

Local

MoI officials accused of covering up for fake social media accounts

By A Saleh and Meshal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: MP Ahmed Al-Fadhli yesterday stressed that some MoI officials have been covering up for owners of fake social media accounts, adding that the public prosecution had detained a senior official over suspicions of involvement with the owners of such accounts. As of now, he has been released pending further investigations.

"We adopted this issue to track down rumormongers and discovered very sensitive and dangerous information about a few MoI officials who have been covering up for those account owners," Fadhli said. He pointed out that in January, he had explained to the parliament how public opinion was being manipulated by putting pressure on lawmakers and officials, but some of his colleagues had undermined his opinion and accused him of wasting the parliament's time.

Heated argument at municipality

Municipal councilmember and head of Hawally committee Abdullah Al-Roumi argued with the manager of a municipality branch over the latter's decision to dismiss a number of municipal employees for not showing up to work, said informed sources. They noted that the argument almost developed into a fistfight until security officers stopped it. The sources added that Roumi was trying to undo the dismissal decision and that both sides filed complaints about the incident with the police.

Pay your fines

The public prosecution yesterday urged both citizens and expatriates to pay any fines imposed on them for municipal violations through the ministry of justice portal at www.kuwaitcourts.gov.kw or at collection centers at the ministry in order to avoid administrative restrictions on their transactions with the municipality.



MP Ahmed Al-Fadhli

VIVA launches 'Talent Development Program'

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, launched recently the 'Talent Development Program' in cooperation with Huawei Technologies Kuwait, during an event held at VIVA HQ, in the presence of VIVA's CEO Maziad Naser Al-Harbi, VIVA's CHRO Anas Al-Ateeqi and Huawei's Deputy CEO Rico Lin.

This collaboration between VIVA and Huawei is the result of a robust relationship between both companies. Huawei will provide an intensive program for VIVA employees through the 'Huawei Training Academy' to introduce the latest technology of the 5G network and how to benefit from its advantages in creating new and innovative solutions, products and services that serve different segments of the society and meet their aspirations in line with the digital transformation that the telecommunications market witnesses, as well as educating the employees to earn at the end of the program an international accreditation of 'Huawei Training Academy'.

On this occasion, VIVA's CHRO Anas Al-Ateeqi commented: "Huawei has always been and still is a strategic partner since VIVA's inception hence leading to a long track record of achievements together throughout this past decade and more to come. That said, we have great confidence in Huawei's expertise to provide all the support



required to educate and brace our employees about the 5G network, specially that it is considered today as one of the main topics in the technology market, and which will automatically result in enhancing our performance and customer service levels."

Al-Ateeqi added: "VIVA being a pioneer in the telecom industry, we believe that investing in our people, and

sharpening their talents is a priority that we have always implemented through regular educational activities and courses. We believe that human development is the key factor in our strategy to strengthen VIVA's leadership stance in the region, towards sustainable growth, improved operational performance and capacity building to deliver new digital services (ICT) to our customers."

Wife and maid raped by husband's 'close friend'

KUWAIT: A woman called her husband to tell him his friend had raped her and filmed the act on his mobile phone. The husband went home to find his wife in a very bad condition. She told him his friend entered the house and not only raped her, but also raped the maid before leaving. He left his cap behind. The man composed himself and took his wife and the maid to the police station and told them what his close "friend" did, and provided details of the man. The prosecutor considered it a felony and asked detectives to arrest the suspect.

Subordinate beats boss

A police lieutenant is being questioned for insulting his superior - a brigadier - and beating him. The incident took place at work when the lieutenant became very angry and tore his uniform. He then went to his superior, insulted and beat him. Employees intervened and called for help. A police source said the actions of the officer were due to differences over work instructions.

Drunk Kuwaitis attack detectives

Two Kuwaitis who were drunk attacked detectives who stopped them in front of the criminal detectives building, because they were disturbing the peace with loud music. The two citizens aged 47 and 33 drank too much while in their car in Salmiya and played music loudly without regard to detectives in the area. Detectives stopped them, so they attacked the officers in an attempt to escape, but failed.

Illegal repair shop

Five Pakistanis turned the building of the old Shuwaikh police station into a car repair shop, so they were arrested and sent to concerned authorities. Police, while touring the area, were surprised by people going in and out of the old police station, only to discover that the yard was used to repair cars. Instructions were given to arrest the five, who are being questioned for using state property for personal use.

'You'll arrest me for KD 300?'

A Kuwaiti was arrested for being wanted for a debt after being stopped late at night. The woman was found wanted, so she told police, "What is wrong with you? You'll arrest me for KD 300?" Police took her to concerned authorities.

Hacker steals KD 1,500

A hacker withdrew KD 1,500 in 13 transactions from a citizen's account, who lodged a complaint. The victim went to the bank to withdraw money and found KD 1,500 was missing, so he asked bank employees about it. They found the money was transferred electronically to companies and shops over two days to purchase goods over the Internet. The victim lodged a complaint and investigations began.

Smart meters are now operational

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The ministry of electricity and water had installed 5,000 smart meters by June, which started operating this month. These smart meters are for both water and electricity and will help conserve these resources. The infrastructure for the smart meters is ready. "This infrastructure was completed with Zain and includes computer systems, communications and electronic payment systems.

Now we are in the tender award phase for 300,000 smart meters, including 200,000 for electricity and 100,000 for water," Meshan Al-Otaibi, Assistant Undersecretary for Consumer Affairs at the Ministry of Electricity and Water, told Kuwait Times yesterday.

"We expect to sign the contract before the end of the year. The smart meters will be installed by the first quarter of 2020. This is the first phase of the smart meter installation. Kuwait needs another 800,000 meters to cover all areas. This will be realized within three years," he added.

The smart meter has many benefits. "It will help save power and water. As these meters will be installed at each flat separately, tenants will pay their water and energy bills, which will encourage them to rationalize their consumption. Also, by allowing online payment, the consumer will know their consumption and will save water and energy," explained Otaibi.

Furthermore, the online service simplifies the payment process. "The consumer doesn't have to visit the ministry just to pay the bill. This will save their time and effort, as well as relieve the ministry from more visitors. Also, the consumer's control over their consumption will encourage them to pay regularly, which will avoid accumulating debts," he added.

The smart meters will cover all Kuwait's buildings. "The 5,000 smart meters were distributed in various areas as a trial. The new meters will gradually be installed in other areas as well. In commercial and investment areas, they will be installed in every flat of the building and every tenant will pay their bill. This way it's better for both the landlord and the tenant, as it will rationalize consumption," concluded Otaibi.



Dr Meshan Al-Otaibi



KUWAIT: A pack of stray dogs is seen in the Kabd area. Kuwait has witnessed a rise in stray dogs, many of them dumped in the desert or outlying areas by owners who no longer want the responsibility of their pets. Government authorities have responded by launching poisoning campaigns - targeting packs by leaving poisoned meat out for them to eat. Videos of poisoned dogs in the final throes of death have been shared widely on social media. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh



Lt General monitors the traffic situation

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Lt General Al-Naham made an air tour of Kuwait, accompanied by Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs and operations. The tour was organized to check on the status of traffic, the main and side roads, as well as to reduce traffic jams. He also inspected roads lead-

ing to Shadadiya University to direct patrols to be made around the campus to avoid further jams and means to make it easier for students to drive around the university.

National Guard

Acting National Guard Secretary Maj Gen Jamal Al-Thiyab opened the National Guard Forces advanced infantry institution for officers and the Foundation Infantry Course at the Sumud Camp. Major General Thiyab welcomed the participants and conveyed the greetings of National Guard Chief His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali and Deputy Chief Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber.



Romanian ambassador

Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt General Essam Al-Naham recently received the Romanian Ambassador to Kuwait Nicusor-Daniel Tanase. They discussed bilateral relations and the means of strengthening ties between the two friendly countries.

Farwaniya field tours

Kuwait Municipality Public Relations said the cleanliness and road occupancy team in Farwaniya made field tours against roaming vendors in Jleeb, Riqe, Ardhiya and Farwaniya. The tour resulted in 11 citations being issued against vendors and the removal of eight lorry loads from random markets.