

Local

Residency violators since Jan 2016 can settle dues or leave without fine

Thousands of liquor bottles busted at Shuwaikh Port

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

KUWAIT: Privately-employed foreign residents, who have exceeded their permitted stay in Kuwait beyond January 3, 2016 after going absent from work, will be allowed to settle their penalties or leave the country without paying a fine, the Interior Ministry said on Friday.

The decision was taken according to a "humanitarian initiative," which covers a further number of non-Kuwaiti violators of the residency law, read a ministry statement. It will grant more "humanitarian incentives," namely the opportunity for violators who wish to remain in the country to "amend their status" after the ministry sought the necessary approvals from its General Directorate of Investigation and the Public Authority of Manpower.

Applications are welcome for those wishing to settle their outstanding dues as of next week until April 22, providing employers drop their legal charges against the absent employee. Those who fall under this category should initially visit the General Authority of Manpower's Department of Labor Relations in order to

terminate the absence charges brought against them. Afterwards, they should head to the Ministry of Interior's Residency Affairs Department in their relevant governorate to settle their fines. The ministry went to urge those found in violation to grasp the opportunity granted by the initiative, and to do so with haste.

Smuggling foiled

Shuwaikh Port customs officers found 3,000 liquor bottles in a container, then an hour later, discovered another container with 5,208 bottles. Shuwaikh customs officers had suspicions over a container that arrived from a Gulf country with its load recorded as lumber. When the lumber was unloaded, a scan revealed the liquor stash. Then the second container was searched and the liquor was found.

Bad food destroyed

The Imported Food Department at the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition destroyed 366 kg of spoiled meat unfit for human consumption. It also destroyed 3,466 boxes of spoiled fruit. Director of the department Ali Al-Khanfour said that the meat was destroyed because laboratory tests showed it contained pork, in addition to 20 kg of mustard oil and 10 kg of chocolate. He said 3,266 boxes of oranges and 200 boxes of strawberries were also destroyed.

Vehicle found

A vehicle that belongs to a person reported missing was found near the Subbiya coastline, Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (KFSD) said. An intensive search by marine fire, backup, coastguard and interior minister choppers resulted in finding the vehicle in waters near the coast, but the driver was not found, KFSD

public relations department said in a statement. Search will continue until the missing man is found, the department added.

Deliveryman robbed

Jahra detectives are looking for five suspects who robbed a restaurant deliveryman and burned his motorcycle in Jahra. A security source said the incident took place in Na'em after the Egyptian man delivered a meal. He was held up by five unidentified persons, then two of them took the motorcycle aside and set it ablaze.

Farm fire

Firemen battled a blaze at a Wafra farm, which the owner had turned into a foam and wood warehouse. Wafra, Nuwaiseeb, backup and Fahaheel fire centers responded to a call and found the fire had destroyed a quantity of foam, fertilizer and boxes used for packing produce. No injuries were reported.

Drug possession

Police arrested four persons of different nationalities with possession of illicit substances in Hawally. Police suspected a car with four persons in it who looked abnormal, so they were asked to leave the car, which was searched and drugs were found. All four were sent to the Drugs Control General Department.

Doctor assaulted

An army officer insulted and beat a dentist at a medical center. The officer started a verbal exchange with the doctor, who left the clinic and claimed he was attacked by the officer. The officer said the doctor caused him severe pain while examining him and made him nervous.



KUWAIT: Bad food is loaded off of a truck to be destroyed after being confiscated during recent crackdowns in Kuwait.

local spotlight

Domestic violence



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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The family affairs committee is currently studying new amendments to the domestic violence law and will draft a final report before submitting it to the National Assembly for approval. The domestic violence law has penalties that vary according to the type of violence, whether verbal, physical or financial, with jail sentences that range from one to three years in prison and fines.

No one can deny that domestic violence has become a global social and psychological phenomenon that affects most societies today, whether advanced or developing societies like ours. But such abuse is more pronounced in extremist societies because of the wrong social upbringing that considers women merely as sex objects or second class citizens. I believe that the status of women in a society and their activities in society are measures of the health of the process of socialization.

Economic factors, for example, have a role in the spread of domestic violence, such as poverty and unemployment, but despite the multiple reasons, the negative impact falls on the female victim. This may result in losing child custody, drug dependence and depression, which may lead to suicide. Violence has become an issue that does not only affect a small number of people or families, but has a significant impact outside the walls of the house. This is why it is important to find the right solutions.

Sociologists say family violence is abuse within the family environment and any form of violence - whether verbal, physical, psychological, social or economic. It seems clear to all that domestic violence appears to be increasing and the family affairs committee is trying to reach what they think is a solution to end this condition. It is good that they are paying attention to this issue, although a recent proposal on the subject seemed strange to the local community and even controversial!

One of the new suggestions to the law is to punish any husband who takes a girlfriend (a mistress), with imprisonment for a period of not less than one month and not exceeding one year, or fines! This suggestion was a hit on social media and everyone had an opinion on it - some were supporters while others were not.

This proposal raised a lot of irony for several reasons. I think this clause will destroy the family by putting the husband in prison. This will lead directly to divorce and displacement of children, so how can the law achieve the goal of family protection? Many also ask about a woman who takes a boyfriend. Sending the father to prison will not restore the family's cohesion or provide safety to the wife or children, because this issue is a moral one. I don't think the law will stop a man from taking a mistress, but will lead to more divorces and fake accusations against husbands.

I believe we need an integrated national strategic plan by concerned authorities to study this serious phenomenon and its negative impact with the participation of academic institutions and administrative and legal bodies.

I see that there are many solutions better than jailing a man for having a girlfriend. Family-oriented dialogue programs can play an important role in raising awareness about the seriousness of domestic violence and the need to enhance the role of women in society and respect the rights and priorities of children and everyone else, including the man.

Another solution is to encourage the opening of counseling centers for families in most areas and health centers, as in developed countries, with a hotline in more than one foreign language or at least English alongside Arabic. The final report of the family affairs committee has not been issued yet, so time will tell which direction it will take.

Kuwait eyes better UN, Arab League cooperation

NEW YORK: The State of Kuwait said Friday it was looking forward to foster institutionalized cooperation between UN Security Council and Arab League, similar to that between UNSC on one side, and EU and African Union on the other. This came by Bader Al-Munayyeh, Kuwait's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, at a UNSC session where president of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) was briefing the council.

Kuwait, through its UNSC membership, was keen on seeing Arab League Secretary General briefed the Security Council on a yearly basis just like the OSCE President was doing, he said. Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano, whose country holds rotating OSCE presidency, was briefing the UNSC.

OSCE annual briefing, said Al-Munayyeh, reaffirmed the European organization's commitment to boost cooperation with the UN with the objective of maintaining international peace and security.

The UN is in need of support of regional organizations particularly amidst growing armed conflicts around the world, he said.

"It has become obvious that regional and sub-regional organizations are the best bodies, with less financial cost and manpower, to explain the real nature of conflicts," said Munayyeh. These organizations, he added, were also more capable of analyzing information related to regional peace and security.

The Kuwaiti diplomat said Arab countries, particularly those overlooking the Mediterranean, and OSCE shared com-



Bader Al-Munayyeh

mon concerns and challenges like illegal immigration, human trafficking, transnational organized crime, terrorism, extremism and racism. They also share hatred against foreigners and religions, said Munayyeh, who reaffirmed that violent extremism and terrorism posed threat to all values and cultures, not excluding any faith, gender, race or nationality.

"Violent extremism compel us to boost our cooperation and double our efforts to confront these challenges, as Kuwait is keen on promoting effectiveness of international cooperation in the face of violent extremism and terrorism, by compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions," he said.

The State of Kuwait, he went on, was keen on increasing cooperation with UN counter-terrorism strategy including UN Secretary General's plan to prevent violent extremism. OSCE is the largest regional security organization geographically because it encompasses European, Asian and Mediterranean countries, "which is adding a great value towards ... international peace and stability," he said.

Munayyeh explained pre-conflict criteria included early-warning, preventive diplomacy and scaling down intensity of conflict to contain it, with the objective of reaching a peace resolution and restoring peace. He hoped OSCE succeed in solving the conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh, Georgia, the Balkan and Eastern Ukraine, and that all parties complied with relevant UN resolutions and solve their differences through dialogue. — KUNA



Special security sector martyrs' tournament concludes

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The 8th special security sector martyrs' tournament concluded

Thursday under the patronage of Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt Gen Mahmoud Al-Dousary, while Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Special Security Affairs Maj Gen Shukri Al-Najjar, Director General of Facilities Security Brig Yousuf Al-Duraie and Specialized Training Center Director at Special Security Col Dakhil Al-Dakhil attended. The tournament, which was held at the special security forces camp, saw 18 sports competitions. The final football match was between the security and control team against the antiriot team, which won 4-1.

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