

Kuwaitis bemoan negative phenomena in governorate

National identity almost obliterated

KUWAIT CITY, April 2: A number of Kuwaiti citizens unanimously agreed that crimes, traffic congestions, lawbreaking and violations, inadequate medical care, shortage of security operatives and presence of bachelors in many residential areas are prevalent in varying degrees throughout the country, but it is unfortunate that all of these negative phenomena are widespread in Farwaniya Governorate, reports Al-Shahed Daily.

According to Abdulaziz Al-Takhakh, the national identity is almost obliterated within that governorate, particularly places such as Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Khaitan and

Farwaniya areas. Those areas are strong indications of the demographic structure problem in the country, because majority of residents therein are expatriates. People are only hearing about solutions to problems like traffic congestion, bachelor presence and crimes but they have not seen any difference yet.

In his comment, Abdulaziz Shelash lamented that the governorate is suffering from serious traffic congestion especially during the school hours and during the start and end of working hours.

He indicated that many accidents had occurred due to bad roads and sudden diversions, stressing, "We should wipe out marginal workers from our areas through impromptu security campaigns organized by Ministry of Interior from

time to time. The fact that the population of expatriates outnumber citizens within the governorate is a problem in itself."

Another citizen Salama Al-Enezi corroborated his fellow compatriot, saying the source of problems in Farwaniya Governorate is the massive presence of marginal Asian workers, indicating that some of them are working but in an illegitimate manner.

He said, "There is a need for a new hospital with full medical, nursing, technical and administrative crew that can take care of large number of patients. This is especially important considering the efforts being exerted by Farwaniya Hospital to take care of residents of the governorate."

Al-Enezi also stressed the need to prevent heavy duty trucks from plying the roads all the time.

Khalifa bin

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who will be the next target of aggression after Bahrain."

His Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman is doing an excellent job in reminding Bahrainis, and Gulf nationals in general, about the stages of confronting aggression; because refraining from mentioning such issues will lead to oblivion, and through that,

cautiousness will drop.

This is exactly what the conspirators are striving for. The Prime Minister said "conspiracies against us continue relentlessly. Interference in our affairs comes from those who are not far from us. Their main concern is to divide us — a united nation which stands behind its leaders; hence, continuous caution is necessary like the air we breathe."

Bahrain must go past the plight that Iran attempted to impose on it, whether directly or through the weak souls of

those who opted to go against their patriotism values.

This happened at a time Bahrain announced its major discovery of oil and gas in its entire history. This means Almighty Allah wants this blessed land to enjoy its abundant blessings.

Nonetheless, everyone highly appreciates the loyalty and sacrifices which Prince Khalifa bin Salman made together with his brothers in the Bahraini leadership during their fight against Iranian aggression.

Tax everyone,

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for Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Abdulwahab Al-Wazzan said in a press release that tax should be imposed on everyone, as that is the way to ensure justice.

He affirmed it is a known fact that new taxes will be implemented shortly such as Value Added Tax (VAT) and income tax along with the current taxes like Zakat tax, national labor subsidy and the tax paid to Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences.

Al-Wazzan insisted that participation in supporting the state funds is a national duty, encouraging everyone to participate and stop squandering the public funds as well as to confront corruption.

Manila maintains

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deployment ban to Kuwait.

"What we mean by partial lifting is that we will probably recommend to the president to lift the ban on skilled workers," Bello said.

"With respect to the household service workers (HSW), we still have to study the implication of the MoU (Memorandum of Understanding), with respect to their protection."

Senate President Aquilino 'Koko' Pimentel III still wants to pursue 'high level talks and consultations' with host states in the Middle East as far as protecting the safety and welfare of OFWs.

"Our task now is to ensure that what happened to Joanna never happens again. We need further high level talks and consultations with our countrymen's host states in the Middle East to ensure that diplomatic, administrative and legal mechanisms are in place for the OFW protection," the Senate leader said.

The Director General of Residence Affairs in the Interior Ministry Major General Talal Marafi tackled on Monday with a delegation from Philippines problems facing Filipinos in Kuwait, to ease import of domestic helps from the Philippines.

In a press statement, Marafi said that the meeting also delved into obstacles facing Filipino community in Kuwait, including labor rights and legal obligations from both ends.

Marafi added Philippines Deputy Foreign Minister for Immigrants Laborers Affairs Sarah Laiwala attended the meeting, including Philippines Ambassador to Kuwait Renato Pedro Villa.

The Director stressed importance on the deeply rooted relations between the two countries, calling for opening channels for dialogue to end all remaining issues regarding domestic workers, expressing as well his eagerness to boost cooperation.

Gaza toll

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The incident took place east of the southern Gaza city of Rafah, and medical said Abu Shanab was shot in the leg.

In another video that spread on social media, a young man later identified as Abdelfatah Abdelnabi, is seen being fatally shot from behind while carrying a tire as he ran away from the border.

Majd al-Omari, who filmed the incident on his smartphone, said that just before the shooting, Abdelnabi had been involved in burning tires about 200 meters (yards) from the fence.

The Israeli military accused Hamas on Sunday of releasing videos that were incomplete, edited or "completely fabricated," but did not elaborate.

The military said troops followed strict rules of engagement, and that protesters were putting themselves in "harm's way" by operating in a dangerous area.

Israeli military officials have said troops would not allow protesters to cross or damage the border fence, and that protesters would not be permitted to get closer than 100 meters to the fence.

The officials did not say how troops would respond if "red lines" were crossed.

An Associated Press reporter saw two young men getting shot in the legs Saturday, in incidents about 15 minutes apart, as they stepped away from a group of dozens of people standing about 200 meters (yards) from the border and walked closer to the fence.

In Friday's protests, thousands gathered near the border in several locations. Smaller groups moved closer to the fence, throwing stones or burning tires. The military said that in one incident, two armed men opened fire near the fence.

Rights groups said it's unlawful to use lethal force when Palestinian protesters don't pose an imminent threat to the lives of Israeli soldiers.

"An army can use reasonable force to defend a border," said Omar Shakir of the international group Human Rights Watch.

"This was an incident where soldiers were firing from behind the fence, separated by buffer zones and other objects, firing on individuals well behind the fence, in some cases retreating, not moving forward, or advancing without posing imminent threat."

Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman has rejected international calls for an investigation.

The death toll for Friday rose to 18, after a 29-year-old man died Monday of his injuries. The militant group Islamic Jihad said the man had been a member.

The Israeli military has said 10 of the Palestinians killed Friday were members of Hamas and other militant groups, but did not say if any were armed except for the two who had opened fire near the fence.

Amos Gilad, a retired senior defense official, accused Hamas on Monday of cynically exploiting civilians, alleging the group "wants headlines through

blood."

"The big achievement of last Friday is that they (marchers) didn't cross the border," he told Israel's Channel 10.

"Israel cannot allow violent Palestinians who are being sent by an organization whose aim is to destroy the state" to enter Israeli territory, he said.

The idea for the mass marches was first floated by a Gaza social media activist several months ago, and was later adopted by Hamas, which seized power in Gaza in 2007. In response to Hamas rule, Israel and Egypt enforced a crippling blockade of Gaza's borders. Israel and Hamas have fought three cross-border wars.

Protests are to continue until May 15, the 70th anniversary of Israel's founding. The date is mourned by Palestinians as their "nakba," or catastrophe, when hundreds of thousands were uprooted in the 1948 Mideast war over Israel's creation. Most of Gaza's 2 million people are descendants of Palestinian refugees.

Gaza's continued border closure has made it increasingly difficult for Hamas to govern. Life in the coastal strip has deteriorated further in recent months, with rising unemployment, grinding poverty and daily blackouts that last for hours.

In a risky strategy, Hamas appears to be trying to use the protests to draw attention to the difficult conditions in Gaza, without plunging into another devastating war with Israel.

Dwindled

Protests along the Gaza border with Israel have dwindled after the conflict's deadliest day in years, but both sides braced for further tensions Monday after Palestinians called for more demonstrations.

Demonstrations along the border since Friday have included only several hundred people, but large crowds may return in the coming days, including after the weekly Muslim prayer on Friday.

Hamas, the Islamist movement that runs the Gaza Strip and which has fought three wars with Israel since 2008, has called for more mass demonstrations.

The protests are in support of Palestinian refugees returning to lands they fled or were expelled from during the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation.

"The Palestinian people are determined to continue the great 'March of Return,' to free the land and move towards occupied Jerusalem, and they are not concerned by all the sacrifices," senior Hamas member Khalil al-Hayya told a memorial ceremony, while also vowing that the Islamist group would not disarm.

The border area was relatively quiet on Monday morning, but tents erected for the protests remained.

Near the Erez crossing into Israel, a few dozen young men sat around while others erected new tents.

Israel has defended its soldiers' actions, when they opened fire Friday on Palestinians who strayed from a main protest camp and approached the heavily fortified fence cutting off the blockaded enclave.

The military says soldiers opened fire only when necessary against those throwing stones and firebombs or rolling tyres at soldiers.

It said there were attempts to damage the fence and infiltrate Israel, while alleging there was also an attempted gun attack against soldiers along the border.

Israel accuses Hamas of using the protest as cover to carry out violence.

Palestinians say protesters were shot while posing no threat to soldiers and rights groups have criticised Israel's use of live fire.

Winnie Mandela

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Leading the tributes, anti-apartheid campaigner and Nobel laureate Desmond Tutu described her as "a defining symbol" of the battle against oppression.

"She refused to be bowed by the imprisonment of her husband, the perpetual harassment of her family by security forces, detentions, bannings and banishment," Tutu said.

"Her courageous defiance was deeply inspirational to me, and to generations of activists."

The statement from her family said that she passed away at the Netcare Milpark hospital in Johannesburg.

"She died after a long illness, for which she had been in and out of hospital since the start of the year. She succumbed peacefully in the early hours of Monday afternoon surrounded by her family and loved ones," it added.

In the ruling African National Congress (ANC), head of policy Jeff Radebe described her as "an icon of the revolutionary struggle."

Most of Winnie's marriage to Nelson was spent apart, with Nelson imprisoned for 27 years, leaving her to raise their two daughters alone and to keep alive his political dream under the repressive white-minority regime.

But her reputation came under damaging scrutiny in the twilight years of apartheid rule.

In 1986, she was widely linked to "necklacing", when suspected traitors were burnt alive by a petrol-soaked car tyre being put over their head and set alight.

In 1990 the world watched when Nelson Mandela finally walked out of prison — hand in hand with Winnie.

The following year, she was convicted of kidnapping and assault over the killing of Stompie Moeketsi, a 14-year-old boy.

In 1992, the Mandelas separated, and then divorced in 1996, after a legal wrangle that revealed she had had an affair with a young bodyguard.

During her old age, she re-emerged as a respected elder who was feted as a living reminder of the late Mandela and of the long campaign against apartheid.

Just last month, she was shown in television footage joking with Cyril Ramaphosa, the newly-appointed president who paid a courtesy call to her home in Soweto, the township where

she lived for decades.

Dressed in full ANC colours of yellow, black and green, she asked Ramaphosa, who is known for his morning runs, "Why don't you get tired?"

"We can't get tired when you have given us work to do" Ramaphosa said, paying fulsome praise to her appearance.

She had also expressed support for the current leadership of the ANC party — which her husband led to power in the euphoric post-apartheid elections of 1994.

The SABC state broadcaster said she had attended church in Soweto on Easter Friday before being admitted to hospital complaining of flu. She had also suffered from diabetes for some years.

Suggestions that Winnie remained extremely close to Nelson Mandela in his final years were fuelled in a recent book by his doctor.

Vejay Ramlakan wrote that Winnie — not Mandela's widow Graca Machel — was with Mandela when he died in 2013. The book was withdrawn by its publishers under pressure from Mandela's family.

Newswatch

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his election for a second term in office, expressed good wishes in his service to the nation, lauded the distinguished and historic ties between the two countries and noted his aspiration to stronger bonds and greater cooperation in various realms.

Their Highnesses the Crown Prince and the Prime Minister, respectively **Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah** and **Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah**, sent cables of identical content to the re-elected president. (KUNA)

RIYADH: GCC Shield (II), the second phase of the joint military training, kicked off on Sunday using live ammunition.

The field exercise will last for five consecutive days, which will include participating forces conducting training on land, air, sea, in addition to air defense and special forces training, the military spokesman for the drill, Brigadier **Abdullah Al-Subaie** quoted by Saudi press agency (SPA) as saying.

Al-Subaie added that such drills aim at increasing the level of efficiency of the participating forces to meet the challenges and threats within the framework of joint operations, and to achieve an efficient joint action performance, utilizing many modern and advanced weapons. (KUNA)

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia on Monday announced "spying" on your spouse's phone is now a criminal offence potentially punishable by a hefty fine — and a year in jail.

"Married individuals planning to spy on their spouse in Saudi Arabia will need to think twice, because such an activity could potentially attract a fine of 500,000 riyals (\$133,000, 108,000 euros), along with a prison term for a year," read an English-language statement released by Saudi Arabia's information ministry.

The provision, part of a new anti-cybercrime law which came into force last week, is meant to "protect morals of individuals and society and protect privacy", the ministry said. (AFP)

ABU DHABI: The UAE on Monday lodged a complaint with the International Civil Aviation Organization after it said Qatari jets approached civilian flights last week, official media said.

The **United Arab Emirates** is among four Arab states that cut ties with **Qatar** in June, accusing **Doha** of ties to Islamists and Shiite **Iran**. Qatar denies the allegations.

A civil aviation dispute between the two Gulf states erupted earlier this year, with the UAE also filing a complaint with the ICAO in January.

Saif Mohammed al-Suwaidi, director of the UAE's general civil aviation authority, said **Abu Dhabi** had filed another complaint on Monday over what it said was the interceptions of a passenger flight and civilian helicopter over **Bahrain** last Monday. (AFP)

ADEN: An air strike near the Yemeni port of **Hodeida** on Monday killed 16 people in a building where Houthi rebels were gathering, security sources told AFP.

There were conflicting reports on the number of rebels versus civilians killed in the strike which was believed to have been carried out by the Saudi-led coalition.

The coalition said it was investigating the reports and could not immediately comment. (AFP)

DUBAI: Yemen's Houthi rebels have violated international laws of war in their latest missile attacks on **Saudi Arabia**, which killed an Egyptian labourer, Human Rights Watch said Monday.

On March 25, the **Iran**-backed rebels fired seven ballistic missiles into Saudi Arabia.

Saudi authorities said their defences intercepted all seven, but falling debris from one of the missiles killed a migrant worker in the capital **Riyadh**. (AFP)

WASHINGTON: The Supreme Court is rejecting an appeal from American victims of terrorist attacks in the **Middle East** more than a decade ago.

The justices are not commenting Monday in ending a lawsuit against the PLO and Palestinian Authority in connection with attacks in **Israel** in 2002 and 2004 that killed 33 people. A lower court tossed out a \$654 million verdict against the Palestinians. (AP)



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His Highness the Crown Prince, National Assembly Speaker Marzuq Al-Ghanim, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and senior state officials. A mission of honor, headed by Amiri Diwan Advisor Mohammad Abulhasan, was formed to accompany the distinguished guest.

The two sides agreed on Monday on forming a joint cooperation committee. The accord was inked at Bayan Palace, with attendance of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the visiting President of the Comoros Azali Assoumani. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah signed the agreement on behalf of the State of Kuwait Government.

Mohamed El-Amine Souef, the Comoros Foreign Minister, inked it on his government's behalf. Earlier today, His Highness the Amir and his guest swapped top-grade medals at a ceremony at Bayan Palace. His Highness also honored the president and his delegation with a luncheon.

10 KG Gold Bar for 100 Winners at Malabar Gold & Diamonds

The jewellery retailer has announced their 'The Great Gold Rush' offers

Revealed a huge collection of jewellery in gold, diamonds and precious gems to celebrate this festive season

Announcement

- Promotion period: 28th March to 21st April, 2018
- Participating outlets: All Malabar Gold & Diamonds outlets in the Middle East and Far East
- Main attraction: Chance to win up to 100 Gold Bars weighing 100 grams each
- Offers in UAE
 - Customers will get two raffle coupons with every diamond jewellery purchase worth KWD 40.
 - Will get one raffle coupon for every gold jewellery purchase worth KWD 40.
 - A total of 10 lucky winners will walk away with the 100 grams gold bars in UAE.
 - Free two gram gold coin on purchase of diamonds jewellery worth KWD 400
 - Free one gram gold coin on diamond purchase of KWD 250
 - Pay 10% & get gold rate protection until 18th April, 2018.
 - Unveiled the latest collection of jewellery specially designed for the festive season in gold, diamonds & precious gems.



get 1 raffle coupon that will entitle them to enter in a raffle draw to get a chance to win 100 gram gold bars. In Kuwait a total of 10 lucky winners will walk away with 100 gram gold bars each. Adding to the above, customers also get two gram gold coin on diamond jewellery purchase of KWD 400 and a one gram gold coin on purchase of diamond jewellery worth KWD 250.

Also, customers will have a great opportunity to get the gold rate protection by just paying 10% of the entire amount on the selected gold jewellery to get protected from the increasing gold rate, this offer is until April 18th only.

All the above offers are valid at their outlets in Kuwait until 21st April 2018.

To add more sparkle to this season, they have also revealed their latest collection of jewellery in gold, diamonds and precious gems to suit the tastes of their multicultural and multinational customers.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds has incorporated these designs as a part of various brands presented at Malabar Gold & Diamonds' namely Ethnix - Handcrafted Designer Jewellery, Era - Uncut Diamond Jewellery, Mine - Diamonds Unlimited, Divine- Indian Heritage Jewellery, Precia - Gem Jewellery and Starlet - Kids jewellery.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one among the BIG 5 jewellery retailers globally with a strong retail network of over 210 retail outlets spread across nine countries unfolded the details of its much awaited promotion, 'The Great Gold Rush' to celebrate this festive season. This promotion will run at all Malabar Gold & Diamonds outlets in the Middle East & Far East. In Kuwait the offer will run from 28th March to 21st April, 2018. The customers get unparalleled opportunities to win a total of 100 gold bars across their showrooms in GCC & Far East. A true shopper's delight, Malabar Gold & Diamonds will captivate the customers by exhibiting eye catching designs in gold, diamonds, platinum and precious gems from different parts of the world to flaunt any occasion or event and are well priced too. In Kuwait, with every purchase of diamond jewellery worth KWD 40, customers will get 2 raffle coupons & with every gold jewellery purchase worth KWD 40 will