

Local

Amir, Crown Prince,
PM congratulate
Kuwaiti surgeon

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah congratulated Creighton University Hospital's new head surgeon Dr Waddah Al-Rifai, who was recently appointed as head of the technical research department at the University. His Highness commended Dr Al-Rifai's profoundly accumulated knowledge to be head such a position of responsibility, while also wishing him a prosperous journey. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also congratulated Dr Al-Rifai on his new position. —KUNA

FM meets
IISS chief

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah held talks on Sunday with visiting Executive Director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) - Middle East Sir Tom Beckett. During the talks, the Kuwaiti top diplomat commended IISS for its contributions towards research on defense policy and planning in the wider Middle East region, while they also exchanged viewpoints on current developments around the world. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah holds talks on Sunday with visiting Executive Director the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) - Middle East Sir Tom Beckett. —KUNA

PM meets economic
ensemble members

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Sunday head and members of the economic ensemble made up by several state entities. The reception focused on issues connected with the development of Kuwait's national economy. The Prime Minister's Diwan, in a press release, said that the ensemble would seek the assistance of Kuwaiti experts to look into venues of economic development.

The ensemble is one of the Diwan's strategic initiatives aimed at a prosperous future under the guidance of the Kuwaiti leadership. It was tasked by the Prime Minister to look into matters of financial, economic, and developmental importance, affirmed the statement, noting that its experts would contribute to the realization of Kuwait's Vision 2035. —KUNA

Costs of recruiting domestic workers fall sharply in Kuwait

Recruitment offices say they are committed to honor government fee list

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: After a significant decrease in the cost of recruiting domestic workers of various nationalities recently, Kuwait Times spoke with several domestic labor offices to learn more. Mohammad, who works at a domestic labor recruitment office, said the market has seen few applications submitted for the recruitment of workers, adding that starting from January 2023, his office lowered its fees for recruiting new domestic workers.

"The cost of recruiting domestic workers from the Philippines will be KD 700, including the flight ticket, while that of cooks and drivers will be KD 180 with tickets," he said. He said hiring charges for domestic workers from Sri Lanka will be KD 650, excluding the ticket, indicating the office will guarantee the domestic worker for six months from the dates of arrival.

Head of the Union of Domestic Labor Offices Khaled Al-Dekhanan explained to Kuwait Times that the lower fees for recruiting domestic workers is due to the circumstances some offices are going through. He affirmed that domestic labor offices are committed to the price list by the ministry of commerce and industry which set a recruitment fee of KD 890.

Khalid Amro confirmed the information given by Dekhanan, stating that the fees for recruiting a

domestic worker through the office is KD 890, including airfare, but the price for recruiting a domestic worker when the employer presents the passport to the office is KD 390, according to ministerial resolution no. 33 issued on Feb 1, 2021. The law for the establishment of domestic labor offices stipulates that the company should train and qualify workers in specialized institutions before they enter the country and take all necessary steps, including for the safety of workers, and ensure they are free of any diseases.

Issa Mansour, one of the owners of domestic labor offices, said reducing fees is not an option, saying even the fees set by the ministry of commerce need to be amended. "Domestic labor offices aren't greedy. Huge sums are paid by the office to recruit workers from their countries for transportation, housing and meals. It is a cost borne by the office and exceeds the amount determined by the ministry of commerce," he said.

According to the Central Statistical Bureau,



Khaled Dekhanan



KUWAIT: A woman waits at the office of a manpower recruitment agency in Kuwait in this file photo. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

domestic workers make up the lion's share of expatriate workers in Kuwait, as the number of domestic workers at the end of the first half of 2022 reached around 750,000, or 37.5 percent of the total expatriate workers in the country. Earlier, Mubarak Al-Azmi, former Director

General of the Public Authority of Manpower, stressed all executive decisions issued by the authority provide effective protection for workers in accordance with the standards and agreements of Kuwait, especially with regards to their financial rights.

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First English Daily in the Arabian Gulf

Kuwait Times is offering an opportunity for creative, young and ambitious talents to join our team in one of the following vacancies:

1. Videographer & Video Editor
2. PR & Marketing Manager
3. Editor & Reporter

Candidates interested in the job openings can submit their CVs to hr@kuwaittimes.com



Al-Baghli holds talks with Chinese envoy

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Social Affairs Minister May Al-Baghli held talks on Sunday with China's Ambassador to Kuwait Zhang Jianwei, focusing

on issues of common concern, in addition to bilateral relations.

Kuwait and China are both eager to improve bilateral ties across numerous fields, chiefly political and economic cooperation, the Kuwaiti minister and the Chinese envoy were both cited as saying in a statement. The Chinese ambassador went on to express his appreciation for the opportunities given to the Chinese diaspora in Kuwait, added the statement. —KUNA

Gold prices reach highest level in six months in December

KUWAIT: Gold prices climbed to their highest level in six months last week at \$1,875 an ounce, stated a report on Sunday, mentioning that this coincides with release of American employment statistics. The report, issued by Kuwaiti Dar Al-Sabaek Company, attributed the rise of gold prices to the slowing pace of American employment last December where the price reached \$1,867 per ounce.

Head of strategic planning at the company, Adel Al-Fadhli, explained that American employment statistics affect the American Federal Reserve's interest rate. Al-Fadhli further added that employment rate in the US slowed down slightly last December with 223,000 jobs compared to November's 256,000. The waning of wage pressures is one of the main factors affecting gold price positively, indicating that infla-



tion is diminishing while income average increases on annual basis with 4.6 percent last month, less than market expectations of five percent. The US dollar index stabilized at 105.22 points whereas the treasury's 10-year bonds remained at 3.72 percent.

As for the local market, the report mentioned that the price for 22 carat gold reached KD 18.37 per gram and the 24 carat gold reached KD 16.84 per gram. —KUNA