Crime

Report

Liquor trader busted

KUWAIT: Farwaniya police arrested an Asian man with 94 bottles of local and imported liquor, following a 30-minute chase. A security source said the man was seen placing bags inside his car in Kheitan, then when approached by police, he fled. Police chased him and asked for back-up and finally the man was caught and arrested. A total of 24 bottles of imported liquor and 70 bottles of locally-made alcohol were found with the man. In another case, Ahmadi police caught an Asian man with 32 bottles of liquor in Fahaheel area.

Grenade found in Wafra farm

A citizen found a hand grenade and a bomb while digging in his Wafra farm. Ahmadi police arrived at the scene, and found out they were leftovers from the 1990/91 Iraqi Invasion era.

Fire in Jahra

Jahra occupational fire center dealt with a fire that engulfed a vehicle while parked at the Jahra municipality parking lot, and their interference helped keep the fire from spreading to the shades. Meanwhile, in another case, firemen battled a fire in a car thieves had stolen, drove recklessly then abandoned when it caught fire.

Sorcerer caught at border

Nuwaiseeb border outlet officials noticed a passenger who became extremely nervous each time one of them approach him. When he was asked for his passport, he became more nervous. So authorities decided to search him. He was found to be in possession of various tools of 'sorcery' and other illicit materials. The man was sent to concerned authorities.

Taxi driver mugged

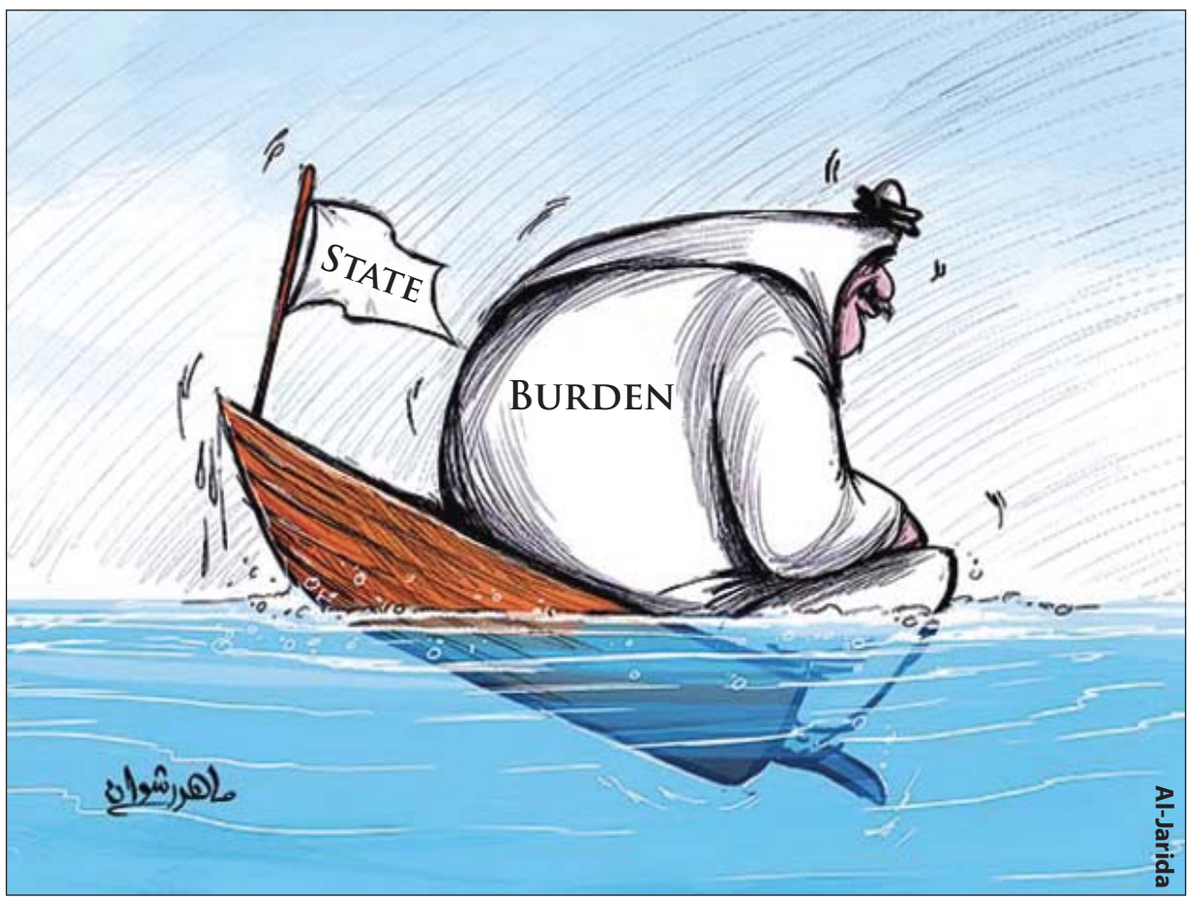
A Bangladeshi taxi driver in his fifties was mugged by three people in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. The three asked the driver to take them to Omariya. They got into the taxi and then set on the driver. One of the men in the back seat grabbed him around the throat while another pulled a knife, meanwhile a third person put his hand in the suspect's pocket and took his wallet which contained KD 75. They also took his car keys but escaped on foot.

School office robbed

A school principal in Andalus told police that an unknown person entered her offices and stole accessories including perfume. She said she did not have any suspect in mind.

Citizen charged with battery

Hawally prosecutor ordered that a citizen who attacked a beautician who works for him be charged with battery and causing extreme harm. The Filipina who works in a salon he owns worked all week without a day off. He then refused to pay her when she asked for her salary and instead attacked her and cut her with a knife. — Al-Anbaa



Al-Anbaa

The thirsty city

By Dr Saleh Al-Ojairi

Back in the early 1950s, an Egyptian journalist visited Kuwait for a while and when he returned home, he wrote an article titled 'The Thirsty City'. It was a very suitable title because drinking water was direly scarce at that time. The only sources of fresh drinking water were wells in Shamiya, Kaifan, Hawally and Sulaibiya, in addition to some brought from the Shatt Al-Arab by primitive dhows, and people used to crowd around them on arrival to get their share. We also used to await rainfall to store rainwater and use it later on.

Bringing water from the Shatt Al-Arab started in 1909 and lasted for long years. It then developed a little bit when a company was founded to transport water, but it was barely enough. Sheikh Mubarak the Great was very concerned with water scarcity, and thus bought a special dhow to bring water from Shatt Al-Arab. In 1914, he imported a water desalination machine form India, but its operation stalled because of some demands made by the company operating it.

The amount of water used in a single toilet flush nowadays used to suffice an entire family for a day and night

We finally struck fresh underground water and started desalinating enough seawater despite our wasteful and extravagant consumption rates. Well, in comparison to the past, the amount of water used in a single toilet flush nowadays used to suffice an entire family for a day and night. Nevertheless, we see that instead of bending down to pick it up, some housemaids nowadays may wash a straw away out of the house by using water hoses, wasting what is at least worth KD 3 of water on it. For God's sake, have mercy on the government and the people of Kuwait!

— Translated by Kuwait Times

Al-Jarida

Do elephants fly?

By Dr Hassan Jouhar

Do elephants fly? The story of this question is a very indicative political joke that goes like: A biology teacher was once explaining the difference between an animal and a bird to his students and asked if an elephant, for instance, could fly. One of the students agreed, making the teacher angry with his answer. "Who is the idiot who told you so?" the teacher angrily asked. The boy answered that he heard the president say so. The teacher gets embarrassed and responds, saying: "Indeed, dear boys. An elephant can fly, but relatively low!" (End of story)

A few days ago, and though he had been travelling worldwide shaking hands with all those involved in shedding Syrian blood promising them that Bashar Al-Asaad should immediately step down and stressing that there would be negotiations or deals with him, the US Secretary of State John Kerry looked more like that coward teacher and said that the Syrian president must not step down immediately. He is now begging Russia and Iran to convince Assad to come to the negotiation table.

Politics' world is filthy in nature and this filthiness is usually justified by intelligence, national interests or the art of the possible. Poor Syria is the best modern example of this filthiness. Why, then, after this peaceful country disintegrated and was totally destroyed and its people reached Europe and Australia as political refugees (future European nationals), that the US seeks help from its Russian and Iranian rivals to reach a political solution?

A political solution is surely the only guarantee to protect what is left of the state and people of Syria. Syrian territories have been a battlefield for the new world order where regional and international powers compete to enhance their political statuses and universal powers. Syria has become a model of globalization wars. Instead of face-to-face confrontations between countries and the possibility that mighty powers lose control over wars and get involved in nuclear and WMD horrors, these countries are informatively, politically, economically and even militarily fighting in a small spot in a way that has world war features.

And now that everybody is certain that the Syrian war cannot be brought to an end because of its many dangerous and complicated equilibriums and that the sole beneficiary of its continuation are the terrorist groups with a religious nature, the US-led West has to think more reasonably and even make some political concessions, even if they were embarrassing, and confess that 'an elephant can fly'!

Russia's recent decision to join the battle with weapons and troops surprised everybody including the Americans, and despite American dissatisfaction in the beginning, US diplomacy was in an awkwardly embarrassing position because it has been leading an international alliance for over a year to fight IS and its likes, but at the same time, refuses that Russians fight IS directly. Therefore, and despite its bitterness, the US' best option is to cooperate with Moscow instead of confronting it.

Regardless of the Western policies' contradictions and vicissitudes, the question is why is it that our Arab countries have always been a testing ground? And why, whenever an experiment fails, experimenters baldly and shamelessly withdraw, even if the experiments cost millions of fatalities, billions-worth of losses and total destruction? In my opinion, the only reason for this is our own culture that encourages our enemies to slaughter and destroy us, because we are the people who teach children that 'an elephant can fly upon higher orders'!

— Translated by Kuwait Times

Cabinet considers limits on expat residency numbers and length of stay

KUWAIT: The Cabinet is considering a mechanism submitted by the Statistic General Directorate to deal with the defects of the population structure. The mechanism includes procedures and steps to activate the recommendations of the higher committee to examine ways to reduce the demographic imbalance between locals and foreigners. There are more than 4 million residents of Kuwait but only around 1.5 million citizens.

Some of the possible mechanisms include granting three months grace periods for absconders to adjust their status with increasingly absconding fines to KD 5 per day. Other possible regulations may include placing a maximum limit on the stay of expatriates.

The plan also calls for activating the fingerprint system at borders to prevent those facing a travel ban from exiting the country and those blacklisted from returning to Kuwait. It also calls for adopting the quota system to set a maximum ceiling of labor. It also calls for halting all unlicensed activities while encouraging citizens to get into productive sectors. — Al-Anbaa

More than 33,000 absent from government work on Tuesday

KUWAIT: Tuesday seemed to be an unofficial holiday in many government offices and departments as well as colleges and schools, ahead of Eid Al-Adha holidays which started officially started yesterday.

An informed source at the Civil Service Commission (CSC) said the number of state employees who asked for emergency or sick leaves during the period that proceeded the holiday of Eid Al-Adha exceeded 33,000, and the largest percentage of those are administrative staff at the Education Ministry. The source said announcement of citizens who are candidates for jobs will be made until after the Eid holiday because a large number of the proceeding batch did not finish processing of their papers. — Al-Anbaa

Offensive imam faces four charges

KUWAIT: High ranking sources said the prosecution received a statement from state security detectives against Secretary General of the Islamic Alliance Hussein Al-Maatouq based on a sermon he gave that included violations of state security laws and national unity. The sources added that state security detectives asked the prosecution to question Maatouq, and expected this to take place in the few coming days over four charges: Spreading false news, instigation and publication of information that aims at compromising the social order of the country, violating laws of national unity and violating public order. They said the prosecution will listen to the statement of the state security officer, then issue an arrest warrant or summons orders. The prosecution will question Maatouq over the Friday sermon in which he spoke about suspects in the Abdaly cell. — Al-Jarida

Dr Ali Al-Omair

Abdally farm lands to be freed by KOC

KUWAIT: Dr Ali Al-Omair, Oil Minister and State Minister for National Assembly Affairs, denied reports that an unnamed amount of money had been allocated to reclaim farms in Abdaly area. He said the ministry is accounting for the lands needed by Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) in order to release them, in a way that will not hinder operations, then there will be suitable solutions so not to harm farmers who spent time, money and efforts in reclaiming lands for food security.

He said the law calls for compensating land owners concerned with drilling, and limited it to the buildings and farms.

"We are now determining lands and locations KOC needs in the northern area for discovery and drilling for oil and natural gas," Omair said. Omair said when this stage is complete, lands will be freed in a way that will not delay search and production in the area, according to a mechanism that will be determined later.

When asked about expectations of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that oil prices will not see an increase in the short run, and that it needs years to reach $70 per barrel, he said "there is no doubt that what the IMF said expresses the technical views within the current aspects."

He said that expectations regarding oil prices are built on indicators of the international economic growth and daily oil production in addition to supply and demand, adding that there is slowness in the international growth, in south east Asia, particularly in the economies of China, Japan and India, and "whenever these countries' economies improve, oil prices improve gradually."— Al Rai