

Local

Govt agrees to discuss public sector Kuwaitization with MPs

Moneychangers closed for involvement in suspicious remittances

By A Saleh and Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The government agreed to discuss Kuwaitis' employment and the measures to be taken to nationalize all public sector jobs, as requested by lawmakers, well-informed sources said. Speaking on the condition of anonymity, the sources added that the government requested allocating two hours a month to discuss one of the basic issues and leave regular parliament sessions to discuss other laws and bills on the parliamentary committees' agendas. Further, the sources said Kuwaitizing public sector jobs had been previously discussed in parliament, and that this was why the government requested the two hours to review the executive measures taken by the government to reduce the number of expat employees and keep them at minimal levels, as well as measures taken to increase the number of citizens working in the private sector.

Suspicious remittances

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) yesterday announced closing down a number of moneychangers involved in suspicious remittances and money transfers. MoCI added money laundering and commercial control inspectors toured a number of money exchanges to make sure they fully abide by related laws and regulations.

Shisha ban

The Interior Ministry and Kuwait Municipality agreed on commencing the implementation of the Municipal Council's decision banning shishas indoors, said informed sources, noting that various municipal offices had been notified to start the implementation of the ban by the end of this month. The sources added that coordination is in progress to use police force when needed against violators along with closure and immediate fines.

Nafisi's case

Dr Abdullah Al-Nafisi issued a statement commenting on a court order to summon him for interrogation in a case filed against him for what he says was expressing his opinions. Nafisi stressed that he was as shocked as "others in Kuwait and Islamic countries worldwide" over the case filed by the foreign ministry and the travel ban issued against him. "I was not notified with the case filed on September 12, 2019 before January 5, 2020," he underlined, pointing out that he plans to attend the hearing whenever and wherever the court decides in order to defend himself and demand acquittal.



Nafisi ready to stand in court

Court cases

The court of cassation yesterday issued a final sentence seconding a previous verdict issued by the court of appeal fining a local publicity and advertisement company's legal representative KD 5,000, a two-month closure of the company, confiscating all the equipment used in the case and publishing the verdict in two local dailies. Notably, the case was filed against the company's legal representative for violating the patent rights of a local music composer by using music he had composed for a patriotic song in a commercial the company made for a local restaurant.



KUWAIT: Kuwait Cabinet members vote during a parliament session at the National Assembly yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Meanwhile, the criminal court yesterday sentenced three defendants to seven years in prison and five years in prison for a fourth defendant, in addition to ordering they refund the money they had taken for forging Kuwait citizenship. Separately, the court of cassation yesterday annulled a Public Authority of the Disabled decision in which it declined a disabled citizen's request to receive disability allowances. The court ordered paying the citizen allowances for medium permanent kinetic disability.

Non-Kuwaiti doctors

In a bid to help some categories of medical college

graduates, Health Minister Dr Basel Al-Sabah yesterday issued a ministerial decision allowing non-Kuwaiti doctors and other medical profession practitioners to take their training during the first year of appointment. The decision indicates that the exempted graduates include children of Kuwaiti women, Kuwaitis' spouses (who are still married), bedoons (stateless) registered with the central apparatus for illegal residents, children of military martyrs registered with the martyrs bureau, as well as graduates of Kuwait University and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training from other nationalities who are born in Kuwait and hold valid residency visas.



KUWAIT: Chief of the National Security Bureau Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah yesterday discussed with Cristian Tudor, head of European Union delegation to Kuwait, issues of common concern. The two sides, during a meeting, examined cooperation and means of boosting bilateral relations, the bureau said in a statement. They also talked about topics of mutual concern on the regional and international arenas. — KUNA

Kuwait, Saudi hire consultant to assess Dorra gas field

DUBAI: Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have asked an international consultant to study the development plan for the Dorra off-shore gas field and assess the share of the gas for each country from the joint project, Kuwaiti Al-Rai newspaper reported yesterday.

Such a development would indicate that the two Gulf OPEC producers are moving forward with the project, which they shelved in 2013 after disagreeing over how to share the gas back on land. Both countries need the field to satisfy their growing gas consumption for power generation and boost exports. The independent consultant, which Kuwaiti Al-Rai did

not name, will study the production volumes, storage options and cost of development for the field, the newspaper said, citing unnamed sources.

Dorra, which is located in the divided zone between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, also known as the Neutral Zone, has an estimated 10-11 trillion cubic feet of gas and around 300 million barrels of oil. In December, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait agreed to end a five-year dispute over the shared Neutral Zone in a deal that will allow production to resume at two oilfields that can pump up to 0.5 percent of the world's oil supply.

Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said last month that a new project would start soon at Dorra. Two Saudi and Kuwaiti companies can complete the project in the area, which has a promising large quantity of gas, the minister said. Dorra has long been a bone of contention between Kuwait and Iran, which also lays claim to part of the field. An industry source told Reuters that Riyadh and Kuwait could develop the Dorra gas field away from the area that Iran claims. — Reuters

KUWAIT: Customs officers at terminals 1 (T1) and 5 (T5) of Kuwait International Airport arrested two passengers who arrived in Kuwait with possession of hashish yesterday. Both suspects were sent to concerned authorities for further action. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun



Violence against children on the rise in Kuwait

KUWAIT: The Health Ministry's child protection office received 2,139 complaints in regards to violence against children between 2015 and 2019, Kuwait's Al-Jarida daily reported yesterday quoting ministry sources. The office received 650 complaints last year compared to 100 in 2015,

which indicates that the rate of violence against children in Kuwait is on the rise, the sources added, noting that the office received 300 complaints in 2016, 490 in 2017 and 599 in 2018. On the types of complaints received, the sources explained that physical violence were the most among cases filed, followed by negligence and sexual assault respectively. Meanwhile, the sources said there is increased awareness in society regarding the importance of reporting cases of violence against children, but argued that more effort is needed especially by spreading awareness through social media.

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