movement of the indices. Prices of Foods and Beverage group increased by 0.36 percent YOY in May as the cigarette and tobacco group was rose by 14.53 year-on-year and 0.54 percent month-on-month. The Prices of the Clothing and Footwear and Housing Services groups were down by 1.03 and 1.45 percent YOY respectively. On the other hand, prices of the Furnishing Equipment and Household Maintenance group were up 1.83 percent YOY. — KUNA

Safe landing

KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) said on Tuesday that its flight No. 743 heading to Saudi Arabia's Al-Dammam returned to Kuwait International Airport because of malfunction. The flight landed safely at the airport after taking off, international safety standards were implemented, the corporation said in a press statement. Passengers were received at the airport and obtained required hospitality, it added. Another plane flew to the planned destination at 8:30 pm. The corporation apologized to travelers for any disturbance due to this incident, it noted. — KUNA

Landslide warning

TOKYO: Kuwait's Embassy in Tokyo yesterday warned citizens there of 'dangerous' post-quake landslides and floods, especially in the western part of the country. The embassy advised all Kuwaitis in Japan to take extreme caution and to follow all instructions issued by local authorities in this regard. It also said Kuwaiti citizens who may need help or find themselves encountering an emergency situation, should call the embassy at any time on the following telephone number: 03-3455-0361, or via email consular@kuwait-embassy.or.jp. Last Monday, a magnitude 6.1 earthquake jolted western Japan, killing at least three people and injuring some 230 more. — KUNA

'Abundant oil' in Bahrah field

KUWAIT: Technical surveys and studies recently conducted at Bahrah oilfield, that extends into Sabah Al-Ahmad Nature Reserve, show that it contains abundant oil, said well-informed oil sources. The sources explained that Bahrah oil reserves would contribute to increasing Kuwait's oil production in general, without giving any details or figures. The sources added that work is currently in progress to improve the oilfield's productivity and that Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) prepares to sign a related memo of cooperation with the reserve's administration.

However, the sources said the fact that part of the field is inside the nature reserve entails that drilling machinery moving in and out will affect the flora inside. The sources also stressed that production operations in the oilfield had been relatively complicated in the past years until KOC conducted the needed technical surveys and studies to develop the field's productivity.

Meanwhile, the sources stressed that this development would take lots of hard work and efforts, which require cooperation with the nature reserve's administration through a memo, in which KOC would undertake to take care of the reserve and replant and rehabilitate whatever flora that gets affected in the process. — Al-Rai



Customs inspectors foil smuggling attempt

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Abdaly customs inspectors foiled an attempt to smuggle a large quantity of illicit pills inside a bus, said security sources, noting that the driver, a GCC national, had hidden the pills under his seat. Abdaly customs manager Meshaan Al-Saeed said advanced inspection devices used at the border exit detected strange objects on the bus, which called for a manual search and finding 4,475 pills hidden under the driver's seat.

Messila beach

Kuwait Municipality's public relations department announced Messila beach has been closed to be developed, greened and provided with facilities like those at Anjefa beach.

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