

Local

Tabtabaei's call for calm overshadows Prime Minister's grilling plans

Non-Kuwaiti mothers of Kuwaiti children to receive social allowance

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: A call for calm made by MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei and to decelerate tension between the parliament and the government prior to opening the new parliamentary term on Oct 30 seems to have overshadowed MPs Mohammed Al-Muttair and Shuaib Al-Muwaizri's preparations to grill His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, as well as MP Riyadh Al-Adsani's preparations to grill Minister of State for Assembly Affairs Adel Al-Khorafi, said informed sources. The sources added that lawmakers who had expressed willingness to sign a motion of non-cooperation with HH the Prime Minister believe that Tabtabaei's call is justified, especially since along with his colleague Jamaan Al-Harbash, he is facing a prison sentence and a vote to annul their membership.

The sources further indicated that lawmakers believe that the call for decelerating tension will achieve an agreement with the government and have a general

amnesty issued to wrap up the case of breaking into the parliament and save Tabtabaei's and Harbash's membership. "Acceleration might lead to dissolving the parliament," the sources warned, noting that in such a case, the general amnesty law would be useless because both MPs would still be banned from running in parliamentary elections.

Social allowance

Municipal Council needs expat secretaries

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MSAL) plans to amend some social development and family care regulations concerning non-Kuwaiti wives of Kuwaiti citizens. In this regard, informed sources said MSAL plans to include divorced non-Kuwaiti mothers of Kuwaiti children to receive social allowance after conducting proper investigations. The sources said around

90 percent of MSAL's services were now online, which has helped reduce the number of manual transactions.

Separately, 25 out of 40 charities operating in Kuwait asked MSAL's charity organization's department to connect their accounts to the ministry to avoid

any delays in disclosing their budgets and final statements. A meeting was held with MSAL's assistant undersecretary for social development Hana Al-Hajri, the department's manager Huda Al-Rashid and legal advisor Ahmed Majdi to discuss the request and the need to enforce the law equally on all.

Expat secretaries

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) agreed to provide 36 jobs to expats to work as secretaries for Municipal Council members and the secretariat general, said well-informed sources at the Municipal Council. The sources added that the council's deputy chairman Abdullah Al-Mahri and secretary general Yousif Al-Soqobi recently met CSC Undersecretary Bader Al-Hamad to request permission to hire secretaries and typists because of the huge amount of unfinished work. Notably, the Municipal Council secretariat is extremely understaffed.

Taxes

In view of the number of companies evading taxes, the finance ministry plans to publish these companies' names in the official gazette if the ministry's taxes sector fails to check concerned companies' addresses, quarters and representatives with the Public Authority for Civil Information's (PACI) assistance and checking

Minister of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) registers before taking legal action. Informed sources said the official gazette inclusion would be made if a company or its representative refuses to receive the tax letter sent by the ministry, if the company office is closed and no representatives are available or if the company's address or contacts are not found.

Camp licenses

The Environment Public Authority (EPA) made a proposal to Kuwait Municipality to not issue camp licenses to people who had not collected their insurance deposits after last year's camping season. The proposal also called for fining those citizens on applying for a camping license this year. In this regard, informed sources said the proposal would be discussed next week in a joint meeting between EPA and the municipality.



MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei



Alghanim Industries goes pink for breast cancer



Alghanim Industries' employees with Dr Nouralhuda Karmani and Dr Sameh Aziz.

KUWAIT: With pink ribbons, roses, pink-colored snacks and beverages, and complimentary nail art, Alghanim Industries, one of the largest privately owned companies in the region, observed Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In alignment with the company's mission to support the health and well-being of its employees, Alghanim Industries organized a breast cancer awareness session at its headquarters in Al-Hamra Tower for its female employees on Thursday, October 11, 2018. The seminar was presented by Director of Medical Services at Alghanim Industries Dr Sameh Aziz, who discussed various topics on women's health, including prevention and treatment of various issues, and Head of Breast Imaging Unit at Sabah Hospital and Consultant Radiologist at Nour Imaging Clinic, Dr Nouralhuda Karmani, who talked about the importance of self-examination, early detection, and treatment modalities, alleviating unnecessary anxieties and empowering attending employees to take charge of their health.

Commenting on the campaign, Alghanim Industries Chief Human Resources Officer, Henning Schlutt, said:

"At Alghanim Industries, we pride ourselves on supporting the health and well-being of all our employees. We're happy to hold this annual event, joining the world in creating breast cancer awareness with activities aimed at helping women keep up with the latest preventive healthcare procedures."

Following the breast cancer awareness session, Alghanim Industries held a networking event, where employees enjoyed raspberry-filled profiteroles and strawberry lemonade, courtesy of Costa Coffee, and complimentary pink nail art. Dr Sameh Aziz and Dr Nouralhuda Karmani joined employees during the event to answer any questions on breast cancer and other health-related issues.

Throughout the year, Alghanim Industries regularly holds employee engagement activities, ranging from awareness to networking events. These include blood drives in collaboration with the Kuwait Central Blood Bank (KCBB), breast cancer awareness campaigns in collaboration with different entities, in addition to charity runs and marathons, in which the company funds the registration fees for employees interested in participating.



KUWAIT: Group picture of Alghanim Industries' employees at the head office in Al-Hamra Tower.

News in brief

Complicated surgery at Mubarak Hospital

KUWAIT: Mubarak Al-Kabeer Public Hospital has conducted a complicated endoscopic tumor-removal surgery for the first time. The announcement was made by Dr Abdullah Al-Haddad, a consultant general and colorectal surgeon at the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Public Hospital, in Hawalli Governorate, in a press statement on the occasion of hospital's hosting of the fourth workshop on colorectal diseases. He pointed out that the three-day workshop, which started Monday with the participation of a large number of Kuwaiti and foreign doctors including several from the US, comprised several lectures and difficult surgeries such as tumor removal. — KUNA

Fiber optics project

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Minister of State for Housing Affairs Dr Jenan Boushehri signed a contract yesterday with an international consulting firm to study, design and prepare documents for the third phase of the fiber optics project. The Ministry of Services said in a press statement that it got necessary approvals from Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT), the Fatwa and Legislation Department and State Audit Bureau (SAB). The Ministry's Director of Public Relations Department Ahmad Al-Husseini said that the third phase of the fiber optics project is to replace the internet network from copper cables to fiber optic cables, covering the remaining areas of Kuwait. — KUNA

EPA monitors oil spill

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Environment Public Authority (EPA) said it was following an oil spill monitored by satellite Tuesday west of Kharj island, southeast of Abu Thar oil field, outside Kuwait's territorial waters. After receiving a report from the Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Center (MEMAC) about the oil slick, EPA began coordination with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) and Chevron Corporation to monitor the situation, EPA said in a statement. EPA said it was also coordinating with Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) to monitor satellite pictures, and coast guard to report any pollution that might spread to Kuwait territorial waters. — KUNA

Kuwait Food Bank marks World Food Day

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Kuwait Food Bank (KFB) recently joined the international community in celebrating World Food Day on October 16 by spreading the culture of preserving food, providing proper solutions to stop wasting food and spreading awareness on various social media networks. Notably, the World Food Day is annually marked on October 16 and was initially launched by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). It is also marked by many other relevant organizations including the World Food Program and other charities worldwide.

KFB General Manager Salem Al-Hamar said World Food Day aims at highlighting the sufferings of hungry and undernourished people around the world and encouraging people to take proper measures to halt and fight hunger. "Accordingly, KFB launches campaigns and special charity programs to provide the underprivileged and needy people with basic food needs," he added, noting that the food basket project has provided thousands of needy people around Kuwait with food.

Hamar stressed KFB also provides support and aid to needy and distressed people worldwide. He also called for boosting public awareness of the humanitarian roles played by Kuwaiti volunteers in aiding distressed people. Finally, Hamar stressed that Kuwait has a long history in humanitarian activities that earned HH the Amir the title of Humanitarian Leader and Kuwait the Humanitarian Center.

Maid injured in cooking gas cylinder explosion

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

KUWAIT: A domestic helper was injured after a cooking gas cylinder exploded in a Mubarak Al-Abdullah house yesterday. Firefighters from the Mishref fire station reported to the scene in response to an emergency call, and managed to put out the blaze. Paramedics took the injured woman to hospital. Meanwhile, firefighters from the Salmiya and Bidaa fire stations dealt with a blaze that broke out in a restaurant's chimney yesterday, Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (KFS) said in a statement. No injuries were reported in the case. Separately, firemen from Um Al-Haiman and Abdullah Port fire stations rushed to fight a fire reported on the first floor of a house. The fire was put out and no injuries were reported. Investigations were opened in each case to determine the circumstances behind them.

Negligence

A bedoon who was detained at Adan police station was able to leave the station briefly before returning, leading to an investigation of the station's officers, who were charged with

negligence. The bedoon, accused of car thefts, was able to escape before he was placed in the detention cell. He then returned after a short time with his father. The bedoon denied being a "car thief", saying his Iranian girlfriend "deserves luxury" and he committed the eight thefts just to show off to her. He told her he was a car dealer, so he had to change cars every time he met her. He said he used the cars he stole for a few days, then abandoned them in an open area. A security source said many of the cars were stolen after their owners left the engine running. Detectives were able to determine the suspect's identity and he was arrested in front of his house while driving a stolen car.

Girl freed

Two Kuwaiti citizens were detained in Hawalli after they locked up a girl in an apartment. Both were drunk. The girl called police and told them the two took her to a furnished apartment and attempted to rape her, but she escaped, locked herself up in the bathroom and called for help. Policemen and detectives rushed to the apartment and had to break in, because the men refused to open the door. The girl was freed as the two were arrested while under the influence of alcohol.

Cross-dressers arrested

Vice detectives arrested a Kuwaiti and 14 expats cross-dressers red-handed. The expats (11 Filipinos, 2 Thais and one Egyptian) are held pending deportation, while massage parlor owners face legal action. Vice detectives learned

about immoral activities in massage parlors in exchange of money, so warrants were obtained and the parlors were raided. A Kuwaiti who had rented a private room and the 14 expats were arrested.

Liquor busted

Customs officers discovered 3,048 imported liquor bottles in a container that had been unclaimed for more than 90 days at Shuwaikh Port. The container had arrived from a Gulf country and no one had claimed it, so it was opened and searched. The liquor was found in hidden compartments. Authorities will question officials of the importing company to find out more details.

Juveniles fight

A passerby who saw a fight between juveniles told police a murder was committed, but only blows were exchanged. Police who arrived at the scene broke up the fight and arrested those involved.

Car stolen

Two thieves stole a car driven by an Asian after telling him there was a problem with one of its tires. The passenger of car pointed to the tire, so the Asian pulled over and got out of the car to see what was wrong. One of the men then knocked him to the ground, then got in the car and drove away, followed by his friend. The victim told his company about what happened, so the legal representative lodged a complaint at Fintas police station.