



3 Two Kuwaiti doctors win new medical patent



8 Polestar rings Nasdaq bell to celebrate public listing



13 Saudi artists marvel at surprise patrons



16 Sweet 16 for Djokovic as Wimbledon seeds crash



Kuwait plans new rules to control iqamas, visit visas

Overstayers to be punished • New fees, private insurance eyed • Nationality curbs mullied

Kuwait second cheapest Gulf city for expats

KUWAIT: Kuwait is ranked 131st worldwide on the Mercer Cost of Living Index for expats, and seventh in the Gulf region, out of 227 cities around the world, despite a rise in inflation in Kuwait and around the world that has made expat workers increasingly worried about their purchasing power. Kuwait City is the second cheapest Gulf city behind Doha, Qatar, which is eighth in the Gulf and 133rd worldwide.

Hong Kong, Zurich and Geneva are the top three

most expensive cities for foreign workers, with Basel fourth, Bern fifth, and New York and Singapore in seventh and eighth spots respectively, followed by Tokyo and Beijing. The Mercer index reflects issues that have an effect on the lives of expat workers worldwide. The return of high inflation all over the world has made expat workers worried over their purchasing power, which led them to expect an increase in their salaries.

In the Arab world, Dubai and Abu Dhabi are the 31st and 61st most expensive cities for foreign workers, followed by Riyadh in 103rd place, Jeddah (111), Manama (117), Muscat in 119th place, Doha (133), Cairo (154), Rabat (162) and Tunis in the 220th spot. Ankara is the least expensive city on the list in 227th place, while Bishkek is 226th, Dushanbe (225), Islamabad and Karachi 224th and 223rd respectively, Istanbul 222nd and Tashkent in the 221st spot.

KUWAIT: The interior ministry has received instructions from the Cabinet to wait for a new plan to grant residencies in Kuwait. The Public Authority of Manpower has also received instructions on the conditions to grant work permits and who can renew them and who cannot. This comes after visit visa issuance was halted until new mechanisms are in place to decide who has the right to get them.

Official sources said the number of residency violators has increased more than that during the coronavirus pandemic, to over 120,000 residents, which is a massive number and constitutes a danger to domestic security. They said instructions given to the interior ministry include "rationalizing" visit visas to a minimum after the start of reissuing them, and limiting them to expats with certain jobs with high salaries. According to the instructions, only those whose salary is KD 600 or higher can bring in a parent, but that will rise to double the figure as new developments occur.

Sources said visit visas have become a business for some and are dealt with commercially on social media, which reflects a defect, and calls for a pause and review of granting of residencies and work permits. They said in a few months, the Cabinet will issue, through an agreed-upon system between the interior ministry and PAM, conditions for coming to Kuwait for work, and banning the transfer of visit visas to work permits of any type, in addition to doubling punishments for visitors who do not leave on time.

Punishments will also be doubled for those who employ visitors living in Kuwait, because it was found that many expat visitors come to work in any job only to make money, and this is what keeps them in the country after their visit period expires. It will also be decided that the duration of a visit visa will be only one month and will not be renewed.

The sources said conditions for allowing residency in Kuwait will be toughened through increasing

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News in brief



5 expats killed in road crash

KUWAIT: Five expats were killed in a horrific traffic accident involving two vehicles on Sixth Ring Road early Wednesday, Kuwait's Fire Force (KFF) said. Upon arrival, firefighters found four people had succumbed to their injuries and four others were in critical condition, including a Kuwaiti. The firefighters handed the injured to medical teams, but one person died on arrival at the hospital. Firemen also dealt with an accident involving a diesel truck and a dump truck on Seventh Ring Road, which left two people injured. Firefighters evacuated the injured persons and dealt with the fuel leak after securing the location.



Captagon pills are seen in this file photo.

Syria seizes record Captagon haul

DAMASCUS: Syrian counter-narcotics units seized a record haul of 2.3 tons of the amphetamine-type stimulant known as Captagon, the interior ministry announced Wednesday. With a kilo of Captagon estimated to amount to around 6,000 pills, the cumulated number of pills seized tops 14 million, the largest recorded haul by the Syrian government in years. Several recent reports have accused senior members of President Bashar Al-Assad's government and security apparatus of being at the heart of the booming Captagon trade. — AFP

Turkey seeks extraditions under deal

ISTANBUL: Turkey said Wednesday it would seek the extradition of 33 alleged Kurdish militants and coup plot suspects from Sweden and Finland under a deal to secure Ankara's support for the Nordic countries' NATO membership bids. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan dropped weeks of resistance to the two countries' NATO ambitions at crunch talks held on the eve of an alliance summit Wednesday focused on Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Erdogan emerged from the meeting declaring victory after securing a 10-point agreement under which the two countries vowed to join Turkey's fight against banned Kurdish militants and to swiftly extradite suspects. Turkey put the deal to the immediate test by announcing that it would seek the extradition of 12 suspects from Finland and 21 from Sweden.

"We will seek the extradition of terrorists from the relevant countries within the framework of the new agreement," Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag said in a statement.

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Lockdown in Udaipur after grisly killing

UDAIPUR, India: Hundreds of police were deployed in an Indian city on Wednesday after the murder of a Hindu tailor allegedly by two Muslims in revenge for inflammatory comments about Islam by a ruling party member. The attack - in which the men seemingly tried to behead their victim - in the western city of Udaipur was captured on video that went viral and has gripped a country with a long history of communal violence.

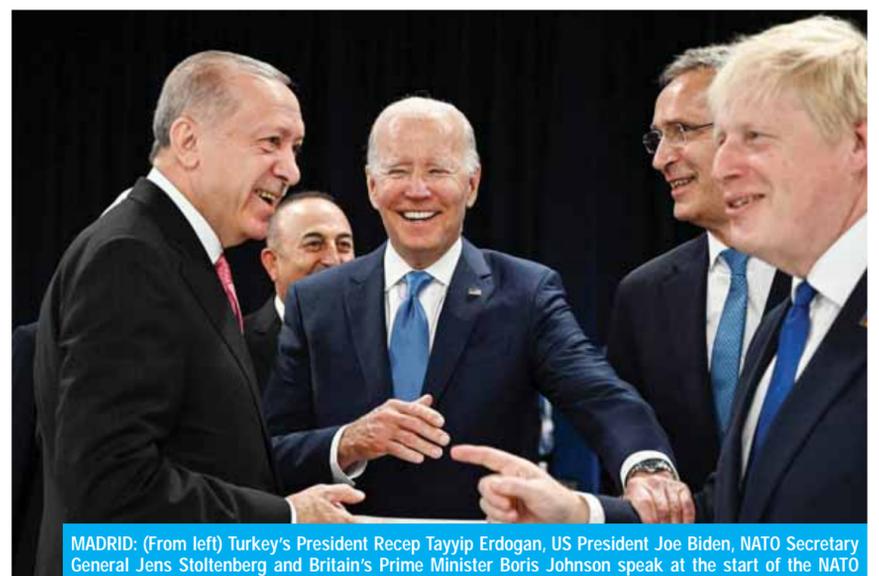
The video showed Kanhaiya Lal being attacked in his shop, with further footage showing the two accused purportedly brandishing large knives and threatening to kill Prime Minister Narendra Modi. They then justified their murder as a response to Lal's alleged support of comments about Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) by a spokeswoman for Modi's Hindu nationalist BJP party - remarks that have triggered protests across parts of the Islamic world in recent weeks.

Hundreds gathered outside Lal's house ahead of his funeral on Wednesday, a day after several hundred protested and chanted Hindu slogans in response to the killing. People on motorcycles and cars

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World Bank lends \$500m to Egypt, \$130m to Tunisia

CAIRO/TUNIS: The world's top wheat importer Egypt said Wednesday it is to receive \$500 million



MADRID: (From left) Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, US President Joe Biden, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson speak at the start of the NATO summit on June 29, 2022. — AFP



UDAIPUR, India: People follow the hearse carrying the body of slain Hindu tailor Kanhaiya Lal during his funeral procession on June 29, 2022. — AFP

from the World Bank to alleviate the impact of war between its main suppliers Russia and Ukraine. "The World Bank financing will support the government's efforts to meet food needs and enhance resilience to future shocks," International Cooperation Minister Rania Al-Mashat said in a statement.

Egypt's food security has been under mounting pressure since Russia invaded Ukraine in late February causing massive disruption to exports from Black Sea ports. Before the invasion, the two coun-

tries accounted for 85 percent of Egypt's wheat imports. The new tranche of World Bank financing will go towards "funding wheat purchases" as well as "increasing wheat storage capacities" in anticipation of future crises, the ministry said.

Since the war began, the government has already ramped up wheat purchases from domestic farmers as well as trialing wheat substitutes in a bid to counter the supply shortfall.

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