

LOCAL

New facts unfold in money-laundering case involving local firms' contracts with US army

PAM to allow renewal of expats' work permits

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: New facts unfolded in the case of suspicion of money laundering involving local companies with contracts with the US military, in a story which was published by Al-Qabas last October, where investigations conducted by the security services in cooperation with the US Contracts show the

involvement of seven new companies owned by an Asian, in addition to manipulation in the tenders worth more than \$200 million, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Official sources told the daily the Kuwaiti and US security services have conducted intensive investigations in the past weeks, after obtaining documents which indicated a close link between the suspicious companies led by five Asians living in Kuwait and an Arab and two Kuwaitis, who are licensees operating in collusion with the sub-contractors to facilitate money laundering through tenders and contracts.

The sources pointed out that the investigations received attention at the highest levels after the publication of some details by the daily last October, due to the large sums of money suspected of entering the country from two Arab and Asian countries.

Contracts

The sources said that a surprise erupted in this case, where it was found that there are suspicious commercial licenses in the names of those involved in the case, who are partners in the contracts of establishing companies and exploit them to collectively bid the tenders of government contracts of the US Army and won them in clear violation of the laws and regulations of Central Tenders Committee in Kuwait and the United States.

In addition to the existence of other suspicions linked to remittances estimated to be in millions of dollars to and from Kuwait. The sources stressed the continuation of follow-up by the local security services in coordination with the relevant legal authorities, in order to monitor suspicious personal accounts of individuals and their financial transfers.

The sources expect the case to be referred to the Public Prosecution after the completion of investigations noting that the officials of 12 companies associated with the case have been under investigation before the relevant security services.

The sources pointed out that the contract of one of the suspicious companies with the US army and believed to be worth \$140 million will be canceled because of non-compliance with the terms of the contract.

The sources added the US Contract Investigations is currently in charge of the investigation of another contract worth 30 million dinars won by one of the companies which is under investigation after receiving complaints about a defect in the method used to evaluate the total value of the contract and compare the quotations submitted by other competitors.

Tender

The sources pointed out that the company violated the laws of the US federal tender system in terms of participation with other companies in the same tender, although there is a link between the partners in the acquisition rates.

The sources pointed out that the investigations revealed the suspicion of a US resident who was an employee of the US contracts office, and left the country two months ago, after the awarding of the contracts despite the existence of suspicion of violating the rules of integrity and antitrust regulations of Kuwaiti and US laws.

The daily has learned that the Public Manpower Authority will soon allow the renewal of work permits for non-American expatriates registered on US military contracts.

The sources said that this step by the Department of Estimation of Needs and Government Contracts in the PAM will contribute to solve the crisis of non-American expatriate workers who are 'stranded' since the first half of last year without finding solutions, which resulted in many companies paying financial fines.



KFSD photo Deputy Prime Minister and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh and Director General of KFSD Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Mekrad as well as high-ranking officials from KFSD and state institutions during their visit to the company.

KGL pledges all-out support for KFSD

Kuwait Gulf Links (KGL) Company participated in a workshop organized by Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) concerning maintenance of vehicles and equipment of KFSD in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh and Director General of KFSD Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Mekrad as well as high-ranking officials from KFSD and state institutions, reports

Al-Seyassah daily.

According to a press release, the company affirmed its support for the efforts of KFSD by providing the best-skilled technicians for the maintenance of the fire equipment in order to prepare them for handling any emergency situations. It also assured that it will supply the latest equipment in order to facilitate the work of the fire-fighters especially in the winter season.

"The human spirit is stronger than anything that can happen to it."

ICSK SENIOR, KUWAIT ORGANIZES SEMINAR ON CANCER AWARENESS



In order to literate its children and staff, the ICSK Senior, organized a cancer awareness programme on 30th October 2019, in the school auditorium. The guest doctors for the seminar were renowned Oncologist and patron of Cochin Cancer Society and Dr. Chithrathara who happens to be a Gynecologist, Urologist and Surgical Oncologist. The initiative the school had taken to spread awareness amongst the children is indeed appreciable.

Dr. V.P. Gangadharan, Senior Consultant of Medical And Pediatric Oncology, is a renowned Oncologist from India who is known for his support to the poor and needy cancer patients by providing them with subsidized medicines and free counseling through Cochin Cancer Society.

Dr. Chithrathara the first lady Urologist of Kerala. She has specialized in Gynecological, Urological and Breast Cancer surgeries. She is the Head of the Department and Senior Consultant in surgical and Gynaec Oncology at Lakeshore Hospital Cochin, Kerala.

The programme commenced with the Islamic prayer followed by a symphonious prayer song and Kuwait and Indian national anthems sung by the school choir Swaranjali.

They were greeted and welcomed with gratitude and utmost respect with the welcome address that was delivered by the Vice Principal of ICSK Senior, Mrs. Susan Rajesh. The Principal and Senior Administrator of ICSK Senior Dr. V. Binumon, introduced the eminent personalities to the large gathering that was seated in the auditorium with great pride. His words evidently spoke his heart out.

Dr. Amir Ahmed, former President of Indian Doctors' Forum Kuwait, who is a Physician at the Kuwait National Petroleum Company, a keen initiator of education oriented programmes, above all a well wisher of ICSK, delivered the introductory speech. The Principal, Dr. V Binumon and Dr. Amir Ahmed presented the mementos to Dr. V.P. Gangadharan

and Dr. Chithrathara as token of their deep respect, gratitude and appreciation.

The seminar turned out to be a very vital one when Dr. Gangadharan explained the children about the causes, cures and symptoms of cancer and the reason why it is considered to be a very dreadful disease. He quite explicitly explained the three major causes of cancer, which happened to be 1] smoking 2] consumption of liquor 3] high calorie diet. He also spoke about the highly advanced treatments to cure cancer. He shared the different sessions that he used to carry out at the Cochin Cancer Society along with the inmates of the society who happened to be cancer patients. He enlightened the gathering about how to lead a cancer free life.

In between his presentation, the fruit break that is a part of the newly initiated BIO BREAK was also enjoyed collectively, wherein people shared fruits with each other and relished too.

The session was further carried forward by Dr. Chithrathara wherein she discussed about the different kinds of cancer that affects different parts of human body. She also mentioned about the different symptoms that would help people with the diagnosis at an early stage in order to begin with the effective medication.

The most crucial part of the seminar was the interactive session that was open to all in order to share their queries and concerns. The session turned out to be quite informative as all their concerns were attended to wholeheartedly by the acclaimed wonder doctors Dr. V.P. Gangadharan and Dr. Chithrathara. The session was made quite riveting when Dr. Gangadharan amused the gathering with his fascinating skill of blowing mouthorgan and he played to the tunes of a famous bollywood song.

The fruitful seminar culminated with the vote of thanks by Mrs. Niva Elna Varghis, Academic Supervisor, Senior Secondary, ICSK, Senior. A quite informative session indeed. Cancer is a word, nor a sentence.



Other Voices

The wealth of the boys

By Ahmad alsarraf

The Friday prayer service has over the years been transmitted live on the state radio and television. On one of the days in February 1981, when the notorious awakening was in its infancy, a preacher of a mosque from where the sermon and prayer were transmitted was a young teenager, the output of the Afghan awakening.

During his sermon he was taken by enthusiasm or vanity or whatever you may call it, he lost composure and described renowned academics and newspaper columnists as 'born out of wedlock', fed from sewers and are raised in brothels.

Because of the high prestige of those who were attacked and the foul language used in describing them, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information offered an apology, and the subject was contained with the intervention of the Brotherhood forces, and the apology from the preacher, but the incident did not pass without its repercussions.

The Ministry of Awqaf then issued a decision banning random sermons from the mosques pulpits, and made it mandatory for preachers to preach 'sermons' approved by the ministry. This is in addition to putting the age limit of minimum 50 years on preachers, but many preachers violated that rule remained undeterred and got involved in every matter only for the ministry to show bias towards some and punish the others, but failed to put complete end to the violations.

The insults hurled by that particular preacher from the pulpit made him a star overnight among his followers his audacity in obscenity. His party also saw in him raw material, which the party thought, could be used to attack the opponents of the party. Thus, their 'underground' activities began with his frequent portrayal as a hero and within years he became a superstar when some governments opened the doors of their

male and female schools to destroy the minds of the young with his ideals.

The malls and theaters welcomed him to give speeches and he did speak on every subject and every file and was satisfied with the title given to him. He was called Maulana (a title preceding the name of respected Muslim religious leaders) after appearing in television programs, and became a star in the Gulf channels.

The continued silence of the concerned authorities prompted his political party to pay more attention to him especially after the title Dr preceded his name, a PhD acquired from an unrecognized university, preceded his name.

For three decades, he succeeded in exploiting the mental strength of the society with his corrupt ideas. This helped him and other 'awakening knights' to reap the harvest (wealth and ownership of real estate) amid the continued silence of some governments and other fools in the nation which steadily deteriorated our situations and thrust us to the bottom of the pit where we find ourselves now.

A professor in the Kuwait University said he fell victim to this saboteur boy (preacher) when he heard that told a veiled student that the university rules and regulations prohibit those whose identity is not known and therefore she will not be able to sit for exam as long as he is uncertain of her personality, and asked her to look for another class. The news of rejection reached the boy preacher and he attacked him with those words and descriptions.

The revolutionaries of Lebanon and Iraq demand that politicians in their countries to disclose their wealth, and we demand our politicians also to disclose their wealth, and also demand that clerics who have become rich overnight to disclose their wealth.

Note: We thank and appreciate the initiative of the Touristic Enterprises Company for the tender to build smart bathrooms along the coastline. We hope that the Kuwait Municipality, with its good management, will follow the example of the Touristic Enterprises Company and launch a similar tender for the installation of smart bathrooms in the heart of the capital.



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Damage caused by the fire.

KFSD photo

Fire at Al-Rai garage tackled

Acting on information firemen rushed to a garage in Al-Rai Industrial Area and put out fire to a garage, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to fire sources the fire start-

ed in a room which was being used to store tools, equipment and spare parts. No casualties have been reported. Firemen are investigating the cause of the fire.

News in Brief

Kuwaiti held with weapon: A 1988-born Kuwaiti citizen was arrested at Kuwait International Airport in possession of a weapon.

According to security sources, the citizen went into the airport with a weapon, pointed it to his head and threatened to commit suicide while shouting, "I am the Mahdi. I want to liberate Palestine".

Officers at the airport requested him to stop but he continued shouting. With the help of other passengers, they controlled him and pulled the weapon from his hand. They checked the weapon and discovered there were no bullets.

The officers checked his details and discovered he was a former airport employee. He was arrested and referred to the State Security Department.

Pakistani assaulted: An unidentified Pakistani has filed a complaint with the Sabah Police Station accusing a compatriot of assaulting him, reports Al-Anba daily.

The victim said the suspect punched him in the teeth causing him to lose three teeth and bruises on his body.

He has submitted a medical report showing injuries on his body. Police are looking for the suspect.

Call for release: Yasser al-Bahri who has served 15 years behind bars in the US prison has been transferred to the immigration detention center where he will remain indefinitely until the US authorities assign two officers from the US Department of Deportation to take him to Kuwait, reports Al-Rai daily.

Yasser's brother, Abdullah, has called on the State Department and the competent US authorities to expedite his release saying his mother has been in intensive care for two weeks and is in critical condition and waiting to see her son after a long absence.

Abdullah told the daily Yasser was released from prison after serving his term and has been held at the immigration prison because the US authorities are reluctant for his release and transfer to Kuwait.

Abdullah has appealed to the Kuwaiti authorities to intervene and expedite his

Mol, MoE blamed

New school mishap

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 6: Just one day after the tragic death of student Yaqub al-Jifini in front of his school in Omariya by an elderly Kuwaiti who is said to have surrendered himself to Kuwait, another school student was hit by a motorist but the victim had a miraculous escape, reports Al-Rai daily quoting the female student's father.

The father said the motorist, who later turned out to be a teacher, had just dropped her daughter to school and carelessly ran over the victim.

The father said his daughter suffered minor injuries and was admitted to the hospital where she was given first aid and is now at home, refuses to move out of the house because she is afraid of cars.

The father said although it is the fault of the teacher who ran over his daughter, he said will file a complaint with the police accusing the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Education of negligence for not making arrangements for security and safety of the students especially the primary and kindergarten students.

release because of the circumstances of his mother's illness.

According to reports Yasser was found guilty of rape and sentenced to 15 years in prison, a charge which he denies.

Gas pistol, liquor: A Kuwaiti citizen was arrested in possession of a gas pistol and liquor.

According to security sources, when the Operations Room of Ministry of Interior received information that a person holding a pistol entered a restaurant in Firdous area, securitymen rushed to the location but did not find the person. They checked the records of the surveillance cameras in the restaurant, and identified the suspect.

They then surveyed the area and found a vehicle parked nearby.