



## KUWAIT TO START APPLYING VAT IN SIX MONTHS

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Al-Aiban and Ossaimi partner and tax advisory service agent at Ernst and Young (EY) Alok Chugh said Kuwait will start preparing to impose value added tax (VAT) within six months at most, and EY is currently in talks with the finance ministry to provide consultancy services for the project.

Speaking on the sidelines of a seminar organized by the Investment Studies Institute (ISI) in collaboration with EY about VAT, Chugh explained that EY is the tax advisor on VAT for GCC states and that the new tax would be in effect by the beginning of 2018, with educational and banking

services and basic foodstuff exempted.

ISI's acting manager Fadwa Darweesh said the seminar was organized to shed more light on how VAT would be imposed on investment companies and financial establishments in Kuwait. Also speaking at the seminar, tax advisor at EY Doha Jennifer Sullivan said that the VAT value would not exceed 5 percent and that it would be imposed on major companies and exempt small ones.

Member of EY's Kuwait bureau Waleed Abdulfadheel said VAT implementation in Kuwait would start by the beginning of 2018 and that companies would be given enough time to adjust their accounting systems prior to implementation.

## DISABLED CITIZENS' ALLOWANCES NOT SUSPENDED: OFFICIAL

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Director of the Public Authority for the Disabled Dr Shafiq Al-Awadhi strongly denied intentions to suspend allowances given to disabled citizens and stressed that the opposite was true and that the authority is working on expanding the benefits the disabled get through contacts with various state bodies and training them to become effective in building Kuwait. Speaking on the sidelines of explaining the reassessment process in progress over the disabled files, Awadhi said that law number 8/2010 states the need to reassess all cases whenever possible and according to possible changes to their disabilities, because some cases classified as mild might develop into medium or severe over time. Awadhi added that 10,000 files had been reviewed so far and reassured disabled citizens that what is happening was a merely organizational move because many cases were in violations and others had passed away, while their allowances are still being collected by their family.

### Responsibilities

Kuwait Municipality asked the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) and the Public Authority of Industry (PAI) to prepare for shifting the responsibilities withdrawn from the municipality to

them as per the Cabinet decision in the new municipality law number 33/2016. In both letters, the municipality's acting director Abdullah Emadi called for immediate meetings with both bodies to arrange for the transfer. Emadi explained that responsibilities transferred to PAI included issuing licenses and supervising scrap markets, while those transferred to PAAAFR include issuing licenses and supervising poultry, live animals and home aquarium fish.

### Barghash's citizenship

The court of cassation yesterday withheld a request filed to disqualify the judge hearing the case of withdrawing former MP Abdullah Al-Barghash's citizenship pending a further hearing on Dec 12 to look into the request. Separately, the criminal court yesterday sentenced two bloggers to two years in jail with labor or KD 1,000 bail each to suspend the verdict over charges of blaspheming HH the Amir. The court also sentenced an IS-affiliated person to eight years in jail with labor.

### System update

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced that it is currently updating and automating the subsidized supplies system in order to exclude citizens who have died, those holding expired civil IDs or have domestic laborers with expired IDs.

# RUNQ8 BACK FOR 6TH YEAR

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR ONE OF KUWAIT'S BIGGEST CHARITY EVENTS

**KUWAIT:** RunQ8, one of Kuwait's most prominent charity sporting events, is set to return on November 12th to continue with its efforts to support children with disabilities. Organized by Fawzia Sultan Rehabilitation Institute (FSRI), with the support of Founding Partner, Agility, the non-profit initiative is back for its sixth year, and will be taking place at The Scientific Center Kuwait (TSCK).

The annual event aims to raise awareness and funds to support FSRI's Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center (CERC), a non-profit pediatrics facility providing specialized interdisciplinary treatment and care for children with disabilities. The Center provides a full spectrum of care and assessment across a number of areas - including rehab for physical injuries, developmental disorders, speech, language and swallowing difficulties, behavioral difficulties, learning disabilities, and much more.

At a press conference held yesterday at The Promenade Culture Center announcing the event, Dr Elham Al-Hamdan, President and Medical Director of FSRI, said: "Every year we are absolutely delighted by the amount of support we get from everyone in this community. RunQ8 is one of our biggest and proudest achievements at FSRI, as this initiative has been successful on so many different levels. Not only are we able to raise awareness about children with disabilities, but every year we are able to garner much needed financial and moral support to help us continue to care for these children."

Also speaking at the conference, Alyah Al-Jasser, the Marketing Manager of the Al Othman Portfolio, which owns the charity fund of The Promenade, who this year join the race as the Platinum Sponsor, said: "we are delighted to join hands with FSRI and sponsor RunQ8 and honored to support this great initiative. Our objective of this participation is to maximize the opportunity of this run to give the people in Kuwait a wide perspective on children with disabilities and promote a message of hope".

### Important cause

Meanwhile, Nawaf Al-Rudaini, Marketing and Public Relations Manager of The Scientific



**KUWAIT:** (From left) Nawaf Al-Rudaini, Elham Al-Hamdan and Alyah Al-Jasser attend the press conference. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Center Kuwait, who are hosting RunQ8 this year, said: "We at The Scientific Center, an achievement of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, are thrilled to be hosting this year's RunQ8 and doing our part to support this important cause, especially as we are proud to have been the first to host the race when it started out a few years ago. Our support for this event stems from our strong belief in the importance of its mission and vision, which focuses on providing support, care and opportunities for treatment to special needs children. These children and their families need all the support we can offer them, whether in terms of raising awareness, or by providing financial support to families in need."

Proceeds from RunQ8 go towards enabling CERC to continue providing specialized quality care for children who otherwise may not get access to the care they need. The majority of raised funds are used to help families facing financial difficulties, helping them get much-needed treatment at a subsidized lower cost, or even for free in some cases.

In its sixth edition, RunQ8 is offering two chipped distances - 5km and 10km - and is open to people of all ages and fitness levels. Although RunQ8 is a great opportunity for experienced athletes and competitive runners to challenge themselves, running is not a must. For those unable to run a marathon, they can opt to walk, jog or just stroll - as long they participate in some way to support this great cause.

This year, the event enjoys the support of a myriad of local organizations, including RunQ8's Founding Partner Agility, Platinum Sponsor The Promenade mall, The Scientific Center, Al-Ruwayeh and Partners (ASAR), EQUATE, Fitness First, Intersport, Jumeriah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa, Porsche, Al-Essa Health Shop, Ikea and Tap. This year RunQ8 is also being supported by media partners Al Anbaa, Ahlan and Kuwait Times, as well as social media partners Khaleesque and EverythingKuwait. RunQ8 also welcomes all organizations wanting to contribute and support its efforts, with opportunities for sponsorship still available.

## MAN DEAD IN SUBHAN ROAD ACCIDENT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** A man died in an accident reported yesterday morning on the inner Subhan road. Firemen from the Sabhan Fire Station responded to an emergency call reporting that a vehicle caught fire following an accident and the driver was trapped inside. The victim was pronounced dead and his body was taken to the coroner after firefighters tackled the blaze, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate said in a statement. An investigation was opened to determine the causes of the accident. Separately, KFSD operations received a call about a body floating on the sea, so Salmiya sea rescue center responded. The body of the victim, who was identified as an Indian man, was recovered and handed to the coroner. Meanwhile, a case was filed for investigations.

### Election premises

Acting Deputy Director General for Firefighting Sector Affairs and head of the elections committee at the Kuwait Fire Service Directorate Brig Mohammad Al-Mahmeed said there is a comprehensive plan to secure candidates' election premises, and that preparations for election day are complete. He said candidates' premises are subject to KFSD conditions, as the candidate or his representative must go to the prevention department to receive preliminary approval allowing him to establish the campaign tent according to the following conditions:

- 1- All wirings must be in tubes as stipulated by the Ministry of Electricity and Water.
- 2- Provide emergency exits (according to the size of the tent).



- 3- Provide emergency lighting in the tent.
- 4- Have exit signs.
- 5- Not use a heat source inside the tent.
- 6- Provide fire extinguishers (as per the tent size).
- 7- Leave adequate passages between the seats leading to the main exit as well as emergency exits.
- 8- Do not allow smoking in the tent.
- 9- Not use wooden floors inside the tent.
- 10- The power generator should be at least five meters away from the tent.

### Mock drill

The medical emergencies department, in

cooperation with fire department, civil defense, explosives department and VIP protection at the interior ministry held an exercise at the Regency Hotel yesterday. The exercise simulated a fire at a wedding hall, which led to the total evacuation of the site as the fire was brought under control. The mock blaze resulted in four injuries - two were treated at the site, while two were transferred to Mubarak Hospital. The fire was brought under control within an hour. Acting Director of the Medical Emergencies Department Munther Al-Jalahma held a meeting to evaluate the exercise as notes were taken.



## SWEETS SHOPS VIE TO LURE VOTERS

**KUWAIT:** Hospitality shops are competing during the election campaigns to record a significant presence in the electoral headquarters of the candidates for the parliamentary elections slated for November 26 by offering delicious food, besides hot and cold drinks as well as various Eastern and Western sweets to voters. Tea and coffee have always been present in all election headquarters, however, chocolates and desserts are starting to compete with the traditional hot drinks of tea and coffee. Sweets shops are beating time to come up with various scrumptious sweets to satisfy the candidates' tastes who in turn seek to lure voters. — KUNA



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