

Kuwaitis, Gulf citizens obliged to apply fingerprints step on departure, arrival

'Brush with the law ... no leaving, no entry'

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 11: In a step that comes within the framework of the Ministry of Interior's keenness to prevent any manipulation in procedures while exiting and entering the country, after specific years of the start of applying the fingerprint system to expatriates, the Ministry of Interior has, within the past few days, followed a new procedure that obliges all Kuwaitis and Gulf citizens to apply the fingerprints when they leave and enter the country, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source confirmed that any Kuwaiti or Gulf citizen who has any obstacle that prevents him/her from travelling will be banned from leaving or entering the country if the fingerprint device proves that the person is wanted by law, in such cases the person will be referred to the security authority.

A security source told Al-Anba that under the activation of the fingerprint system, it will be necessary for all those who leave the country will have to place the left or right index finger on the fingerprint machine to ensure there is no objection for the person to leave the country.

The source pointed out that the application of the fingerprint system comes after completing the database of the Ministry of Interior for all citizens and Gulf citizens.

Asked about the passengers who



Kuwait's Army Chief of General Staff Lieut Gen Muhammad Al-Khudhur with senior officials from the GCC countries at the opening of the Defence expo. (KUNA photo)

Expo aims to make Kuwait financial center: army chief

Kuwait's Army Chief of General Staff Lieut Gen Muhammad Al-Khudhur said Tuesday that the fifth Gulf Defense and Aviation Exhibition aims to make Kuwait a financial and commercial center.

In a keynote speech during the three-day exhibition, which attracts 212 leading international companies in the field of defense and armament from 31 countries, Al-Khudhur said that the exhibition is an opportunity to see the latest developments in defense and security industries.

He pointed out that it is also a valuable opportunity to discuss and exchange experiences between military leaders and choose what is appropriate for

their tasks and future aspirations.

For his part, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Kuwaiti Army's Supply Authority, Major General Ali Al-Shanafa said that the exhibition aims to attract young people to get acquainted with the military sector and national service and urged university students to present their projects and encourage them to join the military corps. The opening witnessed the presence of the Saudi Chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Fayyad Al-Ruwaili, and the UAE Chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Hamad Al-Rumaithi, and a number of senior officers in the Kuwaiti army. (KUNA)

have no fingerprint, the source indicated that in that case the passenger should revise the Criminal Evidences Department, noting this normal matter due to the completion of the Ministry's database and linking it to the computer.

New minister's priorities: One of the priorities of the new Minister of Interior is the file of about 270 officers from the rank of colonel to Brigadier and from the rank of brigadier to the Major General that will be presented

to him, reports Al-Anba daily quoting familiar sources.

The daily said this becomes the priority of the new minister because 240 colonels have remained in their ranks for a period of 8 consecutive years, and this prevented them from accruing allowances and bonuses commensurate with their experience and the length of their service in the security work.

The daily quoting sources added, the 240 colonels were supposed to be promoted to the highest rank 4 years ago, yet their files have been collect-

ing dust and as a result they lost large sums of money.

The source added what applies to the 240 colonels also applies to about 30 Brigadiers who have remained in their position for 8 consecutive years.

The source said this issue has become one of the priorities of the new minister, because there are many senior positions in the Ministry of Interior that have remained vacant, or rather are held by commissioned or acting officers.

Other Voices

The civil marriage dilemma

By Ahmad alsarraf

Free civil forces in Muslim countries have been demanding for some time now permission for civil marriage between people of different sects and recognition of this marriage as legal, instead of what is happening now, where everyone who wishes to marry a person from another religion either travels to another country, such as Cyprus for example or opt for a temporary civil marriage, or if the man converts to a woman's religion, often Islamic, even if this conversion is a kind of mockery just for the sake of completing the marriage formalities.



alsarraf

In Lebanon, the Minister of the Interior, Raya Al-Hassan, recently moved the issue of civil marriage, and this resulted in 'a beautiful intellectual storm', between the supporters and the opponents according to the opinion of one of the readers, Ilham El-Helou.

Although this intellectual storm did not bring immediate results, due to the massive systematic response to the idea by many conservative forces, it will inevitably contribute to the development of the applicable laws and regulations towards allowing this type of marriages.

The new generations will not remain idle but they will demand the right to choose what they feel is right or what they want, unless the conservative opponents succeed in drowning the young people into daily issues by exploiting poverty and ignorance, the two scourges which inflict the humanity to change their convictions. Here ignorance means we do not talk about academic degrees, rather, the inability to see reason, thought and logic in crucial issues.

The reader Elham Elhelou says in 1936 the issuance of Resolution 60/LR, which combined the privacy of the sects in Lebanon with modernist values derived from the thought of the Republic in France, the forefront of which is the freedom of conscience and recognition of the individual, and his right to choose the sect he/she wants to embrace. The decision referred to a group of Lebanese who are not members of any sect and but subjected to a civil law in their personal status.

However, those who objected to the approval of a "voluntary" civil marriage between any sect or religion did not know the foregoing theory, did not read well the Lebanese constitution – its introduction and articles – and did not go beyond their horizons by reading the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but went deeper into the essence of the religion that accompanies freedom. And who should be open to the other, heralds his thoughts and beliefs with "the best," and not by intimidation.

Yesterday, the Maronite Patriarch, Bechara Boutros Al-Rahi welcomed the civil 'compulsory' marriage that equals the Lebanese, and his 'booby-trapped' words and his endorsement of civil marriage without using the term 'compulsory' or 'optional' or 'between' attributes to the fact that he has thrown the ball into the court of others or Muslims, and the latter is desperate for refusing it in particular, and fears that civil marriage will become 'compulsory' because compulsion here means adherence to it, and making it the first reference. Thus, the provisions of polygamy, inheritance, divorce, etc. are subject to it, and therefore it is imperative that Muslim clerics reject it.

What is important in the intellectual debate that is not currently fruitful on the ground is to rise to the level of reason. The linking of civil marriage to vice, dissolution and societal disintegration is a form of "initiation" for the Lebanese, because religions have not yet been able to prevent marital infidelity, family disputes, family disintegration, and throwing children into waste containers.

Nor did religions solve or prevent the civil wars, in Lebanon and elsewhere, which has killed and maimed more than 200,000 Lebanese and the displaced twice that number or more. Nor did sectarian society rejecting civil marriage could prevent or limit the corruption inside institutions, including religious institutions and courts, and it is clear that secular societies have preceded us in the field of human rights, scientific progress, and social prosperity.

Given this scenario, the question for attaching all the bad qualities to secular and civil, and clearing the sectarian situation didn't provide the states with prosperity, unless we believe that we are the best in the world ... in everything!

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Corruption digs deep

'Illegal' medicines at private center

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 11: Assistant Undersecretary for Food and Medicine Inspection in Ministry of Health Dr Abdullah Al-Bader revealed that a large quantity of illegal medicines were discovered at a private medical center in Salmiya area.

He explained that these medicines are of three kinds – medicines not registered under Ministry of Health, medicines which were smuggled, and medicines exclusive to the government hospitals and medical centers.

One of the inspection committees affiliated to the Medicine Inspection Department of the ministry discovered the aforementioned medicines. The medicines which are not registered under Ministry of Health were purchased from a company, which committed not just a violation but a crime.

Dr Al-Bader affirmed that all these violations will be referred to the Public Prosecution.

He revealed that the Medicine Inspection Department conducts investigations on a daily basis in all places that have medicines in order to ensure the protection of the

health of patients.

Dr Al-Bader urged all Kuwaiti citizens and expatriates to purchase medicines only from accredited pharmacies and to report any complaints they may have via Ministry of Health's website.

Graft digs deep: Acting Secretary-General of Kuwait Progressive Movement Dr Fawaz Farhan is of the view that corruption has become part of the current political and economic system, reports Al-Rai daily.

He pointed out that corruption is deep-rooted in the social and cultural facets of society but the source of this serious phenomenon is in the nature of capitalists that exploit the state's capabilities to generate wealth.

In a statement, Farhan said the International Anti-corruption Day has been observed on Dec 9 each year since 2003. We have been witnesses to the worst cases of corruption in Kuwait this year, confirming Kuwait's recess in the global corruption index.

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