

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Despite government's efforts to provide sufficient parking spaces for clients in the vicinity of governmental departments' buildings, these places are still choked with traffic jams every day. The problem grows bigger as clients park in 'no parking' areas due to lack of parking spaces, blocking roads and aggravating the traffic problem. — KUNA

'Ooredoo Treasure' grand prize winner announced

KUWAIT: Consistent with its customer centric approach and within its endeavors to reward and positively engage customers, increase brand loyalty and attract new brand advocates, Ooredoo Kuwait held the long-awaited grand prize draw of 'Ooredoo Treasure' competition last Thursday, September 19, 2019. The draw was conducted live on Q8 Pulse FM 88.8 Al-Diwaniya show and in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and representatives from Ooredoo. Fatemah Abdulaziz was announced as the lucky winner of the brand new Land Cruiser V8.

Commenting on the sidelines of the draw event, Ooredoo Kuwait's Corporate Communications Senior Director Mijbil Al-Ayoub said: "Ooredoo Treasure is actually another manifestation of Ooredoo's unremitting commitment to delivering on its promise of enriching people's lives through world-class networks, unrivalled digital experiences and significant CSR engagements that focus on empowering individuals (youths) and helping them to live their dreams."

"The Treasure Competition, with its extravagant rewards, was basically conceptualized as a customer appreciation program aiming at rewarding our customers' loyalty and also as a platform to increase brand awareness, foster Ooredoo's interaction with its customers throughout the year and encourage others to come to subscribe with us," Ayoub added.

"Ooredoo Treasure Competition gives abundant opportunities for our customers to enjoy quality daily content and play exciting quiz to gain more chances. Users get more points for every correct answer. We do provide our customers valid chances to win prizes even if they answer incorrectly. This is not just all, we have Insta Quiz as well which the customers can play anytime if they have a valid Ooredoo Treasure Subscription and users get assured cash prizes if they answer all set of questions correctly. Users are normally charged 150 fils daily subscription (receive daily content) and 500 fils per answer to the quiz (every answer gives more chances to the users). They can send keyword like WIN to shortcode 1010," Ayoub concluded. It is worthwhile to note that a test of Ooredoo's high speed 5G technology, which is still the talk of the town, was also conducted by a group from Al-Diwaniya on the sidelines of the Treasure grand prize draw event.



Ministry rejects proposals to cancel subsidized food cards

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) has rejected some parliamentary proposals to cancel the subsidized food supplies' cards issued to citizens, GCC nationals and certain categories of bedoons (stateless). The proposals had called for substituting the cards, which entitled their holders to monthly rations of basic food items, with cash allowances given to each Kuwaiti bread-winner. Notably, some MPs had demanded cancelling the cards to stop what they described as waste of public funds through smuggling subsidized items out of Kuwait. Lawmakers also argued that some Kuwaiti citizens do not actually use their cards, but instead buy their needs from the local market, while they give away their shares of food rations to others. "This means those supplies go to non-deserving consumers," they warned.

Less costing

On the other hand, MOCI said that the proposal seems less costing for the state's budget

because the cash allowance would be much less than what the state allocates to purchase the supplies. "However, cash allowances would lead to price increases suffered by both citizens and expats," the sources warned, noting that the ministry might face challenges in controlling prices if that happens. Further, MOCI explained that it is closely watching the subsidized supplies' centers and decided to appoint Kuwaiti officials to run them instead of expats. "The problem is that very few Kuwaitis have so far been attracted to these positions," MOCI remarked, noting that more incentives would be given soon including working either morning or evening shifts, or working two shifts in one day and taking the following day off. Finally, MOCI explained that it would continue adding new items to the subsidized supplies ration, and stop giving those supplies to bedoons with expired security cards.

Fake medicines

In other news, Ministry of Health's (MOH) assistant undersecretary for food and medicine control affairs Dr Abdullah Al-Bader yesterday announced that the ministry inspection teams had recently seized quantities of fake or banned medicines and unregistered food supplement products inside a gifts shop in Al-Asima (Capital) Governorate. Bader explained that the seized items pose violation of law number 28/1996 and other related laws regulating the circulation of medicines and health products in Kuwait, adding that the entire case would be referred to public prosecution.

Child kicked out of stolen vehicle in Jahra

KUWAIT: Police are looking for a man who stole a vehicle left running outside Jahra Co-operative Society after kicking out a child who was waiting for his father inside it. The car's owner, Syrian, had left his 9-year-old child inside the vehicle to do some quick shopping, but while at the cashier, he looked from the window and saw a man dragging his son out of the car. He rushed outside but the suspect drove away from the scene, so he went to the police station and filed a case.

Kidnap

A citizen who was on a visit with his children disappeared with them away from his ex-wife, so she lodged a complaint. The woman said her ex-husband has visitation rights one day a week, and used to take them out that day, but he asked her to take them for a second day because he missed them. The woman obliged, and he took the children but never returned, she told police. A kidnap case was lodged.

Drunk driver causes accident

A drunk man went to his ex-girlfriend's apartment, so she called police. But when officers arrived, he had already escaped. Police went in search for him in the area, then instructed the woman to go to the police station and lodge a complaint. Then while on their way back, they received a call from the same woman saying that the man showed up again, so they returned but the suspect escaped one more time. The police patrol remained close to the building as the drunk man returned for a third time, so they attempted to stop him as he drove away to Blajat Road, jumped a curb, and collided with another car injuring himself and the other driver. Both were taken to hospital under heavy guard. — Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai

New competition law 'instrumental' to lure foreign investors

KUWAIT: A new competition law pending approval by lawmakers will be referred to parliament for its upcoming session, Kuwait's Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan said yesterday. Roudhan, who also serves as state minister for services, told the press that the new legislation would grant Kuwait's competition protection agency broader powers, besides being instrumental in luring more foreign investment into the Gulf state. The minister spoke of amendments the Kuwaiti ministry of commerce has made to the country's trade laws in a bid to create a more alluring business environment. Kuwait's competition protection agency has recently joined forces with a myriad of companies, putting the government body "on the right track," said its chairman Rashid Al-Ajmi. Kuwait's competition protection agency is a state-run body that monitors operations in the local market as part of efforts to serve producers and consumers alike. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister Khaled Al-Roudhan speaks during a press conference yesterday. — KUNA

KD 3.3 billion worth of projects in 2019-20 development plan

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The total number of projects listed in Kuwait's 2019-2020 development plan is 135 according to the first quarter report, including 22 strategic projects with the cost of KD 2,662,400, Secretary general of the Supreme Council of Planning and Development Dr Khaled Mahdi announced yesterday.

Speaking in a press conference held yesterday to announce the first quarterly follow-up report for the 2019-2020 development plan, Mahdi explained that the total cost of the 135 projects is KD 3.3 billion, of which around KD 271 million was spent during the first quarter; that is up till June 30, 2019.

Further, Mahdi said that the 22 strategic projects in the plan include Al-Adan Hospital, of which 45.2 percent have so far been achieved, Al-Sabah Hospital (with 53 percent achievement so far), Al-Zour refinery (88.2 percent complete), the Clean Fuel Project (98 percent complete), Al-Metla residential area (43.2 percent complete) and Al-Shaqaya renewable energy complex (95.1 percent complete). Moreover, Mahdi said that the aforementioned projects had faced 567 challenges, including administrative, financial, technical and monitoring-related ones.