



DOHA: The winner of the international Quran memorization contest in Qatar Khaled Jassem Al-Aynati (right) receives his award. — KUNA

KUWAITI WINS PRESTIGIOUS QURAN MEMORIZATION CONTEST IN QATAR

DOHA: Kuwaiti national Khaled Jassem Al-Aynati won Tuesday the world's highest-value and prestigious Quran memorization and recitation prize. "I am very proud of winning this international competition," Aynati said on the sidelines of the prize-giving ceremony held today evening in Doha. He gifted his achievement to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah,

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwaiti government and people for their unlimited support and care for Quran students and reciters. He commended the competition jury and the peer high-level competitors. Al-Aynati ranked first at the 'Winner of Winners' Quran competition which was organized by Sheikh Jassem bin Mohammad bin Thani Foundation for

the Holy Quran during the period November 27 and December 6. Thirty-seven winners of Quran competitions worldwide have partaken in the contest. The winner, Aynati, has been awarded a high-value one million Qatari riyals (\$274,000) prize. This contest considered the most prominent event in the Doha cultural scene as it features the broadest categories and highest rewards. — KUNA

JAIL SENTENCE FOR USING DISABLED PARKING STARTING FROM JANUARY 1

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Director of the public authority for disabled affairs Dr Shafiq Al-Awadhi said that in collaboration with the interior ministry, article 63 of law 8/2010 pertaining the rights of the disabled will be strictly enforced effective January 1, 2017. Awadhi explained that the article states that "Those using disabled parking spaces will be punished by a maximum of one month imprisonment and/or a KD 200 fine". Awadhi urged all disabled people to immediately renew their cards and make sure the ones they have are valid in order to avoid problems with the traffic police.

In related news, the Interior Ministry announced yesterday that four expatriate drivers were deported for driving without a license, after they were caught during crackdowns carried out by the traffic department. The campaigns took place from November 27 to December 3, resulting in issuing 33,012 traffic tickets, 885 vehicles were impounded and 53 persons were jailed for committing grave violations.



Outstanding companies

The Public Authority for Manpower is currently working on completing a trial procedure for outstanding private and oil sector companies with the lists system that is due to be launched by the beginning of next year. Notably, the authority coordinated with the ministry of

commerce and industry and the industries union to select 13 companies to be included on the list. The selected companies will be given certain privileges including assessing their need for labor to get one worker per 5 sq m of the total area of the rented premises, with a maximum of 200 workers per license.

'ENSURING FINANCIAL STABILITY ESSENTIAL IN TURBULENT TIMES'

ABU DHABI: Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel stressed yesterday the importance of ensuring financial stability in turbulent times. Maintaining stability in money world is attained through shedding light on two effective factors; the tech-driven revolution, which has brought its own set of risks and rewards, and the wide range of measures that have been introduced to strengthen the resilience of the banking systems, Hashel said.

He made his remarks in his speech at the 12th High Level Meeting for the Middle East and North Africa region on latest updates on banking supervision, financial stability institute, and the Arab monetary fund, which kicked off earlier in the Emirati capital. "Tech-driven innovations have

unleashed drastic changes in the way we conduct business, interact with each other, or consume various products and services," Hashel said, adding that financial sector is experiencing a major transformation, fueled by advances in technology.

"Technology is supporting the outreach of formal financial services to the millions of otherwise unbanked customers. According to World Bank, the poorest 20 percent of the world population is more likely to have access to a mobile phone than to clean water and sanitation," he said.

Hashel also noted that a number of countries have managed to swiftly expand access to finance in recent years, adding that the number of adults in the world who were previously out of formal financial system has dropped by 20

percent during 2011-14 alone. "As these encouraging trends suggest, digitalization to the millions of people have remained financially excluded so far," he said.

Hashel also noted that programming breakthroughs such as "blockchain" are potentially transforming the way the world verify transactions and enforce contracts, adding that that by allowing parties to transact without central intermediaries, blockchain can strip off costs, reduce inefficiencies, and enhance customer service.

"Host of other innovations are reshaping the way we transfer money or obtain credit. For instance, mobile wallets are enabling payments by smart phones, peer-to-peer lending is providing new sources of financing, and robo-advisors are offering financial advice," he said. — KUNA

21 ELECTION PETITIONS FILED, MORE EXPECTED

NEW MPs PRESS FOR LIFTING OF SPORT SUSPENSION

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Former MPs and candidates who failed to win seats in the national assembly election last month yesterday filed 15 petitions challenging the election results raising the number of petitions received so far by the constitutional court to 21.

The court, whose rulings are final, has only one more day on next Sunday to receive more petitions and then the door for petitions will be shut. Yesterday's petitions included challenges from four former MPs Youssef Al-Zalzal, Ahmad Al-Azmi, Mohammad Al-Barrak and Hamad Matar. Most of the petitions called for recounting of votes.

The difference between those who got the last two or three seats in each constituency and those who came in the 11th, 12th or even 13th place is sometimes a few dozen votes. The constitutional court will study each

petition separately before deciding whether they are credible enough to be investigated. It may take the court several months to issue its rulings.

Sport crisis

In another development, new opposition MP Abdulwahab Al-Babtain said yesterday that he and MP Omar Al-Tabtabaei have prepared an initiative to resolve the sport crisis and help end the international suspension of Kuwait.

He said that the initiative has already been signed by 27 lawmakers and essentially calls on the government to pledge to amend the sports law passed by the previous assembly in June within three months for the international sports organizations to end the freeze. He called on other MPs to sign the initiative before it will be published today ahead of submitting it to the new government after its formation.

Babtain said the lawmakers will assist the government in amending the law within the stipulated period in order to help end the suspension on the local sports bodies. He said that disputes in the sports field has continued for the past 10 years and it is time to tell them "hands off" Kuwaiti sports and let us work to resolve the crisis.

But another opposition MP Riyadh Al-Sane said that Kuwait does not need to pledge to amend its legislation because the country was suspended in 2010 before the specific legislation was issued. He said he believes that the suspension is not related to domestic legislation or the independence of the sports movement but due to the scrapping of financial and administrative supervision. Adasani stressed that the Kuwaiti sports has been badly harmed by continued political disputes and Kuwait and its sportsmen became the victims.



KUWAIT: MP Majid Al-Mutairi (left) speaks with MP Omar Al-Tabtabaei during a gathering at the diwaniya of MP Mohammad Al-Mutair on Tuesday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyar

DNA law

MP Abdulkarim Al-Kandari said he has prepared a draft law calling for the abolishing of the controversial laws of DNA testing and a law that bars people convicted of religious crimes or insulting the Amir from running in the polls. Kandari said the proposal will be submitted after the first session, adding that he will review most bills passed by the previous national assembly to see how they should be rectified.

MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subaie said yesterday that he and MP Mubarak Al-Hajraf yesterday met with MP Hamad Al-Harashani, who will chair the first session on Sunday, and agreed that voting for the speaker and deputy speaker will be through the ballot and not through the electronic system. Other election will be made through the electronic system.

POULTRY BANNED FROM CROATIA, INDIA, AUSTRIA

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for

Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) issued a temporary ban on importing poultry

including chicks and eggs from Croatia, India and Austria on detecting the H5N8 virus. The decision came in compliance with OIE and GCC safety and quarantine procedures, said informed sources, noting that all infected shipments will be rejected and importers will have to re-export them at their own expense.

Low temperature

Meteorologist Essa Ramadan said that the temperature is expected to drop to 2-4 degrees Celsius in desert areas over the next three days in Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and western UAE.

Case adjourned

The court of appeals yesterday adjourned a case until December 22, in which 70 citizens and nine former MPs face charges of breaking into the parliament.

KUWAITI, US MILITARY FORCES CARRY OUT JOINT DRILL

KUWAIT: Units of the Kuwaiti Army are currently involved in military exercise with troops from the American Army, intended to elevate the mutual combat readiness and swap military expertise, said Commander of the Kuwaiti Ground Forces Major General Sheikh Khaled Saleh Al-Sabah yesterday. A Defense Ministry's statement quoted Major General Sheikh Khaled as saying the drill is

being carried out within framework of the Kuwait-US defense treaty. The commander has conveyed to the personnel involved in the mock fight salutes of senior leaders, namely Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. The drill is significant for enhancing preparedness, coordination and joint planning between the ground and air forces. — KUNA

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ
 مَسْجِدُ كَلْبَةَ الْعُظْمَاءِ

With hearts that are believing in the destiny of God

The Bakir Family

Mourns

With deep sorrow and grief their late father

Omar Mohamed Bakir

Father of Mohamed, Sami, Lina and Diana

(Aged 86 years)

Condolences are acceptable

Starting from Thursday, 8/12/2016 and for 3 days

From 9:00 AM to Noon Prayer

And from AlAsar Prayer to AlMigrab Prayer

Men: Salwa , Block (6), Street (1), House (276), Apartment (9),
 Tel.: 25613204 – 99741425

Women: Jabriya, Block (10), Street (5), Al-Dura Building no. G, First Floor,
 Tel.: 25326285 – 66966927

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا رَاجِعُونَ