

Other Voices

Where do we go?

Post adds to services rot

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

Reader Ala'a says: When the education is so bad in our country, and the health services are on the decline and our roads are in such a mess that the fragile windshields of our cars cannot withstand the force of the flying gravel on our roads, it is useless to complain about the poor level of postal services.

It may seem so, but the fact that all state services have reached the same level and the poor citizens and residents have to bear the brunt of our road when the windshields give way, but certainly he cannot afford to sustain to losing an important message.

We hear complaints of poor postal services particularly from those who are obliged to rely on this means of transport or communication.

Ala'a continued by saying he needed to send papers overseas, so he went to the Nuza Post Office and found out it was closed. He was advised to go to the Abdullah Al-Salem Post Office and there the Kuwaiti supervisor refused to take anything from him on the pretext his job was to receive and distribute mail.

He then asked Ala'a to go to the Keifan Telecommunications Tower or the one on the Beirut Street. When Ala'a went to Keifan he found there was no place to park the car and headed for Hawalli, there he found there was a traffic jam and finally when he reached the center, the supervisor asked him to go to the Safat Post Office, the mother of all postal services in Kuwait.

At the post office, a little bit after eight in the morning, he found a place to park his car and felt happy that at last he will be able to dispatch his parcel within minutes, but his optimism was short-lived.

At the post office, he did not find any employee on duty. He then proceeded to the private post boxes and there too no one was there, except for the people who owned those boxes. Finally, he returned to the main hall and found an Asian cleaning worker

who informed him that the work at the post office starts at 1:30 pm and stops at 10:00 pm.

Ala'a says that he left the building and returned in the afternoon at 3:00 pm. Again another surprise awaited him because the man at the counter said his parcel could not be accepted because he does not have the 2017 stamp because it had not arrived although it was the second week of January. It seems the end of 2016 had taken the Mr Assistant Undersecretary for postal services by surprise and he was not prepared for that.

The employees suggested that Ala'a should go to the Qortuba Post Office because the office of the undersecretary was located in that area and the 2017 stamps may be available with him, if not, it would give him an opportunity to complain to the most senior official in the country about the cause of his suffering.

Ala'a said he had mixed feelings because of all this chaos and negligence and disregard to the rights of humans in addition to the time wasted and exhaustion. He decided to go to the nearest courier office and paid twenty times more than what he would have paid to send the parcel by ordinary mail.

The reader bemoans the sorry state of the services, and how even the simplest issue becomes so complicated. If this is the state of simple service of receiving and delivering mail, after all that has become a means of social media to do the work on behalf of the Ministry of Communication although the ministry boasts of an army of employees and the budget allocated to it.

Here one wonders, what is the case of security, education, health and other more complex services that do not benefit from such media means as the Ministry of Communication.

Will a day come when, for example, citizens will be forced to take their letters to Dubai or collect them from there?

□ □ □
email: habibi.enta1@gmail.com



Al-Sarraf



Chinese officers from the 24th Chinese navy pose for a picture with Kuwaiti officials next to a Harbin destroyer, which arrived as part of the Chinese fleet at Shuwaikh Port in Kuwait City on Feb 1. (AFP)

Chinese warships dock at Shuwaikh Port

By Shawqi Mahmoud
Al-Seyassah Staff

Commandant of Floating Marine Units at the Kuwaiti Navy Captain Haza Mutlaq Al-Alati emphasized essence of the three Chinese warships visiting Kuwait in the framework of cooperation between the

Naval Forces from both countries, and benefiting from Chinese technology in the update of Kuwaiti Naval warships.

In response to questions from the press during a reception for the visiting Chinese Navy at Shuwaikh Port Wednesday, Captain Alati declared Kuwait is the last point of

call for the Chinese warships after stopping over at the UAE, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

The reception was held in the presence of the Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Wang Di, with diplomats from the embassy, and members of the Chinese Community in Kuwait who hoisted

the flag of their country during inspection of the visiting warships.

Captain Al-Alati informed the ships participated in protecting convoys at Aden Strip and the coasts of Somalia, and there will be a schedule for exchange of ideas between naval forces of both countries starting from Thursday.

New escalation in Filipino maids crisis; abuse on rise

Egyptian salesman caught peeping at female diplomat

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 1: In a new escalation to the issue of Filipino workers in Kuwait, Chairperson of Labor, and Human Resources Development Committee in the Philippines Parliament J. Flaniova claimed that there is a huge number of cases of abuse of Filipino workers in Kuwait and urged the Philippine government to speed up the process of putting on hold the recruitment of Filipino household workers to Kuwait, reports Al-Rai daily.

Flaniova, said in a press statement, that he had received numerous reports of abuses of Filipino workers in Kuwait, and therefore he urges the government to expedite the issue of putting on hold the recruitment of domestic workers to countries which are known to maltreat them.

He cited how a Filipina Household Service Worker (HSW) was allegedly beaten to death by her employer on Jan 25, coincidentally on the same day that Filipina HSW Jakatia Pawa was hanged. The dead victim is identified as Amy Capulong Santiago, 33 years old who arrived in Kuwait in August 2015.

He explained as of the beginning of 2017, a total of 500 Filipinos, most of them HSW, were in detention in Kuwait due to various reasons.

Peeping-Tom held: Police have arrested an unidentified Egyptian salesman for spying on a female diplomat while trying new clothes inside a change room of a shop at an unidentified location, reports Al-Rai daily.

When the woman saw the man spying on her, she called the Operations Room of the Interior Ministry; the Egyptian was arrested and taken to the area police station.

The diplomat is said to have withdrawn the complaint to save her efforts of going to the police station



A multicolored butterfly captured in a photo. (KUNA - Jaber Abdulkhaliq)

every now and then.

However, the Egyptian who was wanted by law for failing to pay KD 700 to a company and had been sentenced in absentia, has been handed over to the Sentences Enforcement Department.

The man is expected to be deported after serving the sentence.

Kuwaiti arrested: Acting on information the security authorities raided the home of a Kuwaiti and took him into custody for possessing explosives material, reports Al-Shahed daily.

According to a security source the contraband was hidden in the annex of the house.

The raid was conducted by personnel from the General Department of Weapons Investigation in collaboration with the Criminal Evidence Department and explosives experts.

51 persons nabbed: During traffic

campaigns launched in all areas of Kuwait from Jan 22-28, officers from General Traffic Department issued a total of 32,237 traffic citations, seized 116 vehicles, detained 51 individuals in traffic custody and referred some expatriates for deportation after they were caught driving vehicles without driving licenses.

According to a press statement issued by Ministry of Interior, the patrol teams seized 31 vehicles that were involved in cases.

The General Traffic Department affirmed continuation of 24/7 traffic campaigns in all governorates for ensuring safety of road users.

Drug pills seized: Customs officers at the Kuwait International Airport recently foiled the attempt of an Egyptian man to smuggle 930 narcotic pills (Tramadol) and a piece of hashish hidden in one of his bags, reports Al-Shahed daily.

The contraband and the smuggler have been referred to the General

Department of Drugs Control.

Meanwhile, police are looking for an unidentified person for impersonating police and robbing KD 1,720 from a Bangladeshi mandoub, reports Al-Anba daily.

The Bangladeshi told the Zahra Police Station that the man claimed he was a policeman, robbed his money and drove off.

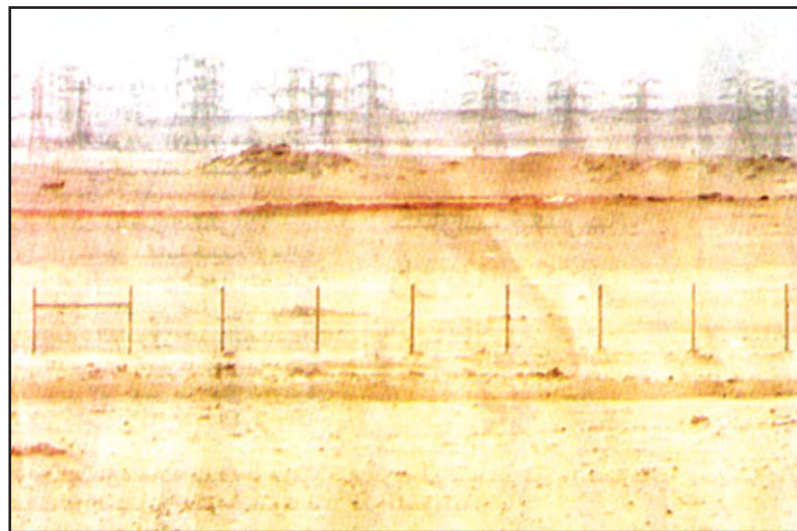
When the complainant gave police the car plate number of the suspect, securitymen discovered the car was reported stolen by the owner.

□ □ □

Debt not cleared: Police have arrested a Kuwaiti for failing to pay KD 23,000 debt, reports Al-Shahed daily.

A police source said the suspect had parked his vehicle in 'No Parking' zone in Mangaf and when police checked his ID, securitymen discovered he was wanted by law for failing to pay debt.

He has been handed over to the Sentences Enforcement Department.



The area designated for excavation.

Ministry launches probe

Ancient sites damaged

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 1: Director of Antiquities and Museums at the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, Dr Badr Duweish said he was shocked when he saw bulldozers and heavy equipment trampling the monuments of Kuwait in Subbiya, northeast of Kuwait, which dates back to the Bronze Age, reports Al-Rai daily.

Duweish witnessed this 'tragedy' when he was touring the area with the Egyptian Minister of Antiquities Mamdouh Eldamaty. The site is believed to be one of the largest sites in the world and contained oval shaped housing facilities and is likely to be a village dating back to 5000 BC.

He pointed after he informed the Ministry of Interior, the security personnel rushed to the site and launched an

investigation.

He added, "the archaeological area is protected since the excavations work began in 2009. The work is carried out by foreign teams from Poland, Georgia and Kuwait. He disclosed the area was fenced and maps were made in coordination with the concerned authorities.

Sources in the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters said the council has already filed complaints against people who broke into these archaeological sites, but no action has been taken because the cases are registered against unknown persons.

However, this has been denied by the Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior for Operations Affairs Major-General Jamal Al-Sayegh who stressed that all complaints are looked into according to law.

settle the quarrel. Securitymen also discovered that the suspects are actually men who were wearing women clothing and makeup. Both suspects were arrested and referred to the concerned authorities for necessary legal action.

Meanwhile, an Egyptian expatriate filed a case at Nugra Police Station against a compatriot, accusing the latter of insulting him and threatening to attack him during a quarrel between them in Nugra area.

□ □ □

Fire erupts in flat: Fire broke out inside a flat on the fifth floor of a residential building in Salmiya area. No injuries were reported, says Al-Seyassah. According to sources, when the Operations Room of Ministry of Interior received information about the flat on fire, firefighters rushed to the location and extinguished the fire within a short time. Investigations revealed that the fire broke out in the kitchen of the flat.

Meanwhile, firefighters extinguished a fire that engulfed a vehicle on Fourth Ring Road. Investigations revealed that the fire broke out due to short circuit issue in the engine.

News in Brief

Asian hurt in fall: An Asian expatriate sustained serious injuries when he fell from the second floor of a house in Jaber Al-Ali area, says Al-Seyassah.

According to security sources, when the Operations Room of Ministry of Interior received information about the incident, securitymen, paramedics and firefighters rushed to the location. Paramedics referred the victim to Adan Hospital where he was admitted in the Intensive Care Unit.

Investigations revealed that the laborer lost his balance and fell from the second floor while he was carrying out some electrical repairs in the house.

□ □ □

Cross-dressers fight: Two cross-dressers were arrested for attacking each other during a quarrel between them inside a popular restaurant on Arabian Gulf Street, says Al-Seyassah.

According to security sources, when the Operations Room of Ministry of Interior received information about the quarrel from the restaurant manager, securitymen rushed to the location to discover some customers managed to

Top GTD official reinstated

Female teachers housing allowance raised

By Jaber Al-Humoud
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 1: The Administrative Court ruled in favor of 30 female expatriate teachers and approved their request for housing allowance increment to be paid retroactively from April 2, 2011.

Lawyer Zaid Al-Khabbaz representing the 30 female teachers sued the Ministry of Education saying each of them was paid KD 60 housing allowance since

April 1, 2011 as per Decision No. 1/2011 of Civil Service Commission (CSC). He added the housing allowance was increased from KD 60 to KD 150 effective from April 2016 but the ministry refused to pay the difference retroactively from April 1, 2011 to April 1, 2016 despite the repeated promises in that concern.

The lawyer considered the act a violation of Article 2 of CSC Decision No. 4/2016 and the court decided that expatriate

teachers deserve the difference of housing allowance, indicating similar lawsuits are to be reviewed.

□ □ □

Official reinstated: The Administrative Court has invalidated the decision of former Interior minister to refer the Director of Technical Office at the General Traffic Investigations Department for retirement. The court instead ordered reinstatement of the

official.

According to the case file, the plaintiff counsel Lawyer Abdulmohsen Al-Qattan filed the lawsuit on behalf of his client, insisting that Decision No. 270/2016 was issued to retire his client starting from end of work on Feb 8, 2016.

He stated that his client submitted a petition against the decision immediately, but the administration did not respond to it positively or negatively.