

6 Iraq cuts Kurdistan air links with outside world



7 Scandal-hit US Health Secretary Price resigns



11 Palestinian unity: Rebirth or another false dawn?



16 Fellaini shines as United crush Crystal Palace 4-0



Boursa Kuwait promoted to an 'emerging market'

Promoting triggers lofty prospects, lures foreign capitals



From the editor's desk

By Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan
opinion@kuwaittimes.net

Welcome to our new look

Last week the Kuwait Times celebrated 56 years in the market. We've been with Kuwait through the worst and the best of times. We've seen the country grow and develop and become a leader in the region. We've also seen it through disastrous experiences that left us all wounded. Times change however and now as Kuwait builds towards a brighter future, Kuwait Times is changing with it.

Across the globe, the disruption caused by the advent of social media and especially the 'smartphone' takeover, have greatly impacted traditional media and print newspapers most of all. We are all forced to adapt to these changes, just as Kuwait is adapting to the changing global environment. Kuwait Times has expanded into digital publishing, reporting through social media and reaching new and younger readers through our various online and social media platforms.

We are also proud to launch a new and fresh look for the print edition. Print newspapers may not hold the sway it once did but it still plays an important, even critical role in society. We understand our responsibility to our readers to provide them with credible, fact-checked and honest reporting on all matters of interest to the public of Kuwait. We continue with that pledge.

Our new look aims to offer a more aesthetically simplified visual presentation of the news of the day. With more white space, colors drawn from our long standing logo and a cleaner, streamlined visual design, we hope that you our dear readers will enjoy the look of the newspaper as much as you appreciate and rely on the news it contains.

As always, we remain dedicated to serving you.



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti economists foresee significant growth of traded liquidity at Boursa Kuwait after its promotion to the level of an emerging market, thus boosting the prospects for a much healthier status of the national economy. Classifying Boursa Kuwait (formerly named Kuwait Stock Exchange [KSE]) as an emerging market will lure traders eager to invest in the Gulf region's second key stock market, which comprises large banks and corporates with investments and branches in many countries. Saleh Al-Salmi, Chairman of the International Financial Advisors Company, said in an interview with Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

Chairman of Kuwait's Capital Markets Authority (CMA) Board of Commissioners Nayef Al-Hajraf tweeted Friday night that the Financial Times Stock Exchange (FTSE) Russell Governance Board promoted Boursa Kuwait to an emerging market. Al-Hajraf dedicated the prominent achievement to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, attributing the merited promotion to the hard efforts the CMA led in cooperation with the Kuwait Clearing Company and Boursa Kuwait (formerly the Kuwait Stock Exchange or KSE).

By joining the international market, the necessity arises for attracting global investment funds, where many companies that will be enlisted by the FTSE (The Financial Times Stock Exchange) will reap benefits, thus solidifying the local stock market a well those of the other GCC countries. Al-Salmi says. Muhammad Al-Sanea, Chief Executive Officer at Al-Riyada Investment Company concurred that the Boursa promotion constitutes a significant leap for the Kuwaiti

Continued on Page 11

Big strides in medical innovation in Kuwait

Kuwait association of surgeons off to a bright start

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Association of Surgeons and the Kuwait Chapter of the American College of Surgeons held the first Kuwait Association of Surgeons conference from September 28th 2017 - 1st October 2017 at the Jumeirah Messilah Hotel under the patronage of HE Dr Jamal Al-Harbi. The theme of the conference is Education and Innovation in Surgery.

The international faculty included the presidents, past and present and the leadership of the American College of Surgeons as well as many reputable professionals. The conference included many scientific lectures and workshops with delegates representing countries from

North America to Japan, in addition to a selection of Arab and Kuwaiti lecturers who have a long history in this field.

The main aims of the conference were to learn about the latest developments in the scientific methodology for investigating new surgeries and medical devices from internationally renowned surgical researchers discussing innovation and evaluation in multiple clinical areas, present research on innovations in surgery and therapeutic technology to an international audience of clinicians, scientists, manufacturers and regulators and learn about pathways for innovation

Continued on Page 11



KUWAIT: (Left to right) Dr Basel Al Sabah, Dr Ziad Al-Alyan, Dr Salman Al Sabah, Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi and Dr Adel Al Tawheed pose for a group photo during a conference held by Kuwait Association of Surgeons and the Kuwait Chapter of the American College of Surgeons at the Jumeirah Messilah Hotel yesterday.



DUBAI: A Volocopter prototype flies in front of the city skyline during a test flight in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. — AP

Dubai dreams of flying taxis darting among its skyscrapers

DUBAI: With a whirling buzz from 18 rotors, the pilotless helicopter gently lifted off the ground and soared up into the afternoon sky, the spire of the world's tallest building visible behind it. The recent unmanned flight by the German-made electric Volocopter represents the latest step in Dubai's pursuit of flying taxis, which would not seem out of place among the Gulf city's already futuristic skyline - imagine "Blade Runner," with less rain.

Dubai already has invested in another

model of a flying, autonomous taxi, and is working to design regulations for their use. Putting more passengers in the air could free its already clogged highways and burnish the city's cutting-edge image of itself. "It's public transportation for everybody, so you can use, you can order it, you can pay for the trip and the trip is not much more expensive than with a car," said Alexander Zosel, Volocopter's co-founder. "If you build roads, you build bridges, it's a huge

Continued on Page 11



MADRID: People gather in front of the Cibeles Palace during a demonstration against independence of Catalonia. — AFP

Police seal off polling stations in Catalonia

BARCELONA: Police in Catalonia had already sealed over half of the 2,315 polling stations in the region yesterday to stop an independence referendum from taking place, the Spanish government said, as separatists remained determined to fight for their right to vote. Teachers, parents, students and activists in this wealthy northeastern region have leapt into action to defend the vote slated for today, defying Madrid's warnings of repercussions by occupying more than 160 schools designated as polling stations, it said.

Enric Millo, the central government representative in Catalonia, told reporters 1,300 polling stations had already been sealed off. He said that 163 of those had

already been occupied when they were sealed off, which meant those inside were allowed to leave but no one could go in. AFP reporters, however, visited several schools occupied by parents, students and locals where people could go in and out freely, indicating there may be more occupied buildings that have yet to be sealed off.

The standoff between the central government and Catalan leaders over an independence referendum opposed by Madrid has morphed into one of the biggest crises to hit Spain since democracy was restored after the death of dictator Francisco Franco in 1975.

Continued on Page 11

New health fees take effect

Critical cases exempted

KUWAIT: Minister of Health Dr Jamal Al-Harbi said yesterday that increase of medical care costs for expatriates would not include emergency and critical cases. Managers of hospitals and wards' chiefs are empowered to look into each case and take the required decision with respect to fees' payments, the minister indicated in a press release. The higher payments for the medical care have been imposed due to the heavy financial burdens borne by the Ministry of Health, he said.

The Health Ministry has been bearing high costs for medical operations, equipment, medicines, laboratories and various medical supplies, Minister Al-Harbi elaborated. Non-Kuwaitis who have visit visas will get medical treatment at set fees, he added. For his part, the MoH official spokesperson Dr Ahmad Al-Shatti said imposing higher fees for medical care "came in tandem with hike of prices of medical drugs and modern technology globally."

Medical insurance fees will remain unchanged at KD 50 for an expatriate, KD 40 for the wife and KD 30 for a child. Exempted cases include expatriate children suffering from cancer and aged less than 12, non-Kuwaiti woman married to a Kuwaiti, non-Kuwaiti mother of a citizen, children of a Kuwaiti mother married to a non-Kuwaiti.

The exception is also applied on occupants of social care houses, GCC citizens, illegal residents, members of official delegations, transit passengers and foreign inmates. Others relieved of the higher fees are students of scholarships granted by the Ministry of Education. Blind patients residing at the ministry-run hospitals are not compelled to pay for residency.

Continued on Page 11