

Municipality prepares plan to deal with encroachment

Cabinet to decide date for Municipal Council elections

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: Head of Municipal Council Muhallhel Al-Khalid says the date of the elections will be decided by the Cabinet, indicating that resorting to the temporary committee is not expected, reports Al-Rai daily.

He indicated that the decision about the elections will be issued at least one month before the legal term of the current council begins which will be Oct 20.

Al-Khalid revealed that the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and

State Minister for Municipal Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri addressed the Cabinet in this regard before the Eid Al-Adha holidays, adding that the current Municipal Council held its first session on Oct 21, 2013.

He explained that the minister, in his correspondence to the Cabinet, said Article No. 6 of Law No. 22/2016 concerning Kuwait Municipality stipulates that one term of the Municipal Council lasts for four years

starting from the date of the first session. Therefore, the calling for the elections should be done within the 60 days preceding the last day of the four-year term. The Cabinet discussed the letter of Al-Jabri in its last session and will take a final decision in this regard in the coming session after a second discussion.

Meanwhile, a source from Kuwait Municipality said the Director General of Kuwait Municipality Eng Ahmed

Al-Manfouhi gave direct instructions to his deputies and to the directors of all municipality branches to identify the areas that are part of state properties and revise the issued licenses and the size of the occupied area for each license.

He explained that Kuwait Municipality has prepared a plan to deal with the illegal occupation of state properties. This plan covers all six governorates, starting with Capital Governorate. Campaigns will be launched with

the cooperation of Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Public Authority for Industry. The plan includes giving violators a grace period for rectifying their violations.

Assistant Undersecretary for Construction Projects Sector at the Ministry of Public Works Eng Ghalib Safouq visited the site for the Expropriation and BOT System Department in South Surra, during which he an-

nounced that the completion rate of the project reached 50 percent, reports Al-Rai daily.

In a press statement, Safouq disclosed the concrete works will be completed while ceiling work on the eighth floor is ongoing and preparations for the ninth floor are being done. He said the electrical connections on the third floor will be completed soon, whereas the brick works on the fourth and fifth floors as well as the sewage works are in progress.

Close the

Continued from Page 1

ruling the Gulf and threatening specific countries.

Everyone remembers how they considered Kuwait as the first country from which they intend to launch their pursuit to rule the remaining Gulf states.

Within a year, Egypt resisted the rule of the 'Brotherhood' as the first concern of their leaders was to take over the economic domains and impose their partnership on owners of businesses; in addition to twisting laws in their favor, notwithstanding the fact that their media mouthpieces in the Gulf typically start drumming for civil war if governments fail to respond to their demands.

In Kuwait, we have a bitter experience with this group through the way the 'Brotherhood' led demonstrations, assaulted security officers, destroyed public properties and strived towards destabilizing the country.

The best testimony is the scores of tweets posted by politicians and journalists from Qatar during the 'Brotherhood' destruction campaign in 2012. At the time, they compared what was transpiring in Kuwait with the incidents in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen and Syria.

They described such events and made threats as they said: "The stubbornness of rulers and standing against the will of the people led to chaos and demonstrations."

However, the wisdom of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah saved the country at the time through a series of crucial decisions.

Today, the political and media circles of 'Brotherhood' terrorism expanded through a comprehensive system from the information media and social communication websites, whether in Qatar or Turkey and other countries which rotate on the global orbit of the group.

The scattered affiliates of this group practice public provocation against some Gulf countries, while camouflaging under the texture which suits each society where they breed. Sometimes, they hide behind liberal factions and parties, and at other times, behind what is known as the organization of moderation and uprightiness. Throughout such efforts; they brandish DAESH, al-Qaeda or other organizations as the tool of change.

These new frontiers conspired with governments of other countries. We witnessed how the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stood up by force with determination on two occasions to counter the danger they pose. For a long period, the Kingdom has been working hard to fight against them.

In fact, the leaders of the Kingdom were the first to warn about the danger posed by the 'Brotherhood,' but unfortunately, the Kingdom's effort was met with paving way for members of this group in other countries to infiltrate and control establishments. In one way or another, this formed a lung through which the group breathes in the remaining countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Today, at this critical period, there is no place for slackness in terms of acknowledging the reality of this group that is involved in prescribed terrorism. Therefore, failure to put it on the list of terrorist groups like Hezbollah, DAESH, al-Qaeda and Houthis is tantamount to encouraging terrorism.

Hence, it is irrational to urge Qatar to consider the 'Muslim Brotherhood Group as a terrorist organization; while there are other Gulf countries granting their members quota of leadership positions. In addition, they have representatives in the parliament and the cabinet.

The infinite

Continued from Page 1

hospital or even a court session or an urgent matter that needs immediate attention, etc.

The reason behind this lagging procedure is that the law, government and insurance companies do not trust citizens or residents. Everyone assumes that insured drivers will agree among themselves to defraud their insurance companies by lying about how the accident occurred and who committed the mistake.

This can happen through fabrication of the entire accident, even if the accident did not occur, in the sense that two or more people decide to close the road with their rented cars. Once the traffic police or expert arrives at the scene, they tell him a cooked up story which the expert jots down and then the involved parties will sign the report.

Once the traffic report is signed, the insurance company will act according to details of the report without any discussion, so every necessary detail is presented appropriately ... and that is it.

I call upon our brothers in backwardness. Why not take the experiences of advanced countries in dealing with such issues? I mean, why not take the experience of advanced countries

3,608 cases of citizens faking disability uncovered in review

Culprits illegally benefited from KD 15m in privileges

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13: The automated review of the disability files from October 2016 until August 2017 uncovered 3,608 cases of citizens faking disability to benefit illegally from an estimated KD 15 million in privileges the government provides for people with special need per year, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting reliable sources.

The same sources added the concerned medical committee changed the description of 680 files from severe disability to zero disability after the automated evaluation exposed beneficiaries who claimed severe disability to receive an estimated KD 6 million. It also discovered 1,253 files claiming medium disability to receive KD 4.9 million, in addition to 1,675 files with slight disabilities that received KD 3.7 million.

Sources stated roughly KD 59 million was paid illegally in the form of allowances to women having disabled people in their custody, as well as driver and servant allowances. They noted KD 23.8 million of the sum was paid in monthly allowances to 8,961 beneficiaries, KD 9 million to 2,916 women custodians of disabled people and KD 25.7 million to 17,352 beneficiaries in driver and servant allowances.

Meanwhile, the committee dismissed 5,139 applications filed by 3,494 persons who presented more than one application claiming dual disability. They also cancelled 7,081 files whose holders are either dead or recovered, and detected 7,000 files with expired medical certificates not renewed for one or two years.

It is worthy of note that Public Authority for Disabled Affairs granted six months grace period for the renewal of expired medical certificates, and all files that were not renewed during the period have since been closed.

Meanwhile, Cairo University has started preparations for opening its branch in Kuwait, following in the footsteps of Alexandria University, reports Al-Shahed daily quoting sources.

Sources said Cairo University intends to submit a request to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, through the Private Universities Council, to open its branch in Ahmadi Governorate. Sources disclosed the branch will offer various fields of specialization, including the faculties of Medicine and Dentistry.

Sources added the Arab Contractors Company will execute the project once the request is approved, affirming the university's fees will be low as its objective is to focus on its educational mission rather than financial gains. Sources went on to say the university will hire Egyptian teachers.

Furthermore, the Kuwaiti National Industries Group Holding has investments worth \$2.5 billion in Jordan, said the chairman on Tuesday.

Jordanian Premiership, in a statement, quoted Al-Saad as saying that the group has plans to expand the businesses in the kingdom.

The statement quoted Jordanian Prime Minister Dr Hani Al-Mulki, who hosted a delegation of the group headed by Al-Saad, as pledging to provide it with all necessary facilities to grow its investments in the country.

The Kuwaiti group, established in 1961, seeks to expand its projects in various sectors in the country.

— the core of which is trust in their citizens and expatriates?

Once when I was in France, I was driving from the city of Aix-en-Provence heading to a resort or a town located in French Riviera. During that trip, I was with my friends and it was autumn, given that I do not visit such places in summer.

While we were waiting in traffic near one of the entrances to the glamorous city; a long vehicle recklessly went past by our car, hitting the side and crushing the backdoor.

The long vehicle stopped on the road side, not at the scene of accident. By then, pedestrians have already gathered around and several of them told me that they witnessed the accident, saying it was the mistake of the truck driver.

The pedestrians gave me their phone numbers which they wrote on a white paper in case their testimony is needed. On the other hand, the truck driver came to the car I was driving and asked me to get on his truck where he



Kuwait Red Crescent Society and IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation distribute relief aid to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. KUNA photo

4,000 food parcels distributed to 16,000 refugees

KRCS, IHH coordinating in helping Rohingyas

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 13, (KUNA): Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) and IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation are working together to deliver relief aid and assistance to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, said a statement Wednesday.

KRCS Chairman of the Board Dr Hilal Al-Sayer told KUNA that the society was keen on collaborating with other international partners to help the Rohingya Muslims.

In the upcoming days, the KRCS and associates will launch a campaign in support of the Rohingyas escaping persecution from the Buddhist majority in Myanmar.

In the previous weeks, some 300,000 Rohingya Muslims have

fled Rakhine State in Myanmar to neighboring Bangladesh, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Mercy International, part of the Association for Social Reform, launched a campaign to distribute around 4,000 food parcels to some 16,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, said an official Wednesday.

Mercy International's Indian sub-continent bureau Chief Mohammad Al-Qassar told KUNA via phone that aiding Myanmar's Rohingya minority was a humanitarian duty which Kuwait would gladly participate in.

He indicated that the Rohingyas, who are escaping persecution in Myanmar, are in desperate need

for aid considering their current dire situation.

As a nation eager for truth and justice, Kuwait will stand by the Rohingyas "who are abused and massacred by the Buddhist majority in their country," said Al-Qassar who called on all components of Kuwaiti society to aid their fellow Muslims in Myanmar.

He urged people to donate to the campaign through Mercy International headquarters all over Kuwait or through the committee's website.

In the previous weeks, some 300,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled Rakhine State in Myanmar to neighboring Bangladesh, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

acknowledged his mistake.

The driver reached for his truck's glove box, pulled out a form called "constat amiable d'accident automobile" — an accident report form stating facts about the accident as agreed by those involved in the accident. All of us signed the form where we also put our personal information, and after that, we went our separate ways.

I took the car back to Nice Airport where I rented the car. The persons in charge at the car rental office saw the huge dent on the backdoor, and to my surprise, they were not shocked at all.

Instead, they requested for the accident report. After that, they simply asked me to choose an alternative car and that was the end of the story.

We dedicate this story to those who are fond of backwardness, frustration and delay in our well-guided government which is represented by the Ministry of Interior and its worn-out Traffic Department.

MP calls

Continued from Page 1

approved by the Environment Public Authority (EPA).

He revealed the committee received a comprehensive report from EPA, detailing the procedures taken in addressing the above mentioned issues. He added the committee will meet again after two weeks to look into the results of these procedures.

He affirmed no new fish kill incident has been reported so far, thanking EPA for taking into consideration the recommendations of the Parliament in this regard. He was quick to add though that there is still more to be done; hence, the need for intensified efforts and stronger coordination between the concerned institutions to resolve these issues.

On the allegation that oil spots from a neighboring country reached Kuwait's territorial waters; he said, "We looked into the measures taken by EPA. I do not want to preempt things nor hold accountable anyone until the results of monitoring and analyses carried out by the authority."

He also urged EPA to increase the number of environmental police in cooperation with the Ministry of Inte-

rior, adding the Attorney General must develop the environment prosecution mechanism to expedite issuance of decisions on environmental issues. He said, "We have to exert more efforts and coordinate with all relevant bodies to stop improper dumping of waste."

Syria in

Continued from Page 1

has been ongoing since yesterday as the army seeks to expel the jihadists and reach the western bank of the Euphrates."

If the army captures Al-Jafra, "Deir Ezzor will be encircled from three sides, so DAESH will have no way out except the Euphrates which is within firing range of regime artillery and Russian warplanes," he added.

As the Syrian army backed by Russian air support battles IS in Deir Ezzor, a separate offensive by the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces is under way on the eastern side of the province.

The operation by the alliance of Kurdish and Arab fighters began over the weekend, but the SDF has said it was not coordinating the fight with the regime.

Air strikes by Russian and US-led coalition warplanes in support of the separate offensives have killed dozens of civilians in recent days.

On Wednesday, the Observatory said suspected US-led coalition strikes on several parts of eastern Deir Ezzor province overnight and throughout the day killed 12 people.

On Tuesday, the monitor reported 35 people killed in Russian and US-led strikes on either side of the Euphrates. More than 330,000 people have been killed in Syria since the conflict began in March 2011 with anti-government protests.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad welcomed Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu to Damascus on Tuesday as Syrian forces supported by the Russian army prepare to make a final push into parts of the eastern city of Deir Ezzor.

Shoigu gave a letter from Russian President Vladimir Putin to Assad "congratulating him on lifting the siege imposed by Islamic State terrorists in the city of Deir Ezzor," according to a statement by the Syrian presidency.

An unwavering ally of Assad's regime, Russia militarily intervened in the Syria's six-year conflict in September 2015 when the government was in trouble in its fight against rebels and jihadist groups.

The Damascus regime has had many victories since and now controls nearly all Syria's main cities.

The loss of Deir Ezzor would be a major blow to the jihadist group, whose territory in Syria and neighbouring Iraq has been shrinking.

Shoigu and Assad, who last met in June 2016 in Damascus, discussed their "military and tactical cooperation ... for the destruction of the Islamic State group in Syria," a statement from the Russian defence ministry said.

Gulf row

Continued from Page 1

radical Islamist groups.

"The severity of the diplomatic dispute between Gulf countries is unprecedented, which magnifies the uncertainty over the ultimate economic, fiscal and social impact on the GCC as a whole," said Steffen Dyck, Moody's vice-president.

Qatar faces large economic, financial and social costs stemming from related travel and trade restrictions, it said.

The impact on Qatar so far has been most acute for trade, tourism and the banking sector.

Sizeable capital outflows in the vicinity of \$30 billion flowed out of Qatar's banking system in June and July, with further declines expected as GCC banks opt not to roll over their deposits, Moody's said.

It estimates that Qatar used \$38.5 billion — equivalent to 23 percent of its GDP — to support the economy in the first two months of sanctions.

Moody's said it does not expect that Qatar will have to borrow from the international capital market this year, but its financing costs will increase.

The standoff could also impair the

Jail call

Continued from Page 1

On Wall Street on Tuesday, Equifax closed 2.5 percent higher at \$115.96, slightly reversing a 21 percent slide since the hack was reported.

In an opinion piece in USA Today, Equifax Chief Executive Officer Richard Smith apologized for the breach and vowed the company "will make changes."

He said more than 15 million people have visited the firm's support website and 11.5 million are enrolling in credit monitoring and identity theft protection.

The company at first thought the intrusion was limited, Smith said. Equifax hired a cybersecurity firm and spent "thousands of hours" investigating before informing the public six weeks after the breach was discovered, he said.

"We are devoting extraordinary resources to make sure this kind of incident doesn't happen again," Smith said. Smith did not address the stock sale issue.

In their letter, the lawmakers, led by Jack Reed, a Democrat, and John Kennedy, a Republican, requested "a thorough examination of any unusual trading, including any atypical options trading, for violations of insider trading law."

NewsWatch

Continued from Page 1

Paul said Tuesday that Congress is supposed to make it difficult for the executive branch to go to war. But Congress has "lost (its) way" and effectively allowed the president to unilaterally commit the nation to war. (AFP)

CAIRO: Egypt's military said two soldiers and six jihadists were killed in a "foiled" suicide bombing in Sinai on Wednesday, days after the Islamic State group staged a large scale attack in the peninsula.

The bomber had taken advantage of a fog to creep up on an army "installation" when troops spotted and killed him, the military said in a statement.

It said five other jihadists were killed in ensuing clashes, which followed a police convoy bombing in Sinai on Monday claimed by IS that killed 18 people. (AFP)

GENEVA: Diplomats and rights advocates gathered at the UN Wednesday to launch a new push for an international investigation into rights violations in war-ravaged Yemen, after two previous attempts failed amid Saudi pressure.

The Netherlands and Canada are spearheading the new bid to push a resolution through the UN Human Rights Council this month on creating an International Commission of Inquiry — the UN's highest-level probe — to investigate abuses in Yemen. (AFP)

ROCKFORD, Wash.: A shooter opened fire at a high school in Washington state Wednesday, killing one person and injuring at least three others, authorities said.

Brian Schaeffer of the Spokane Fire Department told reporters that one person died at Freeman High School in Rockford, south of Spokane, and three injured victims were taken to a hospital.

Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center and Children's Hospital received three pediatric patients, spokeswoman Nicole Stewart said. They were in stable condition, and family members were with them, she said. (AP)