



3 Amir's envoy says Kuwait keen to boost partnership with UN



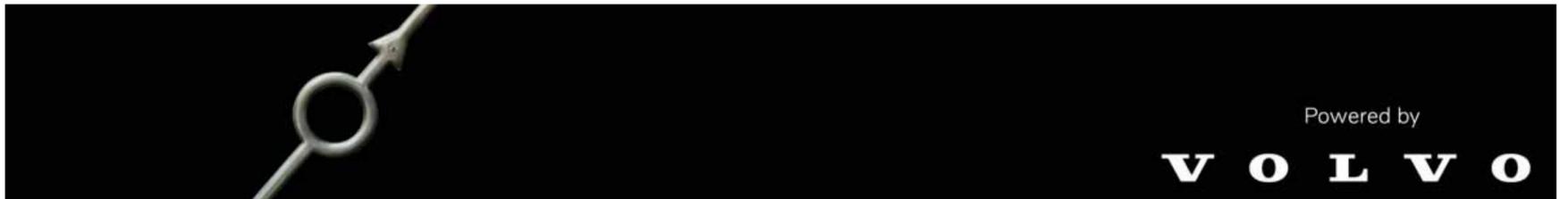
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Teachers return to schools after 18 months of closure

Unvaccinated teachers stage protest after being denied entry

MPs want answers after two Kuwaitis sanctioned by US

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Opposition MPs Abdulkarim Al-Kandari and Osama Al-Munawer yesterday asked three government ministers about new US sanctions against two Kuwaiti citizens on charges of sending millions of dollars to Lebanon's Hezbollah and Iran's Revolutionary Guard. The sanctions were imposed by the US Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) against members of a network of Lebanon- and Kuwait-based intermediaries who allegedly fund the Shiite militia Hezbollah.

The sanctions also targeted members of an international network of financial facilitators and front companies that support Hezbollah and the Quds Force of the Revolutionary Guard.

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KUWAIT: Teachers set up a classroom at a public school in Mansouriyah after they returned to work on campus yesterday. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Around 60,000 teachers working at public and private Arab schools in the kindergarten, primary and intermediate stages returned to schools yesterday after an absence of 18 months due to closures as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Public and private Arabic school students are due to return to classrooms on Oct 3 amid stringent health conditions, including mandating teachers and a majority of students to be vaccinated.

Teachers who have not been fully vaccinated were turned away yesterday, prompting a dozen teachers to stage a symbolic protest outside the education ministry building. The ministry has asked unvaccinated teachers and students to bring a negative PCR test result every Sunday in order to be allowed to enter schools. In the beginning, some students will go to school on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, while another group will go on Mondays and Wednesdays. In the next week, they will swap attendance.

The fate of on-campus classes for private schools depends on their readiness and how they prepare for this hybrid model. Each school will enforce its own plan. For on-campus classes, schools have been advised to reduce the number of students per class. Authorities have also mandated school administrations to implement a one-meter distance between students. School canteens will remain closed, although the education ministry has created a list of food items students can bring with them to school.

PAM allows transfer of commercial visit visas to work permits

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) yesterday said it will allow foreigners in the country on commercial visit visas to transfer to work permits in the private sector (article 18), in a bid to meet high demand for manpower by Kuwaiti companies. Thousands of residents have not been able to return to the country or have left the country for good due to the coronavirus pandemic.



Ahmad Al-Mousa

PAM Director General Ahmad Al-Mousa said the decision aims to meet the needs of the labor market affected by the pandemic. "This decision is a result of cooperation between PAM and the interior ministry and the ministerial coronavirus emergency committee, which allows those entering the country on commercial visit visas to transfer to article 18 work visas easily," he said.

PAM also held meeting with the Kuwait Union of Owners of Private Schools and Cultural Institutes. "During the meeting, we reached a decision to modify the IT systems at both PAM and the interior ministry. Work permits will be issued, and based on that the work visa will be issued. This process requires the approval of the ministerial coronavirus emergency committee. The commercial visit visa will then be transferred to an iqama after the employee arrives in the country," stressed Mousa.

"We discussed the transfer of teachers arriving on commercial visit visas to work visas, especially as preparations are ongoing for the start of the new academic year. We reviewed cooperation on this issue with the interior ministry," he added. "PAM exerted efforts to make the procedure easy for all businesses in the private sector to ensure work goes on smoothly for health, education, finance and other businesses during the pandemic," concluded Mousa.

All Palestinian jailbreakers recaptured

JERUSALEM: All six Palestinian militants who escaped from a Zionist high-security jail through a tunnel dug under a sink are back in custody, after the army said yesterday it had recaptured the last two. The inmates, who were being held for attacks against the Zionist state, became heroes among many Palestinians when reports emerged they had burrowed out using tools as basic as a spoon.

The full weight of the Zionist enti-

ty's security apparatus was deployed to catch them, including aerial drones, road checkpoints and an army mission to Jenin in the occupied West Bank where many of the men grew up. The huge manhunt lasted almost a fortnight, with the first four fugitives recaptured last week. The Zionist Defense Forces said yesterday the remaining two had surrendered "after being surrounded by security forces" that had acted with precision on accurate intelligence.

The men, 35-year-old Ayham Kamamji and 26-year-old Munadel Infeiat, are both members of Islamic Jihad, an armed Palestinian Islamist movement. Islamic Jihad hailed its "heroes" following the

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NAZARETH: Recaptured Palestinian prisoner Munadel Infeiat is surrounded by Zionist police officers as he appears at the magistrates' court yesterday. — AFP

Pacquiao to run for president

MANILA: Philippine boxer-turned-politician Manny Pacquiao declared yesterday he will run for president in 2022, ending months of speculation about whether the legendary fighter would seek the country's top job. "The time is now - we are ready to rise to the challenge of leadership," said

Pacquiao, as he accepted the nomination of a rival faction in President Rodrigo Duterte's ruling party.

The eight-division world champion and beloved national hero made the announcement weeks after losing what could be his last professional fight against Cuban Yordenis Ugas in Las Vegas. Pacquiao, who entered politics in 2010 as a congressman before being elected to the Senate, has long been expected to make a tilt for the country's highest office. The 42-year-old is deeply admired in the archipelago nation for his

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MANILA: Philippine boxer-turned-politician Manny Pacquiao gestures during the PDP-Laban national assembly yesterday. — AFP

Civilian orbital crew completes space mission

WASHINGTON: Four SpaceX tourists returned to Earth safely on Saturday after spending three days in space, successfully concluding the first orbital mission in history with no professional astronauts on board. The SpaceX Dragon capsule, whose heat shield allowed it to withstand descent, was slowed

down by four large parachutes before splashing into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Florida at 7:06 pm (2306 GMT), according to a video feed by the company.

"That was a heck of a ride for us, and we're just getting started," billionaire captain Jared Isaacman, who financed the trip with a goal of making space a bit more accessible, said shortly after landing. A SpaceX boat immediately retrieved the capsule, before its hatch was opened and the space tourists, smiling broadly and waving their arms in the air, exited one by one. They were next headed for the Kennedy Space Center, where their mission had begun on Wednesday. — AFP (See Page 12)



This photo taken on Sept 16, 2021 shows the Inspiration4 crew (from left) Jared Isaacman, Hayley Arceneaux, Christopher Sembroski and Sian Proctor in orbit. — AFP