

Local



KUWAIT: Hundreds of people gathered at the Irada Square in front of the National Assembly yesterday to call upon His Highness the Amir to cancel their loans. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

Charity continues 'preserving food' campaign

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Kuwait Food Bank (KFB) continues its voluntary campaign 'Preserve it so that it lasts', organized in collaboration with various NGOs. A statement issued by the bank said that the campaign aims at preserving food and stopping or reducing wastage to protect the environment and public health. KFB added that the campaign involves boosting public awareness to spread the culture of preserving food and recycling it by collecting leftovers and feeding it to birds and animals and serv-

ing extra food to the needy, which are all means of expressing gratitude for the blessings we have. In addition, KFB explained that the campaign's name was set to make everyone positively take part in providing needy families with food, beverages and clothes, regardless of their religion, race or gender. KFB general manager Salem Al-Hamar extended the bank's congratulations on the occasion of the national anniversaries to the political leadership and the Kuwaiti people, and explained that the campaign aims at promoting the culture of only purchasing what we actually need and consume to avoid discarding extra food, which should be prepared and served to the needy. "The campaign also calls for having special containers for extra food in schools and houses," he added, reminding that 45 percent of the total waste in Kuwait is of food origin.

Road works force water cuts between Salwa, Funaitees

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Residents of areas between Salwa and Funaitees have been experiencing water shortages for the past two days. Some residential houses or buildings with only a few apartments and little consumption of water may have not noticed it, as water supply was cut for several hours, returned, then stopped again. Buildings with greater water usage were affected, as the water reserves in tanks were not enough for

the entire day for all the tenants. According to the emergency line of the Ministry of Electricity and Water, water cuts began on Wednesday in Funaitees, and later extended to Salwa. "The Ministry of Public Works asked our ministry to cut the water as they are working on road constructions, and it's difficult for them to complete their work without stopping the supply of water from the pipes underneath," the emergency hotline operator told Kuwait Times yesterday. He said that the center has received thousands of calls from various areas. "The route of the construction works is long and passes through many areas. It has caused inconvenience to many people, but they have to be patient. Water should be back by midnight," he said, adding further water cuts are not expected. He also advised buildings with a large number of tenants to buy water from tankers.

local spotlight

Violence against women



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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The phenomenon of domestic violence is not new to our societies, but it has become widespread. It has attracted the attention of psychologists and social activists in order to raise awareness about it, because of the negative effects on families and victims. This violence is not necessarily in the form of physical assault - it could be a verbal attack against the wife or children.

I was wondering where these women go. Some go to the police station, but their cases are resolved 'amicably' and the woman is sent back to the house of the violator. Naturally, these women face a problem, because they are subjected to more violence as a result of their reporting to the police. With further research, I discovered that many women are ignorant of their rights. Therefore, the establishment of a shelter for abused women to protect them and raise their awareness of their legal rights is very important.

It is regrettable that the perpetrators of this crime often find justifications for carrying it out. This problem has various factors and multiple causes, and talking about the causes and treatment is part of the solution. I believe domestic violence is offensive to all and must be addressed openly and clearly in a firm manner.

In the absence of many institutions that seek to preserve the dignity of abused women, a licensed volunteer group called Eithar Kuwait has appeared, which aims to combat violence against women in Kuwait. In 2017, the Fener Center was inaugurated by the minister of social affairs. It is affiliated to the supreme council for family affairs and specializes in communicating with victims of domestic violence.

But I do not know if the mission of this place has been accomplished. Studies have revealed that approximately 41 percent of married women suffer from marital violence, and the fear factor prevents them from reporting their husbands to police, in addition to customs and traditions. We are in 2019, where the world seeks to make women partners of men in all leadership positions, and violence against women is a step backwards in any society. I searched for the real number of abused women in Kuwait and discovered that this figure is not publicized. I think the reason is fear by the victim in reporting the person who has abused her.

Nov 25 is the day approved by the UN General Assembly to call for an end to violence against women. This day was not announced by the United Nations in vain, but to increase awareness of suffering of women and develop legal and therapeutic solutions, both medically and psychologically. But this day passed in Kuwait without any mention, except in Al-Qabas newspaper, which published a report with frightening figures of cases of violence against women, where the proportion of abused women was 53 percent. I understand that maybe the victims conceal their suffering and do not report it over fears of scandal or social anger against them. I wonder why this silence and indifference in dealing with a humanitarian issue, as if it is a normal thing. It is regrettable that domestic violence in macho societies is seen as acceptable, so it is necessary to activate the family protection law and recognize that domestic violence is a crime against women. We must raise our voices to protect these women.

Statistics from the United Nations show that violence affects 70 percent of women worldwide, but figures are not clear in Kuwait due to social barriers. I know that there is fear in Gulf societies to address this issue, and some consider a shelter as a step to subvert society by encouraging women to rebel. But women are like men - their human rights must not be harmed and silence is a crime against humanity. I hope the Human Rights Council and all women's rights activists publish new statistics on the subject and conduct more awareness campaigns for women.

News in brief

Labor transfer service online

KUWAIT: Director of the Public Authority for Manpower Ahmad Al-Moussa said that in a bid to facilitate services provided to businessmen, companies' labor transfer service will be available on the authority's website starting from today. — By Meshaal Al-Enezi

15 candidates apply

KUWAIT: Fifteen candidates submitted their applications for parliamentary by-elections yesterday, the 10th and final day of candidacy for the vote slated for March 16. Election affairs commission received applications of 15 candidates. They are running for two seats in the second and the third constituencies. The total number of the candidates reached 61, including five women. Yesterday, five candidates submitted applications to run for the second constituency and 10 others for the third constituency. — KUNA

Kuwait's religious expertise

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia is seeking to share expertise with Kuwaiti Islamic agencies, primarily Zakat House, said a Kuwaiti diplomat yesterday. The desire was reflected by the Malaysian side during a forum of ambassadors of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Malaysia Saad Al-Asousi said. He quoted the Malaysian side as speaking highly of Kuwait's religious experience, and requesting to capitalize on it. — KUNA

Kuwait denounces deadly attack

KUWAIT: Kuwait on Friday condemned an explosion that targeted a military convoy in Indian part of Kashmir, leaving scores of personnel dead or wounded. A source at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry rejected in a statement all forms of violence and terrorism, affirming the country's stand on India's side in facing such a criminal act. The source expressed condolences to families of the victims and wished the wounded quick recovery. Up to 40 personnel were killed in Thursday's bombing attack. — KUNA

Four hurt in Jahra restaurant explosion

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Four people were injured in an explosion reported in a Jahra restaurant. The four were treated onsite by paramedics, while firefighters put out the flames. An investigation was opened to reveal the



KUWAIT: Damage seen inside the Jahra restaurant following the explosion.



Damaged vehicles seen following a fire reported in Khaitan.

cause of the explosion. Meanwhile, six vehicles caught fire Friday morning in Khaitan. The fire started in one vehicle and spread to the others. Firemen from Farwaniya fire station responded led by Lt Colonel Khalid Kanaan. The fire was put out and no injuries were reported.

Separately, Wafra and Nuwaiseeb fire stations dealt with a blaze reported in labor residence in Wafra. The fire was in a chalet that belongs to a co-operative society. The flames were contained and extinguished, and no injuries were reported. In the meantime, fire broke out in an abandoned building within Jahra sports club, prompting Jahra fire station to respond with a team led by Lt Col Hisham Al-Bannai.



Flames seen inside a labor residence in Wafra.



A firefighter battles a blaze in a building within Jahra sports club.