



**KUWAIT:** (Top) MP Ahmad Al-Fadhli instructs a worker to place a red rose on a fellow lawmaker's desk before yesterday's National Assembly session. (Above) a worker removes the roses based on orders from assembly officials.

— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## KUWAITI, SAUDI OFFICIALS DISCUSS HAJJ PREPARATIONS

**JEDDAH:** Undersecretary of Kuwaiti Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Fareed Emadi and his Saudi counterpart Hussein Al-Sherif discussed on Monday arrangements for Kuwaiti pilgrims in this year's hajj season. All preparations pertaining to Kuwaiti pilgrims since their arrival in Saudi Arabia until their departure have been dealt with Saudi officials, Emadi said in a statement.

Also air and health services for pilgrims, transportation, housing and other services in Makkah, Madinah and Al-Mashaer Al-Muqaddassah, or sites of rituals' performance, were discussed with the officials, he said. "During the meeting, we further con-

sidered the number of Kuwaiti pilgrims during this season after Saudi Arabia had taken a decision to increase the figure," he added. "We reviewed efforts exerted by the State of Kuwait last season and its cooperation with Saudi governmental bodies during the hajj season," he noted.

Emadi lauded all services provided by the Saudi government to all pilgrims in general and the Kuwaiti ones in particular over the last seasons. The Kuwaiti official expressed his gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz and the government for their efforts to serve pilgrims.—KUNA

## ROAD CLOSURE NECESSARY; COORDINATION HELPED EASE CONGESTIONS: MPW OFFICIAL

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Public Works' (MPW) decision to close part of Al-Ghazali Road was inevitable and should have been done by the end of 2012, but was postponed until the development of Jamal Abdel Nasser and Jahra roads was completed, assistant undersecretary for roads engineering affairs Ahmed Al-Hassan stressed. Speaking at a press conference held at MPW headquarters that was not attended by the Ministry of Interior (MoI), Hassan stressed that the resulting traffic congestion happened only on the first day of the closure, and that coordination with MoI's traffic department to adjust the timings of some traffic lights helped ease traffic flows on the second and third days. Hassan also noted that trucks were banned on Ghazali Road from 6:00 am till 4:00 pm, during which they are forced to pull over in special areas to help maintain easy traffic flow. Hassan said that the project contractor was instructed to create several U-turns due to be opened within the coming weeks pending further closures on the same road. "Work on the project is racing against the clock to be completed according to schedule by the end of 2018," he said. Speaking about the Fourth Ring Road, Hassan said that there is a plan being prepared to develop it all the way till Salmiya fire station.

### Official reinstated

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Information Minister Sheikh Mohammed Al-Abdullah issued ministerial decision number 8/2017 cancelling former minister Sheikh Salman Al-Hmoud's decision referring secretary general of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) for investigation over the grilling motion filed against him that eventually forced him to resign from office. The new decision cancelled the secretary general's suspension for three months, but investigations remain in place.

### Former MP sentenced

The criminal court yesterday sentenced former MP Abdulhameed Dashti to a year in prison with labor over charges of slandering Chancellor Mohammed Al-Duaiji in the 'Abdaly' case. Dashti fled abroad in April 2016, ostensibly to seek medical treatment in London. He was sentenced in absentia to 11 years and six months in jail for insulting Saudi Arabia and three years for insulting Bahrain in another case in July last year. In August, Kuwait initiated proceedings to extradite him via Interpol. His current whereabouts are unknown. Separately, the criminal court sentenced citizen Yasser Al-Habib to 10 years in prison with labor over state security charges of joining a banned organization and promoting unrest.

### Transfer of responsibility

Following the transfer of responsibility for the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) under his jurisdiction, Minister

of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, State Minister of Municipal Affairs Mohammed Al-Jabri said that he is currently setting a future plan to organize work at PAAAFR and create a suitable environment to assess its performance and determine malfunctions in order to handle them. Jabri said PAAAFR would be put back on the right track through hard

and serious work to stop all violations. He also urged all parties including MPs to support his reform plans to address the Audit Bureau's remarks on PAAAFR's performance, namely concerning agriculture. Jabri added that linking PAAAFR and the municipality would lead to more flexibility and cooperation in various projects.

## POLICE PUT DOWN ENRAGED BULL

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Police shot a bull after it ran wildly in the streets. Police received a call about a bull that escaped from the Salmiya slaughterhouse and ran towards the Fifth Ring Road. Rescue police attempted to control it, but they failed, and the beast fled into Rumaithiya.

### Homicide

Farwaniya police registered a death case reported yesterday as homicide based on the coroner's report, who said the death was not normal. A citizen earlier told police that his brother was found dead in his room. Police found the body on the floor with needles and a bag with traces of powder in it. The man said his brother had been using drugs for a long time.

### Officer insulted

Two Egyptian men who blocked the road and prevented others from passing attacked a traffic officer because he issued them a ticket. The incident took place in Jabriya after a call was received about a car blocking the road. The traffic police officer went to check and found an SUV parked illegally. The officer wrote a ticket and placed it on the windshield, but two Egyptians who appeared argued with him and beat him. Both were arrested by a backup patrol and taken to Jabriya police station.

### Fire

Firemen dealt with a fire that broke out in a car near Sulaibkhat police station. No injuries were reported.

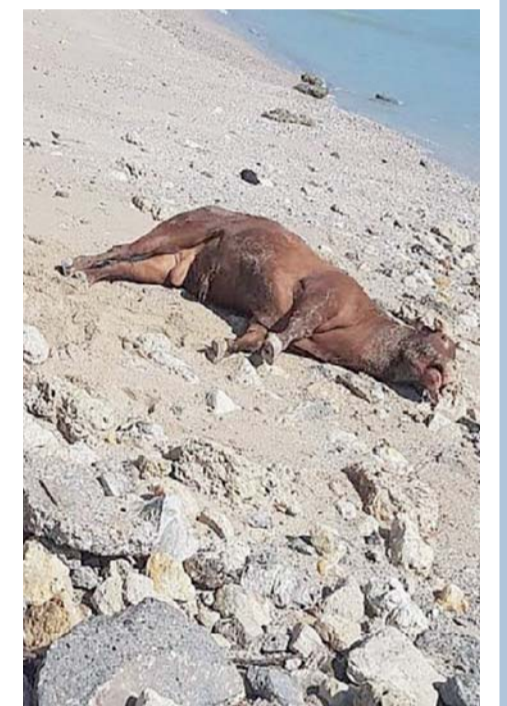
### Municipality crackdown

Mubarak Al-Kabeer municipality branch emergency team inspected food factories in Subhan, resulting in confiscating and destroying six tons of food material. Director

of the branch Samiya Al-Enezi said campaigns will be intensified based on the instructions of the head of Capital and Mubarak Al-Kabeer sectors Faisal Sadeq to ensure the validity of foodstuff.

### Coastguard

Coastguard patrols helped 24 ships, surfaced a boat, removed six floating objects, sent 20 boats away from off limits areas and took nine injured and sick persons to hospital, while 13 drowning people were rescued. The coastguard also busted 29 violations of fish resources, while 118 vessels were searched.



**KUWAIT:** A photo circulated on social media shows

## KUWAIT MEDICAL ASSOCIATION CONDEMNS DOCTOR'S ASSAULT

### CHEMOTHERAPY CENTER PHYSICIAN ATTACKED

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** A doctor working at Sheikh Badriya Al-Ahmed Chemotherapy Center was assaulted by a citizen who created a commotion at the center. The police had to be called and he was arrested. Commenting on the incident, Kuwait Medical Association Chairman Dr Mohammed Al-Mutairi condemned the assault and stressed that it was one of a series of repeated assaults on medical staff in view of the absence of legal protection by the Ministry of Health (MoH). "How much longer will this go on?" he demanded, stressing that KMA has finished preparing a bill on both doctors' and patients' rights protection and handed it over to MoH. He accordingly urged MoH to send the bill to Assembly to be passed to help stop such assaults.

### Kuwaiti employees

Minister Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh said in collab-

oration with relevant authorities, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MSAL) is currently preparing a study on increasing the numbers of Kuwaiti employees at various co-ops. Sabeeh added that a special committee would be formed to systematically achieve the increase, which will help create more job opportunities for citizens in the private sector. Notably, the current ratio of citizens in co-ops is 50 percent in managerial posts, 20 percent in professional and services posts, 17 percent as clerks, 15 percent as technicians and 6 percent as salespeople. In other news, MSAL denied reports claiming that Sabeeh was referred to the ministers' court for not implementing a court order in favor of Al-Siddiq Co-op. The ministry explained that the public prosecutor referred a complaint filed by one of the candidates in the co-op board elections to an investigation committee and not to the ministers' court.

### Young entrepreneurs

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's

(KPC) Managing Director For Planning And Financial Affairs Wafa Al-Zaabi said KPC plans to have 43 gas stations run and operated by ambitious young Kuwaiti entrepreneurs. She added that the stations would initially be owned by the government. Zaabi stressed the KPC aims at setting a strategy to increase private sector participation in its activities and projects as well as create more job opportunities for Kuwaitis.

### Investment opportunities

The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) concluded studying investment opportunities in Jaber Al-Ahmed and Sabah Al-Ahmed cities with an international company pending officially offering them to local and international companies. A memo issued by the authority pointed out that the aim of these opportunities is to encourage local, regional and international companies to build residential apartments, stores, parks, restaurants and other amenities.

## KRCS DELIVERS AID TO DISPLACED FAMILIES



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) said yesterday that it distributed humanitarian aid to displaced Syrians from Aleppo and rural Idlib in cooperation with Turkey's IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation. KRCS Chairman Dr Helal Al-Sayer said that "the society was continuing to offer relief aid to displaced persons from the city of Aleppo," explaining that "the aid will be distributed to 60,000 persons inside Syria particularly those with special needs, women, and children."

Sayer said the aid included food baskets, milk, and other necessities, adding KRCS campaign aimed at easing the suffering of the families as well as maintaining their personal hygiene amid the harsh conditions experienced in refugee camps. He explained that the past few days have seen the arrival of 15 trucks carrying food aid from Bab Al-Hawa Border Crossing, an entry point of Turkish aid to Syria, adding the items were distributed in cooperation with the Turkish humanitarian organization.—KUNA

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