



Al-Anbaa

## STORY OF 50 VOLCANIC YEARS

By Thaar Al-Rasheedi

Things are not regionally alright around us, yet when have they ever been calm?! This geographic spot we inhabit has never rested in over 50 years.

There have been consecutive coups in Iraq ever since the fall of the monarchy until the 1970s, a period that included periodic threats to occupy Kuwait by Abdul Kareem Qassim following Kuwait's independence in 1961, the setback in 1967, then the war of attrition, then the victory in the 1973 war. As the 1970s were ending, the Iranian Revolution erupted and a few months later, the 8-year Iran-Iraq war started and almost continued throughout the 1980s, subjecting us (in Kuwait) to several threats like blasts targeting innocent people including an attempt to assassinate the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed.

A year had barely passed since a ceasefire was signed between both countries when Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait and occupied it for seven months before an international coalition managed to oust them and liberate Kuwait in 1991. The region was also restless during the 1990s when no-fly zones were imposed over Iraq as directed by UN resolutions, the Desert Fox operation in 1998, then a war to topple Saddam Hussein in 2003 with all the political consequences in its aftermath, including the birth of terrorist organizations, then the Arab Spring quakes and the radical dramatic political changes afterwards.

This region has never remained calm for two consecutive years without witnessing a political or military quake. It is as if we are living in the vicinity of a restless active political volcano that keeps erupting all the time.

This has been the situation for over 50 years and it is not new to us and this summary is but an attempt to respond to those trying to intimidate people with regards to the impact of regional developments on us and claim that we are getting closer to the end of the world, forgetting that it is our destiny in this political hotspot of the world that has never rested, to go through such developments. Well, I would like to assure those people that our beloved country has remained safe over the past five decades, thanks to the wisdom of our leadership.

Attempts to view current regional developments as the worst and that we have to expect far worse to come ignore some historical facts that had already happened. There is nothing worse than indirectly facing war during the Iran-Iraq war. There is also nothing worse than having our home country occupied. I am not trying to undermine regional developments or take them lightly, but it is our destiny to live near a restless volcano that keeps erupting every one or two years. Things have been the same for over 50 years!

— Translated by Kuwait Times



## OFFICIAL SAYS MINISTRY FOLLOWS ORDERS IN ALLOWANCE PAYMENT

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Education does not specify rent allowances paid to their teachers and only follows orders in that regard, Undersecretary Dr Haitham Al-Athari said. The official was responding to reports suggesting that female Kuwaiti teachers plan to carry out a sit in outside the ministry's building to demand a rent allowance similar to that paid to female expatriate teachers. "Determining rent allowances is not the job of the ministry," Al-Qabas reported yesterday quoting Athari. "Everything pertaining

with teachers' financial allocations is issued according to a law. The ministry is only an executive authority."

A government decision last week to pay female expat teachers a similar rent allowance to their male counterparts in accordance with a constitutional court ruling issued on that regard has caused an uproar amid governmental calls to cut spending in state departments. Several MPs criticized the move especially at a time in which the government has taken simultaneous steps to cut allocations

for Kuwaitis sent for treatment abroad.

The ministry pays female teachers recruited to work in public schools a KD 60 rent allowance compared to KD 150 to male teachers. A court order was issued last year requiring an equal payment for all teachers, and thus ordered the government to pay nearly 14,000 female teachers retroactively since 2011. On that regard, Athari explained that the ministry would pay the teachers "when ever a sufficient budget becomes available." — Al-Qabas

## ENJOY THE LATEST MOVIES WITH GULF BANK'S RED PROGRAM DURING NATIONAL AND LIBERATION DAYS

**KUWAIT:** As part of the National and Liberation day celebrations, Gulf Bank is announcing exclusive discounts for its red(tm) customers to watch the latest films at Kuwait National Cinema Company (KNCC) cinemas between February 18-27, 2016.

Gulf Bank's red(tm) customers will be able to see the latest movies for only KD 1 instead of the usual KD 3.5 by using their red(tm) ATM cards to purchase cinema tickets from ticket kiosks in all KNCC cinema theatres. During the period of the promotion, Gulf Bank will also have a corporate booth present at the KNCC cinema in Avenues Mall to showcase its prod-

ucts and services and to answer any questions from potential and existing customers. In addition customers who open a new red(tm) account will receive a complimentary cinema ticket.

Gulf Bank continuously looks for new and interesting initiatives to reward its loyal customer base. Given the celebratory atmosphere of February and with the National and Liberation Day celebrations just around the corner, Gulf Bank is committed to providing its red(tm) customers with the right promotions that are tailored to meet their specific needs and to better enjoy their holi-

days. Gulf Bank is pleased to celebrate this patriotic occasion with the people of Kuwait.

Gulf Bank's red(tm) program is for high school, university and college students aged 15 to 25 years old. There is no deposit required to open the account or minimum balance charge.

To join Gulf Bank's red(tm) program or to find out more of its benefits, visit one of the Bank's 56 branches, contact the Customer Contact Centre on 1805805 for assistance and guidance or log on to [www.e-gulfbank.com](http://www.e-gulfbank.com), Gulf Bank's website bilingual website.

## Crime

Report

### Teen arrested for reckless driving

**KUWAIT:** A teenager was recently arrested for driving without a driver's license and trying to escape arrest along Abdaly highway, said security sources. The boy also violated traffic regulations by driving a vehicle with windows tinted over the allowed percentage. Meanwhile, the source noted that search is on for five unknown persons who damaged a patrol vehicle and assaulted policemen to help the teenager escape. Case papers indicate that patrol officers had pulled the boy's car over and found out that his vehicle lacked safety conditions. They also discovered that he did not have a license. Moments later, the boy drove his vehicle, hitting the patrol in an attempt to drive into the desert, but he was stopped. Police also found a woman inside the car, and she was identified as the driver's sister. They asked him to call a family member to come and pick her up, which he did. Soon afterwards, five persons arrived in a sports-utility-vehicle (SUV), carrying knives and sticks which they used against the officers in an attempt to free the boy from their custody. Their attempt failed and they escaped afterwards. A case was filed and a search is on for the assailants.

### Ex-con arrested

An ex-convict was recently arrested in Mubarak Al-Kabeer in relation to six car robberies, said security sources. The suspect, Kuwaiti, was charged with breaking open his neighbors' vehicles and stealing their contents.

### Ex-husband charged

A female citizen accused her ex-husband of attempted murder, said security sources. The woman filed a case at Sabah Al-Salem police station accusing her ex-husband of strangling her in an attempt to kill her when he unlawfully showed up to pick up his children, the sources noted. The woman provided a medical report showing injuries around her neck. A case was filed and the suspect is being summoned for questioning. — Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa

## DISCOUNTS ON ENTERTAINMENT CITY ENTRANCE TICKETS

**KUWAIT:** The Entertainment City offers discounts on its entrance tickets in the period of February 21-28 to become KD 2.5 instead of KD 3.5, announced Sager Al-Bader, Acting Manager of Public Relations and Marketing at the Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC). Bader said that the city would receive visitors from 3:00-11:00 pm on February 21-24 in addition to February 28, and from 11:00 am till 11:00 pm on the national days; February 25-27. He also reminded that Mondays would be allocated for women while Sunday, February 28 would be the last day for the discount.



Sager Al-Bader

## HCA NHS Ventures

### Committed to collaboration

**HCA NHS Ventures** is a subsidiary of HCA International which was set up in 2006, the HCA NHS Ventures division leads on private partnerships with NHS Trusts across the country

**Harley Street at UCLH** is a joint partnership with top teaching hospital University College London Hospital, formed in 2006. Based on level 15 in the tower at UCLH, the 18 bed acute facility is a specialist cancer centre for complex and rare conditions.

Patient rooms are private and en-suite offering panoramic views across London. We offer medical and surgical care including day case chemotherapy and a comprehensive JACIE accredited bone marrow and stem cell transplant service; one of only a few in the UK. The centre offers the pioneering cord blood transplant; this treatment significantly widens the opportunity to find a suitable unrelated donor particularly beneficial for international patients.

**The Young Person's Unit at Harley Street at UCLH** is the only private teenage cancer unit in Europe, treating any form of cancer in 13-19 year olds and further establishes the relationship with UCLH. The 6 bedded Unit treats all kinds of cancers and provides high quality care. All rooms are private and en suite with views across central London. There are facilities in each room for a parent or guardian to stay with patients throughout their treatment and international entertainment packages, including internet access to keep in touch with friends and family abroad. Patients also have access to educational facilities and an entertainment lounge. 5\* catering is provided with specially adapted menus to suit international patient requirements.

State-of-the-art technology includes the revolutionary TrueBeam STXIM, the latest radiotherapy and radiosurgical equipment which is the most advanced linear accelerator in the world and is the first of its kind to be installed in the UK.

**Harley Street at Queen's** is a joint partnership with Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals Trust, based at Queen's Hospital Roanford, offering advanced cancer, neurosurgical and general surgery treatment. It is the only centre of its kind in Essex and includes a dedicated High Dependency Unit, Chemotherapy Day Care Unit and advanced radiotherapy through a dedicated linear accelerator including

[www.harleystreetatuch.co.uk](http://www.harleystreetatuch.co.uk)

HCA - London's No.1 private hospital group



IMRT and RapidArc™ technology Harley Street at Queen's offers advanced state-of-the-art treatment in the most comfortable of surroundings

**The Christie Clinic** is the latest HCA NHS Venture and a partnership with The Christie NHS Foundation Trust in Manchester. The £35million development houses a state-of-the-art cancer clinic with 31 specialist rooms, 10 chemotherapy clinics, advanced radiotherapy, sophisticated operating theatres and private patient pharmacy. This impressive facility takes the HCA standard of care outside of London to Manchester and the North of England. Located in the heart of Manchester The Christie Clinic offers light and airy private en-suite rooms, with international entertainment packages and is in close proximity to the city centre.



## COMPANY OWNERS CAN TRANSFER TO 'SMALL BUSINESSES'

**KUWAIT:** Owners of commercial licenses can transfer their files with the relevant manpower authorities to the 'small businesses' categories according to the conditions applied to open small enterprises, a local daily reported yesterday quoting a source at the Public Authority for Manpower. However, his business should not be in fields banned from the small businesses' categories, which include contracting, consulting, tobacco, elevators, taxis, car rental, cargo, exhibitors, among others. A small business owner is allowed to recruit a maximum of five workers for every five square meters in his facility with a minimum of 10 workers, the source said, adding that each license is granted a maximum of 100 workers, while each employer can have a maximum of five licenses and 500 workers registered under his or her sponsorship. A small business owner can recruit workers from outside Kuwait, while a worker in that case can transfer to another small business three years after his original recruitment. — Al-Anbaa

## SMOKING BAN IN MALLS APPLIED THIS WEEK

**KUWAIT:** A smoking ban inside malls will be implemented this week, a source at the Environment Public Authority (EPA) said, reminding that smokers indoors would have to pay a fine ranging between KD 50 and KD 100.

The penalty would also apply on those who smoke electronic cigarettes inside restaurants or cafes, the source said. Meanwhile, an owner of a restaurant or cafe that allows smoking inside his or her facility risks paying up to KD 5,000, the source added.

An office for environmental police has been allocated in malls around Kuwait to monitor and make sure that the anti-smoking law is applied, the source said, adding that the officers would intervene instantly should customers refuse to cooperate. Mall administrations were allowed to set up special cabins for smokers. — Al-Anbaa

## KFH LAUNCHES NEW ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL, LIBERATION DAYS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has launched a distinct advertising campaign in tandem with the occasion of National and Liberation Days anniversary that confer the joy of freedom and loyalty atmospheres on Kuwait. The campaign includes an Ad to incorporate children's innocence and spontaneity in spreading joy and renewing loyalty to Kuwait, emphasizing the cohesion of the Kuwaiti national fabric, and fostering the national integration. This campaign emanates from KFH's firm belief in the importance of its social and national role, and in support of reinforcing loyalty to the beloved homeland.

The lyrics of the advertisement are adorned with love and loyalty meanings. In the Ad, children celebrate in an authentic way and feel the enormous happiness of the occasion of the 55th National Day and 25th Liberation Day. No rehearsal or staged scenes were used as children express themselves naturally with great simplicity, spontaneity and admiration where the lyrics narrate "This is our beloved Kuwait ... See it through our eyes ... Our home, the most precious of all homes". This



reflects the national values and principles which are kindness, generosity, security, tranquility, love and peace.

The campaign embodies people's loyalty and love to Kuwait through the simplicity and innocence of children to draw a smile and spread joy amongst all.

It is noteworthy that this National and Liberation Days communication campaign conveys a joyful message of happiness in the key public loca-

tions, blended with little moments of smiley faces and Kuwait's flags hoisting to mark this anniversary.

KFH is keen on embracing its social responsibility, while participating in every event of importance to the society, primarily the national events. This affirms KFH's prestigious status and underlines its unremitting efforts in pushing other private sector institutions to follow suit in shouldering the social responsibility in all its fields.