

Local

Seven people injured in Jaber Causeway traffic accident

Three buses set ablaze in Fahaheel

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Meshal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Seven people were injured in a traffic accident along Jaber Causeway, said security sources. Five of the injured were rushed to Sabah Hospital for treatment, including a 25-year-old Kuwaiti who had to be medevacked due to serious head injuries and need for intensive care, while two others were taken to Jahra Hospital. Meanwhile, an investigation was opened to reveal the circumstances behind the accident.

Fahaheel fire

Three buses parked in an open yard in Fahaheel caught fire, said security sources, noting that firemen from Fahaheel fire station rushed to the scene and managed to control the blaze without any casualties. Further investigations are in progress to determine the cause of the fire.

Fire engine's insurance

Upon direct instructions from Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh, a tender was offered for public bidding to provide full insurance for all Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) vehicles and machinery against road accidents. KFSD's public relations and media department explained that in view of the dangers firemen face while reporting to duty and the need to

immediately respond to various calls, 468 vehicles had been insured against road accidents to cover all damages as well as 100 percent compensation for injuries to firemen.

Souq Mubarakiya inspection

Capital municipality inspectors, led by Hassan Al-Kandari, inspected various stores at Souq Mubarakiya



KFSD offers tender for full insurance

and filed 15 warning notices to remove violations. Kandari said that his team exerts huge efforts to execute a comprehensive plan to achieve full control over various stores and construction companies working at the site. Kandari added that inspection campaigns will continue to make sure store owners comply with the warnings and remove violations.



KUWAIT: Buses heavily damaged by a fire reported in Fahaheel.



Local Spotlight

No singles



By Muna Al-Fuzal

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If you are married, then this article will not be of interest to you. It is about every person who is destined to be in Kuwait and his social status is that of a "bachelor". This bachelor might be divorced or married in his country or single, but he lives alone in Kuwait, or is a Kuwaiti who wants to live separately from the family. These are people of different social statuses, as not everyone has to be married with kids. But, what I think is not related, as a decision has been taken and implemented.

It is clear that the Municipality and all concerned parties agree that unmarried people in private areas are not wanted and a mechanism has been defined in coordination and cooperation between the Municipality, the environment police and the ministry of electricity and water to control this issue. Also, legal measures have been decided - to impose environmental fines for damage to the infrastructure of services and the breaching of security and social aspects.

One of the measures is to speed up the process of power cuts by the ministry of electricity and water after issuing an ultimatum to the landlord to evacuate bachelors from his property. Real estate owners have been warned against attempting to install mobile generators after the power cuts.

Now that the decision has been taken, I really wonder what the alternatives are for these people. If the state decides to expel and prevent any single person from renting in private housing because he is a moral hazard and a threat, what is the alternative? Labor cities, maybe?!

The Municipality has told the media about procedures taken in cooperation with other government bodies to evict "bachelors" from private and model residence areas. There were previous government recommendations to allocate land to build temporary residences for company workers. The Cabinet asked the Public Authority for Manpower to coordinate with all government authorities to allow contracted companies to provide suitable residences for their workers within the area allocated for the project, until the labor cities are ready.

I accept this, but how about waiting until these labor cities are ready to take all those workers, instead of kicking them out now? And where are the workers' cities? Are they ready to be the ideal alternative for single men? What are the conditions and specifications of these labor cities? Are they suitable for simple, low-income workers, or senior executives, for example? Is there a fee to rent there or is it free? Or the rent is paid by the companies that employ these workers?

Also, I suppose all services are available in these labor cities - a medical clinic, a pharmacy and public services, from public transport to taxis, because they may be far from the city. All these questions I consider as intuitive. Suitable alternative housing should be provided for singles expelled from their residences or unable to obtain housing even with the consent of the owner, who may see a person as respected and financially capable of renting, but the law prevents him because it sees this single person as a security risk even if he hasn't even committed a traffic violation all his life. But this is the reality.

I think images of single men sleeping on the street or in their cars are unacceptable. No one talks about the role of the companies where these men work, because they are supposed to provide accommodation for them before bringing them to Kuwait. This is an issue that needs to be resolved.

Power to be connected to West Abdullah Al-Mubarak homes

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) is scheduled to start the first phase of connecting power to plots in West Abdullah Al-Mubarak by the

end of this month, with the second phase in Feb 2020 and the third in June 2020. In this regard, informed sources said Minister of State for Housing Affairs Jenan Bushehri is considering issuing a decision to put on hold the deduction of Kuwait Credit Bank installments from citizens residing in West Abdullah Al-Mubarak until power is connected to their houses and drainage systems are operational in the area.

Notably, a number of the area's residents had urged Bushehri to continue paying their rent allowances and postpone deducting the Credit Bank loan installments until power is connected to their houses. Meanwhile, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare stressed that the first phase of Mutlaa city (12,177 units) will be ready in December, while the second phase comprising of 16,111 plots will be completed by April 2020.

Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Award launches program's 2nd edition

KUWAIT: His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award has launched its second session of the 'Fundamentals of Digital Manufacturing' program at Kuwait College of Science and Technology, said the Award's Chairman of the Higher Organizing Committee Bassam Al-Shammari. In a press statement yesterday, Shammari said that the Award has achieved great successes in the implementation of its development goals, pointing out that the 19th session will launch within its activities program tomorrow evening at the faculty of science and technology to train 100 innovators between the ages of 9 and 16 years.

Shammari stressed the importance of human development in the field of informatics, especially that the New Kuwait Vision 2035 depends on seven pillars, the most important of which are human capital and

knowledge economy, pointing out that the program aims to promote the digital industry through a specialized training course that will continue over a month. The Academy of Informatics comes within the strategy of the award (2015-2020) aimed at supporting digital transitions in the fields of knowledge and economy and seeks through this program to qualify and develop the skills of young people from the national foresight to lead the desired digital transformation in Kuwait. He also stressed the importance of the IT Academy, which is concerned with education and technical training, which contributes to achieving the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to transform Kuwait into a financial and commercial global center. — KUNA



His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award



KUWAIT: Kuwait National Guard (KNG) recently celebrated the graduation of KNG officers from a training course held jointly with the Chinese People's Armed Police Force. KNG Protection and Reinforcement Commander Staff Brigadier General Hamad Salem Ahmad, Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Li Minggang and other officials attended the graduation ceremony.

News in brief

Amir congratulates Egypt on anniversary

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a congratulatory cable to Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi on the 46th anniversary of the 6th of October war. In the cable, His Highness Sheikh Sabah noted the heroic Egyptian victory in the war, adding that the fight also represented the strong Kuwaiti-Egyptian ties as Kuwait's army stood side by side with Egypt's army in the war. His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent similar cables to President Sisi. — KUNA

Amir receives call from UN chief

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a telephone call from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. During the call, the UN chief reassured about His Highness the Amir's health and medical check-ups, which were successful. He wished His Highness the Amir everlasting well-being and good health. The UN chief also expressed his great pride for the distinguished historical ties between Kuwait, and the UN and its different organizations. He appreciated His Highness the Amir's pioneering role towards all regional and international issues. Guterres also lauded His Highness the Amir's support for humanitarian action, and restoring and maintaining regional stability as well as seeking to achieve the common goals in advancing peace and security in the region and beyond. His Highness the Amir thanked the UN chief for these good sentiments and this initiative, wishing him good health. — KUNA

Kuwaitis urged to avoid Iraq

KUWAIT: An official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cautioned Kuwaiti nationals against travel to the sisterly Republic of Iraq at present due to the ongoing turmoil there. The official also called on the Kuwaitis living in Iraq to leave back home as early as possible or take the necessary precautions, including keeping away from sites of protests, until they are able to leave. In case of any emergency, the Kuwaiti nationals there are well advised to contact their embassy in Baghdad or the general consulate in Basra via the phone number: 009647828444666, the source added. — KUNA

Stranded Kuwaitis in Cyprus

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah discussed over the phone the issue of the Kuwaiti nationals held in Cyprus with his Cypriot counterpart Nikos Christodoulides. The Kuwaiti nationals were prevented from leaving Cyprus following a quarrel took place between them and others. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled expressed his appreciations to the cooperation of Cypriot authorities to secure the release of the Kuwaitis. He wished the Cypriot authorities would facilitate their travel procedures after settling the case legally. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled voiced his respect to Cypriot judiciary. Christodoulides meanwhile expressed his readiness to follow up the issue with the concerned bodies and to allow the Kuwaiti nationals to depart Cyprus soon. — KUNA