

Crime

Report

CHILD STUCK IN WASHING MACHINE FREED

**KUWAIT:** A fireman helped free a child who got stuck in a washing machine in a Saad Al-Abdallah house. A security source said that family members were sleeping but woke when they heard the child's screams and could not free him. The child was not harmed.

Bomb hoax caller wanted

Jahra police are looking for a caller who told operations that three persons were carrying explosives, then when they called back his phone was switched off. The man told them the explosives were with an Egyptian, Syrian and a bedoon in Qaser area. When police went to the area they did not find anything.

Midnight rapist story questioned

Farwaniya prosecutor ordered a Filipina in her 40s be examined by a doctor to determine whether her claims are true. A security source said that the Filipina told Jleeb police that she was awakened when an unknown person with a knife came into her room while she was sleeping, raped her and then left, stealing her iPhone 6 before escaping. She said he may have snuck in through an open window. Police are investigating.

Woman's body sent to coroner

The body of a woman in her thirties was sent to the coroner to determine the exact cause of the death, as her brothers brought her to Jahra hospital. Her two brothers are being questioned over the case.

'Souq Al-Haramiya' busted

Farwaniya police launched a large scale campaign against a popular market used by expats to sell spoiled vegetables, expired food and other items. The souq is popularly called 'Souq Al-Haramiya' or thieves market because sometimes items put for sale would be stolen from their original owners. The campaign lasted three hours in Hasawi area. —Al-Anbaa

VIVA ANNOUNCES STARTUPQ8 WEEKEND COMPETITION

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced its sponsorship for StartupQ8 Weekend competition, part of the Startup Weekend global competition powered by 'Google for Entrepreneurs', specialized in technology, starting from Thursday, September 17 until Saturday, September 19.

The Startup Weekend Kuwait competition is one of the biggest startup competitions in the GCC. Teams have 54 hours (from Thursday to Saturday) to come up with an idea for an e-business such as an application or website, form a team, build a prototype, and present it in front of the judges and audience.

Participants can be programmers, designers, marketers, or general business people. Participants can either come with a team, or form a team with other participants at the start of the competition. There will be over 20 teams participating in the competition this year.

Abdulrazzaq Bader Al-Essa, Director of Corporate Communications at VIVA, said: "VIVA's sponsorship of this program stems from its belief in startups and investing in the intellectual capabilities of young men and women in Kuwait, and its responsibility by supporting them with the tools they require to make their projects successful."

There are valuable prizes for the first three winners, including a money reward and other non-financial prizes and rewards. The winning team will also get a chance to continue working on their idea and turn into a real business. During the competition, there will be mentors and experts from different fields to help the teams.

Startup Weekend is a non-profit organization, and the entire competition is organized by volunteers in Kuwait. Registering and participating in the event is free for everyone. To register and find out more, visit [www.SWKuwait.com](http://www.SWKuwait.com).

BACHELORS' AREAS INSPECTED AHEAD OF ASHURA

**KUWAIT:** Sources said higher officials at Kuwait Municipality ordered inspections in parts of Salmiya and Rumaithiya, especially where bachelors are concentrated, as a precautionary measure for any emergency during Ashoura activities. The sources said some Rumaithiya residents have complained several times about the increase of bachelors in their area and their usage of available services. They said some property owners rent annexes to bachelors, ignoring the municipality law that bans bachelors from residing in private and model residential areas. The sources said the number of marginal laborers in Rumaithiya has become relatively higher, especially in areas that overlook the Fifth Ring Road that reach Amman Street. They said they do not have the power to kick out any bachelor from those areas, and deal with any complaint through legal channels at the municipality, and doing anything else is not under its jurisdiction. —Al-Rai

**KUWAIT:** Director of Hajj affairs at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Deputy head of Kuwait's Hajj Mission Roumi Al-Roumi said that the problem of issuing Hajj visas for bedoon (stateless)

pilgrims has finally been resolved. He explained that Saudi authorities and the Saudi embassy in Kuwait finally agreed to temporarily suspend the automated visa issue mechanism, and reverted to

issuing visas manually for bedoons. Notably, around 1,250 bedoons were under threat of being deprived of performing Hajj this year because Saudi authorities had recently started using

automated visa issue systems that have been rejecting their Kuwaiti passports, because the nationality section was blank and only read as 'xxxx'. —Al-Rai, Al-Jarida



Oil prices

Al-Jarida



Al-Anbaa

IT IS SUPPOSED TO

By Dr Nermin Al-Hooti

A phrase we say a lot and despite repeating over and over in front of most of our officials, they do not carry out the supposed change. Today we will focus on some things that are supposed to change, such as traffic. It is a department that is carrying out its duties perfectly, but it is supposed to, before issuing tickets to cars parked in no-parking areas, to have alternatives for the public to park.

Education is an area that is full of problems at all levels and sectors in it, and this is supposed to be fixed so it does not reflect on the education of our children. Teaching is nonexistent, and most people working in this field are busy with their meetings, and these areas are supposed to be transferred to a private sector or be separated from education, and have a ministerial seat without sharing with another.

Health is an area in which who enters alive may leave dead or injured, and this area is supposed to go to a private sector or insurance should be imposed on individuals for their legal protection against medical errors, and a suspect's

escaping from punishment.

Information, that huge apparatus in which we read too much about agreements and works that we only hear about in our domestic media, while we are supposed to hear its reflection in the foreign field.

Culture is limited to activities that are only attended by officials and their friends, and what we learned from our constitution and its culture is that it is supposed to educate Kuwait's society, which means that culture is not limited to a certain group, but it should cover the society as a whole.

Youth belongs to culture and information and goes along in both areas. It is supposed to go towards youth and work towards enhancing them, but regrettably, it is only a minor lobby from both areas and limited to a certain group.

In conclusion, officials are supposed to understand and apply their new strategy to enhance their performance, so that 'it is supposed to' becomes among the phrases that are not supposed to be said when they do a good job.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

MINISTER APPROVES VISA FEES INCREASE

**KUWAIT:** Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Nationality and Residency Affairs Major General Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah said a proposal to increase fees paid by expatriates for services such as issuing visit and tourist visas, temporary residency, self sponsorship and family dependency visas has received approval and interest of Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah. The proposal was sent to the legal department to review it in preparation for activating it, he added. The proposal goes along with plans in other government bodies to review fees received from expatriates, such as the health ministry, Sheikh Mazen said. He said a complete study was prepared covering all aspects and groups that will come under it.

Sheikh Mazen had earlier said that increase in services fees for expats may reach 100 percent in some cases, and may multiply more than that in others, and there will not be any free services. He had said the one-month visit visa that was free will cost KD 30. The three-month tourist visa will cost KD 90. Family reunion (dependent) visas will cost KD 150 instead of KD 100, and those for parents and siblings will increase from KD 200 to KD 400. Sheikh Mazen said current fees are no longer suitable because they were implemented many years ago and were not changed, besides the violations and manipulations that are made because of the low fees to get benefits such as free medication, which constitutes a heavy burden on the state budget and health ministry services. —Al-Rai



Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah

EASY TRAFFIC FLOWS POSSIBLE: MUHANNA NO INTENTIONS TO INCREASE FEES COLLECTED FROM EXPATS

**KUWAIT:** The Interior Ministry's assistant undersecretary for traffic affairs Major General Abdullah Al-Muhanna expressed optimism about achieving easy traffic flows despite the fact that 1.8 million vehicles are being driven on 800,000 vehicle-capacity roads. Muhanna added that traffic jams will happen with the beginning of the school year and that traffic police would work on preventing them, though the total number of vehicles is continuously increasing. "We are coordinating with the police patrols and public security to ensure easy traffic flows," he underlined.

On another concern, Muhanna strongly denied any intentions to increase traffic fees collected from expats for renewing driving licenses or vehicle registration to hundreds of dinars or banning expats from owning more than one vehicle. "Such reports are completely untrue and what happened is that two suggestions were submitted to the interior ministry - one of them suggesting increasing these fees by half and the other suggesting increasing the fees collected for some services by up to twofold," added Muhanna, noting that reasonable fee increases would be imposed on both citizens and expats, but they will never reach hundreds of dinars.

Highly appreciated

Muhanna also criticized the spread of what he described as rumors about taking some decisions against expats. "Nobody is after expats. They are part of this nation and play a role in achieving

development. They are highly appreciated and the ones that are criticized are those who break the disrespect the law, which will not be tolerated with anyone," Muhanna reiterated, reminding that over 300 expats have been deported in six months for driving without licenses despite warnings and public



Major General Abdullah Al-Muhanna

awareness media campaigns organized by the ministry.

Responding to a question about expat driving license validity, Muhanna said that those who got their licenses before the new decision of linking its validity to residency validity would continue their ten-year validity period unless they change their profession. Muhanna also noted that a committee formed by the interior ministry undersecretary to investigate manipulating the issuance of driving licenses had reported back recommending withdrawal of many 'illegal' licenses and

referring employees responsible for their issuance to the legal affairs department. "The report also recommends developing the automated system to prevent manipulation and having more control by heads of sections," he added.

Traffic fines

Speaking about the amount of traffic fines, Muhanna stressed that they are no longer effective as some grounded drivers have been applying to the traffic department to pay off all fines and undo the blockade. "This proves that fine values are no longer a deterrent," he said, noting that 200 traffic-related deaths, including 79 citizens, happened in the past six months and that many young citizens were paralyzed or handicapped as a result of such accidents. "This is why we need more deterrent fines," he said, pointing out that 27,000 citations had been filed for driving at a speed of over 120 km per hour in the safety lane, where the maximum speed is set at 45 km per hour.

Muhanna also said that in implementation of the Audit Bureau's orders and protecting public funds, automated traffic systems had been programmed to collect old unpaid traffic fines from ministries, embassies and companies.

On confiscated and impounded vehicles, Muhanna stressed that the company running the five detention parking facilities had informed the traffic department that the full capacity has been reached with 38,528 vehicles already impounded. "That is why we have temporarily stopped impounding vehicles until we find another place," he said. —Al-Rai

الجريدة Al-Jarida

DEFEATED PEOPLE'S PSYCHOLOGY

By Dr Ghanim Al-Najjar

**W**hy are we Arabs and Muslims leading regressive lives? Why do we always enjoy killing each other, then wipe the blood off our swords and claim this was the result of a conspiracy? Maybe because we are dead, defeated people.

Well, we are not the only defeated, broken and excluded people, but other people have recovered from such defeats, by first admitting that they had been defeated, then forgot all about the past that dragged them into such defeats and opened more to others, while we treat others snobbishly and look down on them with extreme racism and contempt. We insist on such arrogance and speak as if we have mounted the Eiffel Tower or the Statue of Liberty!

Defeat does not lie only in the military side for the defeated - it also affects them culturally, scientifically, technologically and technically. The gap gets wider and wider leading to more depression and sense of rout that soon turns into a dominant mental state, cultural legacy and predictable behavior.

We are people who only talk about the past and stop history at previous points. We usually evoke the Orient's past to escape our tragic present. We have been killing each other and claim that we have defeated the enemy. We have been talking about the danger of being divided and fragmented while we actually are already so. Our nation's heroes are those who shout louder, act more strictly and live in the West. We, Arabs, are becoming more like crows cackling everywhere.

A defeated people is one in distress, sadness and bitterness until further notice or until it becomes convinced of such defeat and that it has to start digging for the reasons leading to it to handle and solve them the way previously defeated people did by breaking away from isolation and imaginative superiority. They focused more on points of strength while we only see strength in the past and fight over who is more 'ancient' in such a futile controversy that only results in a big zero.

Defeated people are always in the quest for a national hero who would lead them to victory - someone who is mostly fictional and does not exist in real life. They get so involved in an illusion that it becomes real to them. Today's heroes are ghosts tossing salt on our wounds. They act strictly to make up for their weakness while leading luxurious lives, while defeated people follow them as they see no future except through them.

Defeated people's minds make them very passionate about reform and democracy, while at the same time fond of a dictator and his personality. Most reformists and freedom and democracy fighters have a tiny, and sometimes gigantic, dictator deep within, and thus our thinking is usually dominated by many contradictions, regardless of being Sunni, Shiite, Islamist or non-Islamist. We have almost become schizophrenic!

We have to first accept defeat otherwise we will continue going round and round in endless circles, sounding like seals and burning incense to glorify our imagined grandeur and achievements.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

الانباء Al-Anbaa

DEATH BELLS

By Saleh Al-Shayji

**W**e have been going through endless concerns, sadness and sorrow under the pressure of mourning too much death and we are counting the number of those who left this world daily. The worst thing about it is that we have been plagued by those who take death too easily and kill others for the mere sake of killing, regardless of the fact that the death scythe they hold and use to harvest others' heads might someday turn against them and harvest theirs as victims. Their souls and the souls of others seem to be cheaply insignificant to them.

Death news has also been pouring out of the blue, even outside the death circle surrounding those manic murderers. A fortnight ago on a Friday, we were struck by news about the martyrdom of dozens of brotherly Emirati and Bahraini military men, which was a tragic shock as many houses mourned and were clouded by sadness and bitter-

*We are incapable of saving people's lives and have nothing but despair*

ness. Last Friday, death insisted to toll its bells once more and take us by surprise, when a crane collapsed inside the Grand Mosque in Makkah on worshippers performing the ritual of circumambulating the Kaaba, claiming the lives of over a hundred and injuring over 200.

How hard it is for man to live around death tragedies and the disasters it creates and leads to? It has been wandering around from one country to another and from one capital to another, waving its black flags over their houses and inhabitants, while we stand by helpless and incapable of stopping it from moving on and spreading any further. We are incapable of saving people's lives and have nothing but despair. Even our pens are almost dry because the tragedy is too bitter to be expressed by them or tolerated by our hearts. May Almighty Allah have mercy on the martyrs' souls and on us, the ones who are still alive. — Translated by Kuwait Times

BEDOON PILGRIMS VISA PROBLEM SOLVED: ROUMI