

## Local

# Fire kills Surra man in second deadly blaze in two days

## KFSD says construction firms must follow fire safety standards



KUWAIT: The house's living room heavily damaged by the fire.



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** A Kuwaiti man died while five others were rescued from a fire that gutted a Surra house yesterday, in the second deadly fire incident reported in the past two days. Firemen rushed to the scene and battled the blaze which started in the ground-floor living room. They were able to rescue two women and three children, who were all in good condition, but firemen were too late to save the Kuwaiti man who succumbed to his injuries. The blaze was put out after the house was evacuated, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) said in a statement. The body of the victim, who was in his 50s, was handed over to Criminal Evidence Department men. Meanwhile, an investigation was opened to determine the cause of the fire. Yesterday's fire was the second fatal fire incident reported in Kuwait in as many days, after a woman died in a blaze in a Sulabiya house on Sunday.

In the meantime, KFSD urged companies involved in the construction of road bridges to abide by fire prevention safety measures. This comes after a fire erupted earlier this month at the construction site of a bridge on Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan Road, also known as the Fifth Ring Road. The fire department's recent comments came after a meeting between KFSD Director General Lt Gen Khaled Al-Mekrad and Public Authority for Roads and Transportation's head Suha Ashkanani discussed ensuring safety at construction sites, a press statement by KFSD read.



KFSD Director General Lt Gen Khaled Al-Mekrad meets with Public Authority for Roads and Transportation's head Suha Ashkanani.

## Man commits suicide inside sponsor's ranch

**KUWAIT:** An Indian man committed suicide by hanging inside his sponsor's ranch, according to preliminary investigations. The coroner recovered the body. The incident was reported by the sponsor, who was surprised by seeing the guard hanging from the ceiling of a makeshift room, so he called the authorities. Further investigations are ongoing.

### Workers 'terminated'

Two workers at the subsidized rations branch of a co-op were found weighing the luggage of Asian nationals planning to travel to make sure about their weight before arriving at the airport. The commerce and industry ministry asked the co-op to take action in response to a video clip a Kuwaiti man posted online. The two workers were questioned by co-op officials and they admitted to weighing the baggage in exchange of money. The contracts of the two workers were terminated.

### Cop assaulted

A lieutenant colonel was beaten while trying to break up a fight between a Kuwaiti and five others in Sharq. The lieutenant colonel, who is also an investigator, saw five men fighting against one, so he tried to break the fight up, but received some blows. He called backup and the fight was finally broken. Investigations are ongoing.

### Neighbors fight

An Egyptian woman found undergarments in front of her door, so she argued with her "bachelor" neighbor and accused him of threatening to kill her, while he accused her of insulting him. A police source said the woman was angry when she saw the undergarments and blamed her neighbor for trying to embarrass her in front of others, and an argument ensued. The woman then went to the police station and complained. The case is being investigated.

— Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai



KUWAIT: Education Minister Humoud Al-Azmi, Public Works Minister Jenan Bushehri and other officials tour Kuwait University's Shadadiya campus yesterday. — KUUNA

## Kuwait's Egyptian community dropped to 643,977: Minister

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The Public Authority for Manpower issued 62,191 work permits to bring in Egyptian workers during 2018, contrary to the exaggerated numbers mentioned by local media, the Central Statistical Bureau said yesterday. The department added that 23,883 permits were cancelled in 2018. The department said 577 Egyptian workers were appointed in the public sector during 2018, most of whom in the medical, educational and legal professions.

Meanwhile, the bureau said that the total number of Egyptian workers in the government sector reached 40,897 by the end of 2018, 26,545 of whom are male and 14,352 female, while the total number of Egyptian workers in the private sector is 451,960. The department said the Egyptian community in Kuwait dropped by 26,551 people to reach a total of 643,977.

### University tour

In other news, Minister of Education Humoud Al-Azmi and Public Works Minister and State Minister for Housing Affairs Jenan Bushehri toured Kuwait University's Shadadiya campus yesterday to inspect the roads leading to the campus and check the latest preparations for the six college buildings that were included in the moving and operation plan for the 2019-2020 academic year. KU Rector Dr Hussein Al-Ansari, Secretary General Dr Muthanna Al-Rifae and Director of the Construction Program Dr Qutaiba Rezouqi were on hand. The tour included field visits to the colleges of Literature, Education, Administrative Science, Life Science, Engineering, Petroleum and

Science, which will be moved according to the approval of KU higher council.

In the meantime, Head of the Education Faculty Department Dr Ibrahim Al-Humoud said care of disabled university students is a responsibility for Kuwait University, as it is not acceptable to seek the help of a secretary to help a disabled student, such as writing for them if they are visually impaired or handicapped, as the secretary is not specialized for such interventions. It is also not realistic for the disabled student to be accompanied by their mother to meet their needs - rather such services are among the requirements of quality education, which commits the university to provide them free of charge.

Meanwhile, Humoud said the KU administration has decided to move several colleges to Shadadiya, but does not allow any faculty members to enter the campus except through complicated procedures and accompanied by a worker to prevent photographing roads and adjacent areas, as it has been noticed that the KU administration is bragging about buildings only because the surroundings are not ready. He said teaching faculty members have not received keys to their offices in Shadadiya two weeks before the university starts.

### Electronic sale

Separately, Secretary General of Kuwait Pharmaceutical Society Ali Hadi asked the health ministry to set rules to organize the electronic sale of drugs, food supplements and cosmetics, in addition to mechanisms organizing means of delivering medicines to users under certain conditions. Hadi said current laws do not allow the sale of medicines except at licensed pharmacies, and sale through websites without prescription is a violation of the pharmaceutical profession and its regulatory laws. Hadi said offering and marketing medicine online without permission by the health ministry is a flagrant violation of health ministry decisions that regulate means of promotion and advertisement about pharmaceuticals, which calls for punishments according to health ministry rules.

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