

News

in brief

EXPATRIATES CAN MANAGE MORE THAN ONE COMPANY

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, State Minister for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih issued a decision to allow an expatriate to be hired as a manager in more than one company, based on a recommendation from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The previous regulations stipulated that an expatriate could only be hired as a manager in the same company he has his visa on, and could not be assigned to manage another company even if it belonged to the same group. — Al-Rai

Syrian refugees

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor approved requests made by local charity organizations to launch fundraising campaigns to collect donations for Syrian refugees during the winter. Each charity would be allowed to run a maximum six-month campaign, and abstain from collection cash donations and instead receive money through k-net. Up to 15 out of 27 recognized charities in Kuwait are expected to participate in the campaigns. — Al-Rai

2040 strategy

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) has no plans to merge any of its subsidiaries anytime soon, or at any point during its strategy for the year 2040. According to sources, the 2040 strategy, an upgraded version of KPC's 2030 strategy, will be sent to the Supreme Petroleum Council soon to be reviewed and approved. — Al-Rai

No exit

**KUWAIT:** The Dow Chemical Company has canceled its plans to exit from its investments in Kuwait, where it owns 42.5 percent of EQUATE Petrochemical Company. The US-based firm had decided in late 2014 to reduce its shares in two of the joint multibillion ventures it has with Kuwait, which are 'MEGlobal' and 'Greater EQUATE'. But those plans seem to have been changed since then, as Dow Chemical believes that investment in Kuwait has been successful, and sees the Gulf region as a whole as a promising market and has the potential to transform into a 'force' in the petrochemical industry, sources said. — Al-Jarida

Tree safe

**KUWAIT:** The conocarpus tree has no relations with successful allergy and asthma problems which Kuwait witnessed recently due to cold weather, the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources said in a statement. It responded to speculations on social media that the exposure of these trees, which are the most common in Kuwait, to rainwater, has caused an 'outbreak' of allergic reaction and other negative effects especially for people with asthma in the country. — Al-Anbaa



الجريدة

Al-Jarida

SPEAKERSHIP ELECTIONS

By Dr Hassan Jouhar

Due to political reasons, I believe that the government must refrain from taking part in the speakership elections and be completely neutral. Talking about ministers' constitutional right to vote is futile for the same reasons. They can also abstain from voting, which is purely an unquestionable constitutional practice. The government's neutrality in the speakership elections primarily protects it and the principle of separation between the legislative and executive authorities. Since 1963, the government's role has raised so many questions, and minister's voting has frequently been used in the opposite direction of the legislative authority's tendencies. Moreover, it is meant to strike parliamentary majorities.

*The government's neutrality is a must in order to show more respect to the people's will*

On the other hand, a parliamentarian who wins the speakership through ministers' votes remains indebted to the government and may direct the entire parliament according to the government's wishes. The government's neutrality is a must in order to show more respect to the people's will, through which 50 members were elected and authorized to act on people's behalf. This became very clear in the recent elections when over 70 percent of voters took part. In addition, the

recent election being the seventh in 13 years, the government was the only one responsible for dissolving the parliament or for running unconstitutional elections, which led to annulling the parliaments of 2012 and 2013.

Voters were furious about the 2013 parliament's performance and described it as the government's parliament because it was too peaceful, fawning, and passed all the government's projects without discussion or hesitation. It was also responsible for committing unprecedented constitutional violations to protect the prime minister and cabinet members from political accountability through writing off grilling motions. The message was clear and the election results opened new horizons for restoring the parliament's prestige and status, which proves that the government no longer acts as a guardian to the parliament on its sessions.

Moreover, asking Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak to form the new cabinet itself is considered as a potential political crisis. He and his cabinet members' participation in the speakership elections might create a confrontation about it soon.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

Crime

Report

EX-CON CAUGHT WITH GUNS, DRUGS

**KUWAIT:** An ex-convict justified his possession of two unlicensed pistols as being for self-defense, while he admitted that the 30,000 illicit tablets he possessed were for sale. Detectives learned about the suspect's activities and arrested him near his house with the drugs and firearms.

Suicide

A Kuwaiti woman died of injuries after throwing herself from the fifth floor of a building in Andalus in an apparent suicide. Paramedics rushed the woman to Farwaniya hospital where she died. Investigations are underway.

Reckless driving

Detectives are looking for a patrolman who was driving recklessly during the rain. They learned about the incident from video footage posted on social media which apparently showed a police vehicle driving recklessly while it was raining recently.

Scam

A citizen fell victim of a scam when she bought a dress for KD 500 from a person who offered it for sale on Instagram. When the package arrived, she discovered that the dress was fake and was actually worth KD 30 only. A security source said the swindler tricked the victim by saying that she owned a big store. The dress was a counterfeit of a well-known brand. The victim contacted the lady, but her phone was not reachable and discovered that the invoice carried the name of a bogus company.

Behind her back

A girl filed a complaint with Hawally police against her two friends who registered telephone lines in her name without her knowledge. Police plan to call the girls for questioning.

Mugging

A Pakistani man told Jahra police that he was robbed by three men, one of whom claimed to be a detective. He said that they escaped with his wallet which had KD 130 in it and his phone. — Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa



ABK COMPLETES SELF-MANAGEMENT LEARNING PROGRAM FOR SENIOR FINANCE EMPLOYEES

**KUWAIT:** Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) has announced successful completion of its self-management learning program for senior finance staff. Entitled 'Managing Self and Managing Others Effectively', the program has been developed as part of the Bank's commitment to acquiring and applying the latest methodologies in learning and development. It was designed and delivered by specially trained ABK staff over a period of six months.

The content of the program moves away from the traditional class room learning environment and offers a 'bespoke' learning solution to every participant. This is developed through psychometric assessment to understand individual needs, targeting specific development points, and then through tailored individual coaching and 'on the job' learning.

Commenting on the initiative, Hamza Enki, General Manager Human Resources at ABK said: "ABK is keen to deliver a high level of innovative and meaningful training

to its employees. The Bank's recent LPI accreditation is testament to its determination and clear direction, and the success of the 'Managing Self and Managing Others Effectively' program underlines this.

"With this program, participants can build stronger self-awareness, leadership and management skills and also develop their confidence and public speaking abilities. It also challenges them to open their mind to new methods and approaches and overcome obstacles which may have otherwise hindered their professional development. Based on its success so far, I am confident that the 'Managing Self and Managing Others Effectively' program will become a valuable and established part of our training portfolio in the future." ABK is committed to applying the latest systems and methodologies in learning, investing in all areas and departments to achieve positive growth overall. For more information about ABK please visit eahli.com or contact a customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.

NUKS USA RECOGNIZES ZAIN'S SUPPORT

**KUWAIT:** The National Union of Kuwaiti Students in the United States (NUKS USA) recognized Zain's exceptional and continuous support as a Platinum sponsor of the Union's 33rd annual conference that was recently held in San Francisco, California.

NUKS USA Treasurer Dawood Al-Busairi presented Zain Kuwait's Corporate Communications and Relations Director Waleed Al-Khashti with the recognition token during the sponsors awarding ceremony. The union expressed their appreciation of Zain's continuous efforts as the event's main supporter for over 13 consecutive years.

The conference, which came under the patronage of HE the Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa and attendance of the Kuwaiti Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, annually welcomes the largest gathering of Kuwaiti students outside of Kuwait who attend from all over the USA. Zain's presence in the event conveys its enthusiasm to interact with the future generations of Kuwaiti youth, especially those who pursue their education abroad.

During its participation, Zain launched a new program to empower and support Kuwaiti entrepreneurs studying in the US. The program features an annual competi-



tion that receives and evaluates students' projects and small businesses in the areas of technological innovation. The winner received a two-week paid trip prize to Zain's strategic partner Huawei, a global technology innovation leader, where they will host the winner in their main headquarters in China for an amazing internship program.

Zain also organized its annual football competition for students for the fourth consecutive year, where the company awarded "the champions" team for winning the first place title and "Al-Mutaseem Billah Mobile" team for winning the second place title. The competition also featured a friendly

match that witnessed the participation of a number of Kuwaiti sports and arts stars.

Zain strongly believes in the role of the private sector in supporting the efforts and plans of the public sector to bring positive change into the society, especially efforts that empower innovative ideas. Zain has adopted many programs and initiatives to empower and support the youth's innovative ideas through the years.

Participating in this event affirms Zain's role as a leading national company that takes the development of young people seriously, with the ultimate intention to induce positive change within the Kuwaiti society.

BURGAN BANK PARTICIPATES IN THE PROTEGES 'JOBSHOP' CAREER FAIR LEAD BY KIPCO GROUP

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank announced its participation in the Proteges 'JOBSHOP' career fair hosted by Kuwait Projects Company (KIPCO).

Held under the patronage of Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah, Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, the youth empowering event took place on December 3, 2016 at the KIPCO Tower. The event was designed for fresh graduates who had the opportunity to learn and explore career related possibilities and engage in exclusive one-on-one time with representatives from participating companies such as GIC, AUK and others.

During the event, Burgan Bank provided insightful information about the banking industry while showcasing a wide variety of employment opportunities for potential candidates across an extensive range of the bank's departments. Burgan Bank is a strong supporter of education and youth empowerment and will continue to participate in relevant initiatives to encourage hardworking individuals

who represent the future of the country's economy.

In line with Burgan Bank's CSR agenda and HRD initiatives, the company continues to be on the lookout to participate in such important events that add value to its business

and is a way forward in human capital development. The bank strives to offer the Kuwaiti community a high standard of employment and empower brilliant minds by offering career placements essential to pushing forward Kuwait's economic development.



Burgan Bank representatives with Shaikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah.



**KUWAIT:** The Commercial Bank of Kuwait sponsored Jahra Governorate's first annual walkathon, which took place recently under the patronage of Jahra Governor Fahad Al-Amir. This year's focuses on increasing public awareness against smoking and drugs.