



KUWAIT: A group photo of participants at the 30th GCC airport security officials' meeting yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

GCC COUNTRIES SEEK UNIFIED SECURITY LEGISLATIONS: OFFICIAL

30TH GCC AIRPORT SECURITY MEETING UNDERWAY

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry's Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Border Security Major General Faisal Al-Senain stressed that the vision of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz about enhancing GCC states' joint efforts with the aim of boosting GCC security cooperation and capability to protect their citizens would be the main topic discussed to complete setting the unified security legislations to protect GCC societies from various threats.

Speaking during the opening of the 30th GCC airport security officials' meeting held in Kuwait from April 4 to 6, Senain added that the meeting was dedicated to reviewing all airport security plans and programs in collaboration with the Dubai Center for Civil Aviation in order to use a unified code of civil aviation threats that had been prepared by Kuwait.

Senain also stressed that the meeting would discuss various concerns related to airport and passenger security in GCC states and exchange

ing information about threats to civil aviation as well as international security. Mol's PR and security media manager Brig Adel Al-Hashash said that the goal of the meeting was to coordinate and cooperate with other GCC states on airport security in view of regional security challenges that call for more cooperation and exchanging expertise and views.

Airport project

Minister of Public Works Ali Al-Omar said that the ministry had met with the State Audit Bureau and the Cabinet to settle disagreements about the new Kuwait International Airport project. Speaking during a tour hosted by MP Majed Al-Moussa around Sabah Al-Nasser to examine its problems, Omar stressed that the right decision would be reached for Kuwait's greater good. Commenting on the tour, Omar said that he had seen many problems such as not having a main park in the area because of budgetary problems and some road quality issues. He added that MPW was keen on increasing the maintenance sector's budget to help solve sim-

ilar problems in various areas.

Commenting on the area's need for more schools of various stages, Omar said that decisions to build new schools were up to the education ministry, but he promised to report the matter to Minister Badr Al-Essa. He also stressed that some of the work done by the Ministry of Public Works had to be coordinated with other bodies such as the Ministry of Interior when it comes to roads. Omar stressed that Farwaniya governorate suffered from many problems for which he apologized, but stressed that the ministry was working on solving them.

Mental assessment

The public prosecution yesterday decided to detain citizen S. D., also known as 'Abu Refaa' for ten days at the central prison pending investigation in state security's accusations of him of slandering His Highness the Amir. The public prosecution also agreed to have the suspect undergo mental assessment tests to determine his mental state, as requested by the defendant's lawyers.

In my view

DREAMS REMAIN DREAMS

By Talal Al-Ghannam



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Good morning my dear and honorable brothers and sisters, and I wish all a happy and blessed week. In this article, I would like to talk about so many dreams which we all for sure wish they would become a reality one day before Judgment Day. I for sure believe that all of you will agree with me about these issues because we know that if implemented, life would be more easier and comfortable for citizens and expatriates.

The first dream which we all wish to become real is the opening of clinics 24/7 with all services offered. I do not see why the majority of public clinics close at 12 pm and also closed on weekends where patients would have to go to the area hospital for treatment. I am sure that so many doctors, nurses and staff would like to work extra hours if the incentives are luring. In this case, everybody is satisfied; the staff and the patients being able to be treated soon with all the services rendered around the clock. Kuwait has the facilities, human resources and abundant wealth, so what stops them from doing that?

The second dream which we all wish to become a reality is to see justice being imposed on everyone. I am talking now about many runaways who fled from the torture and mistreatment of their employees and get caught by police at checkpoints. So many of those helpless people are being mistreated and given assurances from their sponsors to settle their legal status, and when they are caught, the sponsors claim filing an absconding case or try to escape the situation rather than standing with that helpless worker. Many of the runaways are also promised by their sponsors to find them suitable jobs and when they are in dire need, the sponsors fail to fulfill their obligations and leave those poor workers to be imprisoned and then deported. As a result, this would shut-

ter their dreams for a decent living to feed their loved ones, kids, fathers and mothers who are eagerly awaiting a single dinar to be sent home to them and for their sons and daughters who are expecting graduation soon.

The bad sponsors must be held accountable for their wrongdoings and have some mercy in their hearts towards those helpless people, who came here to serve them and care for their kids and most importantly, for the welfare of this blessed country. They must understand that Allah Almighty sees and hears every single whisper and one day, they will stand before Him on Judgment Day and would be asked about those workers.

The third dream is to see the traffic department imposing strict measures and regulations against the maniac drivers who constantly bother neighborhoods at dawn with their monster-like exhausts and those who turn the intersections into a skidding ring during weddings. Those irresponsible youngsters believe that the roads are personal properties of their fathers and they would threaten anyone who approaches them till they are done with this mad and maniac behavior. The police car in many occasion can be seen watching without being able to do anything because those lunatic 'kids' can be aggressive towards policemen and start pelting their vehicles with stones and glass bottles similar to the case that took place recently in Jaber Al Ali area. In the US, such behaviors are considered a serious crime punishable by law and the policemen there do not know what wasta (connection) is or any mediation by a lawmaker, as they are very committed and dedicated to their work when they subdue any criminal using their real muscles: The law. Let us hope these dream would become reality in the near future insha Allah.

Till the next article insha Allah

SEVEN ARRESTED ON PROSTITUTION CHARGES

By Hanan Al-Saadoun



KUWAIT: This handout photo shows seven women arrested yesterday on prostitution charges.

KUWAIT: Residency detectives arrested a woman for engaging in vice activities. Detectives received information about a Filipina woman who struck suspicious deals through social media, providing her customers with prostitutes. Six more women, Filipinas and Nepalese, were arrested in Hawally. In total, six of the women had article 20 visas issued to domestic helpers, and one had an article 18 visa issued to private sector workers. The women were sent to concerned authorities, and their sponsors were summoned for questioning.

No injuries in fire

Fire broke out in the ground floor kitchen of a Mangaf building. Mangaf, Fahahel, Mubarak Al-Kabeer and back-up fire stations responded to an emergency call reporting the fire. The blaze had started in a makeshift room used to store foodstuff. The fire was controlled before it could spread any further. No injuries were reported.

KUWAIT KEEN ON SETTING UP UNIFIED ARAB CUSTOMS UNION: OFFICIAL

CAIRO: The State of Kuwait is keen on establishing a unified Arab customs union, a Kuwaiti official said yesterday. Walid Al-Nasser, director of Kuwait's Northern Customs, made the remark on the sidelines of the 33rd meeting of Arab Commission for the Unified Customs Tariff at the Arab League's headquarters, in the participation of some representatives from Arab customs bodies. The commission discusses, over three days, observations of Arab countries on the Unified Customs Tariff and means of updating its schedule, he added. A proposal submitted by Egypt on setting a mechanism of negotiation concerning unifying customs duties is discussed by the commission, he noted. He stressed the importance of benefiting from the unified Gulf customs union in setting up a unified Arab one. —KUNA

IRAQI PARLIAMENT APPROVES COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH KUWAIT

BAGHDAD: The Iraqi Council of Representatives approved, on Monday, an agreement law of economic and technical cooperation between Iraq and Kuwait. The agreement law, signed in June, 2013, aims at boosting cooperation in economic and technical fields, a statement by the Council said. Iraq and Kuwait had signed six agreements on

environment, diplomacy, economy, technical and higher education during a visit made by His Highness the Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah in June, 2013. According to Iraqi constitution, all agreements signed with other countries are not considered valid unless they get the parliament's approval. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Sudanese Foreign Minister Ibrahim Ghandour (left) speaks during the press conference. —KUNA

SUDANESE FM STRESSES DEEP TIES WITH KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Visiting Sudanese Foreign Minister Ibrahim Ghandour said yesterday that his country has deep relations with the State of Kuwait, pointing to mutual cooperation over regional and international issues.

Speaking at a press conference, Ghandour said his visit to Kuwait came at the invitation of First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah for bilateral talks over the current regional and international developments.

He said he had conveyed a letter to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah from Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir on cooperative relations between both Arab nations, lauding the outcomes of his talks with Kuwaiti officials.

He added that his visit to Kuwait reflected bilateral cooperation in regional and international forums, noting that he had reviewed with officials of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) existing projects in Sudan.

Ghandour went on to say that he and Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chairman Ali Al-Ghanim agreed to fixed and specific ventures to be provided by Sudan for Kuwaiti businessmen and investors.

Kuwait and other Gulf countries have major investments in Sudan, mainly in the field of sugar, hotels and communications, he said, adding that his country exports fodder to the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

National unity

On the local situation, the foreign

minister reiterated that his country's policy is based on maintaining national unity, security and stability and promoting economic, social and cultural development. Warning of surrounding security threats posed by several terrorist groups like Boko Haram, Al-Qaeda and the so-called Islamic State (IS), the Sudanese minister said his country is keen to resolve any problems with neighboring countries through "direct dialogue".

On Yemen, he said his country is part of the coalition that seeks to restore legitimacy in this Arab country, hailing Kuwait's efforts to support Yemen's national unity and to put an end to the ongoing conflict there.

Reaffirming Sudan's policy of non-interference in others' internal affairs, the minister said his country's security organs are part of an African and Arab network aiming to exchange intelligence in the fight against terrorism.

Reassuring about the current situation in Darfur, the Sudanese foreign minister said there is no rebellion in the region anymore, hailing the recent visit by the Sudanese president to Darfur as a clear-cut message of stability. Ghandour highly commended Sudan's relations with China, mainly in the field of oil investment.

On Ethiopia's River Nile dam, the minister said his country is concerned over the dam, noting that Ethiopia has the right to set up development projects over its territories, but they should not negatively affect other Nile partners. The Sudanese foreign minister arrived in Kuwait earlier on Sunday for an official visit to the country. — KUNA



KRCS OFFERS HUMANITARIAN AID TO 730 DISPLACED FAMILIES NEAR IRBIL

IRBIL: The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) has provided humanitarian and relief aid to up to 730 internally displaced families at a refugee camp near Irbil. Kuwaiti General Consul in Irbil Dr Omar Al-Kandari said the fresh help is part of a relief campaign carried out by the KRCS in all parts of Iraq's Kurdistan region.

He said the Kuwaiti consulate in Irbil coordinated with the KRCS and Irbil Region's government for presence in the refugee camp which is home to displaced families which have fled ongoing military operations in Nino Governorate. Yesterday's aid campaign involves necessary food supplies that are enough for over 4,000 displaced persons for

one month, the Kuwaiti diplomat pointed out.

The KRCS's humanitarian initiative came at the behest of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kandari added. Kurdistan Region hosts as many as 1.8 million Syrian refugees and displaced persons who have fled ongoing violence in Nino, Saladin, Kirkuk, Diyala and Al-Anbar. —KUNA