

Local

Health Ministry completes performance assessment for 62,513 employees

Municipality approves secondhand vehicles market location

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health's (MOH) assessment department recently completed assessing the performance of 62,513 Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti ministry employees in 2018. Health sources said results are due by mid-March, noting that according to Civil Service Commission (CSC) resolution number 36/2006 amended by resolution number 15/2017, 30 percent of the assessment focuses on commitment to official working hours while 70 percent focuses on other performance issues. The sources added that the assessment will include health zone directors, hospital managers and their deputies, heads of primary care units and heads of nursing staff. The sources explained that all officials responsible for the process are required to note down all positive and negative remarks in their assessment reports so that each employee could work on avoiding the negatives in the future.

Secondhand vehicles

Kuwait Municipality approved a request by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) to allocate a new market for secondhand vehicles located over a total

area of 500,000 square meters along Salmi highway, well-informed sources said. The new market would not only offer selling and buying used vehicles, but would also include showrooms for these vehicles with technical tests and registration issuance onsite, the sources added.

Interested buyers would have access to auctions and can submit their bids online, the sources noted. "The site will also provide other facilities such as restaurants, rest areas and representatives of various automobile agents," the sources added, noting that the new market will help get rid of brokers. In addition, the sources explained that MOCI is about to form a special committee and offer the project for public bidding to private sector investors.

In other news, MOCI referred the final draft of the bankruptcy, restructuring and preventive settlement bill to the fatwa and legislation department following approval by relevant authorities including the Central Bank which demanded supervising bankruptcy cases. According to the draft, an application can be filed following the death of an indebted person, quitting a business or loss of legal capacity within two years following death or striking off a trader's name from the commercial register.



Solar power plant

Eleven companies and consortiums out of 28 qualified ones have so far purchased the condition handbook for the Al-Debdebeh solar power plant project, well-informed oil sources said. The sources said initial indicators show that the prices given in the bids would competitively vary between KD 200 million and KD 300 million compared to the project's estimated budget of KD 520 million. The sources added that bidders had made around 800 inquiries about the project and that most of them were about the plant itself and power lines.

36 projects

The monthly report issued by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare revealed that the authority managed to accomplish 36 projects till January with a total value of KD 1.3 billion, including 15 projects whose accomplishment is way ahead of schedule. The report explained that 51.98 percent of Mutlaa city's roads and infrastructure project executed by an Italian-Turkish consortium has been completed till January, while the contract states 43.59 percent, while the second contract of building the infrastructure for eight of the city's areas executed by a Chinese contractor is behind schedule with actual accomplishment of 26.92 percent compared to the scheduled 58.99 percent.

Social care

Ministry of Social Affairs' assistant undersecretary for social care affairs Sheikh Al-Adwani said the ministry aspires to build an integrated complex for social care houses including geriatrics and family care houses that provide all tenants' needs. Adwani noted the current buildings need much development.

Kuwaiti official urges double effort against cybercrimes

KUWAIT: Considered one of the most serious crimes of the modern era, cybercrimes require a double effort to be addressed, Deputy Director of Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies Dr Fahad Abu Sulaib said. This came in a speech delivered by Abu Sulaib yesterday at the opening of the institute's four-day workshop entitled 'Investigations and Trials of Internet Crimes,' in cooperation with the Public Prosecution and the US Embassy in the country. This workshop is important specially from the international point of view, which is witnessing a profound transformation in various regions of the world, mainly in international concern

about increasing cyber security and the changes imposed on daily life of citizens and their repercussions, he said.

Meanwhile, US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman said in his speech, "enhancing cyber security cooperation is not only a priority of your government, but of the US Embassy. We see cooperation in cyber security to be a real growth area for our bilateral collaboration to make our peoples more secure.

"The cyber world is one that consistently creates investigative challenges, both by virtue of its rapid development and because it is expansive field, upon which malign influences can operate, he added. "Social media platforms provide unprecedented opportunities for the free exchange of ideas," he said, but many users do not understand that the platforms allow malicious actors to deceive them by launching vast influence operations, and this no doubt, creates many crimes and victims.

"Your role is critical because malicious use of technology cannot be deterred without having a credible capacity to impose punishment for committing fraud, hacking into

information systems, stealing data, and disabling computer systems," Silverman confirmed. It is impossible to employ criminal enforcement tools without first identifying the perpetrators, whether they are ordinary criminals, transnational organized criminal organizations, or those acting on behalf and at the direction of hostile governments who choose to engage in criminal activity, he said.

This phenomenon is not anecdotal. Recently the US Department of Justice prosecuted an individual who had been radicalized online and used social media to recruit and train others to plan and carry out attacks against the United States in the name of IS. This workshop provides an opportunity to share experiences with these challenges and provide some insight into overcoming the impediments of complex cyber investigations, he added. "To defeat malicious actors we must collaborate, we must share information and we must educate ourselves to be better equipped to address the national security threats posed to each of our countries by these criminal elements," he said.

Legalese

Intellectual property rights

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed



I am really grateful that I get to work with smart entrepreneurs in Kuwait who have a vision and work really hard to see their dreams manifest. More and more people in Kuwait, both Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti, young and old, female and male, college-educated and street-smart, are establishing their own businesses and ventures, whether it is a tech startup or small home business that sells a skill set. Keep it up and do not give up on your calling.

One of the legal issues that business owners deal with is intellectual property rights, and although I have written on multiple occasions on intellectual property rights, the processes keep on changing. Therefore, this article discusses the most important intellectual property rights for business owners as of today. Intellectual property can be defined in a very simple way as the creations of the mind.

Three major parts

That could be anything from a photo to a drawing of a necklace design, a book and so on. Intellectual property can be split into three major parts:

1. Copyright: The right a "producer" has to prevent their work from being reproduced. The primary works that can be copyrighted are literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works.

2. Patents: A patent is a protected invention - it has to be new, innovative and capable of industrial application, like a machine or a manufactured article. Fortunately, there is a central office in the Gulf for patents.

3. Trademarks: Trademarks are used as a mark of quality or origin to inspire customer loyalty, like a logo. So essentially, trademarks are only for commercial use.

Process and fees

I have highlighted below the process and fees for trademarks and copyrights in general:

1. Copyrights as mentioned above are very general. A copyright can be anything from written work to a photo or a tune. This can be registered in Kuwait at the National Library. The fees are very minimal and the process is very easy. You will not need a lawyer and I highly suggest this for all artists and business owners.

2. Always register your trademark. You would need a business license first to do so and the process takes some time.

Trademarks are registered at the Ministry of Commerce in KIPCO Tower. Below are the requirements:

A translated copy is needed.
The process takes 6 months.
Manually check for similarities for 18,000 trademarks.

Printed in the newspaper 2-3 times, giving people two months to appeal.

KD 45 once you submit the application online.

KD 25 for publication purposes.
The logo will be published in Kuwait's official gazette for 60 days.

KD 240 to have the logo officially registered.

For questions or queries, please email us at info@ftl-legal.com.



KUWAIT: Participants of Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies' workshop, entitled 'Investigations and Trials of Internet Crimes.' — KUNA

Jordan-Kuwait committee convenes

AMMAN: The Jordanian-Kuwaiti higher committee met in Amman yesterday, with senior officials from both sides' public and private sectors attending. The preparatory meeting is mainly aimed at exploring ways of bilateral cooperation and draft agreements, protocols, MoUs and executive programs ahead of a foreign ministerial meeting due in Amman tomorrow. Speaking at the gathering, Kuwait Assistant Foreign Minister for Arab Affairs Ambassador Fahad Al-Awadhi, who led the Kuwaiti delegation, said today's meeting came at the behest of both countries' leaderships for promoting bilateral relations. He lauded Kuwaiti-Jordanian brotherly relations as an example for other Arab ties to follow.

Meanwhile, Secretary-General of the Jordanian Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply Yousef Al-Shamali stressed deep Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations, saying that the joint committee's meeting targets a follow-up of resolutions adopted during the 2012 session. He appreciated Kuwait for helping Jordan get out of its recent economic crisis and carry out development and economic programs. Trade exchange between both sides hiked up to roughly \$400 million in 2017, up 4.3 percent over 2016, he said, emphasizing that this figure should be further raised.

Deep-rooted ties

In the meantime, Kuwait's



AMMAN: The Jordanian-Kuwaiti higher committee meeting in progress. — KUNA

Ambassador to Jordan Aziz Al-Daihani said yesterday that the Kuwaiti-Jordanian ties skyrocketed in deep-rooted multi-faceted relations. His remark came in prelude to His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah's visit to the Hashemite Kingdom today. Daihani said that His Highness the Premier's visit will coincide with the fourth session of the Higher Jordanian-Kuwaiti Committee, co-chaired by the foreign ministers of both countries, which would result in signing 14 agreements, most of which focus on economic, trade and investment. He added that the visit, an invitation by Jordan's Prime Minister Omar Razzaz, will include a reception by Jordanian King Abdullah II and talks with Razzaz. His Highness the Prime Minister is also to inaugurate the new Kuwaiti Embassy building in Amman.

The visit reaffirms deep-rooted

multi-faceted relations between the two countries and is considered an additional step towards buttressing those relations, under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and King Abdullah II, Daihani pointed out. The delegation accompanying His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak comprises Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Trade, Education and Justice and other senior officials, he noted. The delegation also includes several Kuwaiti businesspersons and representatives of the private sector, which confirms the interest in developing economic ties and opening up wider horizons for trade and investment cooperation between the two countries. Relations between Kuwait and Jordan, established in 1961, have progressed in many domains and the two countries are committed to 57 cooperation agreements covering many areas. — KUNA

News in brief

Celebrations halted in Souq Mubarakiya

KUWAIT: Orders were given to halt public celebrations in Souq Mubarakiya after some considered them contrary to customs and tradition. MP Mohammad Al-Dallal asked the information ministry to act quickly to counter behaviors in Mubarakiya that do not agree with Kuwaiti values and hold violators to account. — Al-Rai

Center reopens

KUWAIT: After a year and two months of closure, Wathakker Center was reopened, as stated by head of the center Sayyed Fuad Al-Refae Al-Husseini. He thanked government officials for this move, as well as those who defended the center.

Corruption charges

KUWAIT: Informed sources said decisions to be issued by Public Works Minister and State Minister for Housing Affairs Jenan Bushehri on the rain crisis will include the referral of a former director of the Public Authority for Roads and Transport to Nazaha (anti-corruption authority) on corruption charges. — Al-Qabas

Weak inspection

KUWAIT: Eight days after a circular warned against parcels from six countries, a box containing seven kg of Captagon tablets arrived. This made customs officials admit that supervision is weak and this leads to smuggling drugs. Instructions were earlier issued for strictly inspecting parcels arriving from Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, China, Iran and Thailand. Concerned authorities said the weak level of inspection has allowed the entry of banned material into the country. Sources said the Captagon was in containers of sweets and was not inspected. — Al-Qabas

Top Kuwaiti lawmaker raps bids to isolate Sudan

CAIRO: Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem yesterday categorically rejected all attempts to

undermine, punish, isolate or unilaterally pressure Sudan. Ghanem made the remark during an Arab parliament sitting held at the Cairo-based Arab League to look into how to lift Sudan from the US list of state sponsors of terrorism. "We were optimistic when unilateral US sanctions on Sudan, which lasted around a quarter of a century, were lifted a couple of years ago. Also, we were optimistic when it was announced two months ago that US-Sudanese talks would be held in order to get Sudan out of the US list of state sponsors of terrorism," he said.

In this context, Ghanem stressed by saying: "We want a

stable, secure and prosperous Sudan. We should encourage and back every step Sudan takes for reform, development and public welfare." The Kuwaiti parliament speaker reiterated a principled position towards all policies that target Sudan, recalling that the Kuwaiti parliament had called on Arab MPs to move to exert pressure on the US Congress to end US sanctions on Khartoum. In late 2017, the efforts had led to an end to the US economic sanctions on Sudan, he said, noting that the US should lift Sudan from its terror list. However, Ghanem called on all Arab countries and their parliaments to seek seriously to help Sudan get out of the US list of state

sponsors of terror. In other news, Ghanem met yesterday with Chairman of Saudi Shura Council Sheikh Dr Abdullah Al-Sheikh. During the meeting, they discussed on ongoing efforts to lift Sudan from the US list of state sponsors of terrorism. They also considered many files related to cooperation between both sides, ways of uniting positions, along with issues to be discussed at upcoming international and continental parliamentary meetings. Meanwhile, Ghanem met with the Speaker of Iraqi Council of Representatives Mohammad Al-Halbousi. They discussed coordination over issues to be discussed during international events. — KUNA