

Local

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News in brief

New IDs for expats?

KUWAIT: Kuwait could soon introduce a new form of identification cards for expatriates to replace civil IDs that would be issued exclusively to citizens, a local daily reported. According to security sources quoted in an Al-Rai Arabic daily report, the Interior Ministry's Directorate General of Residency Affairs made a proposal to issue magnetic ID cards for expats that contain all information about the holder. The proposed system, which the sources say is "followed by many countries around the world," would limit expats' transactions to the residency affairs directorate, while the card would expire with the expiration of the holder's residency.

Residencies allowed to expire

KUWAIT: Official statistics revealed that 935 residencies of expats stranded abroad had expired in the past 10 days, Al-Qabas Arabic daily reported. This happened because the workers' sponsors failed to renew their employees' residencies despite the availability of online renewal, the paper wrote. Meanwhile, statistics released by the Manpower Public Authority revealed that 2,716 residencies were canceled through the Ash'al online system since January 12, 2021, while around 30,000 residencies were renewed using the service during the same period.

Oil price down

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti oil went down 36 cents to \$55.40 per barrel on Friday after being at \$55.76 pb the day before, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. At the international level, the price of the Brent crude went down by 69 cents to \$55.41 per barrel, the same case with the West Texas Intermediate, which went down by 86 cents to \$52.27 pb.

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A woman selects books at a bookstore in Kuwait City yesterday. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

One injured in Jahra house fire

KUWAIT: Firemen ponded to a call about a Jahra house fire and dealt with the blaze on the first floor. A person was taken to hospital with various burns, Kuwait Fire Force said in a statement. Meanwhile, Salmiya firemen responded to a fire in a nine-storey building. The fire was on the third floor. Residents were evacuated while the fire was contained and put out. Investigations were opened to reveal the cause in both incidents.

Separately, police arrested two persons for illegally dealing in pharmaceuticals, the interior ministry's relations and security information department said. Salmiya police received a call about a person handing people something and receiving money, so policemen responded and arrested a suspect who was dealing in Lyrica and Nervax. He led police to an accomplice, who was also arrested.



KUWAIT: Pictures from the scene of the fire in Jahra.

Al-Safat Investment holds seminar on new COVID strain

KUWAIT: Al-Safat Investment Company held a medical seminar about the new coronavirus strain and hosted General Surgery Consultant in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital Dr Fatima Khajah, a frontline hero in fighting the virus. The seminar was held in Al-Safat Tower in the presence of Al-Safat Investment Company CEO Ahmed Abouzeid and all company employees as well as Safat Tower investors and a number of clients.

Saheb Khajah, Manager of Supporting Services Department at Al-Safat Investment Company said that the significance of the seminar lies in its discussion of the critical global issue of the deadly pandemic which has swept the world causing hundreds of thousands of families to lose loved ones. He beseeched Allah to protect Kuwait and its people from all harm. Khajah added that Al-Safat Investment Company has been keen on keeping up with events and through this awareness seminar, supporting the awareness efforts of various public and private entities. This emphasizes on the grave responsibility of private institutions and businesses in Kuwait in confronting this pandemic which has impacted all business sectors in Kuwait.

He explained that the local effect of the pandemic called for precautionary measures and awareness on the part of major institutions which have large numbers of employees, administrators and technicians. This was recognized by Al-Safat company through implementing a number of precautionary measures whose aspects today's seminar aims to highlight. Khajah applauded the seminar's attendance as being indicative of the high level of awareness of public sector workers who realize the importance of working in a safe environment. He also praised Dr Fatima Khajah's presentation, pointing out that it brought



Saheb Khajah



Dr Fatima Khajah

optimism and reassurance about the concerned authorities having the spread of the pandemic in Kuwait under control.

Dr Fatima Khajah began her presentation by noting the global cost of the pandemic in terms of health, economy and psychology. She addressed the essential question of why this virus is different, explaining that it is due to its ability to spread fast through aerosols and exhalation as well as its ability to mutate as evidenced lately. She added that this mutation is the result of the nature of the COVID-19 which is described as a fast dividing virus, noting that this "does not necessarily make it more dangerous, but it increases its ability to spread."

Dr Khajah pointed out that the preliminary methods of fighting the virus are simple, easy and rely on social distancing, regular hygiene and sanitization as well as complying with health instructions and guidelines. Since the advanced and most effective solution against the virus is the vaccine, she stressed that beating the virus is possible with the medical efforts through the vaccines approved by the American Food and Drug Organization. Dr Fatima Khajah concluded her presentation by answering questions and queries of the attendees who interacted actively with the topic of discussion.



KUWAIT: A view of people in attendance.

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