

## Local

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## Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: This photo taken by photographer Helen Stevenson (@hs220 on Instagram) in Kuwait City shows a stray cat with one of the Kuwait Towers seen in the background. (To have your picture featured in the Kuwait Times' 'Photo of the Day' section, please send your high resolution, unedited photos to local@kuwaittimes.com, along with the full name and Instagram account).

## News in brief

## Smart energy meters soon

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Electricity and Water is expected to announce soon launching the pre-paid smart meters system, which allows consumers to pay for energy before using. The system, which will reportedly start in Salmiya, is part of the ministry's efforts to achieve reform in the way it collects payments for consumed energy, mainly in terms of preventing delayed dues. Al-Qabas reported yesterday quoting sources.

## Kuwait passport 60th worldwide

KUWAIT: Kuwait's passport ranks 60th worldwide in the Henley Passport Index 2021 Global Ranking, released recently. Kuwait came in third place in the Arab world and also among GCC countries behind the United Arab Emirates, which is ranked 15th worldwide, and Qatar, ranked 59th globally.

## Kuwaitis urged to abide by Bahrain's precautions

MANAMA: Kuwait's Embassy to Bahrain on Sunday appealed to its nationals who want to visit the kingdom to stick to precautionary and preventive measures made by authorities in order to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19). In a news statement, the embassy said that vaccinated or unvaccinated travelers heading to Bahrain are asked to submit an accredited PCR certificate with a QR code valid up to 72 hours before their travel. The embassy urged Kuwaitis to call in case of any emergency at: 0097332200300. —KUNA

## Kuwait mulls work from home permanently for some categories

KUWAIT: Kuwait is studying the possibility of shifting some job categories in the public sector to work from home permanently, as the government eyes working remotely as a possible solution to pressing problems such as traffic jams. Al-Qabas reported yesterday.

The government is currently mulling ways to improve efficiency in the public sector, increase productivity and raise flexibility of government work, according to sources quoted in the report. Considering work from home as an option for certain categories of employees is one of the ways discussed, said the sources, noting that among the sectors that could be affected are legal and information systems' departments "which do not require direct contact with the public."

"These proposals came after certain sectors proved to be able to function through working remotely" during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the source said. A report had earlier suggested that Kuwait's government is carrying out a study to change official working hours in the public sector to start at 9:30 am and end at 5:00 pm. Among the positive aspects that changing the public sector's working hours would bring is having them become similar hours to the working hours in the private sector. This would therefore encourage young Kuwaiti jobseekers to look for jobs in the private sector. Al-Qabas reported last week, quoting sources.

"Concerned authorities are finalizing an evaluation study to be presented to the Civil Service Council, then to the Cabinet if approved," said the sources, adding that the study currently focuses on finding out "the best suitable means" to change working hours in order to achieve more flexibility, efficiency, and productivity, while taking requirements of state departments and the public into consideration."

In addition to changing working hours from the current 7:30 am - 2:00 pm system, the study also proposes a one-hour rest period in the early afternoon, which would allow parents to collect their children from school if they want to, for example. The sources further explained that the study is taking into consideration the social aspects affecting employees, particularly parents. For example, the study reiterates a recommendation to create nurseries in each state department government where employees can put their children during working hours. The reports do not specify timelines for when the government could approve the studies.



## Great success for KFH 'Padel' championship

KUWAIT: KFH Group DGM - Public Relations and Media, Yousuf Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh praised the great success which KFH 'Padel' championship has achieved at Kuwait level. The championship was held on a private playground at Seashell Resort - Julaia with a tremendous youth participation comprising 32 teams to win the championship title. Eliminations continued for two days where the RFA team won the championship.

Ruwaieh added in a press release that the organizing of KFH 'Padel' championship comes as part of the bank's social responsibility and keenness to fulfill youth aspirations and interests. He emphasized that the championship witnessed heavy audience, many positive and encouraging comments, tremendous public follow up and comprehensive media coverage on various social media channels. Ruwaieh emphasized the significance of KFH 'Padel' championship in diversifying sporting activities, especially that this sport is a new sport which has gained great momentum worldwide.

Ruwaieh said that KFH lays great emphasis on youth being the true national treasure and one of the most significant pillars in KFH social responsibility strategy. Accordingly, KFH has always taken the lead in designing youth and sport initiatives and programs to fulfill youth ambitions and aspirations. He indicated that the significance of the 'Padel' championship lays in the ability to produce young Kuwaiti talents to achieve remarkable accomplishments and hold Kuwait's name high.

He added that KFH is the main youth supporter and the first bank in Kuwait to launch the platform "You are our pride" to honor the distinguished winners in various sporting fields. KFH is the only bank that has the "KFH Initiators" team which comprises several names which have contributed to holding Kuwait's name high in various fields.

He noted that those who make global achievements join "You are our pride" program and become KFH initiators according to the approved bank standards. He added that the championship is considered as a new addition to the sporting activities in Kuwait, thus indicating that the vast participation which the championship witnessed is clear evidence on the youth acceptance of this sport.

KFH AM - Public Relations, Fahad Al-Saad

said that KFH shall continue its endeavor to organize other versions of KFH Padel Tour on regular basis. The main goal of the championship is to create a gathering platform for sports lovers and give them the opportunity to evaluate themselves technically through competitive matches with high sporting spirits. He added that the championship included competitions and prizes to the public and to the players as well. KFH was also keen on cooperating and encouraging a number of Kuwaiti youths who own projects to be present at this event and distribute coffee and juices to the public and the players, adding a livelier atmosphere to the event.

He said that KFH 'Padel' championship has discovered unique Kuwaiti youth skills with significant sporting interests.

Meanwhile, the distinguished squash and tennis player and professor of economy at Kuwait University Dr Emad Dashti expressed his utmost pleasure about the championship and indicated that KFH has expressed its great interest in the game by holding the 'Padel' championship.

He added that the championship is a great opportunity for the youth to diversify their sporting interests and show their capabilities in this new sport in Kuwait.

He added that the great success and the remarkable competition spirit which the championship has witnessed and the significant performance by the contestants are considered as a conclusive evidence on the promising future of this sport in Kuwait. He affirmed that this championship and future 'Padel' championships shall contribute to the launch of the 'Padel' players classification project based on their technical level in Kuwait and assist in establishing a formal 'Padel' team. It is highly important to give KFH all the support to continue this championship which will surely gain more success in the next version.

The 'Padel' championship connects between two games, Squash and Tennis. However, it is essentially different regarding the rules and playing style. The game requires high physical flexibility and stamina using hard rackets on a small piece of land which is smaller than the tennis playground in size. No specific age category is required for this game. In short, the 'Padel' game is a sport for all people and all ages.



Yousuf Al-Ruwaieh

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