

Lawyer files case to compel CSC to sack expat workers

Decision soon to boost Kuwaitization of insurance sector

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

KUWAIT: Lawyer Abdullah Marzouq Al-Rasheedi yesterday filed a case to force the Civil Service Commission to terminate the contracts of all expats working in government bodies and replace them with Kuwaitis, especially since many Kuwaiti lawyers are unemployed. Rasheedi said around 30,000 Kuwaitis holding law degrees work for the government and 6,000 others work for the private sector.

“What is the point of employing expats while considerable numbers of Kuwaitis with the same degrees, qualifications and

experience are unemployed?” he wondered, claiming that many senior officials do not trust Kuwaiti workers. He alleged one of the health minister’s advisors is an expat who gets a monthly salary of KD 2,100 plus other incentives, hajj allowances and free accommodation.

Meanwhile, the ministerial committee studying increasing the number of Kuwaiti workers in the private insurance sector announced that it will issue a decision about increasing those numbers before the end of this year, said official sources. The sources added that according to the new plans, the number of Kuwaitis will increase by 10 percent in less than a year at insurance com-

panies. The sources explained that insurance company owners believe that working in the field of insurance requires special skills, and that Kuwaitis need to undergo special training courses paid for by the manpower authority.

In a related development, the ministry of social affairs and labor decided suspending the issuance of work permits to expats to work in cooperative societies pending replacing them with citizens. Separately, the criminal court yesterday sentenced a Romanian to three years in jail after which he would be deported for attempting to break into a bank’s ATM using fake ATM cards he brought to Kuwait with him.

Queen congratulates Amir on recovery

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday a cable of congratulations from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on his recovery from the recent health setback. The Queen expressed her sincere congratulations and praised the historic and solid relations between Kuwait and the United Kingdom since its founding over 120 years ago. Her Majesty wished HH the Amir the best of health and Kuwait further progress and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Highness.

HH the Amir sent a reply to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II expressing deep gratitude for her sincere sentiments, affirming joint aspiration towards bolstering the already good relations between Kuwait and the UK in various spheres. He also wished Her Majesty lasting wellbeing and more progress and prosperity for her country and people.

HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah also received a cable of congratulations from President of Mongolia Khaltmaagiin Battulga on his recovery. The Mongolian president lauded the distinguished relations bonding Kuwait and his country, wishing the Amir lasting well-being and hoping to see Kuwait experiencing further progress and prosperity under His Highness’ sagacious leadership.

HH the Amir sent a reply to the Mongolian president, expressing deep gratitude for his sincere sentiments, affirming the joint aspiration toward bolstering the already good relations between Kuwait and the friendly country in various spheres. He also wished him lasting wellbeing and more progress and prosperity for his country.

First UAE astronaut

HH the Amir sent yesterday a cable of congratulations to the President of the UAE Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan on the first UAE astronaut boarding the Soyuz MS-15 spacecraft that lifted off from a Kazakh base toward the International Space Station. In his cable - also addressed to Vice President of the UAE, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammad Al-Maktoum and UAE Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan - Sheikh Sabah lauded the unprecedented achievement by the Emirates in the field of space exploration. The Amir wished the UAE leadership and people more progress and development within the space exploration field and other domains to fulfill their compatriots’ aspirations and dreams.

Condolences for Chirac, Indonesia

HH the Amir yesterday sent a cable of condolences to French President Emmanuel Macron over the death of former president Jacques Chirac. HH the Amir also cabled Indonesian President Joko Widodo expressing condolences on the victims of the earthquake that jolted the province of Maluku in East Indonesia. The Amir asked The Almighty to bestow mercy upon their souls and wished the injured quick recuperation, hoping that the officials of this friendly country will manage to tackle repercussions of this natural catastrophe. HH the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. — KUNA

Zain holds internal blood drive campaign



Zain employees participate in the blood drive campaign.

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service in Kuwait, recently held an internal blood drive campaign for its employees. The campaign, held at the company’s main headquarters in Shuwaikh, came in strategic partnership with the Central Blood Bank of Kuwait.

Zain organizes this health initiative several times on an annual basis under the umbrella of its corporate sustainability and social responsibility strategy towards the health sector through partnerships with major health organizations in the country, including the Central Blood Bank. The campaign also aims at encouraging Zain employees to donate blood and save the lives of those who are in most need of blood transfusion.

The blood drive campaign witnessed immense positive participation from Zain employees, who continued to donate blood throughout a whole day with the presence of

the Central Blood Bank’s medical staff. Zain strives to contribute to the community through its numerous corporate social responsibility initiatives and is pleased with the success this particular activity has achieved.

The company is keen to organize internal blood drive campaigns for employees in collaboration with the Central Blood Bank to encourage employees to donate blood and save lives, further reinforcing the company’s productive role in social and health activities, especially those that contribute with saving people that are in urgent need of blood like people with rare blood types.

Zain’s solid corporate sustainability and social responsibility strategy primarily focuses on the wellbeing of the entire nation. For this reason, the company has maintained its support of numerous initiatives that spread awareness and help make a difference to people’s everyday lives.

KISR earns patent for hydrogen storage

KUWAIT: Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) announced that the nanotechnology program of the Institute of Energy and Building Research at the institute has obtained a global patent in hydrogen storage in nanoscale metals like magnesium. KISR earned the patent from the United States Patent and Trademark Office, KISR said in a statement yesterday.

Kuwait, represented by KISR, ranks seventh on a par with South Korea in the list of the 10 most active countries in the world in the production, utilization and use of nanomaterials stored for hydrogen gas, the statement added. The statement confirmed the institute’s interest in diversifying energy sources, especially new and renewable in order to improve the properties of magnesium and its ability to store hydrogen in quantities of weight up to more than five percent. — KUNA

Kuwait pulls ranitidine drugs

KUWAIT: The ministry of health is suspending and withdrawing ranitidine medicines - namely Zantac - used to treat excessive stomach acid. Dr Abdullah Al-Badr, the assistant undersecretary for medicine and food supervision at the health ministry, said in a statement yesterday that the decision to pull these drugs from the market was made upon preliminary tests conducted at the department’s laboratories and reports by American and European authorities. Health authorities in other countries are currently trying to determine safe levels of the ingredient N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), included in food and some medical drugs, he said. He urged patients to seek their doctors’ help in prescribing alternative medicines. — KUNA