



KUWAIT: Students protest outside a local private university yesterday. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

# STUDENTS PROTEST AT PRIVATE UNIVERSITY

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** Around 20 to 30 students from a local private university held a protest, approved by the university administration, in front of the main campus yesterday. The students were demonstrating to protest a litany of issues including what they claim are wrongful expulsions of students, unfair English tests and other school practices.

Organized by the 'Al-Qaemah Al-Mustaqlah' student council, the demonstrating students argued that university fees were too high, that the administration has canceled subjects and even expelled students unfairly and without reason.

### Persecuted

"Our members found themselves persecuted by the university's administration, and many students were expelled in one year," noted Ltifa Al-Ajmi, student and member of Al-Qaemah Al-Mustaqlah. She added that the administration had expelled some students without warning or disciplinary hearings. "They expelled one male student in our Student Council because he sent a WhatsApp message to a girl."

Also, a female student was expelled because she wrote about the university in a Twitter comment. She also noted that the administration refused to grant approval for expat students applying for drivers' licenses

unless they have high grades. Among the main complaints were objections to a university-required English language test, EL097. Asmaa' Al-Enzi said that more than 500 students failed the EL097 exam and the council was asking for a re-grading of the exam. "Because of the EL097 and not enough subjects in the summer semester, as well as a shortage of teaching staff, some students need five to seven years to [get all the required classes] to graduate," she noted.

About the issue of part-time professors, Enzi said "Some part-time professors have no office hours and when we tried to reach them via SMS, they do not respond even during an exam period." Another student, Mohammad

Al-Shammari told Kuwait Times that Al-Qaemah Al-Mustaqlah gathered the students to protest against the arbitrary decisions of the administration represented by Rector of the University Naif Al-Mutairi. Shammari vowed that this protest will be the beginning and after that the students will protest in front of the National Assembly and the Ministry of Education.

### Within the law

Ghazi Al-Enzi, head of Public Relations at the university listened to the demands of the students but noted that the university operates within the law established for private universities in Kuwait.

"We wish we could implement all the demands of the students, but there are laws and regulations within the framework of the State, Private Universities Council and the British Accreditation Commission, which is a partner that we must abide by," he explained.

Regarding the expelled students, Enzi rejected the students' claims of wrongful expulsions.

"We are not living in a forest, there are rules and laws. A student will not be expelled without warning or a reason," he said.

He also said that the English test was necessary to ensure that students met the needed fluency in the language as a required part of the curriculum.

## Crime

Report

### No gunshots near Saudi embassy

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Reports of gun shots heard in the vicinity of the Saudi Arabia turned out to be unfounded, according to security sources. Detectives investigated the scene and found no evidence of gunshots fired. The Saudi embassy is located in the embassies' enclave in Daiya between the Arabian Gulf Road and the Fahaheel Expressway.



Four municipality trucks are seen following an accident reported at the Seventh Ring Road.

### Accident rescue

Mubarak Al-Kabeer firemen rescued four truck drivers trapped inside four municipality trucks when they collided together along the Seventh Ring Road, said security sources. Heavy hydraulic machinery had to be used to release the injured drivers from the wreckage, before they were handed over to paramedics.

### Buses catch fire

A fire broke out in two buses owned by a private company while they were parked in an open yard in Mangaf, said security sources. Firemen managed to control the fire and prevented it from spreading to two other buses parked nearby. No casualties were reported. The cause of the fire was not immediately known.



A firefighter tackles a blaze at a bus in Mangaf yesterday.

### Insults and disputes

A Jordanian woman accused another woman of insulting her over a traffic dispute. In a separate incident, two citizens working with the Justice Ministry's attestation department recently filed a case against a third citizen for insulting and assaulting them while on duty.

# AL-SALAM PALACE TURNED INTO MUSEUM BY APRIL 2017

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** A report made by the New Kuwait Initiative, a government media body publishing the latest news about major state projects, said that construction works in progress to turn Al-Salam Palace into a museum displaying and documenting Kuwait's history and rulers was about to be concluded. They added that the project would be finished in April 2017. The idea

about the museum was suggested by the historic documents center and highly appealed to the Amiri Diwan and His Highness the Amir. The report mentions that Al-Salam Palace Museum would tell Kuwait's history through its rulers and that it would act as a touristic destination for citizens, expats and visitors. It added that the palace had been allocated to receive emirs, sultans and presidents for three decades. Notably, the project is located

over an area of 32,000 sq m, housing the two-storey palace with a basement, said the report explaining that the basement would be used for cafes and gift shops. The report added that a three-level basement would be built to be used as an underground parking so as to avoid blocking the palace's view.

### KD 1.38 million compensation

Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmad

Al-Manfouhi said that the municipality compensated a citizen with KD 1.38 million upon court orders.

Manfouhi explained that the citizen had sued the municipality for a mistake its employees had committed on allocating a land for him in Salwa.

He added that employees responsible for the mistake would be referred for investigations, then to the public prosecutor.

## WOMAN SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS FOR BLACKMAILING YOUNGSTERS

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** A court yesterday sentenced a female citizen to five years imprisonment for blackmailing young men. The woman reportedly lured the men into having affairs with her, then went immediately and pressed charges against them. She then demanded KD 5,000 - 10,000 to drop the charges.

### Case adjourned

Meanwhile, the court of misdemeanor yesterday adjourned hearing a case filed against former MP Khaled Al-Sultan for slandering Mohammed Duaij, the judge hearing the Abdaly cell case.

### Schools prepared

Education Minister Dr Badr Al-Essa issued a special decision to form a field operation team headed by Undersecretary Dr Haitham Al-Athari to prepare schools to be used as polling stations in the upcoming parliamentary by-elections in the third electoral constituency. According to Essa's decision, the team will be responsible for preparing the schools and coordinate with concerned state departments like members of the judiciary, designated to supervise the process, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Information, media, Ministry of Communications and Kuwait Municipality.

### Request rejected

The capital committee at the Municipal Council rejected a request made by Kuwait Ports Authority to start new commercial activities within the authority's warehouse and storage area in Shuwaikh on grounds that the area is allocated for storage purposes and could not be altered.

## PRECAUTIONS TAKEN AGAINST FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

**KUWAIT:** Authorities have taken all necessary precautions to prevent spread of the foot-and-mouth disease, an official said yesterday. Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Kanderi, Director of Livestock Health at the Pabic Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), said in a press release that the authority had taken all precautionary measures to check spread of the disease.

The measures against FMD include quarantining, cleaning and vaccinations as well as guiding cattle raisers on steps that need to be taken in infection cases. On February 4th, Kuwait recorded a new FMD case, Kanderi said, adding that the World Health Organization (WHO), along with the Gulf early warning center against epidemics, had been notified about the single case. He also noted some cases had been reported in neighboring countries.

PAAAFR does its best to secure vaccinations, in shadow of available financial resources, particularly allotted for such cases. It also immunizes cows three times per year. The FMD is an infectious and sometimes fatal viral disease that affects cloven-hoofed animals, including domestic and wild ones. The virus causes high fever for approximately two to six days, followed by blisters inside the mouth and on the feet. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah welcomed at his office yesterday Muhsen Barrak Falah Majid, a Kuwaiti citizen who returned to Kuwait last Friday after being freed from kidnapers in Lebanon.

## CO-OPS UNION COMMITTED TO CURBING PRICES: OFFICIAL

**KUWAIT:** The Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies (UCCS) will not increase commodities prices until a complete a comprehensive study regarding this issue is finalized, head of the Union Dr Saad Al-Shabo announced yesterday. "The Union will

put a mechanism to reduce the prices which has already increased on the pretext of low oil prices," Al-Shabo said in a statement.

He pointed out that the Union was working to provide new varieties of commodities to create competition

between the companies, so that the prices will be affordable for everyone. The UCCS, founded in 1971, was established to defend the interests of the Union's members. It also represented Kuwait on the regional and international levels. — KUNA

## DEFENSE MINISTER IN BRUSSELS TO ATTEND ANTI-IS COALITION MEETING

**BRUSSELS:** Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah arrived in the Belgian capital Brussels yesterday to participate in a meeting of the international coalition fighting the so-called Islamic State (IS), due to be held today.

Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah was received at the airport by Kuwait's Ambassador to Belgium and the EU Dharar Abdul Razzak Razzoqi, Kuwaiti defense attache in Brussels Colonel Khaled Al-Ragem, the ambassador of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Amal Al-Hamad and other Kuwaiti diplomats.

US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter will chair the meeting, to be held at NATO headquarters, grouping the anti-IS defense ministers of counter-IS coalition to review the military campaign against the militant movement in Syria and Iraq. The meeting coincides with reports about possible wide-scale ground opera-



BRUSSELS: Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Jarrah Al-Sabah is pictured shortly after arrival at the residence of Ambassador Dharar Razzoqi. — KUNA

tion, to be carried out by a multi-national force, aimed at annihilating the hardline movement, entrenched in swaths of lands in the two neighboring countries. The coalition is already staging airstrikes on IS strongholds. — KUNA