

الجريدة Al-Jarida

WHEN WAREHOUSES BURN

By Ghanim Al-Najjar

Throughout the corruption era that started in the 1950s, two main things happened together in concert, and we started using them in our sayings and included them in our customs and traditions. The first is turning a simple person into a legendary one while he is nothing but an office boy at the municipality. The second is the annual fire at the Ministry of Education's (MoE) warehouses.

Every year and a few days before the annual inventory, some hungry 'mouse' started moving around in the same location at MoE's warehouses and chewed an electric cable. It was then announced that the fire was the result of an electric short circuit. The case was closed, only to recur the following year, when the very same mouse moved again to bite the very same cable. Once more, investigation results were identical, before shelving the case, to the extent that shelving corruption cases and stating that the culprits are unidentified or just hungry mice or rats became an integral part of our traditions.

Long years have gone past since these accidents started happening and a lot of water has flowed under and above bridges. MoE warehouse fires started disappearing from our habits and traditions, not because corruption was over, but because it started changing forms and strategies. Corrupt people no longer set warehouses ablaze. Corruption has grown more complicated, but the only fixed thing is that corruption files get opened only to be closed again. This part of the tradition remains the same.

Naturally enough, what made me raise this issue is the recent fire at an MoE warehouse, but with one difference - the culprit this time is no longer a worn-out cable or a rat, but a human arsonist, according to KFSD reports, which were contradictory to the usual reasons we are accustomed to. What made things worse is that the minister of education referred to the issue to the public prosecution and said penal measures will be taken against whoever is proved guilty and involved.

Accordingly, I believe we have to hold both the minister and KFSD accountable for violating our habits and traditions, an accusation which is even more serious than corruption itself!

— Translated by Kuwait Times



NO MORE GRACE PERIODS FOR RESIDENCY VIOLATORS: MAARAFI

KUWAIT: Director of the Residency Affairs Department at the Ministry of Interior (MoI) Major General Talal Maarafi announced that the project of establishing a special company to hire domestic workers is almost complete and it is expected to become operational in six months. He also stressed that the project would put an end to domestic labor offices' monopoly in the local market and create competition that would eventually help control domestic labor prices.

On another concern, Maarafi strongly denied that MoI intends to grant any further grace periods for residency law violators. "That is something from the past," he underlined, noting that the recent security inspections in various areas made considerable numbers of residency law violators legalize their statuses and pay fines. "Violators will have to either legalize their statuses or leave," he underlined. Responding to a question about Syrian residents in Kuwait, Maarafi stressed that violators would be given a chance to legalize their stay in Kuwait and stressed that they would not be exempt from paying fines. "This only applies to Syrians, while other nationalities have to pay the fine and leave," he explained. Maarafi added that a new project was

being studied concerning issuing special residency IDs for expats and cancelling residency stickers in passports in a bid to prevent sponsors from withholding passports. "According to this project, a worker will only be allowed to leave the country after handing over his residency ID," he added.

Responding to a question about the new fees to be imposed on expats, Maarafi explained that expats would pay KD 20 instead of KD 10 for each residency year. He also explained that instead of paying KD 200 for a parent's residency, expats would pay KD 300 a year. Maarafi also explained that family visit visa validity was limited to one month except for wives and children, who get three-month visas. He added that in a bid to control the number of senior visitors who arrive to receive medical treatment in public hospitals, a new 'medical treatment visa' would be issued for people older than 50 after paying reasonable health insurance. — Al-Jarida



Major General Talal Al-Maarafi



KUWAIT: Assistant Undersecretary of the Traffic Affairs, Major General Abdullah Al-Muhanna hands out a memorial shield to KFH Group Public Relations Executive Manager, Yousef Al-Ruwaieh.

KFH HONORED FOR SPONSORING UNIFIED GCC TRAFFIC WEEK

KUWAIT: General Directorate of Traffic at the Ministry of Interior honored Kuwait Finance House (KFH) in recognition of sponsoring the 32nd Unified GCC Traffic Week that had been convened this year under the theme "your decision identifies your destiny".

The Interior Assistant Undersecretary of the Traffic Affairs, Major General Abdullah Al-Muhanna handed out a memorial shield to KFH Group Public Relations Executive Manager, Yousef Al-Ruwaieh in presence of a huge number of the Interior's officials and representatives of the GCC delegations.

Muhanna praised KFH efforts in supporting the security and awareness initiatives of

the Ministry of Interior, indicating that KFH expands its role in an attempt to offer all means of support to the official authorities, while bolstering the GCC cooperation.

Meanwhile, Ruwaieh hailed the efforts of the General Directorate of Traffic, affirming that KFH's collaboration with the Ministry of Interior reflects its keenness on increasing the awareness and achieving safety and security for the residents and citizens of the GCC countries. He indicated that safety and security are major factors in achieving development and prosperity in any country, underscoring KFH's endeavors in constantly participating in the society-oriented activities.

REGISTRATION STILL RUNNING FOR OOREDOO'S VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, continues to receive applicants for its volunteer program, conducted in collaboration with 'Spread the Passion' and 'ATAHUB', for the second consecutive year. Applicants can register through a link which is available on the company's various social media channels, until the beginning of the Holy Month.

Once registered, applicants will be called up for interviews, to make sure they are well prepared to take positive part of the volunteers groups. Interviews are conducted at Ooredoo's headquarters in Al-Soor Street.

The company has confirmed that doors are still open for those who are interested to take part of the second edition of its volunteer program, the opportunity will remain available till beginning of the Holy Month and applicants will be interviewed by professionals to well prepare them before the kick-off of the actual activities.

Ooredoo Volunteer Program was launched in collaboration with Spread the Passion, a local non-profit organization which aims at encouraging youth to be more engaged in voluntarily programs. Ooredoo will also be sponsoring ATAHUB initiative that aims to raise the community awareness, collaboration and engagement in initiatives that have a positive return on the society and its needs. In addition to Jariba initiative, which is an online platform based on the concept of "reward crowdfunding", where business creators can achieve their project goals through the support of people in return for rewards.

Also, Ooredoo took the responsibility to conduct several charitable events, such as giving out meals daily throughout the month of Ramadan at Ooredoo's iftar tent located in Al-Soor street, Kuwait City, opposite to the company's headquarter. As well as organizing visits to nursing home, orphanages and patients at different hospitals across Kuwait.



CBK LAUNCHES SPECIAL RAMADAN SOCIAL PROGRAM

KUWAIT: Out of keenness to promote its social and charity activities for the holy month of Ramadan, the Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) prepared a special program full of social activities designed to communicate with all NGOs.

Commenting on the program, Amani Al-Wera, Assistant General Manager for Media and Public Relations Affairs, said that CBK has been preparing special social, humane and charity programs for Ramadan to emphasize its commitment to communicating with all social categories.

Wera added that CBK plans to distribute 'CBK's Ramadan Gift' to worshippers in various mosques, in addition to launching the

'Sahourek Alaina' campaign which provides free Suhour meals to cleaning and construction workers. "Moreover, CBK staff will celebrate and distribute Gerga'an to hospitalized kids, visit geriatric homes and disabled centers in addition to the annual Ramadan gift for the staff," she elaborated.

Moreover, Wera stressed that by the end of Ramadan, CBK's Public Relation Department staff and other volunteering CBK employees will distribute Eid Al-Fitr clothes to cleaning and construction workers as part of its 'Hawwin Alaihom' (Make it easier for them) campaign, which is being held for the fourth year. "Our team will also celebrate Eid with kids at special care houses," she concluded.



OOREDOO ANNOUNCES MONTHLY DRAW WINNER FOR PREPAID CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, announced the third and fourth weekly winners of its all new prepaid campaign 'Every Recharge Wins': fourteen of the winners were presented with the Samsung Galaxy mobile, two winners with the iPad Mini 3 and one winner with KD1,000.

Ooredoo's 'Every Recharge Wins' campaign is the first of its kind, providing customers with chances to enter daily, weekly, and monthly draws, in addition to a grand draw for each 1 KD recharge. Customers can win smart phones, tablets, cash prizes and a grand prize.

The winners for this weeks were:

Bejay Naghy	Samsung Galaxy
Javar Sadako Bataan	Samsung Galaxy
Ahmed Ahmed	Samsung Galaxy
Sahalla Muhammad	Samsung Galaxy
Hadi Fahd Mohsen Abdullah	Samsung Galaxy
Shikara Narayanan Maracala	Samsung Galaxy
JP PA	Samsung Galaxy
Sheikh Darbar Mahboub	iPad Mini 3
Santhosh Jacob Jacob	Samsung Galaxy
Raja Mohammed Al Gahoush	Samsung Galaxy
Asghar Ghaloum	Samsung Galaxy
Badr Shaker Faleh Ma'toug	Samsung Galaxy
Laila Mohammed Al Kandari	Samsung Galaxy
Gobala Kirshan Shetty Narayanan	Samsung Galaxy
Aiysha Saad	Samsung Galaxy
Abdulhaq Mejbel Ali	iPad Mini 3
Mo'temed Abdulmenem Mohammed Fadel	KD1000

which is the 2016 Toyota Prado V6. The more customers recharge their lines, the more chances they get to win. In addition to the draws, customers will also be entitled to get free SMSs, internet, Nojoom points or minutes, instantly upon every recharge.

To take part in these draws and win one of the great prizes, customers merely need to recharge their prepaid lines. The more the customers recharge, the more chances they have to win. All winners will be contacted directly and an announcement with the winners' names will be made.

Crime

Report

Child hospitalized with gun wound in her head

KUWAIT: A four-year-old Kuwaiti girl was rushed to Adan Hospital with a head injury, said security sources, noting that her parents initially claimed that she sustained the injury when she fell, then said that a piece of metal had penetrated in her head. However, x-rays showed there was a bullet in the child's head, and she was immediately rushed to Ibn Sina Hospital for surgery and the bullet was removed. The parents then confessed that her brother was toying with a loaded gun that accidentally fired, hitting the girl's head. The brother was arrested and referred to juvenile police for further investigations.

Drug dealer arrested

A citizen with a criminal record was arrested in Salmiya with a variety of drugs he had prepared and packed for sale. A security source noted on seeing the police, the suspect seemed nervous, and on searching him, policemen found the drugs. A case was filed and the suspect was referred to narcotics department for further investigations.

Liquor possession

Two citizens were arrested in Sharq with a whiskey bottle. Security sources noted that on checking on them, one of the suspects was found wanted for a KD 9,000 financial claim.

Physical assault

A Syrian interior designer filed a case against three citizens, who are brothers, accusing them of assault, said security sources. According to the man, who provided a medical report of his injuries, he was hired to do some decor work at the assailants' house, which they did not like and demanded that he redo the whole job. Refusing to do the work all over again, the three assaulted him. A case was filed and the alleged assailants are being summoned for further investigations. Separately, a Pakistani salesman filed a complaint against a citizen, accusing him of assault. The salesman said that the citizen's wife bought a bag from his store two days earlier and returned to the shop to return it, which he refused. He added that the woman then called her husband, who arrived and beat him up. The salesman added that he followed them and jotted down their vehicle's license plate number. A case was filed and the husband is being summoned.

Illegal fundraising

Following the arrest of a Jordanian man who had been allegedly collecting donations, a citizen and a bedoon were arrested for illegal charity collection, said security sources. Case papers indicate that detectives were tipped off concerning the suspects' activities, noting that the bedoon usually made women contact donors and convince them to donate money to build mosques and fund other charity projects. Arresting him, police found that he had collected up to KD 6,000 so far. The man confessed that he had been collecting money for a specific establishment and got a small commission. Raiding the place, policemen found that it was an export-import company, and arrested the owner. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress with the company's staff. — Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa

News

in brief

'Largest' anti-drug campaign planned

KUWAIT: Several state departments are coordinating to launch what sources described as 'the largest campaign against drugs' in Kuwait's history, which will be directly supervised by the cabinet. The sources did not give an exact date for when the campaign is expected to begin, adding that it comes in response to a notable increase in drug-related crimes lately, mainly a case in which a toddler was beaten to death by her drug addict father. — Al-Anbaa

South Korean teachers

KUWAIT: South Korea will send trained teachers to teach in Kuwaiti schools and educational institutes as per an agreement signed between the two countries during Prime Minister His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah's visit to the Asian country last month. The agreement also includes scholarships for Kuwaiti students to study medicine, electronic engineering and other subjects in South Korean universities, as well as scholarships for South Korean students to study Arabic language in Kuwait, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa said. — Al-Qabas

Price increases

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry received a total of 17,728 complaints about commercial fraud and fabricated price increase during the period from 2010 to 2016. They include 4,410 complaints pertaining with price increases which were referred to the public prosecution, with an average of two cases a day, sources said. — Al-Qabas

No alternative farms

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources is not legally bound to provide replacement land plots for owners of farms that are planned to be removed in Wafra and Abdali, Minister of Public Works Dr Ali Al-Omar said. Compensation will be paid to owners of 29 farms in Wafra to be removed to make way for the GCC railway project, and 62 in Abdali to be removed for oil excavation purposes, Omar added. — Al-Rai

Oil production

KUWAIT: Kuwait Oil Company seeks to reach an oil production capacity of 3.15 million barrels a day by March 2017, and one billion square feet of free gas by 2022, informed sources said. — Al-Rai