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Mol arrests 328 violators amid ongoing crackdown

Liquor breweries also busted as traffic, security campaigns continue

60+ expat decision remains in place

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: A decision by the Public Authority of Manpower on renewing or transferring work permits of expat residents aged 60 years and above without degrees will remain in place at least till next year, because the decision was to be implemented for a year and then reviewed according to the market situation and studies to be conducted in this regard.

PAM's decision included allowing the renewal or transfer of work permits for private sector employees for this category of expat workers provided they pay an annual fee of KD 250 in addition to full private health insurance and other charges, amounting to nearly KD 850. Sources said PAM said a technical team

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KUWAIT: Violators are rounded up by security forces on Friday.

KUWAIT: The interior ministry announced Friday that public security arrested 328 law offenders and busted two breweries manufacturing local liquor during security campaigns, in an effort to pursue wanted people and law violators.

Ahmadi governorate's security forces carried out a campaign in Wafra and Mina Abdullah and arrested 162 people, including 145 persons for not having IDs, 11 absconders and six people who were in an abnormal condition, the ministry's security media and public relations department said in a statement. Sixty bottles of what is suspected to be liquor were confiscated, four traffic citations were issued and two local liquor breweries were busted.

In Farwaniyah governorate, security forces arrested 166 people, including 109 for expired residencies, 49 absconders, three people with drugs, four who were drunk and one person sentenced in a felony case for 13 years. Residency

detectives also arrested 80 people of various nationalities in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Salmiya and Salhiya in violation of the residency law, including 48 absconders, 13 with expired residency permits, two with expired visas, five who do not work for their sponsors and 12 people who do not have IDs.

The campaigns carried out by the ministry come upon the directives of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to impose security nationwide and arrest outlaws and residence violators, the statement noted.

Traffic and security campaigns are ongoing nationwide with the aim of arresting law offenders to maintain the security and safety of both citizens and expats, it made clear. Earlier in the week, Ahmadi security directorate carried out a surprise campaign in Mahboula, resulting in the arrest of 308 residency violators. Two cases of drugs and liquor were also filed.

News in brief

Bieber suffers facial paralysis

NEW YORK: Justin Bieber on Friday told fans in a video posted to Instagram that he's been diagnosed with Ramsay Hunt Syndrome, which is causing him partial facial paralysis. The 28-year-old pop singer recently announced he was pausing his Justice World Tour due to illness, hours before his first slated concert in Toronto. — AFP (See Page 13)

US drops arrival COVID tests

WASHINGTON: The US announced Friday that COVID-19 tests would no longer be required for international travelers arriving by air, a major step in the country's gradual lifting of pandemic restrictions. White House Assistant Press Secretary Kevin Munoz confirmed the news on Twitter, with US media saying the measure would end this weekend after strong lobbying from the travel industry. — AFP

Canada suspends COVID tests

MONTREAL: Canada is suspending random COVID tests at airports until the end of June in a bid to reduce chronic delays to travelers in recent weeks, the government said Friday. The tests will be put on hold from Saturday and will resume "off site" on July 1, according to a government statement. Numerous aviation officials have spoken out against the tests in recent weeks, saying they have worsened wait times at airports, already hit by understaffing. — AFP

Musharraf gravely ill

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan military strongman Pervez Musharraf was gravely ill in Dubai, his office said Friday, warning that the 78-year-old was unlikely to recover. "Going through a difficult stage where recovery is not possible and organs are malfunctioning," a message on his official Twitter page said, adding the news came from his family. Musharraf seized power in 1999 in a bloodless coup after the then-prime minister Nawaz Sharif tried to dismiss him as army chief. — AFP

Two killed in India protests over Prophet

PATNA: Indian police shot dead two protesters and arrested more than 130 others during street rallies sparked by a ruling party official's remarks about Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), authorities told AFP Saturday. There have been widespread protests in the Muslim world since last week, when a spokeswoman for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party made the comments on a TV debate show.

In India and neighboring countries, Muslims took to the streets in huge

numbers after Friday prayers to condemn the remarks, with police firing on a crowd in the eastern Indian city of Ranchi. "Police were forced to open fire to disperse protesters... resulting in the death of two," a police officer in Ranchi told AFP.

Officers said that the crowd had defied their orders not to march from a mosque to a market and had thrown broken bottles and stones when police attempted to disperse the rally with a baton charge. Authorities cut Internet connections in the city and imposed a curfew, with local resident Shabnam Ara telling AFP the atmosphere remained tense on Saturday. "We are praying for peace and harmony," she said.

Police in Uttar Pradesh fired tear gas to disperse at least one rally after

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Iraq is still exhuming mass graves

NAJAF: A noisy backhoe digs up earth to uncover yet another mass grave in Iraq, human remains are exhumed and the forensics experts get to work on their grim task. A skull is freed from a layer of clay, a tibia is placed in a body bag - all bound for a laboratory to be genetically checked against blood samples from relatives of the disappeared.

The site near the central shrine city of Najaf is one of many in a country that suffered through more than four

decades of bloody conflict and turmoil. Dictator Saddam Hussein went to war with Iran from 1980 to 1988. Next came the 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait, then the 2003 US-led invasion, years of sectarian bloodletting and most recently the Islamic State group's reign of terror until 2017.

The years of violence have made Iraq one of the countries with the highest number of missing persons in the world, says the International Committee of the Red Cross. In Najaf, work began in May to dig up a 1,500-sq-m plot to exhume the bones of around 100 victims of a 1991 uprising against Saddam. The mass grave was discovered by chance when property developers wanted to prepare the land for construction.

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Iran nuke tactics leave Biden with tough choices

WASHINGTON: A flare-up in tensions between the UN nuclear monitor and Iran has left US President Joe

Biden in an increasingly tight jam. The US leader opened his presidency with a pledge to return to the 2015 international agreement that aimed to prevent Tehran from building nuclear weapons, after predecessor Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from it.

Negotiations to restore that agreement have been at an impasse for three months over the very last details.



NEW DELHI: Students from Delhi University brandish placards and shout slogans during a demonstration to condemn police firing on a crowd in the eastern Indian city of Ranchi on June 11, 2022. — AFP



NAJAF: Forensics experts work at the site of a mass grave, discovered by chance when property developers wanted to prepare the land for construction, on May 18, 2022. — AFP

Without a deal - and Iran ever closer to nuclear "breakout" - Biden has a tough choice: To make more concessions to Tehran, and be accused of weakness by Republican opponents ahead of midterm elections, or declare the talks dead, which could spark a new Middle East crisis.

Rafael Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

said Thursday that Tehran's removal this week of 27 cameras monitoring its nuclear sites could deal a "fatal blow" to negotiations. "At this stage, things can go either way," said Ali Vaez of the International Crisis Group. "The tension of the past few days could potentially stir leadership in Tehran and Washington to take the deal that is on the table."

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