

# INDIA SEEKS REPATRIATION OF ALL ILLEGAL RESIDENTS: SINGH

## NEW DELHI BEEFS UP MEASURES AT AIRPORTS TO CURB HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### Crime

Report

#### Eid prayers solely at assigned mosques

**KUWAIT:** Eid Al-Adha prayers will be held only inside assigned mosques, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs said yesterday. The prayers will be held in coordination with the Ministry of Interior and at the mosques where comfort accommodations are available.

#### Army frees military prisoners during Eid

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Army is releasing military personnel imprisoned for breaching disciplinary regulations on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha. Kuwait Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Kheder gave the orders in this respect, upon guidelines from the Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.

#### Amir congratulates poet Al-Wugayyan

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a cable to Kuwaiti poet Dr Khalifa Al-Wugayyan, who won the prestigious Al-Quds Literary Award from the Arab Writers' Union. His Highness the Amir wished Al-Wugayyan more success, to honor his dear country on the regional and international cultural scenes. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar congratulatory cables to Al-Wugayyan.

#### Emergency and blood bank to operate during holiday

**KUWAIT:** The medical emergency department and the central blood bank will continue working as regular during Eid Al-Adha holiday (effectively starting tomorrow till September 18th). Dr Jamal Al-Harbi, the assistant under-secretary for back-up medical services, said in a statement, on Thursday, the emergency department would provide services at 69 centers and emergency points in the governorates, including the islands. The medical air service will be also operating as regular and will be ready to evacuate people in need in remote regions to hospitals or clinics.

#### Only serious cases will be treated abroad: Minister

**KUWAIT:** Dr Ali Al-Obaidi announced that only citizens suffering from serious illnesses and diseases would be allowed to get medical treatment in foreign countries. Cases such as cancer, children's serious illness and critical surgeries would be given the approval for the treatment outside Kuwait, the minister added in a statement. The resolution stipulates revising regulations for dispatch of patients to the foreign countries. Modifications will be done objectively and in a manner that "safeguards providing the service only to the eligible," Minister Al-Obaidi continued.

#### US hails Kuwait Naval command of CTF 152

**MANAMA:** Commander of the US Fifth Fleet based in Bahrain, Admiral John Miller has hailed Kuwait's Naval Force's command of the CTF 152 Combined Maritime Forces. Miller made a statement yesterday during a ceremony to hand over the command of CTF 152 from Kuwait to Jordan. Kuwait has led the force over the past year.

By Sajeev K Peter

**KUWAIT:** The India government has requested the Kuwaiti authorities to find a way to repatriate around 29,000 Indians currently staying in Kuwait without valid residency documents, stated Gen V K Singh, India's Minister of State for External Affairs here on Wednesday. Addressing a press conference at the Indian Embassy along with Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain, the minister said, "Since these 29,000 people are having problems with their residency, we have requested the government of Kuwait to find out ways and means of sending these people back to India at the shortest possible time. We have also assured the Kuwait government that the India government is ready to assist them in all possible ways so that these illegal residents can go back to India as fast as possible," he said.

During his two-day stay in Kuwait, the minister held discussions with First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Hind Al-Subaih and other high-level officials. The Minister of Social Affairs and Labor assured him that the ministry would look into all labor-related problems of Indians. On his part, Singh has suggested to the minister that both sides shall convene the joint working group at an earliest date.

"I am also happy to meet and interact with a large number of Indians during my visit. My visit was also to take stock of the issues being faced by the community. It gives me confidence that all problems are solvable but it requires time to find ways and means and to increase our interaction both at the political and the official level in Kuwait," he said. The minister visited Qatar and the UAE before arriving in Kuwait.

Praising the Indian ambassador, Singh



**KUWAIT:** Gen V K Singh, India's Minister of State for External Affairs, addresses the Indian community at the Indian embassy auditorium on Wednesday. Deputy Chief of Mission Shubashis Goldar (second left), Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain, and First Secretary (consular, community) K K Pahel (right) look on.

said, Jain is a proactive ambassador who is seriously engaged in solving the problems of the community. Answering a question regarding the Indian Community School, he said the India government has no direct role in the functioning of the school as it is not owned by the government. "I have learned that the school was setup by the community and I earnestly hope that the community will be able to solve the problems," the minister pointed out.

#### Immigration

The India government has taken several steps to protect its citizens, the minister said in response to a query regarding the continuing human trafficking from India and the enduring malpractices and large-scale corruption in recruitments. The government has already stopped single woman, who is below 30 years of age, from going abroad in search of job. Similarly, recruitments are channeled

through authorized government agencies in order to ensure guarantee for the contracts. "We are taking stringent action against illegal recruiting agents. But in India, the law and order is under the jurisdiction of each state. We have already instructed states to take appropriate action. The Protector-General of Emigrants will be visiting Kuwait soon to discuss and find solution to various immigration issues and plug loopholes in the recruitment system," the minister added.

The government is establishing suitable checks at the country's various airports in order to stop human trafficking, the minister said. "Today, all Indian missions abroad are sharing immigration data so that they know how many people are travelling out of the country," he said. Later, the minister addressed a gathering of Indian community representatives at the embassy auditorium and discussed a range of issues pertaining to the community.

## OWNERS MOVE FROM PILLAR TO POST AS POLICE IMPOUND TAXIS

### METER COMPANIES HAVE NO OFFICIAL INTIMATION

**KUWAIT:** As police continued to impound hundreds of taxis for not complying with the new metering system and tariffs, several taxi owners moved from pillar to post amid total confusion about the new metering system. Several taxi owners and drivers gathered in front Assistant Secretary for Traffic Affairs Major Gen Fahad Al-Shuwaie complaining that they did not receive any official letter from the traffic department to revise the tariff. Though owners of roaming taxi companies, who found themselves lost between the Interior Ministry and meter programming companies, went to the assistant under-secretary's office to explain the matter to him, they were not allowed to meet him.

Citizen Abdelaziz Al-Enezi said that the traffic department impounded more than 2,000 taxis because they did not program meters to the new tariff. Though there are more than 4,000 taxis go to companies approved by the traffic department to program their meters every day, the companies refuse to do so claiming that they have not received any official letter from the authorities to do so.

#### Indecent action

A citizen who was acquainted with a man through social media, accused him of indecent action. She said that following several dates in cafes during the past few months, she went with him to a parking lot overlooking the sea. But she was surprised when he started touching her body until he reached her private parts and began attacking her. She pushed him away and moved away from him. Police are investigation.

#### Man stabbed

A fight in Jahra ended in one person stabbing the other. It was found out later that mockery was the reason. A citizen in Jahra called police and told them her son was stabbed by a neighbor following a fight between the two. Police and paramedics went to the area and found out the stabbed man with a shoulder injury. He was taken to Jahra hospital. Detectives were able to find and arrest the suspect who told them that the victim used to mock him whenever he saw him. He will be referred to public prosecution for further action. — Al Rai