

Local

# 'Bachelors' evicted from 59 houses in crackdowns on private residential areas

## Flights to carry 10,666 pilgrims from Kuwait for Hajj

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Municipality evicted single expatriate men from 59 houses out of 428 houses that received eviction warrants as part of a campaign to force out 'bachelors' renting dwellings illegally in private residential areas. Kuwait Municipality's Public Relations Department said that inspection campaigns targeting 'bachelors' living in private residential areas have been in progress since the beginning of July, adding that the municipality will still receive complaints from both Kuwaitis and expats about such violations. The department added that 102 citations were also made during the same period, in addition to disconnecting electricity from 63 houses housing bachelors.

**Side effects**

Ministry of Health (MoH) Undersecretary Dr Mustafa Redha issued a decision forming a special team headed by MoH assistant undersecretary for medicine and food control Dr Abdullah Al-Bader to follow up medical equipment and safety requirements. Bader said that team will be responsible for following

up the side effects related to using medical equipment, pharmaceutical and biological substances, food supplements and health products in general. Bader added that a team from the medical engineers syndicate from Kuwait Engineers Society had provided the team with technical support. Bader said senior pharmacist Dr Reem Al-Essa had prepared a plan in collaboration with pharmacist Dunia Bastaki to determine the team's stakeholders and set a certain mechanism to keep relevant hospital staff posted about the latest devices or recalls issued by the US FDA and other peer bodies in Europe.



that 1,336 pilgrims will be leaving onboard six Kuwait Airways flights, 6,030 on 15 Saudia flights and 3,300 on Flynas flights starting from Aug 4, adding that extra flights will be scheduled if needed.

### ACs power efficiency chart approved

**Power efficiency**

Director of the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) Abdul Kareem Taqi said PAI has approved a standard power efficiency chart for various air conditioners as directed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI). Taqi explained that PAI formed a special subcommittee subjected to the national committee for electricity and electronics to study and set the power efficiency chart, which includes air conditioners' minimum power efficiency needed to allow importing them to Kuwait, adding that manufacturers will accordingly be mandated to label their products using a number of stars that increase the more the product

saves power. Taqi said that both manufacturers and importers had been consulted before setting the chart's final version.

**Retirees' hiring**

Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmed Al-Manfouhi said the Civil Service Commission (CSC) has allowed hiring five retirees in each body. Responding to proposals made by Municipal Councilmember Hassan Kamal and former members Ali Al-Moussa and Abdullah Al-Kandari to hire retirees to protect marine environment and parks, Manfouhi said the CSC conditioned hiring the maximum of five per body as consultants, researchers or advisors.

**KPC strategy**

Well-informed sources said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) requested the finance ministry's consultation on its strategy till 2040, namely with regards to the role the oil sector is expected to play both locally and internationally, KPC's points of weakness and strength, the challenges that might affect the industry, cooperation with other state bodies and priorities.

**10,666 pilgrims**

Civil Aviation Director Yousef Al-Fauzan announced that the total number of pilgrims due to leave via Kuwait International Airport and Terminal 4 (T4) to Saudi Arabia for hajj is 10,666, flying on Kuwait Airways, Flynas and Saudia. Fauzan explained

## Company releases statement on 'water tank collapse' video

**KUWAIT:** A local company released a statement yesterday commenting on a video circulating on social media and showing what appears to be a collapsed water tank that is under construction in

an area south of Kuwait. An official source at Al-Ghanem International Company is quoted in the statement saying that a malfunction in a temporary metal clamps used in constructing the upper part of tank number 8 by the manufacturing Austrian company, which is in charge of installing these clamps, was the main cause of the partial collapse of the clamp while being installed at the Sabah Al-Ahmad Sea City. The source affirmed that the Ministry of Electricity and Water was free of responsibility over the incident. The ministry confirmed that the contract was signed with

La'ala Al-Kuwait Real Estate Company, the owner of Sabah Al-Ahmad Sea City, which was keen in signing the contract on adhering to the terms of security and safety on the site. Thanks to Allah and to the company, no injuries were sustained, the source confirmed. "We are responsible before the La'ala Company for completing the work on time," the source said, noting that the incident would not obstruct the project's progress. The Austrian company acknowledged the incident and said it would bear full responsibility for it.

local spotlight

### A bedoon man's suicide

By Muna Al-Fuzai  
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A young bedoon who committed suicide in Kuwait last week sparked a media uproar and controversy on social media. It is regrettable that this issue negatively affected Kuwait and key officials who are doing their job. Some tweets, calls and visits seemed like foreign intervention in an internal matter. For all these reasons, I feel a few things must be clarified.

The bedoon man committed suicide by hanging himself with a rope in his room. The suicide led some to launch negative comments and even accusations against Kuwait. I would like to clarify that suicide is forbidden by Islam and the law because it is a crime against oneself. Therefore, suicide should not be justified, because there might be other reasons that we don't know about that took this man down this road.

The interior ministry released a statement saying that investigations conducted by specialized security authorities showed that the deceased was a drug addict. The statement added that 12 cases of misdemeanors, drug-related crimes and forced robbery were recorded against him, pointing out that he was arrested on May 11, 2019 by the general security on charges of possessing narcotic substances and was transferred to state custody.

This incident also provoked several reactions, including criticism by Kuwaiti media figure Fajer Al-Saeed. She commented on Twitter over a video showing a US official offering condolences to the family of the young man. "Why is the political advisor of the embassy at the funeral of the bedoon? Is it the duty of the US Embassy counselor to attend the man's funeral and investigate the causes of his suicide?"

She was not the only one who made such comments. MP Ahmad Al-Fadhl also said there are attempts to exploit the suicide of the bedoon to blackmail Kuwait or harm it, adding interference by any state in an internal matter of Kuwait is rejected. Fadhl praised the ministry of interior's quick handling of the case by issuing the statement on the suicide.

I think it is unfortunate that the bedoons' issue does not seem to have a radical solution so far, leading it to become a complex and offensive issue for Kuwait. But we must not deny efforts by the central agency for illegal residents. Saleh Al-Fadhalah, head of the agency, is doing his job as per the law and regulations. In April, the agency said nearly 90 percent of all illegal residents (bedoons) received ID cards in 2018. So, there are still 10 percent who are not willing to correct their status by denying or hiding their original nationality, in the hope of obtaining Kuwaiti nationality. I do not know of any international system in the world that would grant someone an identification card or citizenship without knowledge of the person's origins or their true nationality.

There are a few matters that are sadly never mentioned in the news, like what was said by the ministry of justice, which announced the issuance of 1,742 legal documents for marriage, divorce and annulment contracts for illegal residents during 2018 in cooperation with the central agency. All services provided to illegal residents are based on continuous cooperation with the central agency to deal with the situation of bedoons.

I believe this suicide led to a serious and negative media orientation towards Kuwait, with calls to demonstrate against the state and threaten public safety, which should not be tolerated or accepted because this poses a security threat to the country and people. The ministry of interior is required to confront any attempts to threaten people and their lives and safety, and such an incident should not be a pretext for breaking the law.

## Kuwait delivers more aid to Rohingya

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced yesterday distribution of 2,300 food parcels to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh in coordination with Bangladesh Red Crescent Society. Each portion, handed over to a five-member family, is sufficient for two weeks, said Anwar Al-Hasawi, the KRCS Deputy Chairman and head of the society field team in Bangladesh. He added that KRCS is continuing relief operations for the Rohingya either in coordination with local and international associations or directly by volunteers who have been doing their best to make sure that the aid supplies are delivered to those in need. The KRCS team has inspected refugees' conditions in the region of Cox's Bazar and a makeshift hospital built with contributions by the Kuwaiti, Bangladeshi and Qatari red crescents. He has underlined necessity of the mission to assess needs of the refugees in general, the children, elderly and those of special needs in particular. More than 700,000 Muslim Rohingya have fled persecution in Myanmar to neighboring Bangladesh since 2016. Kuwait has dispatched batches of aid to the refugees, bulk of whom live in squalid conditions.

In other news, Kuwaiti relief aid bodies operating in Yemen pledged to provide continuing assistance across the country worth a total \$2.3 million amid talks with other assistance-providing Gulf countries on Thursday. The attending bodies at the meeting, held at the Riyadh-based King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center, were Kuwait's Foreign Ministry, KRCS and the Kuwait Relief Society. In the first half of 2019, some 309,000 Yemenis benefited from campaigns launched by KRCS, according to Abdulsalam Baaboud, member of the Yemeni Higher Relief Committee. These campaigns, worth a collective \$3.3 million, have targeted sectors, such as food, education and water, he said. —KUNA

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