

Other Voices

Sugar changed face of history

By Ahmad alsarraf

There are 3 types of sugar: chemically treated vegetable sugar with added bleach, and a less toxic brown type, used for sweetening foods. There is sugar extracted from plants other than reeds, beets, potatoes and fruits.

There is artificial sugar for sweetening and it has been scientifically proven harmful to health.

There is a human sugar called "Faisal Khaja", known as Sukkar, who has always sweetened our evenings at the Jaber Cultural Center.



alsarraf

All types of sugar, except for saccharin, belong to the carbohydrate category. It was historically found in hot Asian regions, and was not publicly available. Nor did the Western world know it, as it depended on honey and other sweeteners, then the colonialists moved its plant to America and the West Indies, and its cultivation expanded in the eighteenth century with the establishment of sugar cane plantations in Cuba, Brazil and other nations, and its cultivation was widespread in the West.

It affected the course of human history in many ways. It required strong and free labor to work on the vast sugar plantations which attracted millions of Africans and they were brought to work there.

The world annually produces approximately 200 million tons of sugar, and the individual's consumption varies from one society to another. The average person, without diabetes, consumes about 25 kg of sugar annually.

One of the troublesome things, which are not disputed, is that all foods have a benefit other than sugar, because it and all other sweeteners, including honey, have no real nutritional benefit, that is, if their materials are natural and not harmful, then sugar, despite what it adds of a beautiful taste to food, except in my opinion, it is harmful and no less harmful than drugs, cigarette smoking and excessive alcohol consumption.

And out of the concern of many governments for the health of

their citizens from sugar, including Saudi Arabia, its authorities a few months ago were preparing to implement a modern selective tax system, and from December 1 began imposing a high tax on various tobacco products and derivatives and energy and soft drinks. The decision also included sweetened drinks, electronic smoking tools and liquids used in them, by 50% and 100%, respectively.

According to the General Authority of Zakat and Income, sweetened drinks are intended for any product to which a source of sugar or other sweeteners are added to be produced for the purpose of using as a drink, whether it is ready for drinking, concentrates, powders, gel, lotions, or any image that can be converted into a drink.

The commission emphasized that drinks that are not subject to the selective tax according to the definition of sweetened drinks are 100% natural juices for which sugar or other sweeteners have not been added, milk and dairy products and drinks, and concentrates designated for special nutritional and medical uses, in addition to alternative milk drinks and others.

Imposing a 100% selective tax on tobacco products and energy drinks, and 50% on soft drinks, as well as on electronic smoking devices and tools, will not only contribute to reducing their consumption and raising the level of health awareness of citizens and residents, but the collected tax will constitute a significant income to balance for the state.

Although Saudi Arabia imposed this tax in implementation of an agreement within the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Kuwait had not yet thought about studying the idea.

The consumption of sugar and adulterated honey in Kuwait has been increasing to an alarming level, and the percentage of people with diabetes we have the highest rate in the world, and the state agencies are unable to do anything, and the National Assembly is busy with matters of less importance, so is any sane person in the ministries of Health and Finance seeking to impose this tax more than urgent?

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Major General Fahd Al-Zaid talking to the course participants. (Inse): Photo taken during the drill.

'Princes' Shield 1' exercise concludes

The Amiri Guard Authority celebrated the conclusion of the joint exercise "Princes' Shield 1" in which Jordan Royal Guard participated.

According to a press release, the exercise was held on December 1-12 along with a security training program which was held from September 15 to December 12.

Head of the Amiri Guard Authority Major General Fahd Al-Zaid affirmed that the joint exercise was aimed at enhancing exchange of expe-

riences and military cooperation between the armed forces of brotherly and friendly countries.

He congratulated those who graduated from the course and participated in the exercise, wishing them success, progress and prosperity.

Major General Al-Zaid then distributed certificates to the graduates and participants. High-ranking officials from both sides were present at the closing event.

Phenomenon of drug addiction on rise among Defense, Mol security personnel

Brotherhood member handed over to Egypt

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 15: At a time when the security services have redoubled their efforts to combat the scourge of drug addiction, responsible security sources have warned of the phenomenon of drug addiction afflicting personnel from the ministries of Interior and Defense, which has increased during the recent period, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The sources revealed that the security authorities taken into custody about 12 soldiers a month ago for drug use, noting that those arrested were from various ranks and from all military institutions, including personnel from the Directorate-General of Fire Department.

Sources pointed out that last month four men from the Ministry of the Interior were referred to the General Department of Drugs Control for possessing drugs.

The sources stressed efforts are continuing to instill discipline in the military citing the great danger of some drug gangs exploiting them to commit criminal acts.

The sources demanded urgent action by officials to implement the law that compels the military to conduct periodic examination noting that this law has been shelved and it can only be enforced in the narrowest limits.

The source revealed that the regular examination of the military men is applied only by the Ministry of Defense, while other military institutions neglect it for unknown reasons.

The sources pointed out that the Ministry of Defense, since the application of this law, drug use among the military men has significantly decreased.

The sources referred to a high-



KUNA photo

Undersecretary of National Guard Lieutenant General Hashim Al-Refaei at the exhibition.

Al-Refaei visits defense exhibition

Undersecretary of National Guard Lieutenant General Hashim Al-Refaei visited the 5th Gulf Defense and Aviation Exhibition, which is being organized by Ministry of Defense with the cooperation of a number of ministries, government institutions and international companies, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

He affirmed the keenness and interest of the top leadership of

the National Guard towards such exhibitions in which international companies specialized in manufacturing weapons, military equipment and planes participate.

Lieutenant General Al-Refaei said such exhibitions give opportunities to the National Guard to know more about the latest and most advanced weapons from the participants.

ranking officer working in a sensitive security apparatus who is accused of drug abuse, which gives a dangerous indication of the possibility of divulging secrets or assisting suspicious elements in carrying out their plans.

The sources criticized the indolence in fighting this dangerous scourge that is spreading in the military institutions, which constitutes a great danger, especially in light of the regional conditions surrounding us.

'Brother' deported: One of the members of the Muslim Brotherhood, identified only as Islam, has been deported to Cairo, despite the interference of a number of current and former deputies belonging to the "Brotherhood" to keep him behind bars in Kuwait or be deported to Turkey or any country other

than Egypt, but the response from the security sources was clear that Kuwait is committed to the security agreement concluded with Egypt and that the issue of security and stability is a "red line", with no mediation and no settlements, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to the security sources, Islam was seized after he arrived at the Kuwait International Airport from Turkey.

The daily added, his movements had been monitored by the security authorities and was arrested in connection with the cell members who were arrested in Kuwait in mid-July and then deported to Kuwait based on the extradition treaty signed between Kuwait and Egypt.

According to the security sources the man is a dentist by profession and was working in Kuwait and was earlier working in a hospital in

Girl beaten, falls 'dead'

By Munaif Nayef
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 15: A Kuwaiti girl was brought to Salmiya Clinic early morning yesterday by a young Bedoun man, and examinations revealed that she was dead and there were signs of violence on her body.

According to security sources, securitymen were notified after the medical examinations and they rushed to the clinic and arrested the Bedoun youth. He explained to securitymen that the girl went to his flat in tears and fell to the ground before she could tell him the reason why she was crying. When he was unable to wake her, he took her to the clinic.

He insisted that he does not know who beat her and what happened to her. A case was registered, and further investigations are ongoing.

Sohag in Egypt.

The security sources said following the arrest of cell members, the dentist left for Turkey with others. After he was allegedly given the green light to return to Kuwait by his associates, he was told if he felt insecure, he could then leave Kuwait, but the vigilant security officers who had put him under surveillance took him in custody as soon as he stepped on the Kuwaiti soil.

During interrogation, the suspected identified only as Islam is said to have admitted to his relationship with the members of the "Brotherhood" cell seized by Kuwait, and that he participated in securing financial support for the elements of the organization in Egypt, whether through remittances or by providing travelers with money.

Sources connected to the investigations suggested that the man is related to one of the persons accused of violence, including the burning of churches in Egypt.



The packets of drugs seized.

Mol photo

Many caught in drug smuggling

By Munaif Nayef
Al-Seyassah Staff

Four expatriates – a Gulf national, an Arab and two Asians – were arrested in possession of drugs at Terminals T4 and T5 of Kuwait International Airport in the last few days. According to sources, customs officers at T4 terminal arrested a GCC passenger who arrived from the US in possession of marijuana. They also arrested an Arab

passenger who came from an Asian country, as well as an Asian passenger in possession of marijuana.

Meanwhile, an Asian passenger who arrived at T5 terminal from an Asian country was arrested in possession of 60 packs of hashish weighing 250 grams.

All the arrested passengers were referred with the confiscated drugs to the concerned authorities within Ministry of Interior.

News in Brief

Fire at KPC tackled: Work at the Ministry of Oil and Kuwait Petroleum Corporation building has been suspended due to fire in the machinery store in the basement of the building, in compliance with security and safety procedures until the accident is dealt with, reports Al-Rai daily.

The KPC spokesman said the fire occurred at dawn in one of the machinery stores in the basement of the oil sector complex building in Shuwaikh and was controlled by the General Fire Department.

The KPC in a press release said the fire caused minor material damage and that there were no injuries to any personnel. The press release also said measures have been taken to ensure the safety of the building.

According to reliable sources, the employees have been asked to stay away from the building until the "all clear" is confirmed, and a technical investigation team will be formed according to the procedures followed in the institution to determine the circumstances of the accident.

The fire sources said within three minutes after receiving the call firemen from the City and Al-Hilali fire centers were at the site.

Royal threatens top official: The

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education has filed a complaint with the police accusing a member of the ruling family of threatening to kill him, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Sheikh reportedly told the undersecretary if "anything happens to my wife, next time I will enter your office with a Kalashnikov rifle."

The incident happened in the presence of a department head. It has become clear that the wife of the Sheikh is working for the department head.

The daily did not give more details.

Resisting arrest: The Ahmadi police have arrested an unidentified man for resisting arrest and helping his friend driving a sports car to escape, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to security sources the motorist was driving recklessly and moreover, his car did not have plate numbers.

He had allegedly pulled over near the entrance of a wedding hall and disturbing people and as police moved in to arrest him, the man in police custody allegedly helped the youth escape with his sports car.

Sponsor blames Filipina maid of stealing

50 laborers held in Jleeb for unlicensed commercial activities

food to others.

Filipina maid blamed: An unidentified Kuwaiti has filed a complaint with the Abu Halifa Police Station accusing an unidentified Filipina housemaid of stealing cash and his wife's jewelry from their home, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to the Kuwaiti the stolen items include bracelets, necklaces and gold sets, believed to be worth thousands of dinars. He told the police his wife tried to call the maid, but her phone has been switched off.

Injuries in gang fight: Differences among friends (Kuwaitis) ignited a

fierce quarrel between two groups as a result of which two youths have been referred to the Farwaniya Hospital, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to the daily some of the youths escaped from the scene while some have been arrested by the police. According to the security sources the fight happened in Sulai-biya and that police acting on information rushed to the spot and dealt with the incident. A security source said the injured have deep cuts in the head and injuries on other parts of the body. The youths reported used sharp tools to attack each other.

Trespassers sought: Police are

looking for an unidentified Kuwaiti who had allegedly entered His Highness' Reserve, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to the security sources when police confronted the suspect in Subbiya, he collided his vehicle with the police patrol and escaped on foot leaving behind his car.

The car has been impounded and towed to the police garage. Several charges have been filed against him including entering a restricted area, escaping from the law and damaging state property.

According to security sources there was another person seen in the area. Police are looking for both men.