

Local

Ministry receives complaints from owners of shops closed to fight visa trafficking

Kuwaitis detained in Cyprus to return back home today

By A Saleh and Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Minister of State for Economic Affairs and head of the supreme committee to handle demographic imbalance Mariam Al-Aqeel issued resolution number 7/2019 on forming a special committee to follow up the complaints of owners of licenses issued to stores that were closed in a bid to fight visa trafficking. Aqeel stressed that the resolution aims at fighting visa trafficking and workers sponsored through idle and inactive licenses, which eventually demographically affects Kuwait. Aqeel added that according to the licenses law, a license will be cancelled in case of not being renewed for a year after expiry or if the business premises is closed for six consecutive months. In addition, Aqeel urged the owners of the shuttered stores to legalize their status to avoid legal accountability in case of any related violation. Meanwhile, the Public Authority for Manpower yesterday launched an inspection campaign at labor residences in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh to ensure they

meet international hygienic and professional safety measures.

Detained Kuwaitis to return

Kuwaiti citizens who have been detained in Cyprus said their problem has come to an end and that they received their passports pending returning home today at 7:00 pm. Mohammed Al-Hajji, one of the detainees, said they received their passports from the court yesterday morning after their 45-day travel ban was lifted. Hajji added that Kuwait's foreign ministry provided them with air tickets to return to Kuwait.

Waste management committee

The Municipal Council's environmental affairs committee called for urging the Cabinet to form a supreme committee comprising of elements from relevant bodies such as the Municipal Council, Kuwait Municipality, the Environment Public Authority (EPA) and the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) to manage the issue of

waste, look into building collection points in governorates and empower and enroll the private sector in launching awareness campaigns. Speaking after a workshop held for this purpose, the committee's chairperson Maha Al-Baghlhi said Kuwait is part of the international community and has its own commitments towards improving environmental situations. "Unless solutions are found now, the cost will be too high for future generations," she stressed.

Heritage village project

Municipal Council Chairman Osama Al-Otaibi said the legal department at Kuwait Municipality agreed to reoffer the heritage village project to entrepreneurs through the SME fund. The Municipality's legal affairs department manager Rajan Al-Ghareeb stressed that there is no legal objection to reoffer the project in Sharq to be utilized by entrepreneurs through the SME fund, especially since there are no legal disputes about it.

Umrah, hajj visas different from Saudi tourist passes

KUWAIT: Saudi Arabia has started issuing tourist visas for nationals of 49 countries at various airports, Batha land border with UAE and King Fahd bridge with Bahrain, said diplomatic sources, noting that both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are working on developing the Khafji-Nuwiseeb and Riqee-Salmi land borders between them for the same purpose. The sources expected the development process to be concluded by the end of the year, which would give nationals of these 49 countries residing in Kuwait access to Saudi Arabia through land exits.

However, the sources stressed the umrah and hajj visas are totally different from tourist visas because they are supervised by the Saudi hajj and umrah ministry and goes through a different electronic cycle of procedures. "Saudi Arabia has started the manual issuance of the new tourist visas at its consulates abroad," the sources remarked, noting that the 49 nationalities include Europeans, Asians and Americans, and tourists from those countries will be able to issue their visas online or through modern devices at Saudi airports after paying a SR 440 fee. —Al-Rai

Kuwait rejects Israeli initiative 'without even reviewing it'

KUWAIT: The Israeli initiative to sign a non-aggression agreement with GCC states that was recently proposed by Israeli Foreign Minister Yisrael Katz was passively received by GCC states, including Kuwait, which initially rejected receiving the initiative even through a third party, said high-ranking diplomatic sources. Notably, Katz had tweeted confirming the report, saying that the initiative is fully supported by the US, describing it as a "historic step towards putting an end to the conflict and

paving the way for bilateral civil cooperation until peace treaties are signed".

In his tweet, Katz said he discussed the "non-aggression" plan with Arab foreign ministers and US President Donald Trump's outgoing envoy for the Middle East Jason Greenblatt during the recent UN General Assembly. Katz added he had already met a Gulf foreign minister he did not name to discuss the proposal. The sources confirmed Katz had separately

met the foreign ministers of two Gulf states with whom Israel already has contacts offering the initiative, but both were cautious in view of the current circumstances.

The sources added that Katz sent the initiative to a third foreign minister via a third party and that he received negative responses on behalf of two other GCC states. "Kuwait refused receiving the initiative without even reviewing it," the sources stressed. —Al-Jarida



KUWAIT: Firemen battle the blaze.

Firemen battle huge Sulaibiya farm blaze

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A fire broke out in a 500 sq m warehouse at a Sulaibiya farm used for storing lumber, electrical appliances and heaters. Security sources said firemen from Sulaibikhat, Jleeb, Salmiya, Kuwait City and backup brigades rushed to the scene, where the blaze had extended 70 m outside the warehouse. Firemen managed to contain the

flames and prevent the fire from spreading any further, before they controlled the fire without any casualties. Further investigations are in progress to determine the cause of the blaze. In other news, the interior ministry's relations and security media department said that the citizen services department announced closing the SME center in Hawally for a month effective Oct 6 for maintenance.



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