

SUBSCRIPTION

Kuwait Times



THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2015

THULHIJJA 9, 1436 AH

www.kuwaittimes.net

Amir extends Eid greetings

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah congratulated yesterday citizens and residents of Kuwait on the advent of Eid Al-Adha, expressing best wishes, health and prosperity to all. A statement by the Amiri Diwan noted that HH the Amir extended his sentiments to the Arab and Islamic worlds, wishing everyone security and stability, and asked Allah Almighty to protect Kuwait and its people. — KUNA



Pilgrims in mass movement to start hajj

13



Revolutionizing smartphone e-commerce market in GCC

25



Kuwait SC win eighth football Super Cup

20



150 FILS
NO: 16649
40 PAGES

KUWAIT BUDGET DEFICIT HITS KD 1.09BN BY AUG

FUTURE FUND DEDUCTION ADDS TO SHORTFALL



Min 26°
Max 44°
High Tide 05:30 & 20:25
Low Tide 13:10

QATAR TO BRING IN E-CONTRACTS FOR WORKERS IN 2016

DOHA: World Cup 2022 football host Qatar is to introduce a pioneering electronic contract system for laborers early next year, officials said yesterday. The system, thought to be the first of its kind in Qatar, should be in place by the end of March 2016, Mohamed Ali Al Meer, a senior official at the ministry of labor and social affairs, told AFP. "We are working on this system to be in place in the first quarter of the coming year," Meer said. "It will help the worker so he knows his rights."

Under the new system, laborers will be able to access a government website and by entering personal details such as their name, ID or visa number, be able to view their work contract. Many workers will be able to see what they have signed up for in Qatar for the first time in their own language, said officials, as many sign contracts written in English or Arabic only. The service will be initially offered in 10 languages, including Nepalese and Urdu.

There have been many reports of laborers being duped on contracts, in key areas such as pay. One such worker, a Ghanaian laborer called Hassan, told AFP this year he had signed a contract he thought meant he would be paid \$900 per month, but it was only for 900 Qatari riyals per month, or around \$250.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: A vendor waits for customers at the livestock market in Rai yesterday, ahead of Eid Al-Adha or the "Feast of Sacrifice". — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KUWAIT: Kuwait's budget deficit in the first five months of the fiscal year stood at KD 1.094 billion (\$3.62 billion) after a deduction for the Future Generations Fund, the finance ministry said yesterday in a statement carried by Kuwait News Agency. The deficit from Apr 1 to Aug 31 stood at KD 361.38 million before the 10 percent contribution of KD 733.50 million to the Future Generations Fund, part of Kuwait's sovereign wealth fund, the statement said.

The finance ministry said actual expenditure amounted to KD 7.6 billion, an increase of KD 4.4 billion, according to the Central Bank's monthly reports. The second half of this year will see more spending after paying contractors and importers' dues, it added. The ministry of finance has been publishing statements on the state's monthly and quarterly spending on its website, since there has been an increasing interest by media outlets and social media in the country's financial reports.

Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh told reporters on Sept 15 that Kuwait plans to issue bonds in local currency by the end of the year to help bridge its budget deficit. The National Assembly in July approved a state budget for the current 2015-16 fiscal year, which begins on April 1, that envisages a budget deficit of KD 8.18 billion because of low oil prices.

However, the actual deficit may not turn out to be nearly as large. The size will depend on oil prices, while Kuwait has in the past often underspent its budget because of bureaucratic red tape and tensions between the Cabinet and parliament that have slowed economic projects. This could also limit the deficit. — Agencies



GRILLED TO PERFECTION Jumbo Grilled Shrimps

Marinated in special sauce mix with fresh seasonings and grilled.



Home Delivery

1 802 662

Order Online

www.shrimpy.com

@Shrimpykw