

Photo of the day



KUWAIT: A view of Kuwait City through the suburbs. — KUNA

GULF SHIITE FIGHTERS

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** The Washington Institute for Near East Policy said that training Shiite fighters from Gulf states, the popular mobilization forces in Iraq pose an accelerating threat to these countries' security. The report also warned that their presence in Iraq might create disputes amongst US' regional security allies. The report explained that the total number of Gulf Shiite fighters in Iraq is 150, including around 40 Bahrainis and 30 Kuwaitis, who had all legally entered Iraq as pilgrims.

In addition, the report said the official spokesperson of the Gulf Shiite fighters Maytham Al-Jamri has appeared on many videos threatening Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. It also noted that Jamri is sentenced to death in Bahrain over his involvement in terrorist attacks and is internationally wanted. The reports adds that some of these fighters had returned to their countries with the military experiences they gained to use them there.

Online bill payment

MEW's Technical Control Director Iqbal Al-Tayyar said that over 60 percent of consumers are paying their bills online and that the rest still pay them through MEW's offices, at a time when all GCC states are closing such offices and only allow online payment, which is also planned by MEW. Tayyar added that the new power consumption rates of 25 fils per kilowatt for the government sector will take effect on Nov 22. She also noted that all government bodies had been contacted and urged to change their illumination systems to use LED lights and special sensors to turn off lights in empty rooms and offices. In addition, Tayyar noted that a contract was signed with Zain in June to install 5,000 smart meters to help conserve power.

A special hotline

Head of the joint committee and the Manpower Authority Director Abdullah Al-Motoutah announced launching a special hotline to receive complaints concerning "loose" and roaming laborers all week long. He noted that complaints will be received through WhatsApp on 96777666.

Replacing expat

Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammed Al-Jabri urged Municipality officials to start replacing expat advisors with Kuwaitis wherever possible, starting with the legal, administrative and personnel departments. Notably, the municipality has already prepared lists of expat advisors to start reducing their numbers as much as possible without reshuffling or transferring them, taking into consideration that their indemnities would cost too much, after consulting the CSC.

Recruit maids

Deputy PM and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah issued a decision mandating companies wishing to issue a license to recruit domestic laborers to provide a bank guarantee worth KD 100,000. The decision also conditioned paying KD 40,000 per branch and that the letter of guarantee should be valid for two years.



KUWAIT: The National Guards recently celebrated the conclusion of several machinery operation training courses in the presence of the Protection and Reinforcements Commander Brigadier Hamad Salem Ahmed.

BRITAIN EYES CLOSER MILITARY TIES WITH KUWAIT

**LONDON:** British Defense Secretary Michael Fallon has revealed that his country is planning to sign a new military cooperation agreement with Kuwait. In an interview with KUNA Fallon said that he would discuss with Kuwaiti officials plans to buttress military cooperation and joint action to overcome security challenges.

He pointed out that Britain is ready to expand military training cooperation with Kuwait. The British Royal Air Force use the same "Eurofighter" aircraft and increasing joint exercises and training would help take military relations to new heights, he said. He stated that the British Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, known as the Red Arrows, would perform a display in Kuwait next month, which reflects the distinguished military relations between the two countries.

He reiterated his country's commitment to the security and stability of Kuwait and Arabian Gulf region. During his visit, the British Secretary is expected to hold talks with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The talks will aim to tackle the Gulf's security challenges, especially those related to the conflicts in Yemen and Syria and the progress made in Iraq as well as the next steps of the international coalition against the so-called Islamic State (IS) group, he said.

In this regard, he lauded the pivotal and great role of Kuwait as the host country of the command of the anti-IS international coalition. He also expressed appreciation of Kuwait's humanitarian role in Iraq and its support to people of the war-ravaged areas there. He said that the international coalition has liberated some four million Iraqis from the grip of the IS militants after driving them from Mosul, the last biggest city that was under their control. He, however, stressed that there is still much to be done in Northern Iraq. Thus, there is a need to discuss the next steps of the international coalition's campaign, he said.

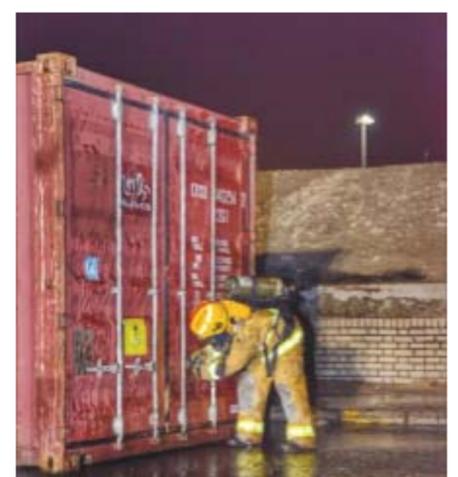
On the post-IS Iraq, the British official underlined the



British Defense Secretary Michael Fallon (left) is pictured during an interview. —KUNA

need for upholding the Iraqi government's control over the liberated areas and the launching of a political reconciliation among all Iraqis, especially the people of Anbar Province with a view to winning the hearts and minds of Sunnis through assuring them that they would have a role in building Iraq's stability.

On the IS claiming of responsibility of the recent terror attacks in Europe, Fallon said that the group must be defeated first in its main strongholds in Iraq and Syria, particularly in the Syrian city of Raqqa, in order to curb their ability to carry out terror attacks in other parts of the world. — KUNA



KUWAIT: KFSD's PR and Media Department said that a container in the free zone near Shuwaikh Port leaked hazardous material. The report explained that on examining the leak, firemen found that 81 out of 680 barrels in the container were leaking due to improper storage conditions. Precautionary measures were taken and the leak was controlled after evacuating the site. —Photos by Hanan Al-Saadoun