

## Local

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Founder and Publisher  
**YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN**

Editor-in-Chief  
**ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN**

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432  
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7  
FAX : 24835620/1  
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163  
ACCOUNTS : 24833199 Extn. 125  
COMMERCIAL : 24835618  
P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.  
Email: info@kuwaittimes.com  
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

## Over 9,000 work permits canceled in one month

**KUWAIT:** Authorities canceled 9,296 work permits of expats in one month, of which 5,000 expired due to their presence outside the country without renewal, Al-Qabas Arabic daily reported yesterday. Statistics issued by the Public Authority for Manpower revealed these work permits were canceled during the period from January 12 until February 7, adding that 183 expats cancelled their work permits and transferred to family visas, including those who fall under the decision of banning renewal of work permits of those over 60 who do not have a university degree.

Meanwhile, the authority cancelled 1,322 work permits of Kuwaitis for leaving the job or being terminated, while 4,330 permits were automatically renewed. The authority allowed five persons to transfer from the government to the private sector, while 362 received work permits through the health protocols committee of the Cabinet and will be brought to Kuwait according to current measures. Permits will be issued to them within two months after entering the country. The authority approved 10,152 academic certificates of expats uploaded online, while 25 persons transferred from the private to the government sector.

## Oil price up to \$60

**KUWAIT:** The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by 80 cents to \$60.39 per barrel Monday after it was at \$59.59 pb Friday, the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said yesterday. Meanwhile, the price of the Brent crude went up by \$1.22 to \$60.56 per barrel, the same case with the West Texas Intermediate, which went up by \$1.12 to \$57.97 pb. — KUNA

### Photo of the Day



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Towers illuminated to celebrate the UAE's first probe on Mars, the first mission from the Arab world to the red planet yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Foreign Minister reiterates Kuwait's support to Palestine

**KUWAIT:** Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah headed on Monday Kuwait's delegation, participating in the Council of the Arab League meeting in an extraordinary session. The meeting which was held at the headquarters of the Secretariat General of the Arab League States in Cairo, tackled various issues of importance to Arab security interests, on top of which the Palestinian issue and its developments. Sheikh Dr Ahmad delivered Kuwait's speech at this meeting, started off with his respectful greetings to Egypt, Chairman of the current session of the League Council Sameh Shoukry, and Secretary General of the League of Arab States Ahmad Abul Gheit, and all participants. He thanked Egypt and Jordan for calling for this important meeting, which comes in light of the accelerating data and changes witnessed by the region and the world.

Sheikh Dr Ahmad also welcomed Yemen's Foreign Minister and Expatriate Affairs Dr Ahmad bin Awad bin Mubarak, wishing him success in his duties, also

thanking Abul Gheit for efforts in preparing this meeting, wishing utmost success. He went on to say that considering these circumstances with the continued wounds in some of Arab countries, there is a need for commitment to unify roles, strengthen cohesion and overcome differences, working in a coordinated and thoughtful manner to confront the threats and challenges facing the region. The inclusive Arab position that achieves protection for Arab security, serves common Arab interests and promotes solidarity and joint Arab action, also in this context everyone should value the Arab support for the efforts of Kuwait concerned with achieving the desired Gulf and Arab solidarity, and with the support of brothers and friends, which contributed to reaching the Gulf and Arab reconciliation, as he commended the results of the 41st summit of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) and Al-Ula statement issued by it, which confirms the closer ties that bind all Arab countries together.

Sheikh Dr Ahmad reiterated the solid and principled position of Kuwait on Arab central issue, which is the Palestinian issue, and in providing all aspects of support while standing by Palestinians until their full legitimate rights are obtained, with a just solution plus a lasting and comprehensive peace represented in the two-state solution leading to the establishment of the independent Palestinian state with East

Jerusalem as its capital, on the borders of June 4, 1967, in accordance with the relevant international legitimacy decisions and the Arab Peace Initiative. In conclusion, he asked Allah Almighty to enlighten the path for what is in the interest of the Arab nation, and to guide steps with good, peace, mercy, and blessings. Kuwait's delegation included Assistant for the Arab Homeland Affairs, Ambassador Fahad Ahmad Al-Awadhi, Kuwait's Permanent Delegate at the Arab League, Ahmad Al-Bakr, and several senior officials of the ministry of foreign affairs.

The Arab foreign ministers had affirmed their rejection of any unilateral Israeli projects that negatively affect the rights of the Palestinian people, violate international law and undermine the two-state solution "for which there is no alternative." This came at the conclusion of the meeting to discuss the latest regional issues and support the Palestinian cause, which was held at the request of Egypt and Jordan. The Council reaffirmed the importance of the Palestinian issue to the Arab countries, and reiterated the commitment of all Arab countries to support the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with full sovereignty with East Jerusalem as its capital. The meeting stressed on the need to find a just solution to the Palestinian refugee issue, in accordance with United Nations Resolution. — KUNA

## Canadian Ambassador visits Reconnaissance Research

**KUWAIT:** The Ambassador of Canada to Kuwait Louis Pierre Emond visited the Kuwait-based policy institute Reconnaissance Research in Kuwait City and met with the founder and CEO Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri and Deputy CEO Yusef Al-Ghusain. The ambassador said, "Canada and Kuwait enjoy strong and growing bilateral relations, and we seek to invest them in establishing more bridges of communication and interdependence between the two countries. With our sights on the permanence and durability of official relations, and the accompanying strengthening of economic and commercial ties, we cannot overlook the importance of think tanks and research institutes as they have a positive role in societal awareness among interested people from the two friendly countries. We find it important to harness the positive potentials of growth in dialogue between Canada and Kuwait which is now more possible via our collaboration with Reconnaissance Research, which, despite its recentness, is distinguished by the professionalism of serious research work they do, and we are happy to work together to enhance bilateral relations."

Meanwhile, Anjari said that he was happy with



this meeting because of Canada's special and distinctive importance to Kuwait. He added: "The meeting was fruitful in the topics it contained and in what was agreed upon in terms of a clear-cut outline of a policy for future cooperation with Canada, as it was agreed with the ambassador. The cooperation will not be limited to only the economic and commercial fields, but it will also focus on three main topics, namely environmental issues, women's rights and human rights. Canada's pioneering and honorable record in these areas is unparalleled, and the cultural diversity of Canadian society and its openness to all races and religions is a message of peace to everyone. They seek coexistence with others within an environment that guarantees rights for everyone and societal justice in light of economic growth that benefits everyone."

## Safir Hotels and Resorts comply with Cabinet's decisions

**KUWAIT:** Safir Fintas Kuwait, Marina Hotel Kuwait, and Safir Airport Kuwait will be in compliance with the decisions made by Kuwait's Cabinet on February 3, in regard to the closure of gyms, spas and salons, and ending restaurant services at 8:00 pm. The hotels' salons, spa and gyms will close and classes will halt. Memberships will be extended by a month in order to avoid inconveniencing Health Club members. Marina Hotels' three pools and beachside will remain open. However, with the exception of the Kashta on the Beach, food and beverage services will be discontinued for these areas until further notice. Safir Fintas Kuwait's rooftop pool will close, while its spacious Beach Garden will remain open.

Marina Hotel Kuwait will cancel the dinner that was intended to be held at the Atlantis Restaurant and shift its attention to the outdoor Kashta on the Beach, in which additional social distancing measures will be implemented. The 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm Kashta on the Beach slot will be closed, and instead a brunch slot will open from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Marina's Atlantis Restaurant will be open from 6:30 am until 7:00 pm, serving a la carte breakfast and lunch.

Similarly, at Safir Fintas Kuwait, the Beach Garden Kashta is also adjusting its timings. One slot will remain



open Saturday through Thursday from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm. On Fridays, two slots will be available, the first spanning from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm and the second from 04:30 pm to 7:30 pm. In all cases, operation will end at 8:00 pm as decreed. Safir Fintas' Flavors Restaurant will serve breakfast from 8:00 am till 11:30 am, and its other outlets will continue to operate as normal, except ending service at 8:00 pm and offering takeaway services thereafter. Al-Roshinah Kuwaiti Restaurant will offer dine in from 12:00 pm till 8:00 pm, and takeaway thereafter till 11:00 pm.

Safir Hotels and Resorts reminds guests to follow the 'SAFER @ SAFIR' COVID-19 policy and standard procedure, which includes wearing masks, undergoing temperature checks, practicing social distancing, and frequently sanitizing hands. Finally, in order to continue to assure guests that the company and all its properties are following international protocol and best practices that prioritize everyone's health and safety, Safir will be extending its Bureau Veritas Safe Guard Certification, first obtained in September 2020.

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P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait  
Tel: 24833199 - 24833358 - 24835616/7 | Fax: 24835620 - 24835621  
E: info@kuwaittimes.net