



Firemen at the site of the blaze in Khaitan.

KFSD photo

## 9 hurt in Khaitan building fire

Fire broke out in an eight-storied building in Khaitan area. Nine individuals suffered from smoke inhalation.

According to a press release, three fire teams rushed to the location with securitymen and paramedics after receiving information about the fire. They evacuated all the tenants from the building and disconnected the electricity supply.

They discovered that the fire broke out in the stairway of the building and spread to the first floor, resulting in heavy smoke. Nine individuals who suffered from smoke inhalation were referred to the paramedics who provided them with necessary treatment at the site.

The fire was extinguished within a short time and investigations were launched to determine the cause of the fire.

# 'Around KD 48 mln recovered from suspects blamed in misappropriation of public funds'

Timely police arrival foils armed robbery bid

**KUWAIT CITY, Dec 9: President of the Public Funds Prosecution Dr Faisal Al-Mutairi disclosed that the sector has recovered over KD 48 million from the suspects of misappropriation, reports Al-Qabas daily.**

Al-Mutairi declared that refunding the amount after allegations of misappropriation did not leave the perpetrators off the hook, and they neither evaded judicial punishments.

He said the positive reasons of the growing public funds misappropriation cases is the high rate of awareness on the sanctity of public funds in our society and the mandatory protection over it. He stated the most notable negative reasons embedded in inadequacy of auditing systems as regards fair and transparent internal follow-up of all government agencies, which could be related to movable and immovable assets.

He noted that public funds related crimes have increased to over 750 percent within the past 10 years. He explained that only 24 cases were recorded in 2009, while it multiplied to 210 in 2018. He emphasized discussion on money laundering perpetrated by gang using proxy and hidden complicated accounts difficult for banks to handle.

**Armed robbery attempted:** Two unknown individuals attempted to commit armed robbery at a money exchange office in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh area.

According to security sources, when the Operations Room of Ministry of Interior received information from an employee of a money exchange shop that two masked and armed individuals – one carrying a rifle and the other a knife – were attempting to burgle the shop, Farwaniya securitymen rushed to the location. However, the suspects managed to escape prior to the arrival of the policemen.

The employees informed securitymen that the suspects were masked and they seem to be of an Arabian nationality from their dialect, adding that the suspects were unable to steal anything.

A case was registered, and investigations have been launched to find



A fisherman casts his net during the early morning hours near Mahboula. (Krishnadas Ramanujam - KUNA)

## Ruling on real estate scam, money-laundering on Jan 19

By Jaber Al-Hamoud  
Al-Seyassah Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Dec 9:** The Court of Cassation has set Jan 19 for judgment in the money laundering and real estate scam case in which a real estate company is accused of executing bogus projects valued at KD109 million inside and outside the country.

Some 17 officials and employees are involved in the case.

The Public Prosecution charged the officials for collecting KD109.322 million by luring the plaintiffs to invest in bogus lucrative projects and practicing money laundering. They reportedly collect the money with full knowledge of the consequences when they introduced the real es-

tate investments. The money was deposited in their private local accounts before they transferred the sum into personal accounts of the first defendant in Turkey and UAE respectively.

Earlier, the Court of Appeal sentenced the officials and employees of the company to jail terms ranging from 5-10 years with fine of KD4 million.

and arrest the suspects.

**Visa traders arrested:** Six Asian expatriates have been arrested for residency trading.

According to security sources, when the Criminal Security Department of General Department for Residency Affairs received information about the involvement of the six Asian expatriates in bringing workers of their nationality to Kuwait at a cost, investigations were carried out and the information was confirmed.

The head of the gang was arrested at Kuwait International Airport just before he left the country, and the rest of the gang was later arrested in possession of a number of passports, entry visas and work visas, as well as authorized signature which was forged.

When questioned, they confessed

to their crime. They have been referred to the concerned authorities for further investigations and necessary legal action.

**Kuwaiti beaten, tortured:** Police are looking for two Kuwaitis for beating and terrifying a compatriot in a suburb of Ahmadi, reports Al-Rai daily. According to the complainant, he was involved in a dispute with the two men and they invited him for a meeting at a public square to settle outstanding issues.

However, he said when he arrived at the place, the men beat him and shot in the air to terrify him and pointed a gun at him and threatened to kill him.

Before escaping from the scene they hit him with the car and attempted to run him over.

**Two fight over girl:** Two unidentified youths have been arrested and detained at a police station in Hawalli for assaulting each other in public, reports Al-Rai daily.

This happened when one of the two men who was in love with a girl discovered that his girlfriend was meeting her lover's friend secretly.

When the youth confronted his girlfriend, she denied the allegation and told her boyfriend not to meet her again.

When the lover felt betrayed by his friend, he summoned him to a café to solve the problem, but an argument ensued and they ended up beating each other – first inside the café and then in the parking lot – following which eyewitnesses called the Operations Room of the Ministry of Interior.

## Court Cases

### Request to shelve case rejected

## Ban smoking in two courts: lawyer

**KUWAIT CITY, Dec 9:** The Administrative Circle of the Court of Cassation has rejected a request submitted by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice to shelve the case filed by lawyer Khalaf Al-Otaibi, reports Al-Anba daily.

Lawyer Khalaf Al-Otaibi had filed a lawsuit against the Ministry of Justice demanding that smoking should be banned in the two courts and to allocate special places for smokers, indicating that he and other lawyers and people visiting the courts in Farwaniya and Jahra are victims of passive smoking.

In the lawsuit Al-Otaibi said people smoking in passageways and staircases of the court building affect the nature of the work because sometimes they need to stay in the court buildings for long hours because of the nature of their work.

Al-Otaibi explained that smoking in the two courts violates Article 15 of the Constitution, which states that the state is concerned with public health and means of prevention and treatment of diseases and epidemics, and Article 41 thereof that every Kuwaiti has the right to work, and Article 4 of Law No. 15 of 1995 on combating smoking in ministries and government agencies as prohibiting smoking in public places, while Article 5 of Law No. 42 of 2014 regarding the issuance of the Environmental

Protection Law amended by Law No. 99 of 2015 amending some provisions of the Environmental Law prohibits smoking in public and closed places.

**Hearing on Jan 19:** The Criminal Court held its seventeenth session yesterday to look into the 'hospitality' case of the Ministry of Interior in which 24 people, including officials of the Ministry of Interior and Finance, are accused of forgery, gross negligence, seizing public money and money laundering, reports Al-Anba daily.

The court, chaired by Counselor Miteb Al-Ardi, decided to postpone the case to Jan 19 to present the final documents by the defense counsel.

During yesterday's session the court listened to testimony of two witnesses.

**Kuwaiti swindled:** A Kuwaiti has filed a complaint with the Ahmadi police accusing an unidentified Syrian of cheating him to the tune of KD 5,000 after persuading him to set up a restaurant, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to the complainant he gave the Syrian the money to begin initial work on the restaurant but after receiving the money, the suspect allegedly disappeared and switched off his cellphone.

LIMITED QUANTITY

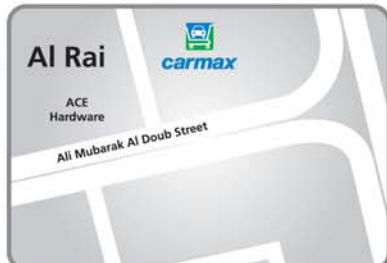
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**5,799**

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from Saturday to Thursday • from 8:30am to 12:30pm / 4:30pm to 8:30pm



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