

Local

# Five fire stations battle blaze at Shuwaikh Industrial shop

## Police investigate box containing stolen firearm and ammo

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Agencies

**KUWAIT:** Firemen from five different fire stations tackled a blaze reported at a sea equipment company in Shuwaikh Industrial yesterday. Firemen put out the blaze that was in a warehouse and carpentry shop. The incident did not cause any injuries, and investigations are underway to determine the cause of the fire.

### Child drowns

A seven-year-old child drowned in a swimming pool in the chalets area, Al-Rai reported yesterday. A Kuwaiti man informed Mina Abdullah police about the incident, so an ambulance was dispatched. The child was rushed to hospital, but was pronounced dead on arrival. A case was filed for investigations.

### Stolen firearm

State security are interrogating a driver from Burkina Faso who was put into trouble by an unidentified person, who asked him to deliver a box containing a firearm, 60 rounds

and two magazines that were stolen from a military establishment, reported Al-Rai. A man handed a box to the driver in Fahd Al-Ahmad and told him he must take it to the weapons detectives department, and told him it contains food. When he arrived at the department, he did not find the man whose name he was given, so he called the man who gave him the box, but his phone was switched off. The driver took the parcel to his house and opened it, but found a locked box inside, so he went to the police and told them what happened. The investigator referred the matter to the explosives department, whose men found the pistol and the rounds. Investigations are underway to identify the man who handed the box to the driver.

### Sexual assault

A Tunisian woman found screaming was the only way to seek help against a worker at a health club who groped her, reported Al-Rai. The woman was surprised by the man approaching her and putting his hand on her body, so she

screamed, prompting him to escape. She went to the police station and lodged a complaint.

### Theft accusations

A Kuwaiti woman accused her friend of stealing an expensive watch when she visited her, Al-Rai reported yesterday. The woman discovered her watch was missing when her friend left, so she called her and asked about the watch, but she denied stealing the watch and insulted her. Police are investigating. Meanwhile, a Kuwaiti woman accused a flight attendant of stealing £7,500 while she was going for treatment in London. The woman said she fell asleep onboard the flight, and there was a flight attendant next to her. When she left the airport, she did not find the wallet which contained the £7,500 among other things. She said Heathrow airport authorities said the theft must have happened on the aircraft as their investigations did not reveal anything at the airport. The flight attendant was summoned to Jleeb police station and was released on a KD 200 bail.



Firemen fighting the blaze.

### Legalese

## Sick leaves

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed



Dealing with medical issues is tough as it is. I hope all my readers are enjoying good health, both physical and emotional, but if for some reason you have to deal with medical issues, here are a few things to keep in mind that are commonly asked.

**Question: How many days of medical leave am I entitled to? Is it true that it is just 15 days a year? And how do I prove that I am unwell?**

According to the labor law, an employee shall be entitled to the following:

- First 15 days of sick leave - at full pay
- Additional 10 days - at three quarters of the pay
- Additional 10 days - at half pay
- Additional 10 days - at quarter pay
- Additional 30 days without pay.

Article 69 goes on to state the following: The worker shall provide a medical report from the doctor appointed by the employer or the doctor of the government medical center. In the event of conflict regarding the necessity of a sick leave or its duration, the report of the government doctor shall be adopted. Incurable diseases shall be excluded pursuant to a resolution issued by the competent minister, in which he shall specify the types of incurable diseases.

With that said, every company has a different process for dealing with medical leaves, so it is important for you to check your company's policies. A mistake that I see many expats make is that because they do not feel well, they do not go to work, but also do not notify their workplace. I understand that you may need to take long times off work for emergencies and that it might not always be easy to bring in the paperwork for the sick leave or a report, but it is still important to do it. If you are away from work for a while without informing your employer, you might be considered as retired or absconding.

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

## AUB sets up booth at manpower authority

**KUWAIT:** In its commitment to support the Kuwaitization efforts, Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced the organization of a booth at the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) headquarter in Al-Rigai on Monday, in a step to attract and qualify promising national human resources and support Kuwaiti youths seeking outstanding job opportunities in the banking sector. Representatives of Ahli United Bank Human Resources Department were present at the bank's booth, highlighting the bank's employment policy and providing job hunters with extensive knowledge about the bank's job opportunities.

Commenting on this initiative, which reflects the bank's efforts to recruit qualified national human resources, Naqeeb Amin, Human Resources General Manager at the bank, said: "We are keen to organize the bank's booth at PAM to serve as an interactive platform for Kuwaiti cadres wishing to communicate directly with private employers in a pragmatic and realistic environment." He pointed out that the presence of AUB through its booth in PAM headquarter is an effective way to recruit national talents capable of enriching the bank's mechanism and work system to develop its human resources and prepare national leaders



Naqeeb Amin makes his presentation.

able to complete the development journey and maintain the bank's leading position.

Amin stressed AUB's commitment towards empowering Kuwaiti youth and promoting Kuwaitization efforts in the banking sector, confirming that the bank's management believes that investing in promising national human capital has become a matter of urgency for the institutions that aspire more success, adding that Kuwait, undoubtedly, is full of qualified talents and is very willing to join the labor market and engage in various economic institutions including banking institutions. "These talents have a significant role in contributing to raising the productive efficiency of the private sector, which has a key role to play in the country's development process," he said. Amin expressed his sincere thanks to PAM officials, stressing that AUB is keen to take advantage of all opportunities that allow it to meet the national talents and attract them to join AUB family.



KUWAIT: AUB's Naqeeb Amin with a number of Public Authority for Manpower managers.

### News in brief

#### Panel slams govt hiring policies

**KUWAIT:** The parliament's budgets committee said that employment mechanisms are based on an unsound basis, pointing to the government's inability to operate its projects by its employees, and that it signs contracts with companies to run them and they do not commit to employing Kuwaitis. Committee Chairman Adnan Abdulsamad said the average monthly wage of an employee at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation is KD 7,177, compared to KD 1,493 per month for employees in other sectors. — Al-Qabas

#### 2.6 percent expat employees

**KUWAIT:** Commerce and Industry Minister Khaled Al-Roudhan said the Public Authority for Industry has the least number of expatriate employees among state departments, with only 2.6 percent of the total number of workers being foreigners. The minister, in an answer to a parliamentary question, said the total number of employees at the authority is 1,047, 1,020 of whom are Kuwaiti (96.4 percent) and 27 non-Kuwaiti (2.6 percent). — Al-Rai

#### Rain damage

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Public Works faces more than 200 cases filed against it by Kuwaitis who were affected by the November rain deluge, yet it won a large number of them, according to the undersecretary for administrative, financial and legal affairs Hamad Al-Ghareeb. He said the ministry will complete its legal procedures towards the cases, adding that the ruling in favor of a citizen whose car was submerged to pay him KD 20,000 may be a first instance ruling, and it will appeal as soon as it reaches the ministry. He said tens of similar cases were filed against the ministry, but it won most of them. — Al-Rai

#### Palestinians' support

**GENEVA:** Kuwait is a major proponent of the International Labor Organization's (ILO) endeavors in Palestinian territories, its permanent delegate to the UN Jamal Al-Ghunaim said yesterday. The Kuwaiti diplomat's remarks came after an encounter with ILO's Director General Guy Ryder, where they held talks over bilateral ties. The bulk of financial aid the ILO receives from Kuwait is allocated for projects in Palestinian territories, said the envoy, which is crucial given the hardships Palestinians have had to withstand. — KUNA

## New detour in Kuwait City

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** A detour will be opened on Saturday behind Al-Sanabel Tower in Kuwait City, going by Shaaban Mosque, a Public Authority for Roads and Transportation source said, noting that the opening will be held in cooperation

with the interior ministry's general traffic department. The project was done as part of the second stage of the First Ring Road development project. The detour links Abdullah Al-Ahmad Street with Abdullah Al-Mubarak Street, and Abdullah Al-Mubarak Street with Ahmad Al-Jaber Street, the source said.



KUWAIT: A Kuwait Times tour in Jahra around 2:00 pm yesterday revealed that most construction projects were complying with the ban on outdoor labor during the day, contrary to what has been detected in sites located in other governorates around the country. — Photos by Ben Garcia

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