

Local

Two Mangaf Co-op Society employees accused of embezzling KD 36,000

Initial approval to allow bedoons to perform hajj and umrah

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Manager of Mangaf Co-op Society Mohammed Al-Fadhli suspended two Egyptian employees and referred them to the public prosecution over charges of embezzling KD 36,000. Fadhli explained that one of the suspects was caught red-handed stealing goods worth KD 2,600 from the co-op's warehouses, adding that the suspect had also forged the signature of a supply company representative for goods returned to the supplier of a total value of KD 24,000. Fadhli said that further investigations revealed the involvement of another employee in one of the co-op's branches.

Hajj and umrah

Minister of Awqaf and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Fahd Al-Shola announced Saudi Arabia's initial approval to allow bedoons (stateless) to perform hajj and umrah. Shola added that the ministry is keen on facilitating bedoons' hajj and umrah and that he had contacted his Saudi counterpart in this regard. He added that he

ordered rehiring bedoons who had been terminated from the ministry. Shola noted that he will preside over the first meeting of the supreme planning committee on Jan 28 to discuss various related concerns.

Allowances' demands
Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW)



Injured footballer flown to US

machinery technicians at the main power plants again demanded noise and pollution allowances like those given to peers working in other govern-

mental bodies. Notably, MEW's assistant under-secretary for grids Jassem Al-Nouri had contacted the ministry's administrative affairs department asking it to contact the Civil Service Commission (CSC) in this regard in April, but the allowances were not approved although the technicians are subject to pollution, noise and toxic gases in oil facilities and industrial areas. In another concern, MEW listed a new water supply project in this year's fiscal plan with the aim of improving water storage capacity at Doha water plant, adding the total daily capacity to 220 million imperial gallons by the end of 2021.

Medical evacuation plane

Jahra sports club's media coordinator Saleh Al-Jenfawi said His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak instructed Health Minister Dr Basel Al-Sabah to follow up on the condition of the club's football player Saad Al-Waleed, who is suffering from quadriplegia after being injected at a private hospital to treat a neck disc problem, and provide a medical evacuation plane to fly him to the US for treatment.



Legalese

Freedom of speech



By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

Freedom of speech is a principle that has been discussed on multiple occasions in Kuwait. In fact, Kuwait has been the center of attention when it comes to freedom of speech in the MENA region, as we have always had and continue to have more rights than our neighbors when it came to expressing our opinion. But what does freedom of speech mean? Freedom of speech is an idea that a person or a group of people can express their opinions and ideas without the fear or being punished or condemned. The constitution of Kuwait states in Article 36: "Freedom of opinion and scientific research is guaranteed."

Tweeting

Question: Recently a famous personality was coming to Kuwait but he was stopped because so many people tweeted against him. Wouldn't these people get punished or are their tweets criminalized?

Fajer: It depends what they were tweeting. If they were just expressing their opinion that they did not want to attend this person's music

“ Freedom of opinion and scientific research is guaranteed ”

show, that's fine. But if they tweeted accusing this person of a certain trait, or questioned this person's ethics, or cursed the organizers, then yes, they can be punished depending on what has been tweeted and the damage of that tweet.

Retweeting

Question: I have read that there is a new law where the person retweeting is not responsible anymore for that retweet - only the person that tweeted a criminalized tweet is to be punished.

Fajer: It is not a new law but officials have stated that they will no longer punish those who are retweeting a tweet for the words included in the tweet. I am yet to see a judgment to such an effect and my opinion is that this defeats the purpose of the law. If someone tweets a tweet that is illegal in Kuwait and someone else retweets it, then we are spreading those words.

I am a strong believer in freedom of speech and believe that people should have the right to tweet whatever they want, but I really hope that we can all be kind to each other and not project our opinions on others. Whether punishable by law or not, let's proudly own our social media pages and use our words wisely - let's be kind, let's inspire others.

For questions or queries, please email us at info@tl-legal.com.

Kuwait marks 28th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm



KUWAIT: On the morning of January 17, 1991, warplanes and helicopters of a UN-authorized international coalition launched massive air attacks on Iraqi targets to signal the start of a military campaign, code-named Operation Desert Storm, to evict Iraqi forces out of Kuwait. The operation came after the failure of all diplomatic means to persuade Iraq to pullout troops and end illegal occupation of Kuwait which started on 2 August, 1990.

On the same day of the Iraqi invasion, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), upon a request from Kuwait and the United States, held an emergency meeting to discuss the Iraqi move and passed Resolution 660 condemning the invasion and demanding Iraq withdraw immediately and unconditionally to positions as they were on August first, 1990. On November 29, 1990, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 678 which gave Iraq until January 15, 1991 to withdraw from Kuwait and empowered states to use 'all necessary means' to force Iraq out of Kuwait after the deadline. Three days before the end of the UN ultimatum to Iraq, the US Congress passed on 12 January a joint resolution authorizing the use of US military force to expel Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

1,200 sorties

In the first day of Operation Desert Storm, the coalition jets conducted 1,200 sorties, including 302 by Saudi and Kuwait aircraft, destroying almost half of the Iraqi airpower. The US aircraft carriers launched 100 Tomahawk missiles against Iraqi sites and forces in Iraq and Kuwait. US F-17 aircraft struck numerous targets in Baghdad and hit Iraqi communication networks. British Tornado bombers attacked Iraqi airports, and French and Italian jetfighters pounded the Iraqi missile launching sites. Kuwaiti fighters attacked Iraqi targets inside Kuwait.

After suppressing the Iraqi air defenses and communication centers, the coalition aircraft bombed Iraq's Scud missile launchers, military research centers, navy ships, and forces inside Kuwait. Later, the coalition forces struck Iraq's TV and Radio build-



ing and started throwing circulars on Iraqi forces demanding them to quit the battlefield or surrender to the coalition forces. On February 22, Iraq agreed on a Soviet Union proposal for withdrawing forces from Kuwait in three weeks under the supervision of the United Nations, but the US rejected it and announced 24 hours ultimatum to Iraqi forces to completely pullout of Kuwait or face a ground operation.

Ground operation

On February 24, the ground operation commenced when coalition forces advanced and attacked Iraqi forces in Kuwaiti cities and in southern Iraq. The United States had contributed 1,800 jetfighters, 1,700 helicopters and 100 warships including six aircraft carriers to the international coalition for the liberation of Kuwait. Nearly 500,000 American personnel participated in

Kuwait's liberation war, making up almost two thirds of the total number of the coalition forces, estimated at 750,000. The Arab forces in the coalition were estimated at 200,000 and the British and French forces were 30,000 and 13,000 respectively.

Kuwait's air forces had played a significant role in the liberation war as it assumed the responsibility of attacking Iraqi forces inside Kuwait in an effort to protect Kuwaiti people's valuable possessions. It also targeted airports used by Iraqi forces, artillery sites and Iraqi forces assembly areas. On February 26, at dawn, the Iraqi army started pullout from Kuwait after setting ablaze Kuwaiti oilfields. On February 27, 1991, US President George HW Bush announced end of the military campaign and the liberation of Kuwait after 100 hours from the start of the ground operation. — KUNA



News in brief

Kuwait repatriates 484 Filipino children

KUWAIT: After the Philippines said it will assist Filipino children born out of wedlock abroad, an official at the embassy in Kuwait said 484 such children were repatriated to Manila last year, adding that this was done in cooperation with Kuwaiti interior ministry.

Seven hours

The social affairs ministry said decision no. 2/2018 of the Civil Service Commission which set working hours from 8 am to 3 pm will be implemented from Sunday. But the workers' union at the ministry said the decision by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) is not fair and doesn't consider employees' circumstances. It said that it consulted ministry undersecretary, who promised to contact the CSC to reconsider its decision.

Expats' camping

An official source at Kuwait Municipality said the spring camping committee reconsidered the mechanism of granting licenses to expatriates, by allowing the expat to book, then refer to the Municipality to complete the procedures with undertaking from the sponsor. The source said field tours revealed that many camps are registered in the names of Asians who do not know what goes on inside, so patrols were increased in all governorates. He said the spread of liquor and immoral acts are not limited to unlicensed camps, but also include the licensed ones, which calls for security action besides municipal efforts.

Forgery suspects arrested

Residency Affairs detectives arrested three people (Pakistani, Indian and Bangladeshi) for forging driving licenses, civil IDs and official documents. Ready IDs and forging equipment were found with them. The suspects were charging large amounts of money for their work.

Smuggling foiled

Airport customs officers arrested an Indian man with 38 joints of cannabis weighing 250 gm. They also arrested a citizen who arrived from the US with a marijuana joint. Both were sent to concerned authorities. Meanwhile, Abdaly customs officers foiled a Syrian driver's attempt to smuggle 8,000 Captagon tablets, and he was sent to the drugs control general department. Officers found the illicit tablets in four rolls hidden under the fan in a highly professional manner.

Salmiya brawl

Police broke up a fight between two citizens over a girl and each smashed the window of the other's car. Police received a call about the fight on Salmiya's restaurants street, so they went there and controlled the two, who were competing for a girl's attentions. Both face legal action.

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