

# Outdoor construction works continue despite ban



KUWAIT: Workers are seen at a Farwaniya construction site (Block 1, Near Omariya) at 3:00 pm.



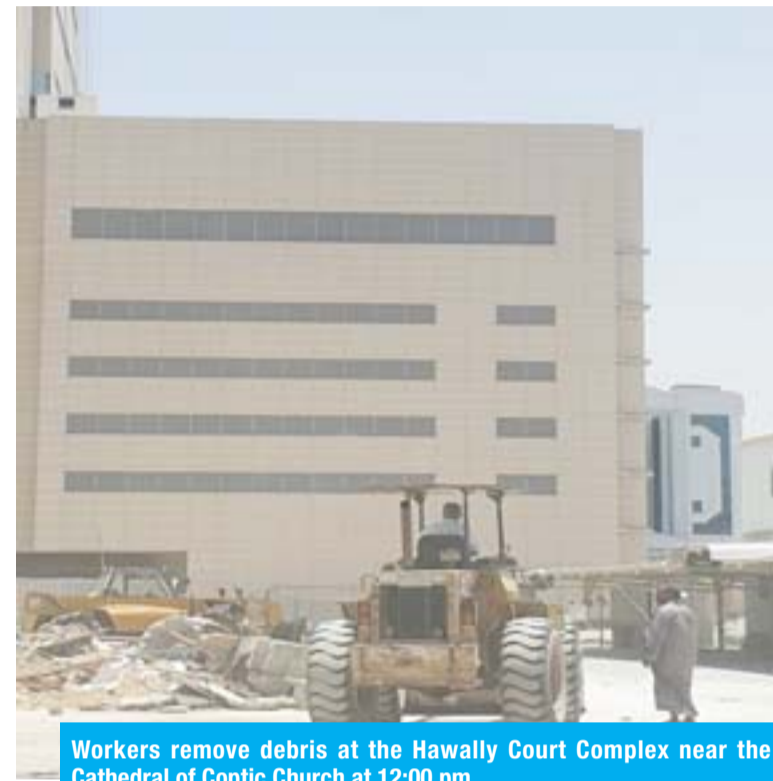
Construction workers at a building in front of Al-Bahar Mall in Hawally at 11:16 am.— Photos by Ben Garcia



A worker is seen in Hawally at 11:20am (in front of Al-Bahar Mall).



Workers in Salmiya on 4th Ring Road near the fire station at 12:45pm.



Workers remove debris at the Hawally Court Complex near the Cathedral of Coptic Church at 12:00 pm.



Mariam Al-Aqeel

## Non-Kuwaiti employees in govt dropped

KUWAIT: The number of non-Kuwaiti employees in the government has dropped, as the replacement policy is being implemented in government departments linked to integrated systems. Non-Kuwaiti employees in the public sector now number 81,817 after they reached 114,000 some years back, which is a 28 percent fall. State Minister for Economic Affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel said non-Kuwaiti employees are of various nationalities, with 4,273 Gulf nationals, 46,968 Arabs, 183 Europeans, 27,708 Asians, 207 Africans, 196 Americans and nine Australians, in addition to 2,273 bedouins. Based on the new numbers, there is a noticeable drop in the number of non-Kuwaiti employees working in state departments compared to previous years, as their current number is 81,817 after being 85,670 at the start of 2017, which means there is 4.5 percent drop. Compared to 2012, when their numbers were 114,890, non-Kuwaiti government employees have reduced by 28 percent in seven years. — Al-Rai

## Kuwait following up on citizen's death in Germany

KUWAIT: The State of Kuwait's Foreign Ministry is following up on the case of a Kuwaiti female citizen who was found dead in her apartment in one of the cities near Frankfurt, Germany, said a statement yesterday. In reaction to what has been circling on Social Media, the ministry's consulates department affirmed that it was looking into the matter in cooperation with the Kuwaiti consulate in Frankfurt and local Germany authorities to determine the cause of death. The statement added that a relative of the deceased was informed about the matter and visa procedures were facilitated for him to head to Germany. The ministry will continue to follow up on the investigations and measures are underway to bring back the remains of the departed to Kuwait, said the statement, indicating that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would like to extend its condolences to the family and relatives of the deceased. —KUNA

## Ministry denies object found in Doha mosque

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry said claims on social media about a foreign object found inside the women's prayer area of Abu Talha Al-Ansari Mosque in Doha are untrue. The ministry said the Capital mosques' department coordinated with the interior ministry, the mosque was evacuated and nothing suspicious was found.

### Two fires

Fire broke out in a Jahra mall, so firemen responded, led by Maj Ibrahim Al-Sabra and Maj Thamer Al-Mutairi. The fire was in the basement of the complex. The fire was put out and no injuries were reported. Meanwhile, a Salmiya building was on fire, so Bidaa and Salmiya fire stations responded, led by Lt Col Khalifa Al-Suwaidi and Maj Bader Al-Kandari. The eight-storey building was evacuated and the fire was put out.

### Child found

A missing child was found inside a mosque in Fintas yesterday. Reports had circulated on social media about a boy who went missing after going out of his family's house alone. The boy's father eventually found him inside a mosque, according to police. In other news, the Interior Ministry announced that it launched an investigation into a citizen's claims that airport security officers failed to carry out their duties appropriately.

## Kuwait calls for int'l efforts to face drug abuse

VIENNA: A Kuwaiti security official said yesterday that the issue of drug abuse and addiction requires international cooperation, pointing out that Kuwait is having success in tackling drug-related activities. Head of the support services department at Kuwait's Ministry of Interior (MoI), Lieutenant Colonel Abdulaziz Bastaki said that the meeting of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna discussed ways of fighting and preventing drug abuse.

Kuwait developed a comprehensive and integrated strategy, pointing out they discussed new strategies of fighting against psychotropic drugs and rehabilitating addicts, he underlined. This is a vital opportunity to exchange information and experiences with those from different countries of the world, addressing drug abuse in addition to the latest solutions, Bastaki said. The role of Kuwait's MoI is to rehabilitate users in civil institutions, he explained.

Kuwait and global efforts are setting out a strategy within the framework of the three international drug conventions, the UN Charter, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Bastaki pointed out. For the first time, Kuwait is participating in the meeting of the Vienna-based OSCE, invited by Secretary-General of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers.

The delegation of the Kuwaiti MoI participating in



KUWAIT: The scene inside a Jahra mall after a fire was tackled.



The scene inside a Salmiya building after a fire was extinguished.



VIENNA: Head of the support services department at Kuwait's Ministry of Interior Lieutenant Colonel Abdulaziz Bastaki takes part in the meeting of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). — KUNA

the meeting presented by Bastaki, in addition to Lieutenant Colonel Mohammed Al-Nisf from Kuwait's Drug Control General Department (DCGD). Several representatives from OIC Member States as well as representatives of international organizations, the private sector and media outlets are taking part in the session. —KUNA



Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled



Mike Pompeo

## Kuwait FM receives phone call from US counterpart

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received a phone call Sunday from US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo. The two sides discussed developments in the region and international arena. — KUNA

## Kuwait, Philippines discuss domestic helpers' issues

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: High ranking diplomatic sources said a meeting was held between Kuwait's Ambassador to the Philippines Musaed Al-Thuwaij and Philippines Labor Minister Silvestre Bello to discuss bilateral issues led by that of domestic helpers in Kuwait. The sources said both sides had remarks about the contract intended to be used to recruit labor from the Philippines and that a further meeting will be held between officials from both countries to discuss the matter. The sources stressed the body of a Filipina maid - suspected to have been murdered - was shipped to the Philippines a week ago and that the embassy is still waiting for the final forensics report about the cause of death.

### Policewomen assaulted

A Jordanian woman was arrested for assaulting female police agents at the Grand Mosque, said security sources. The woman initially refused to be personally inspected by the policewomen, then quarreled with them and assaulted a female lieutenant colonel, a female lieutenant and a policewoman, the sources noted.

### Excellent performance bonuses

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Saad Al-Kharraz said KD 200,000 had been cut from the excellent performance bonuses as the budget allocated for the bonuses was KD 1.7 million in 2015-2016 and dropped to KD 1.5 million in 2016, 2017 and 2018. Responding to a parliamentary inquiry filed by MP Mohammed Al-Huwailah, Kharraz denied detecting any violations in paying the bonus, as the process is governed by preset regulations of the Civil Service Commission. Karraz said 377 non-Kuwaiti employees received the bonus in 2016, 253 in 2017 and 236 in 2018.

### Healthcare centers

The Ministry of Health announced that 44 healthcare centers would be working during Eid Al-Fitr holiday across all areas. In a press statement yesterday, head of the ministry's primary healthcare department Humoud Al-Zaabi said that there would be nine centers working in Farwaniya district and seven in Hawally district. He added that there are also six centers in Al-Asimah district, 15 in Ahmadi and seven centers in Jahra.