

Other Voices

Qatar ... Trump, Gulf crisis!

By Yousef Awadh Al-Azmi

"It is enough that you knock on the door or have a peep from the window ... It is not necessary for you to preambulate." (Charlotte Gray)

THE Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad recently visited the United States where he met the US President Donald Trump in an atmosphere that clearly depicted strong ties between the two countries. The Amir was received warmly with honor befitting of his status.



Al-Azmi

I followed up the communication issued after the meeting and the multi-billion deals for massive military hardware. I don't know when this kind of situation will stop, because the size of Qatar, its topography and human framework does not make it suitable for going into serious wars. It is clear that those deals are more political than military, even if they're shrouded in military toga!

Qatar and the countries boycotting her will not gain anything from the unfortunate and sad crisis. We are aware that the countries share a lot of things far beyond the passing crisis but when will the decision makers of the feuding countries stop attracting real danger to the region? Doesn't the danger of Iran (for instance) call for looking up to Tehran for proposals on a table to embarrass the Persian state politically? Doesn't she always call for peace by sitting on a table for negotiation to resolve the contentious issues? It is then that those who seek or oppose peace will be revealed. This is far better than exploiting the region on negotiation tables with countries that employ blackmail openly and with disgust!

I always wonder what the super powers want from the Gulf countries.

Saddam Hussein was the threat and now Iran. Another important question is: Do the countries of the region try to escape the cloak of the super powers in order to start handling things in their own way? Won't the procured multi-billion weapons waste away in stores? Don't they have better ways of dealing with Iran and other countries? It seems that confidence is the missing factor in their relationship with each other, and in the absence of trust, we should remember the story of "I was consumed the day the white fox was consumed!"

Absolutely, no procurement of weapons can benefit Qatar or countries boycotting her, so their fate is one. Whenever any of the feuding countries is hurt, all other countries will share from it. The countries that are benefiting from the impasse are outside the Gulf region; such as Turkey that got a golden opportunity to venture into the Gulf waters due to the prevailing crisis, which will end sooner or later.

Of course, Turkey's entry is not free of charge, and the political and financial cost is massive on the long-term. Turkish forces will restore the Ottoman presence in the region when they enter and it would be difficult to go out. I believe that officials of the feuding countries are fully aware of this possibility, and this is the reason why I want Qatar to adopt a different policy toward its neighbors, regardless of whether it is in a good or bad position of the crisis, because none of Turkey, Iran or even the United States is as close to Qatar as Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and UAE. I hope the point I am trying to make is clear.

Activating and upholding the Kuwaiti initiative is the best solution that serves the interests of all, because it serves nobody's interest for the sad crisis to persist. Those countries share more similarities than differences. I am not talking about mere passion but policy and strategic motives. Everybody can meet at a common point today but who can guarantee tomorrow?

(Twitter@alzmi1969)

Court upholds verdict, jails Kuwaiti citizen to 10 years for joining DAESH terror outfit

Blogger's 5-year jail term upheld by court

By Jaber Al-Hamoud
Al-Seyassah Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: The Court of Cassation upheld decision of the Court of Appeals to sentence a citizen to 10 years in prison with hard labor for joining the outlawed DAESH terrorist group and possession of firearms.

The Court of Appeals previously commuted the 15-year prison term with hard labor slammed on the suspect by the Court of First Instance to 10 years.

He was accused of joining DAESH without authorization from the government to attack two foreign countries, which would have exposed Kuwait to a diplomatic row with these countries. He is an ex-convict who served a seven-year jail term in the past.

Blogger jail upheld: The Court of Appeals upheld the verdict of the Court of First Instance, which sentenced blogger Musaed Al-Musailem to five years in prison with hard labor and fined him KD 10,000 for posting statements deemed offensive to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), insulting the Amiri institution and spreading false information. According to the case file, the Public Prosecution charged the defendant with using Twitter to attack the UAE as he posted statements which could lead to severing ties between Kuwait and the sisterly country. He also used his personal Twitter account to insult the Amiri institution, spread false information through the same account and misused the mobile phone.

Woman cheated: Police are looking for an unidentified person for cheating a Kuwaiti woman who is believed to be in her 30s, reports Al-Rai daily.

The daily added, the victim met the man in a public place, who introduced himself to her and the two became good friends and they even regularly met and developed a kind of a relationship.

She told the police the man said he was facing some problems and sought her help and she transferred KD 1,500 into his bank account after he promised to return the money on a certain date. After the money was transferred the contacts became rare and finally he broke off with her.

Now she is seeking police help to get her money back and has submitted the bank transfer proof to substantiate her claim. A case of fraud has been registered against the man.

Man swindled: Police are looking for an unidentified Egyptian for cheating a Kuwaiti to the tune of KD 2,750, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to the Kuwaiti he met the suspect at a café and after several meetings the Kuwaiti agreed to the suggestion of the Egyptian to import certain kind of goods to be sold in Kuwait which would bring instant profit.

The Kuwait withdrew the money from a bank branch and handed over to the Egyptian in front of witnesses. However, the Egyptian after receiving the money began to avoid the Kuwaiti until he disappeared from view and closed his cell-phone.

Flat ransacked: Police are looking for thieves, who broke into the second floor apartment of two Egyptians in Block Nine, Khaitan, and stole KD 150, 60 Egyptian pounds, a smart phone and 21-inch TV screen, reports Al-Anba daily.

The victims in their complaint told the Khaitan Police Station that when they came from at about 12:30 pm they found the lock on the door broken and the apartment ransacked.

Police have taken fingerprints from the apartment. On the other hand, a Sri Lankan born in 1963 told the Khaitan Police Station that someone broke the glass of his car and stole the phone.

Fight between relatives: Two Kuwaitis have been detained by the police for interrogation for exchanging blows during a fight which started in the house and spilled onto the road, reports Al-Rai daily.

It has been reported one of them is the brother of the woman married to another Kuwaiti.

According to what police have learned, the woman wanted to go out with her friends and the husband objected.



Firemen and police officers at the site of the blaze.

KFSD photo

Three dead in Mahboula apartment fire

Three individuals died and two are in serious condition due to a fire that broke out in a flat in Mahboula area.

According to a press release, when the Control Room of Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) received information about the flat on fire, firefighters rushed to the location and discovered that the

flat is on the first floor of a six-storied building. All tenants of the building were evacuated and 12 individuals were rescued from the burning flat.

Paramedics referred these victims to Adan Hospital for treatment. However, three of them died on the way to the hospital, and two others were admitted in the Intensive Care

Unit in critical condition. Firefighters faced some difficulties during the evacuation and rescue process due to some violations in the building. They managed to extinguish the fire before they spread to nearby flats.

Investigations have been launched to determine the cause of the fire.

Hunt for two as civil employee assaulted, robbed

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: The Research and Investigation Department of the Ahmadi Governorate are looking for a Kuwaiti and a bedoun for beating and stealing the car of a civil employee working for a vital government department, reports Al-Rai daily.

The victim told the area police station two men followed him, one of them a relative of his mother, and

forced him to pull over.

Then they came out of their vehicle, pulled him out and beat him and one of them put a gun to his head.

The other then punched him in the face, got behind the steering wheel of his vehicle and escaped. Inside the car were his ID and other documents, wallet and money.

Officer insulted: A citizen in his 30s was detained at the Salmiya Police Station for hours before being released after filing a case against him of insulting a civil servant on duty, reports Al-Rai daily.

The daily added, the man's car has also been impounded and transferred to the police garage for committing serious traffic offenses.



Parts of the vehicle after the collision.

KFSD photo

Young Kuwaiti dies in accident

By Munaif Nayef
Al-Seyassah Staff

A Kuwaiti citizen in his 20s died and another sustained injuries when two vehicles collided on King Fahad Expressway.

According to security sources, firefighters, securitymen and paramedics rushed to the location after receiving information about the accident.

After both victims were pulled out of the vehicle and referred to paramedics,

it was discovered that one had succumbed to serious injuries while the other was barely alive.

The corpse was referred to the Forensics Department, and the injured victim was referred to Adan Hospital for treatment.

Meanwhile, a vehicle toppled after hitting a lamppost resulting in injuries to an Arab woman. Miraculously, her children did not sustain any injuries. Paramedics referred her to the nearest hospital for treatment.

News in Brief

Wanted B'deshi nabbed: Security officers at the Kuwait International Airport have arrested an unidentified Bangladeshi who was earlier deported from the country, reports Al-Rai daily.

The daily added, the suspect is wanted by Interpol and allegedly arrived at the airport on a forged Indian passport. The man arrived from Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh and upon arrival produced the Indian passport which turned out to be a forged document.

When police checked in correct data, they discovered he is wanted by Interpol for crimes committed in his country. He has been referred to the concerned authorities.

Car thieves arrested: Police have detained for interrogation two men – a Syrian and an Egyptian – for stealing parked cars, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to sources a Kuwaiti, who is believed to be in his 40s, in Fintas saw the two men taking a parked vehicle on a tow truck and initially he thought that the men were taking the car to a garage for repair until he saw the men return and trying to take his car which was parked near his home.

He immediately confronted them and informed the Operations Room of the Ministry of Interior and a police patrol was dispatched to the area and the men were taken to the Fintas Police Station where they were subjected to a lengthy interrogation which lasted until the early hours of the morning.

During interrogation the men have admitted to stealing several cars and selling them for scrap.

Traffic violations

Expats deported

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: One hundred and forty six expatriates have been deported from the country by the Ministry of Interior for committing serious traffic violations, reports Al-Shahed daily.

The daily added, these expatriates were caught for driving without license

Dud cheques: A Kuwaiti wanted by law for issuing dud cheques has been arrested and referred to the concerned authorities, reports Al-Rai daily.

The daily added, the man was seized while attempting to leave the country through the Al-Salmi border post using his brother's Civil ID.

He was seized by one of the passport officials and when the official checked the name of the suspect in the computer, records showed there was a travel ban on him for issuing dud cheques. He is believed to be working one of the sensitive government departments.

According to a security source, the security authorities are conducting a comprehensive interrogation to know all the details of their operation. More arrests in the case are expected.

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