

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian GulfTHE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYANEditor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYANEDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24833199 Extn. 125
COMMERCIAL : 24835618
P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
Email: info@kuwaittimes.com
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Human trafficking suspect paid 'huge bribe' to leave Kuwait: Report

Sabah health zone fire under control after 40 hours

KUWAIT: As the criminal court set the first hearing in the case filed against a Bangladeshi lawmaker and others accused of human trafficking, Bangladeshi criminal investigators leaked the details of investigations conducted with suspect A Hussein (aka Sirajuddin), about whom Al-Rai had written on August 20 as one of the main suspects detained in Kuwait.

However, Sirajuddin managed to flee Kuwait. According to Bangladeshi newspaper Dhaka Tribune and during investigations conducted with him in Bangladesh, he claimed that he paid a huge bribe to Kuwaiti immigration investigation officials who helped him flee Kuwait after the Bangladeshi lawmaker was arrested with six others on June 6, 2020.

Sirajuddin told his interrogators that he had been detained in Kuwait after the Bangladeshi MP was arrested. He was then released on bail along with two other leaders of the human trafficking network pending further legal action, but then disappeared.

The suspect added that with the help of immigration investigation officials whom he bribed with a large sum of money, he managed to fly back to Bangladesh despite not having any passport or other legal documents. He explained that the bribed Kuwaiti officials arranged to switch off CCTV surveillance cameras on his path to board a plane at Kuwait International Airport.

Bangladeshi criminal investigation officials told the newspaper that they are currently working on investigating how Sirajuddin and two other suspects managed to enter Bangladesh through Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka. Notably, Bangladeshi criminal investigators had arrested Sirajuddin in August based on information provided by their Kuwaiti peers, as he is one of the major associates of the detained Bangladeshi MP.

Health zone fire

Following up on the fire that recently broke out in a parking building in Sabah health zone, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) sources said it took around 300 firefighters, of whom 55 were injured, some 40 hours to control the fire. The sources added that firefighting teams have started final inspections of the building to make sure the fire is completely put out and that investigations are in progress to determine the cause of the fire pending referring the final report to relevant authorities soon.

The sources explained that the construction contractors had taken advantage of the lockdown during the coronavirus crisis and used the parking building - comprising of two basements and ground, first and second floors - to store construction materials, tools and sanitary ware, dividing the parking lot into storage sections, which impeded firefighters' efforts. The sources added that the building is still in the contractor's custody and that he had not turned it over to MoH or KFSD, which means that they are not responsible for the building.

Stabbing suspect at large

A search is on for a young man who stabbed two brothers inside their diwaniya in Sabahiya before fleeing the scene, Al-Rai reported quoting security sources. Case papers said police detectives and paramedics rushed to the scene on receiving a report about the incident. The two brothers received medical treatment, while a third brother told detectives that a friend with whom they had a disagreement barged into the diwaniya waving a knife, which he used to stab his brothers before fleeing the scene. In a separate case, two Kuwaitis settled a dispute by stabbing each other in Salihiya, said security sources.

noting one of them fled the scene and the other rushed to a hospital to get a medical report about his injuries and filed a complaint. A case was filed and a search is on for the other suspect.

Landmine found

Kuwait Army explosive experts blew up an old landmine found near Sulaibiya farms only 300 m away from the main road, said security sources, noting that further inspection of the surrounding area is in progress to make sure no more landmines are buried there. Meanwhile, an interior ministry bomb squad was dispatched to deal with an RPG shell and dozens of bullets found by a worker at the Shadadiya university project site along Mutlaa highway, said security sources, noting that the ammunition had been left over by invading Iraqi troops. Separately, Mubarak Al-Kabeer hazardous substances combat teams managed to control a diesel leak after a fuel tanker turned over along King Fahd Highway, injuring the driver.

Landlord, tenant dispute

A Kuwaiti tenant filed a complaint against his landlord accusing him of banging his door and threatening to break it down due to some disagreements between them. The tenant added that when he told the house owner that he will call Rawda police, the latter insulted him and dared him to do so. A case was filed and the owner is being summoned for further investigations.

Deadly accident

A Pakistani ready mix truck driver was killed when he lost control over his truck and it turned over along Nuwaiseeb road.



Jason Khai Phan

US service member dies in accident

KUWAIT: A US service member has died in a non-combat incident at an air base in Kuwait, the US Department of Defense announced Sunday.

Senior Airman Jason Khai Phan, assigned to the 66th Security Forces Squadron at Hanscom Air Force Base in Massachusetts died Saturday in "a single-vehicle, non-combat related accident while conducting a routine patrol outside the perimeter of Ali Al Salem Air Base," according to a release.

Two other airmen were injured in the same accident: both were sent to a medical facility at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, with "non-life-threatening injuries," according to military releases.

Phan, 26, from Anaheim, California, was supporting Operation Inherent Resolve, the US Defense Department's campaign against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. According to Hanscom officials, his work while deployed included helping with preliminary criminal investigations, supporting base security, rendering emergency first aid and other base support functions.

Two perish in Wafra blaze

KUWAIT: Two people died in a fire that broke out in a workers' residence in a Wafra farm at dawn yesterday. Firefighters from the Nuwaiseeb and Wafra fire stations responded and put out the blaze, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate said in a press statement. The bodies of the two Asian men were taken to the coroner for an autopsy. Meanwhile, an investigation was opened into the case.



KUWAIT TIMES
THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

STAY CONNECTED

• Read Kuwait Times now on your phone for **FREE**

• Send Subscribe to **+965 944 88888**

• Enjoy the first daily paper in Kuwait on your phone

P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait
Tel: 24833199 - 24833358 - 24835616/7 | Fax: 24835620 - 24835621
E: info@kuwaittimes.net

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry recently conducted an inspection tour at markets and shops in Fahaheel to monitor prices.

In my view

Let us eliminate the burning stick



By Abdellatif Sharaa

local@kuwaittimes.com

I must start right away by saying that smoking tobacco is harmful, dangerous and fatal in many different ways regardless of its type, form, full strength, light, etc. All tobacco is bad. Many out there will say we already know that it is harmful and many of them are smokers who might skip a meal but never a cigarette! Allow me here to say that such smokers are slaves to this burning stick and are in its control.

I had a chance to work in the field of fighting smoking, during which I met many people, young and old, women and men, and yes children only 13 and 14 years old who were smoking. The majority of them claimed they wanted to quit smoking, but very few actually did, as most of them could not kick the habit. I cannot describe to you how horrible was the cough of some of the children I dealt with because of smoking. Here is what the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says about the adverse effects of smoking regarding cardiovascular diseases:

Smokers are at greater risk for diseases that affect the heart and blood vessels (cardiovascular disease).

- Smoking causes stroke and coronary heart disease, which are among the leading causes of death in the United States.

- Even people who smoke fewer than five cigarettes a day can have early signs of cardiovascular disease.

- Smoking damages blood vessels and can make them thicken and grow narrower. This makes your heart beat faster and your blood pressure go up. Clots can also form.

- A stroke occurs when:
 - A clot blocks blood flow to part of your brain;
 - A blood vessel in or around your brain bursts.
- Blockages caused by smoking can also reduce blood flow to your legs and skin.

Smoking can cause lung disease by damaging your airways and the small air sacs (alveoli) found in your lungs.

- Lung diseases caused by smoking include COPD, which includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis.

- Cigarette smoking causes most cases of lung cancer. If you have asthma, tobacco smoke can trigger an attack or make an attack worse.

- Smokers are 12 to 13 times more likely to die from COPD than nonsmokers.

Believe me, these are just few things smoking cause. Actually what prompted me to write about this is that there are some prominent companies in the tobacco field who are now directly or indirectly saying that smoking is bad and harmful by introducing new forms of smoking or nicotine delivery devices into the body, but for me smoking or anything close to it is smoking and harmful.

A personal note - my father was a heavy smoker, and smoked for many years. He was healthy and active until one day he was diagnosed with ischemia, which is a condition of narrowing of the arteries, and had to undergo bypass surgery, which was a major thing at the time. He suffered a lot and passed away, all because of smoking.

Please, for the sake of yourself, and for those who love you: Stop smoking!