



2 Kuwaiti delegation participates in Arab League Council session



4 Kidney disease on the rise in Kuwait



5 Women march across the globe; rights under threat



16 Chelsea see off Dortmund to reach CL quarter-finals



Expats over 60 years allowed to transfer to private sector

Court to rule on election petitions on March 19

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The Public Manpower Authority (PAM) on Wednesday amended rules governing expats who are over 60 and have only a higher secondary degree or lower, allowing them to transfer their residence to the private sector. Following a total ban on renewal of their residency, the Authority a year ago allowed them to renew their residence permits against the payment of a KD 250 annual fee and a comprehensive insurance from authorized insurers.

The Authority said the new amendment is effective from Wednesday. The amendment allows such expats who work in government jobs and state-owned agencies and departments, those on dependent visas or investors or partners in commercial or industrial activity to transfer their residence permits to the private sector. Expats over 60 years, with self-sponsored residency in accordance with article 24 of the residence law, can also transfer residence to the private sector, according to the new amendment.

In the meantime, the Constitutional Court on Wednesday set

March 19 as a date for issuing its rulings on all election petitions filed by a large number of losing candidates in the September 29 elections. The court, whose rulings are final and cannot be challenged, had received over 50 petitions challenging the results of the parliamentary elections.

The petitions called on the court to nullify Amiri decrees issued last year which dissolved the National Assembly, invited voters to cast their votes, allowed voters to use their Civil IDs to establish their identity and another decree allowing residents of new residential areas to cast their votes. Lawyers for the challengers claimed that there were discrepancies between the number of those allowed to vote and those who voted at some election centers.

A defense lawyer told the court that based on his revision of the election documents, he found that some 21,600 votes had not been counted in the Fifth Constituency. Lawyers also claimed that they found that some 2,600 barred voters had actually cast their vote in the Fourth Constituency. If the claims were proved to be true, there is a great chance that some results will be changed.

Crown Prince receives world Jet Ski champion



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Wednesday received Lieut Colonel Muhammad Ibrahim Burbae who set a new Guinness World Record by winning the world Jet Ski champion title. His Highness praised this international achievement which affirms the ability of Kuwaiti youth to overcome all obstacles to achieve honorable merits to serve the Kuwaiti sports movement, wishing him more success. — AFP

Brand Finance ranks Zain as 'strongest brand' in Kuwait

KUWAIT: In a recent report, leading UK based valuation and strategy consultancy Brand Finance, has ranked Zain as the strongest brand in Kuwait with a rating of AA+ and brand value of \$2.74 billion, reflecting an annual increase of 14%. This much-improved brand valuation was attributed to Zain's strong revenue, profit and customer growth; its pioneering leadership in 5G technologies and digital innovation; expansion of ICT services including managed cloud; thought-provoking and popular creative campaigns; and its concerted efforts in Sustainability, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives that has reinforced the company's reputation as being one of the most exciting, progressive, and inclusive companies to work for.

Brand Finance®



Minister of State for Women and Childhood Affairs Mai Al-Baghli

Kuwaiti women play crucial role in state building

NEW YORK: Minister of State for Women and Childhood Affairs Mai Al-Baghli hailed Kuwaiti women's role in state building and development as pivotal. They were also on the frontline during the coronavirus pandemic, the minister said at a special UN Security Council session themed 'Women, Peace and Security: Towards the 25th anniversary of Resolution 1325' in New York.

Continued on Page 6

Hawally seeks to be listed as 'healthy city'

KUWAIT: Hawally Governor Ali Al-Asfar on Wednesday signed a form that registers the governorate as an 'integrated healthy city' and meets demands of healthy cities in all areas in the next period, as part of efforts to register healthy cities in Kuwait. In a statement, Al-Asfar, who is also acting governor of Al Asimah Governorate said Hawally City suffered pressure on

infrastructure due to overpopulation that negatively affected environment surrounding its citizens.

He stressed the need of efforts of all to implement all requirements to turn Hawally Governorate into a healthy city in the future. Meanwhile, head of healthy cities' office at the Ministry of Health Dr Amal Al-Yahya said it is an important step in the country to turn Hawally into a healthy city. She indicated that Hawally is the first city that sought to be designated by the World Health Organization (WHO) as an accredited healthy city. Al-Asfar submitted a request last August to the ministry on Hawally joining the list of healthy cities. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Hawally Governor Ali Al-Asfar signs to register governorate as integrated healthy city. — KUNA

Cash-strapped Egypt offers citizenship to foreign investors

CAIRO: Egypt announced Wednesday it is offering citizenship to foreign investors willing to spend at least \$250,000 in the country, as it struggles to fill its depleted coffers. According to state newspaper Al-Ahram, a decision by Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouli published in the official gazette, says the premier can now "grant Egyptian nationality" to applicants that meet one of four conditions.

Foreigners can either buy at least \$300,000 of real estate in Egypt, invest \$350,000 in the country,

deposit \$500,000 in an Egyptian bank account or "make a non-refundable \$250,000 deposit in direct revenues in foreign currency into the state's public treasury". It is the latest in a series of measures by the government to woo foreign investment into Egypt, which is sapped dry of dollars and battling crippling inflation.

In 2018, parliament had passed a law allowing foreigners to apply for the Egyptian nationality with a bank deposit of 7 million Egyptian pounds - at the time around \$400,000 - or its foreign currency equivalent. Now, however, transfers must be made in dollars, as Egypt scrambles to fill its depleted coffers. Cairo's foreign reserves currently stand at \$34.35 billion, down from \$41 billion in February 2022, when the Russian invasion of Ukraine unsettled global investors who pulled billions out of the country.

Some \$28 billion of those reserves are deposits from wealthy Gulf allies, who have also stepped up to acquire Egyptian state assets but stalled many deals ahead of a fresh currency devaluation, according to experts. In under a year, the Egyptian pound has lost half of its value, propelling annual inflation in the import-dependent country to 26.5 percent in January, according to figures published in February.

Late last year the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a \$3 billion loan program for Egypt spread over 46 months, conditioned on "a permanent shift to a flexible exchange rate regime".

The government also pledged to push forward with measures to transition away from subsidies on several basic goods, such as fuel. The plan has been in place since 2016, with the most recent price hikes announced last week. — AFP

