

In Brief

ANTI-LAW ACT

KUWAIT: The national competition protection agency said yesterday it is investigating audio record attributed to the owner of a maids' employment office urging fellow businessmen to abstain from lowering services' costs. Nayef Al-Lafi, the department's head, said in a statement that punitive action is being sought for the act is harmful to competition and breaks the competition protection laws. It is also against free competition, he added. — KUNA



WHO FORUM

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health (MoH) will partake in the World Health Organization's third international challenge forum due in Oman today. Dr Buthaina Al-Mudhaf, in charge of quality health care at the MoH, said that the forum would tackle medical issues namely medicines' side-effects. The gathering aims at limiting harm caused by misuse of drugs worldwide, she said, noting that many patients suffer from such harm per year, in addition to thousands of fatalities due to the erroneous usage of drugs. —KUNA



TRAVEL BAN LIFTED

ANKARA: A Turkish court has allowed Abdallah Al-Shatti, a Kuwaiti citizen, to depart the country while court proceedings take their course, the Kuwaiti embassy in Ankara said on Friday. Shatti, who was released by Turkish authorities last week, was allowed to return home at the first session of his trial, and a travel ban imposed upon him has been lifted. In the case of an emergency, the embassy urged citizens to contact its hotline (+90) 533-164-84-79. — KUNA



Photo of the day



KUWAIT: People watch the sunset at a beach in Kuwait City. Local meteorologists say that Kuwait's long and hot summer officially concludes on September 22 this year. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



KUWAIT: The Kuwait Dive Team participate in the International Coastal Cleanup campaign through a cleanup of Al-Salam beach in Shuwaikh. — KUNA

DIVE TEAM JOINS INT'L COASTAL CLEANUP EFFORTS

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Dive Team joined millions around the world yesterday to take part in the International Coastal Cleanup campaign, through a cleanup of Al-Salam beach in Shuwaikh.

The endeavor is part of the team of volunteers' contribution to social responsibility and marine life preservation, Kuwait Dive Team Leader Waleed Al-Fadhel said. Others have joined the efforts, including the Filipino community in Kuwait and the US boy scouts, with support from the Kuwait Municipality, he said.

Beach cleanups conducted by the Kuwait Dive Team, aimed at increasing environmental awareness, have resurfaced due to the improvement of weather conditions, mentioned Fadhel.

Its objectives are to carry out activities aimed at protecting and rehabilitating the marine environment for future generations and to

encourage others to do the same. The volunteers seek to focus on vital areas of Kuwait's marine environment consisting coral reefs, islands and the Kuwait Bay, north of Kuwait City.

In 2009, the National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI Worldwide) presented the Kuwait Dive Team with the Environmental Enrichment Award for their voluntary activities in protecting and rehabilitating marine environments. — KUNA



AUSTRALIA, KUWAIT EAGER TO BOLSTER ACADEMIC TIES: AMBASSADOR

CANBERRA: In light of the visit by top Australian academics to Kuwait, Ambassador Najeb Al-Bader said yesterday that his country and Australia were eager to boost cooperation within the educational and academic domains. Ambassador Bader indicated that Chancellor of the Australian National University (ANU) Professor Gareth Evans, accompanied by Director of the Center for Arab and Islamic Studies and Professor of Political Science at the ANU Amin Saikal, are in Kuwait to discuss cooperation with local officials and academics.

Chancellor Evans will also deliver a lecture focusing on problems and crises in the twenty first century, said the Ambassador who added that the delegation would depart on September 18. The ANU was established in 1946 in the capital Canberra. It is considered as one of the prestigious universities in Australia and the only academic facility created by the country's parliament. — KUNA



CANBERRA: Kuwaiti Ambassador Najeb Al-Bader (right) meets with Chancellor of the Australian National University (ANU) Professor Gareth Evans. — KUNA

AUDIT BUREAU SAYS US VISIT WAS TO GAIN EXPERTISE

WASHINGTON: Acting Chairman for the State Audit Bureau of Kuwait Adel Al-Saraawi said yesterday that his visit to Washington aimed to benefit from the expertise of similar bodies around the world. Kuwait is on the verge of switching from the traditional auditing methodology to Risk-based Internal Audit (RBIA), including audits based on information technology and service assurance, in order to improve monitoring services in the country.

A timeframe between 2018 and 2020 has been set for the plans, he said, which have been praised by US counterparts, whom have pledged to meet with the Kuwaitis on an annual basis and offer workshops and expertise exchange forums. Expertise delivered at these forums will focus on four major topics, said Saraawi, including IT auditing, oil and gas excavation, risk assessment and performance measurement indicators.

This exchange will bring Kuwait up to par with advanced countries in the field of auditing, he mentioned. On the conclusion of his two-day visit, he said he met with World Bank representatives, whom he briefed on Kuwait's

ambitions and the challenges facing the country's auditing body in training its employees.

Meanwhile, the World Bank expressed readiness to provide Kuwait with many aspects of its own expertise on the matter, he said. Saraawi's trip to the US also saw him visit the US Government Accountability Office (GAO), where he was witness to the body's role in conducting the High Risk List - a biennial report which highlights state bodies and programs that face the risk of fraud, waste, abuse or mismanagement.

Kuwait's State Audit Bureau is extremely keen to benefit from global expertise, and has increased its interactions with other countries. This month alone, Saraawi said Kuwaiti representatives held meetings, in the aim of technical cooperation, with their counterparts from China, India and South Korea. In China, they discussed developing staff potentials, while talks in India focused on IT auditing and the Orange Book evaluation system along with discussions in South Korea on auditing related to construction projects. —KUNA



WASHINGTON: Acting Chairman for the State Audit Bureau of Kuwait Adel Al-Saraawi attends a meeting during his visit to US audit and accounting apparatuses. — KUNA