



**2** US First Lady guest of honor at Kuwait Embassy gala dinner



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# Domestic workers get more rights after law amended

## KD 100 minimum salary for domestic helpers: Indian envoy

### News in brief

#### NBK to charge transfer fees

**KUWAIT:** The National Bank of Kuwait announced on Sunday it will charge a fee of KD 1 for transfers to corporate accounts and 500 fils for transfers to personal accounts from June 1, 2022. This fee will be applied only to bank transfers, including salary transfers, but not to payments through online links, which are very popular among online businesses and individuals.

#### King Salman undergoes tests

**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia's King Salman will remain in hospital after undergoing tests including a colonoscopy, state media reported Sunday. The monarch entered King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Jeddah on Saturday "to conduct some medical examinations", according to an official report. On Sunday afternoon, doctors performed a colonoscopy "and the result was sound", the Saudi Press Agency later said. "The medical team decided to keep him in the hospital for some time to rest," the report said. — AFP



King Salman



**TEHRAN:** Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad meets Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on May 8, 2022. — AFP

#### Assad meets Iran leaders

**TEHRAN:** Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad met with Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei and President Ebrahim Raisi during a brief visit to Tehran on Sunday, Iranian state television said. The relationship between Tehran and Damascus are "vital for both countries and we should not let it weaken," Khamenei said. "We should strengthen it as much as possible." Iran's supreme leader also hit out at Arab nations that normalized relations with Tehran's arch-enemy, the Zionist entity. — AFP

#### Egypt releases satirists

**CAIRO:** Egypt has released three social media users who were detained after posting a satirical song on TikTok about rampant inflation in the country, rights groups said Sunday. In March, the group posted a satirical video on TikTok. The band mimed instruments with household items and parodied a romantic song, substituting the lyrics to bemoan soaring food prices. The three comedians were summoned by state security in Assiut on March 31. They appeared before the Cairo prosecutor on April 18-19 and were accused of belonging to a terrorist organization and spreading false news. — AFP

## Family visit visas to reopen this week

**KUWAIT:** An informed source told Kuwait Times issuance of family visit visas will resume this week after more than two years of suspension due to the coronavirus pandemic. This comes after the Cabinet scrapped almost all health restrictions before the Eid break.

According to a report, visas are not being issued to nationals of Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Pakistan, Syria and Yemen. People of some other nationalities also cannot obtain commercial, work or dependent visas without approval from the interior minister.

## Ukraine battles to hold bastion as allies visit

**SEVERODONETSK, Ukraine:** Ukrainian forces braced Sunday to defend their final bastion in the devastated port city of Mariupol, desperate to deny Russia a symbolic win on the eve of Moscow's Victory Day celebrations. Kyiv's allies lent their support, with US First Lady Jill Biden and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau making unannounced visits to Ukraine, and G7 leaders due to join President Volodymyr Zelensky on a video call.

But fierce fighting continued on the ground. Shelling and missile strikes have intensified in the build-up to the World War II anniversary, and rescuers are searching for 60 Ukrainian civilians feared killed in the bombing of a village school. Zelensky marked a day commemorating the end of the 1939-1945 war by comparing Ukraine's battle for national survival to the region's war of resistance against its former Nazi occupiers.

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**KUWAIT:** Justice Minister Jamal Al-Jalawi has issued a ministerial decision amending some regulations in the domestic help law, stipulating that sponsors are required to bear the cost of feeding the domestic helper, as well as providing them with clothing and medical care.

Al-Qabas daily reported on Sunday that the new regulations, approved by the Public Authority for Manpower, set the conditions under which a domestic helper's sponsorship can be transferred from one employer to another in certain cases, including the sponsor or anyone living in the same house being convicted of sexual harassment of a domestic helper through verbal or physical acts. Other circumstances include death of the sponsor, divorce, marriage of the helper in the country, and the sponsor's loss of qualification.

Meanwhile, Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Sibi

George told Al-Qabas the monthly salary for domestic workers in Kuwait has been set to range between KD 100 and KD 120 per month, considering this amount as fair for both workers and Kuwaiti families. George said the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) defines the rights of workers as it seeks to regulate the recruitment of domestic workers to Kuwait. He added negotiations with PAM are continuing to bring down the costs of recruiting domestic helpers to the country for Kuwaiti families.

India and Kuwait had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on labor in June 2021, leveraging cooperation between the countries on recruitment of domestic workers. The MoU brings Indian domestic workers in Kuwait within the ambit of a legal framework, streamlines their recruitment and provides them with protection of law. (See Page 3)



**IRPIN, Ukraine:** Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau visits this town near Kyiv on May 8, 2022 amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. — AFP

## Jabeur seeks to inspire more Arab women

**PARIS:** Ons Jabeur's long-stated goal is that her historic exploits on court lead to more Arab women taking up tennis - becoming the first Arab player to win a Grand Slam in next month's French Open final would do wonders to achieve that. The 27-year-old Tunisian became a front-rank contender for tennis's

greatest prize on clay with her gutsy three-set victory over American Jessica Pegula in the Madrid on Saturday.

In doing so the engaging and highly expressive Jabeur wrote another piece of tennis history. Her 7-5, 0-6, 6-2 victory made her the first Arab or African woman to win a WTA 1000 title. Her title in Birmingham last year was the first for an Arab woman player on the circuit and she is the first Arab player - man or woman - to crack the top 10. Indeed she will return to her previous highest ranking of seven on Monday.

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**MADRID:** Tunisia's Ons Jabeur kisses the trophy after winning the Madrid Open at the Caja Magica on May 7, 2022. — AFP (See Page 16)

## Flying over traffic jams envisioned

**SAN FRANCISCO:** As urban traffic gets more miserable, entrepreneurs are looking to a future in which commuters hop into "air taxis" that whisk them over clogged roads. Companies such as Archer, Joby and Wisk are working on electric-powered aircraft that take off and land vertically like helicopters

then propel forward like planes. Neighborhood parking garage rooftops or shopping mall lots could serve as departure or arrival pads for electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft. Commuters would make it the rest of the way however they wish, even synching trips with car rideshare services such as Uber which owns a stake in Santa Cruz, California-based Joby. Joby executives said on a recent earnings call that its first production model aircraft should be in the skies later this year. — AFP (See Page 8)



This undated and unlocated image released by Archer Aviation Inc shows the company's Maker eVTOL aircraft. — AFP