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Kuwait funds bedoons' education

KUWAIT: Kuwait covered the education expenses for 33,700 bedoon (stateless) students in 2020/2021, the Central Agency for the Remedy of Situations of Illegal Residents said. A total of 20,373 students study in public schools while 13,327 others in private schools, and their expenses are paid through Kuwait's Charitable Fund, it added.

The information circulated in a seminar and circulated on social media about the education of bedoons in Kuwait is inaccurate and not true, said CARIRS in a press statement yesterday. It undervalues Kuwait's efforts to ensure education and denies the contributions that have been made in order to popularize education for the stateless people, added CARIRS, which would "damage Kuwait's reputation abroad and distort it for the great humanitarian role that distinguished Kuwait's government and its people."

Kuwait Charitable Fund was established by the State Cabinet resolution 655 on December 7, 2003, which states the establishment of two charitable funds, one for education while the other for health, explained CARIRS. CARIRS called on everyone to follow the truth in all news and statements that are published and broadcast, especially when it affects Kuwait's reputation. — KUNA

\$1 billion to people with special needs

KUWAIT: Kuwait Credit Bank granted a total of \$1 billion in financial assistance to people with special needs in the past 10 years, the bank said yesterday. Around 37,000 persons have benefited from the disability grant since it was enacted by law in 2010, it noted, adding that the bank is always keen to promote and support humanitarian work in Kuwait. The services provided to people with special needs are available through the bank's online portal and the bank's mobile application, as well as the branches, added KCB. — KUNA



Kuwait condemns terrorist attack

KUWAIT: The Foreign Ministry yesterday expressed Kuwait's condemnation and denunciation of the terrorist act in Iraq, Khidr Jija, which resulted in the death and injury of people. The statement stressed Kuwait's supportive stance rejecting all forms of terrorism and violence. It expressed sincere condolences to Iraq and the families of the victims and wished the injured speedy recovery. — KUNA



Hate speech laws discussed in Arab talks

CAIRO: A top Kuwaiti justice official highlighted yesterday efforts to strengthen hate speech laws aiming to establish more religious tolerance during talks involving justice ministers from across the Arab region, saying he had pitched suggestions over the matter.

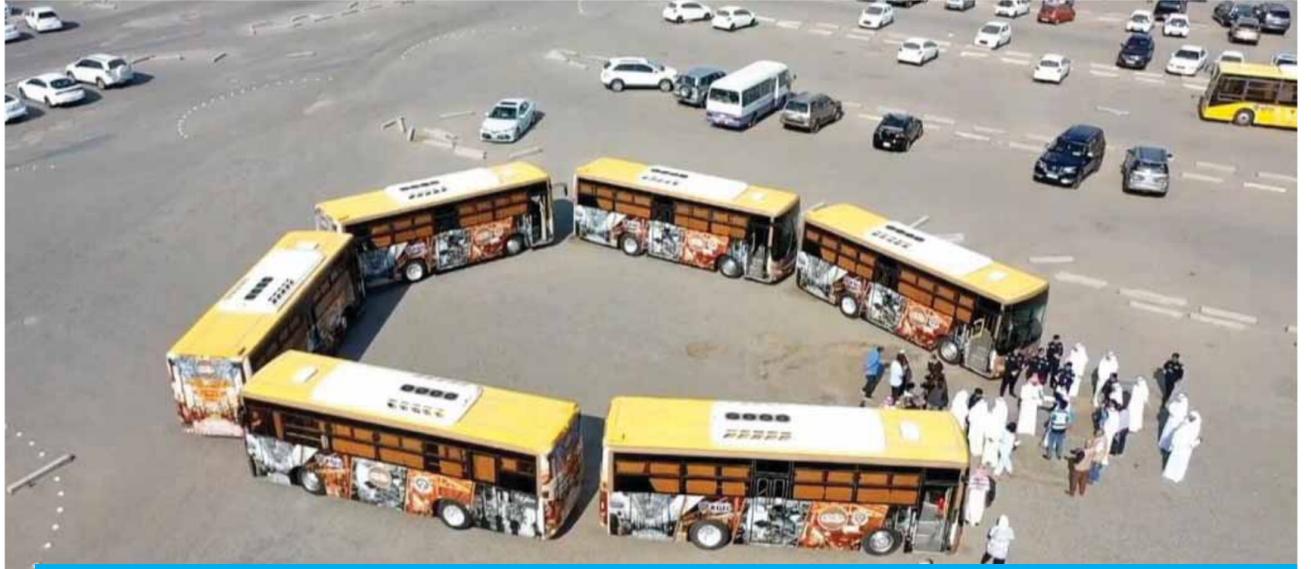


Zakaria Al-Ansari

Kuwait has made palpable progress in measures the country has taken to clamp down on hate speech and encourage religious harmony, Justice Ministry Undersecretary for Legal Affairs and International Relations Zakaria Al-Ansari said after the talks.

Some of the legal and judicial measures Arab countries had taken during the COVID pandemic were also discussed, added the official, saying the suggestions he had made included anti-terrorism efforts and measures to eradicate corruption. He hailed the talks, held in person in the Egyptian capital Cairo, as a "new beginning" towards greater pan-Arab judicial cooperation, saying it was needed to bring some vital legislations to fruition. — KUNA

Shuttle service helps end Souq Mubarakiya parking troubles



KUWAIT: The buses provided by Kuwait Public Transport Company for the Souq Mubarakiya shuttle service. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: To make it easier for visitors of Souq Mubarakiya to access the market, Kuwait Public Transport Company (KPTC) has launched a new shuttle service. Visitors can park their vehicles at free parking lots in four different locations, then head to Mubarakiya by bus free of charge. The service was launched on Nov 14 and will be available till March 2022.

"If we notice a high demand for this service, we may extend it till April or even longer. The buses are available daily from 10:30 am to 10:30 pm. We may also extend the hours during weekends. The buses are for families only, so single males are not allowed to use this service," Ohood Al-Maseud, Assistant Director of Marketing, Public Relations and Customer Service at KPTC, told Kuwait Times.

Six buses ply three routes from four locations. "The first location is the parking lot of Souq Sharq, which is the most popular. The same bus

will pass through the second location - Al-Sanabel parking lot, then drop passengers on Ali Al-Salem Street in Mubarakiya," Maseud said.

"The second route begins from the Ministries Complex's parking lot and heads directly to Darwaza Abdulrazzaq on Ahmad Al-Jaber Street in Mubarakiya. The third route picks passengers from the parking lot of Al-Mailam Mosque on Sour Street and drops them on Ali Al-Salem Street," she added.

At all four locations, parking lots are free of charge. "Mubarakiya visitors are relieved from searching for parking spots at the market. They



Ohood Al-Maseud

can park their vehicles for free and use the bus service free of charge as well. The interval between each bus is between 5 to 10 minutes. But during weekends and high traffic, the interval may be between 15 to 20 minutes," she noted.

"At each of the locations, there is a stand that includes the bus schedule with timings and the map of each route. Also, it includes photos of the bus, as it's special and different from other transport buses," Maseud explained. The initiative was proposed by Capital Governor Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, who met CEO of KPTC Mansour Al-Saad to realize the idea of this project.

"I would like to thank all those who supported this project for their cooperation, including Kuwait Municipality, Traffic Department of the Ministry of Interior, and Souq Sharq," she said. Maseud also noted that KPTC will soon have a new fleet of buses that will surprise the passengers with their new design, size, services provided onboard, and new routes. "The new buses will provide VIP services for all passengers," she concluded.

