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Security grills long-absent Kuwaitis on return

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: The Ministry of the Interior is currently interrogating all Kuwaitis who return to Kuwait after long stay overseas, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting knowledgeable sources.

The sources pointed out the security authorities at border crossing points have been instructed to apply the procedure on Kuwaitis and bedoun to identify reasons for their long absence and to ensure they were not involved in terrorist activities, particularly since it is a well-known fact some of them have spent time behind bars in the countries

of their residence for various reasons.

One of the Kuwaitis who returned to the country after a 20-year absence said he holds the citizenship of a European country and was subsequently referred to the concerned authority.

The sources added, the security authorities after interrogating the 'absentees', get in touch with the countries they return from to double check on the information provided by them.

The daily added, according to the security sources there are scores of Kuwaitis and bedoun who have not yet returned.

MP 'calls' for more environment police

Panel discusses fish kill, oil spill

By Abubakar A. Ibrahim
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei has forwarded questions to Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on the Military Health Office in London.

Opinion

Close the Brotherhood kiosks and chop off the snakes' head

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

IRRESPECTIVE of the excuses and considerations, it is no longer acceptable for Gulf states to remain silent over the 'Muslim Brotherhood Group' and the factions and movements which emerged from it; considering the high price that Arabian Gulf countries have been paying for almost four decades at different levels due to the infiltration of this group in these countries' establishments.

These countries will continue paying a high price. In fact, the cost will increase further if their governments do not start uprooting terrorists, sideline them from establishments and declare them as a terrorist organization. Actually, they need to shut down all 'Brotherhood' kiosks which have been spreading corruption in Gulf communities.

Since the mid-1970s, the 'Brotherhood' has been waging war under various masks against the Gulf's ruling regimes; starting with subjugation of education to serve their interests, and then subduing economic and financial establishments.

The group infiltrated cabinets and parliaments, and went on to coil themselves around some leaders by portraying the group as the latter's guarantor to enter paradise. They bless every action taken by such leaders by telling them that it is inspiration from Almighty Allah, and they do so even when the action is disastrous.

As they solidify their position, they increase the number of their members in centers of power where they wreak havoc by putting unsuitable person in unsuitable position. Their weapons include long beards and prayer beads that make them appear pure and pious, but in reality; they have mastered banditry in the hands of their professional leaders.

We saw how they quickly dropped the masks from their pale faces after the Egyptian office of insolent hijacked the republic's presidential seat and installed the doll, Muhammad Morsi, as president.

During that time, they hanged his pictures in the place of their leaders' pictures. They started propagating their march towards

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A Russian military police officer stands guard in the yard of Aleppo's oldest Umayyad mosque, Syria on Sept 12. The recapture of eastern Aleppo in December 2016, one of the deadliest episodes of the Syrian civil war, was a landmark victory for Assad's forces in the conflict, now in its seventh year, but it left the area in ruins. (AP)

Syria in bid to encircle DAESH

DEIR EZZOR, Syria, Sept 13, (AFP): After breaking an Islamic State group blockade, Syria's army is seeking to encircle the remaining jihadist-held parts of Deir Ezzor city, a military source said Wednesday.

The city is the capital of oil-rich eastern Deir Ezzor province, regarded as a strategic prize by both Russian-backed Syrian troops and US-backed fighters.

In Damascus Wednesday, President Bashar al-Assad said the country was "advancing steadily towards victory thanks to the sacrifices of its army, the determination of its people and the support of its allies," state news agency SANA said.

Last week, Syria's army and allied fighters broke a years-long IS siege of Deir Ezzor, entering two regime-held sections of the city that had been cut off from each other.

Since then, the army has brought reinforcements to the city and is seeking to oust IS from eastern neighbourhoods that run along the Euphrates river, which slices diagonally through the province.

"The army is seeking to encircle DAESH from three sides by controlling the parts of the western bank of the Euphrates river," the source told AFP, using the Arabic acronym for IS.

Troops would target riverside territory on the city's northwestern edges as well as strategic areas on its southern outskirts, including the key military airport and the village of Al-Jafra, on the banks of the Euphrates.

The operation seeks to "oust DAESH from the city and the province completely," the military source said.

Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor, also reported that "fierce fighting

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Other Voices

The infinite failure of traffic!!

Jail call on Equifax hack

WASHINGTON, Sept 13, (Agencies): Thirty-six US senators on Tuesday called on federal authorities to investigate the sale of nearly \$2 million in shares of credit bureau Equifax Inc by company executives after a massive data breach, and one compared their actions to insider trading.

The lawmakers signed a letter asking the US Department of Justice, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Trade Commission to look into about \$1.8 million in stock sales by three executives between July 29 — the day Equifax said it learned that its

systems were hacked in mid-May — and when they made it public last week.

"If that happened, somebody needs to go to jail," Senator Heidi Heitkamp, a Democrat on the Senate Banking Committee, said at a credit union industry conference in Washington. "It's a problem when people can act with impunity with no consequences. How is that not insider trading?"

Cyber security experts believe the breach is one of the largest data hacks ever disclosed.

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By Ali Ahmed Al-Baghli
Former Minister of Oil

SINCE we opened our eyes to this world, a particular aspect of traffic law has not changed for decades. What I mean here is that in case of a traffic accident involving two or more vehicles, we usually find the drivers of vehicles involved in the accident waiting for a traffic expert in the middle of the street.

The traffic expert, who is expected to appear after a few minutes or even hours, analyzes the situation and drafts the accident report for those involved in the accident to sign before his eyes in fear of being de-

frauded by insurance companies which have never experienced losses in their annual budget.

The entire process causes massive traffic congestion, especially on vital roads where hundreds of people end up arriving late to their destinations such as their workplaces, homes,

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Gulf row hurts all: Rater

DUBAI, Sept 13, (AFP): A boycott of Qatar by a Saudi-led bloc of Arab states is hurting the economies of all the countries involved, with Bahrain and Qatar the most affected, Moody's Investor Service said Wednesday.

The row has translated into a credit negative for the entire six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar, Moody's said in a report.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt on June 5 severed diplomatic ties and imposed economic sanctions on Qatar, accusing it of backing

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His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah hands over a written message from HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. — See Page 5

He requested for details such as the budget of the office from 2015 until the end of August 2017, overseas treatment beneficiaries under the office, amount spent on each of these beneficiaries, committees dealing with files of these beneficiaries if any, and members of these committees.

He said there have been social media reports on referral of some Army officials to the Public Prosecution for misappropriation of public funds, while some of them were suspended from work and others were referred for retirement. If these reports are true, he asked the minister to provide details such as results of investigations and charges filed against the concerned officials. In case the reports are false, he wants to know the measures taken to prevent the spread of baseless rumors.

He went on to disclose that he obtained information on the delayed payment of some contracts without justification in an alleged bid to put pressure on signatory companies to pay commission to certain traders. He urged the minister to clarify the issue; and if this information is false, he wants to know the reason for delaying the payment.

Meanwhile, parliamentary Environment Committee Chairman MP Adel Al-Damkhi said the panel discussed a number of issues on Wednesday including the oil spill, fish kill and hunting ground regulations

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NewsWatch

TEHRAN: The Iranian Revolutionary Guards arrested a member of Islamic State and foiled a plan for suicide attacks, a Guards commander said on Wednesday.

Col Amin Yamini, the Guards commander for the western Tehran suburb of Shahriar, did not say when the arrest was made but said the attacks were being planned for a 10-day Shi'ite religious holiday that begins next week.

The Islamic State member arrested was from the Syrian branch of the militant Sunni organization and had planned to organize about 300 people to carry out suicide attacks, Yamini said, according to Basij Press, the news site for the Tehran branch of the Guards. (RTRS)

WASHINGTON: The Trump administration has adequate legal authority to combat terrorist groups and doesn't support a push in Congress for a new law permitting military action against the Islamic State and other militants, a senior White House official said Tuesday.

The comments by White House legislative director Marc Short came as Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky ramped up pressure on his colleagues to reassert their power to decide whether to send American troops into harm's way. Paul, a leader of the GOP's non-interventionist wing, wants a vote on his amendment to the annual defense policy bill that would let the authorizations after the Sept 11 attacks lapse after six months. He says Congress would use the time to pass a new war authority.

Many congressional Republicans and Democrats have been clamoring for Congress to approve a new authorization for the use of military force. But they're moving too slowly for Paul, who's demanding the deadline to ensure faster action.

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US\$/KD 0.30125/35
Euro/KD 0.3588
Yen/KD 0.0027
British £/KD 0.3985

KSE +18.94 pts at closing Sept 13
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DOW +21.92 pts at 21:00 Sept 13
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Nasdaq -2.59 pts at 21:00 Sept 13

FTSE -20.99 pts at closing Sept 13

Nikkei +89.20 pts at closing Sept 13

Gold \$1,327.55 per oz (London)

NYMEX crude \$49.28 per barrel

Brent crude \$55.16 per barrel

3-month \$ LIBOR rate 1.3191%