

2 KUWAITIS, 2 ASIANS ARRESTED FOR DRUGS



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Two Kuwaitis were recently arrested in Mahboula for possessing drugs, resisting arrest, damaging a police patrol and a civilian vehicle and crossing a red traffic light while trying to escape. Security sources said that the suspects refused instructions to pull over and drove away - triggering a pursuit. In another development, two Asians (26 and 27) were recently arrested in Mangaf for drug related crimes. A pack containing one and a half kilos of marijuana was found in their possession, said security sources.

42,383 traffic tickets

Traffic police recently filed 42,383 traffic violation tickets, detained 743 vehicles and 17 bikes and arrested 16 people for severe traffic violations. Six expats were also sent to deportation center for driving without licenses.

Street vendors nabbed

The joint committee comprising of elements from residency detectives, MSAL and Kuwait Municipality recently arrested 23 street vendors during several inspection campaigns throughout the country, said security sources.



Home-made liquor

A home-made liquor factory was recently raided in Mahboula. Security sources said that five Asians were arrested in the apartment. Seven barrels of liquor, 2 brewers and 63 bottles of liquor were also confiscated. Separately, an Asian was recently arrested in Hawalli. 106 large bottles of home-made liquor and 22 small bottles were found in his possession.

FINLAND SEEKS BETTER TRADE, ECONOMIC TIES WITH KUWAIT

KUWAIT: A senior Finnish official has called for further contacts and exchange of visits to boost economic and trade ties with Kuwait. The political relations between Finland and the GCC are "very strong", but economic ties have not been the same level over the past years, the visiting Finnish deputy foreign minister for external economic affairs Matti Antonin said yesterday.

He expressed hope for further GCC investments in Finland, and more bilateral trade, saying that his current visit to Kuwait is part of the efforts to realize

that aim. The Finnish official led his country's delegation to the 7th meeting of the Kuwaiti-Finnish Economic Committee over the past two days. The 8th session will be held in Finland next year, with the aim to enhance bilateral trade, which hit \$42 million only in 2015. Technology and communications are major sectors to promote economic ties, together with alternative energy, he said. Health and education technology also play a significant role.

In the meantime, Antonin said that Finland is rehabilitating national econ-

omy, adding that the country was affected by the retreat of Nokia, one of the major Finnish companies, in addition to the woes of the world's paper industry. Forests are a major natural wealth in Finland. He said that Nokia has recently acquired a leading firm in the field of electronic networks, the biggest acquisition deal in the history of the country. Once Nokia employed 100,000 in Finland, he said. According to Antonin, Finland is expected to have 1-2 growth rate in over the coming years. — KUNA

News

in brief

OIC condemns Israeli flotilla interception

JEDDAH: Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) strongly condemned the Israeli navy interception of Zaytouna-Oliva flotilla carrying humanitarian assistance to the Gaza Strip. OIC said in a press statement yesterday that this Israeli aggression was a clear violation of international laws and human values. OIC General Secretary Iyad Bin Amin Madani held Israel accountable for the safety of the people on board of the flotilla. Madani reiterated the urgency of lifting off the Israeli siege on the Gaza Strip to allow the entrance of essentials to the Palestinian people. He also urged the international community to be responsible on applying international laws. On Wednesday, the Israeli navy has intercepted the Zaytouna-Oliva aid ship that was planning to break the decade-long blockade of the Gaza Strip to raise awareness.

Kuwait to host Gulf meeting on elderly

KUWAIT: Kuwait is due to host a comprehensive Gulf meeting tomorrow over issues related to the elderly to mark the annual International Day of Older Persons, which falls on October 1st. The meeting, which brings together representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO) and Gulf health officials, will feature discussions over developments in elderly healthcare, a statement by the Ministry of Health (MoH) noted. Moreover, the meeting on October 8-10 will also tackle sustained development goals for the year 2030, with a bevy of experts in elderly healthcare scheduled to be in attendance. The officials will share with each other their experiences in the realm of elderly care, in addition to planned projects and programs germane to that sector.

Info Minister inaugurates KWA new cultural season

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah on Wednesday opened the 2016-2017 cultural season of Kuwait Writers Association (KWA) with honoring a constellation of literary figures. Addressing the opening ceremony, he said Kuwait believes that any political, economic or social development should be based on a proper cultural foundation. "The political leadership of the country, led by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah strongly believe in the role of culture in the quest for progress and prosperity," Sheikh Salman stressed. He highlighted the innovative achievements made by the creative sons of Kuwait in various literary and artistic fields which culminated in selecting Kuwait as Capital of Arab Culture 2001 and Capital of Islamic Culture 2016. Meanwhile, Dr Talal Al-Rumeidhi, KWA Secretary-General, said the association will continue providing a platform for the young generation of intellectuals to benefit from the experiences of the old generation.

Media heading in a 'new direction'

KUWAIT: A recent Arab forum on media, technology and communication hosted by Kuwait, achieved its objective by displaying collective skill, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said yesterday. In a statement to the press on the sidelines of the forum's closing ceremony, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah said that media is heading in a new direction, as he commended the participants in this forum for putting media to good use. Moreover, he thanked all those that came out for the event, which gave participants the opportunity to share their knowhow with each other.

KUWAIT INVESTMENT DAR CREDITORS MULL DEBT PLAN

DUBAI: Creditors of Kuwait's debt-laden Investment Dar, whose assets include property and finance, are close to forming a team to negotiate a deal on the company's latest plan to restructure 813 million dinars (\$2.7 billion) in debt. Investment Dar, whose assets include a stake in the owner of Dubai's "The World" islands project, has made several efforts to restructure its debt since running into trouble in the wake of the 2008 global financial crisis, but with mixed success.

It paid off some creditors after signing a deal linked

to other assets in 2011 covering about 1 billion dinars. Saudi Arabia's Al Rajhi Bank, the Islamic investment company's largest creditor, is taking charge of forming the committee, which will be responsible for representing the roughly 70 to 80 creditors in negotiations with Investment Dar, two sources familiar with the matter said.

The committee will seek to galvanize some of the many creditors accused of preventing previous deals from gaining sufficient support by remaining inactive.

In its latest debt restructuring plan, unveiled in May, Investment Dar offered to hand assets to creditors immediately. Any deal remains complicated, however, by a rise in the number of legal cases being more actively pursued in the Kuwaiti courts since a stay on litigation against Investment Dar was lifted in February. That followed the failure of its previous plan after Kuwait's Court of Appeal rejected an application under the country's financial stability law to impose it on all creditors. — Reuters