

Local

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian Gulf

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

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COMMERCIAL : 24835618

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Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A picture taken on Saturday shows heavy traffic on the Fourth Ring Road. Main highways in Kuwait were heavily congested on the weekend, which has become the main gateway for people to meet their needs since the partial curfew started. —Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

News in brief

Amir condolences with Egypt's leader on building collapse

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Saturday sent a cable of condolences to Egypt's President Abdelattah Al-Sisi. In the cable, His Highness expressed sincere condolences over the victims of the building that collapsed in Cairo earlier in the day. His Highness the Amir prayed to Allah Almighty to bestow mercy on the souls of victims, wishing a speedy recovery to those injured. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. —KUNA

Curfew in Ramadan?

KUWAIT: Head of the Coronavirus Higher Advisory Committee Dr Khaled Al-Jarallah said that COVID-19 transmission is still high in all governorates, while the curfew and social distancing are allegedly "not being observed." As a result, it is possible that the curfew may continue during Ramadan. He added that supplies of vaccines are being controlled by manufacturing companies which is allegedly "slowing the vaccination process."

US Dollar at KD 0.302

KUWAIT: The exchange rate of the US dollar was stable at KD 0.302, while the euro dropped to KD 0.356 yesterday, compared to Thursday's rates. The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) said in its daily bulletin that the sterling rose to KD 0.416, the Swiss franc dropped to KD 0.321 and the Japanese yen was stable at KD 0.003. —KUNA

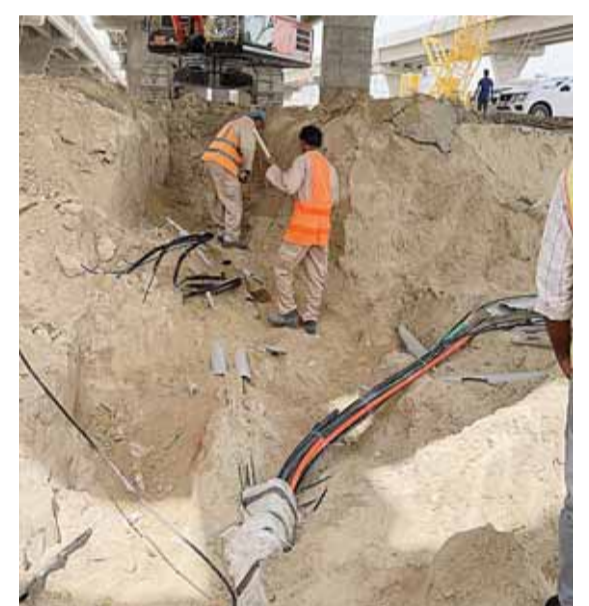
Internet service disruption case to prosecution

KUWAIT: Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Communication and Information Technology Affairs Rana Al-Fares on Saturday announced that an urgent complaint has been submitted to the Public Prosecution against those responsible for cutting cables supplying the internet earlier today and damaging it. In a press release, she added that perpetrators would be held responsible for all damages, referring to the application of penalties included in the contractor's contract.

She noted that the complaint came following issuing some reports on damage against the companies causing the cable cuts. Cutting

the cables affected the country's internet services in a manner that caused damage on several levels, which necessitated urgent legal actions, she noted.

The country's internet services suffered a severe slowdown this morning due to the cutting of a number of international cables in several directions, as a result of road networks development work. This led to the disruption of nearly 60 percent of the country's internet services. Meanwhile, Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) announced later the fixing of all cuts in the cables and the resumption of services in all systems across the country. Internet services were restored to STC international cable system and Mobily, as well as disrupted systems, the authority said in a statement to the press. The concerned emergency teams were present at the site since the early hours of the incident, which took place due to the development of road networks, it added. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Workers are seen at the site where the internet cable cuts were reported.

FRONTLINE HEROES OF KUWAIT

Student Art Competition 2021



It is our pleasure to welcome each and every youngster to our Student Art Competition. We hope that everyone is ready to create beautiful artworks and show support for our heroes of Kuwait! We're searching for great art – so get your paintbrushes, color pencils, crayons and markers ready. Let your talent flow and start painting. Good luck to our young artists!

- The competition is open to students aged 6 - 18 years with categories (6 - 8 years) (9 - 11 years) (12 - 14 years) (15 - 18 years) and special abilities students.
- The competition is open to all schools in Kuwait (government and private).
- Submissions are open from February 14, 2021 till March 31, 2021.
- 5 winners from each category will receive valuable prizes.
- All participants will receive a certificate of appreciation.
- All schools and individuals interested in participating in this competition are welcome.
- Participants in the ages 6 - 8 years may use marker colors only.
- You can use any drawing sheet, but of A3 size.
- All artwork must be hand drawn and not computer generated.
- All paintings should be submitted by email at painting@kuwaittimes.net in PDF format ONLY.
- Participant must include on the bottom of the artwork the following: name, age, email address, phone number and school in legible font.

Strategic Partner

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KES to represent Kuwait in int'l e-tournaments

KUWAIT: Kuwait Football Association (KFA) signed a cooperation agreement with Kuwait Esports Club (KES) to represent the association to participate in e-tournaments locally, regionally and internationally. KES Chairman Abdullah Al-Ali said KFA receives invitations from international bodies to participate in e-tournaments, "and we as a club are considered a specialized entity in organizing the participation process in esports tournaments and are able to participate professionally".

"This agreement adds to the club's responsibility in general and professional players in particular, as they will represent Kuwait at the international level. So we pray to Allah Almighty to help us bear this responsibility and that each player should have sporting etiquette and spirit," Ali said.

Ali said the agreement will lead to development of the environment that supports e-tournaments internationally, adding Kuwait has highly skilled professionals who can compete in international arenas. He said the agreement is an extension of



KUWAIT: KES Chairman Abdullah Al-Ali with KFA Secretary Salah Al-Qanaie after signing the agreement.

cooperation with various sports associations, which will contribute to cooperation in wider fields and play a larger role in supporting e-activities that are held in this regard.

Ali said the agreement authorizes the club to organize competitive tournaments locally to select players to represent Kuwait, prepare and organize participation in all friendly and competitive tournaments and provide complete technical support.

Zain Platinum Sponsor of 8th eGovernment Forum

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced its platinum sponsorship of the eighth eGovernment Forum (EGOV8). The event, to be hosted by NoufEXPO in a virtual format, comes under the title 'Integrated eGovernment: an urgent post corona need'. EGOV8 runs from 30 - 31 March under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

This year, the forum comes in an all-virtual format to abide by health guidelines imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Zain's support to the event for the fourth consecutive year affirms its keenness on actively shouldering the various local efforts that contribute to developing the nation's infrastructure and progressing national economy. This is especially true during such unprecedented times that demand doubled efforts and more collaboration between the public and private sectors to combat the pandemic's impacts on health, economic, and social fronts.

EGOV8 will feature many seminars and workshops that are set to witness the participation of prominent government officials and private sector executives. The forum's program centers around a number of topics that mainly focus on the impact of COVID-19 on government workflows, launching a program to renovate the e-government plan for the post-pandemic era, laying out the right foundations

for the business reengineering of government processes, reviewing the procedures and rules of government jobs, reviewing the basis of control, evaluation, and adherence to emerging health standards, and much more.

This year's eGovernment forum comes with a refreshed perspective in terms of form and content. COVID-19 turned EGOV8 to run virtually through advanced and specialized technology. This will help in bringing together attendees and speakers from inside and outside Kuwait. The event will also be able to benefit from speakers who could not join physically during previous EGOV events. On the content front, EGOV8 will focus on the business reengineering of government services, a necessary and essential entry point for the development of integrated eGovernment services that deliver government services to citizens and residents - wherever they are on a 24/7 basis, and without the need to visit government departments.

Zain's strategy is centered around digital transformation leadership and empowering the community to enjoy a smarter portable lifestyle, as well as using advanced technology to enable an easier and more flexible life. The company places itself as an active partner in creating the future of smart life in Kuwait. The company's continuous efforts prove its full potential in triggering the digital community, and will enrich its collaborations in Telecom and IT areas with its strategic partners on multiple levels.

ZAIN

