



MANILA: In this April 6, 2017 photo, a suspected member of the Islamic State group, Rahaf Zina Dhafiri is escorted by security officers at the National Bureau of Investigation in Manila. — AP

US, KUWAIT HELP CAPTURE 2 WITH IS TIES IN PHILIPPINES

MANILA: US and Kuwaiti security officials helped Philippine authorities identify and arrest a Middle Eastern couple with suspected links to the Islamic State group who may have been planning bomb attacks, Filipino officials said yesterday.

Philippine army intelligence agents, along with police and immigration authorities, arrested Hussein Aldhafiri and Rahaf Zina Dhafiri late last month in an upscale commercial district in Taguig city in metropolitan Manila. Their arrests were not announced until late Thursday, when the handcuffed suspects were presented to reporters but not allowed to speak.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II said the arrests were kept private to allow Philippine authorities to identify the pair's local contacts and avoid the risk of their capture prompting possible accomplices to advance any planned attack. He said information provided by the US and

Kuwait made the arrests possible. "I believe since nothing happened, we were able to nip whatever terrorist intention they have in the bud," Aguirre said at a news conference in Manila.

Aldhafiri, a 40-year-old Kuwaiti, allegedly was an Islamic State group bomb maker who was helping plot attacks in Kuwait and possibly in the Philippines, Aguirre and other officials said, citing information provided by Kuwait. As he was led away at Thursday's announcement, Aldhafiri said he needed a lawyer.

Aldhafiri, who last entered the Philippines in January, first traveled to the country last year as a tourist and later got a work visa. Officials said the Kuwaiti government plans to cancel his passport to allow the Philippines to deport him. They said he would most likely face terrorism charges in his country.

Dhafiri, a 27-year-old Syrian, was reportedly the widow of a top Islamic

State group commander in Syria and later became Aldhafiri's partner. After her arrest, she told authorities that she was pregnant and she was sent to a hospital. She will likely be deported to Qatar, where she last came from before flying to Manila, Philippine Immigration Commissioner Jaime Morente said.

Earlier this year, the couple traveled to southern Davao city, President Rodrigo Duterte's hometown, and the central city of Cebu, staying for a few days in each city, Morente said.

Aguirre said the two have had no known contact with Filipino Muslim militants. A number of radical Islamic armed groups in the country's south, including some commanders of the brutal Abu Sayyaf group, has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group in recent years in a bid to secure funds and training and project an image of strength and relevance amid years of battle setbacks, the military says. —AP

WARBA ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF SALARY CAMPAIGN DRAWS

KUWAIT: Warba Bank, Kuwait's best investment bank and corporate consultancy firm, organized its quarterly draw for the salary campaign, which was during a ceremony held at its newest branch in Shuhada - South Surra. Representatives from the bank's executive management, and a large number of customers attended the draw that took place under supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Several raffle draws took place during the ceremony, including the quarterly draw for the Salary Campaign in which the prize was the "Dream Trip" allowing the winner to choose their destination among the Maldives, South Africa, New York, and London.

The event also included the Al-Sunbula Account monthly draw with prizes up to KD 20,000. On the other hand, guests attending the event were awarded with another draw to win a trip to the Spanish League's Clasicos match between Real Madrid and Barcelona.

Warba Bank's Salary and Al-Sunbula accounts provide many facilities and valuable rewards that have made them very popular among customers. By the beginning of 2017, Warba bank established many improvements on the two accounts, which were met positively by the customers. These improvements included increasing the number of winners for the Al-Sunbula Account draw to 12, and raising the total monthly awards' value to KD 20,000 (every client receives a chance to enter the draw for every KD 10 deposited in the account). Al-Sunbula Account is the best choice for customers looking to save money, while at the same time, make financial returns on their savings.

As for improvements to the Salary account which Warba Bank launched with the slogan 'your hopes made a reality by Warba Bank,' the bank now provides current and new customers the opportunity to take part in the quarterly draw on the dream trip. Meanwhile, new customers can freely choose the prizes most suitable for them, which include cash prizes and bank products.

Since establishment, Warba Bank has been keen on designing unique and innovative banking solutions that distinguish our clients and elevate the Islamic banking sector. It has launched several Islamic banking products of international standards at the beginning of 2017, which are added to the group of quality solutions that the bank offers exclusively to its customers.

The winner of the 'dream trip' award (salary campaign) is Fahad Mohammad Al-Mutairi. As for the Al-Sunbula Account draw, the winners are: Mashael Falah Al-Mutairi and Dahham Kareem Al-Fadhli (KD 5,000), Saud Lafi Al-Shemmri, Ali Ahmad Abu Dames, Kameelah Dhari Al-Jashaami, Muyassar Hashem Al-Masri, Aiman Abdulrahman Al-Ammar, Reem Mohammad Al-Shemmeri, Khalid Ali Al-Ajmi, Ayshah Falah Al-Azmi, Abdullah Fayez Al-Najjareen, and Salem Rashed Marzouq (KD 1,000). Meanwhile, the 'Pay & Win' campaign winners are: Abdurrahman Hayan Al-Azmi, Abdulwahab Nasser Al-Najdi, Majid Mutlaq Al-Azmi, Mohammad Musaed Al-Dhamer, and Hassan Salem Al-Tarfi. In the meantime, Laila Ahmad Darweesh won the trip to attend the Clasicos match.

'KUWAIT IS BY YOUR SIDE' CAMPAIGN CONTINUES



"Kuwait is by your side" campaign launches third phase in Mosul. — KUNA

BAGHDAD: 'Kuwait is by your side' campaign has launched the third phase of humanitarian aid to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Mosul, north of Iraq. The Kuwaiti Society for Relief (KSR) is funding the campaign. The Iraqi Unified Medical Association for Relief and Development said that the new aid includes the distribution of 20,759 food baskets to IDPs in some camps in Mosul. Speaking to KUNA on Thursday, head of the association Ahmad Meshref said the aid was delivered under the supervision of Iraqi bodies and the Kuwait Embassy.

He extolled the big support by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who was named by the UN as a "Humanitarian Leader" for such efforts, the State of Kuwait and the Kuwaiti people. Kuwait provided previously food aid to needy people and the displaced, contributed to building carnival schools and carried out programs to empower widows and orphans displaced in the city, Meshref noted. — KUNA

