

Other Voices

The three short stories

By Ahmad alsarraf

1. TWO months ago, I got a permission to build a warehouse in Sabhan, and it turns out that I first need to get the clearance for the plot where the warehouse will be built, and this requires obtaining a permit to store materials, which means checking with the Municipality, Ministry of Communications, Ministry of Electricity and Water, Ministry of Public Works, the Public Authority for Industry then back to the Municipality.

It took almost two months for two representatives to run here and there in the labyrinths and corridors of the ministries to finish 95 percent of the transaction, so far. There is no complaint and no protest, but I hope we stop talking about e-government and administrative development.

2. Since post-liberation until recently, Kuwait has been suffering from a dilemma or disaster which is the difficulty of the postal staff to read the mailbox number on the letters and put them in the appropriate box due to the spread of malignant disease among them whose scientific name is 'Taalbacher' in Arabic, 'come tomorrow' in English although the government has declared that the problem of accumulation of letters and parcels no longer exists.

The most important and more difficult problem is also the inability of court representatives to find the addresses of litigants, a problem that remains unresolved for more than half a century, and all Ministers of Justice have failed to resolve it, while the delivery 'boys' of restaurants have solved the problem very easily and know every nook and corner of the country let alone every house,

apartment, and livestock pen and others whether it is for Kuwaitis or residents.

The Ministry has the right to continue to delay the finalization of cases in the courts while the litigants lose their rights, but please do not talk about Kuwait's transformation into a global financial center.

3. An employee working in the Ministry of Awqaf – the ministry that continues to commit financial violations unabated – appealed the verdict of Criminal Court that convicted him to submit a certificate from the Awqaf to be presented to an applied institute to that he has work experience of seven years – which was a condition – because the certificate violates the truth.

Here the case is almost normal because the country has sunk in fake certificates, why only this case? What is unacceptable and unpredictable is the details of the esteemed court which stated painfully end explicitly that the employee got his certificate upon request (or urgency and pressure) from one of the deputies of the Fifth Constituency to a former Minister of Awqaf who provided the employee with the certificate that is contrary to the truth.

How can this happen in a ministry entrusted with teaching and promoting religion and defending doctrine, and carrying the message of morality, which is penetrated in almost every part of it?

And how did the Minister allow himself to sign that fake letter? If we overlook the pressure of the MP, the minister, and the employee, how can the Prime Minister's silence be explained after the Court of Appeal's conviction of one of his cabinet ministers whose name popped out in the verdict?

After all, some wonder: Why are we in this gendarmerie? Are we ready for 2035, you bet.

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Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar receives his Kuwaiti counterpart First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in Ankara.

Kuwait, Turkey discuss ways to boost military ties

First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah discussed on Tuesday with Turkish Minister Hulusi Akar ways of boosting military

cooperation between the two countries. Kuwait Ambassador to Turkey Ghassan Al-Zowawi told KUNA that the two ministers also delved into the latest developments in

the region.

The two sides also agreed to activate previously signed agreements between the two ministries, the ambassador added. (KUNA)

Misunderstandings between MPW, MEW delay many construction projects: report

Two ministries asked to solve problems bilaterally

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: Relations between Ministry of Public Works (MPW) and Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) currently seems to be in murky water due to delay in supplying electricity to several construction projects that MPW had executed in the recent years, and dispute over the mechanism of delivering electricity to the future projects, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The dispute between the two ministries, the headquarters of which are located within the same plot in South Surra area, ended up in the corridors of the Council of Ministers for arbitration, as reported by Minister of Public Works Dr Jinan Boushahri in a letter sent to the service committee of the Council of Ministers.

In her letter, Dr Boushahri said her ministry is facing obstacles that prevent it from accomplishing and operating its construction projects because its counterpart, Ministry of Electricity and Water, has failed to deliver electricity to these projects and other required tasks such as providing cables, digging, and supplying transformers.

She explained that MEW currently does not have a contractor to carry out this work. It recently requested MPW to execute the work through one of the contractors accredited by MEW and operates under its supervision, under the condition that MPW bears all costs for digging and supplying high voltage cables among other activities.

"Currently, Ministry of Public Works has an ongoing agreement to design various future projects. It needs several approvals from various bodies including Ministry of Electricity and Water, which demanded that all future projects should include works related to supplying it with electricity services from the electricity transformer stations. This include medium and low pressure circuit breakers as per the Ministry of Electricity and Water's specification", Dr Boushahri noted.

She requested the matter to be presented to the Council of Ministers because it entails that MPW should take up responsibility of another ministry, adding that such measures have huge negative impact on the duration of the project and causes delays, as well as result in financial impacts due to change in the completion dates of the project phases.

Dr Boushahri indicated that MPW is also made to handle the technical burden when it has to carry out work that is the responsibility of another ministry.

However, the Council of Ministers has referred the matter back to the ministries involved and recommended coordination between these two ministries in a manner that would ensure electricity is delivered to all ongoing and future projects for the beneficiary bodies, and the public funds is preserved. This means the solution must be sought internal-



The mangrove growing in the sea opposite the Shuwaikh area.

Mangrove returns to Kuwaiti beaches after 70 years

After more than 70 years of absence, the mangrove tree has returned to the Kuwaiti coasts to decorate the beaches, reports Al-Wasat daily.

The tree existed in the forties of the last century in the areas of Al Khuwaisat and Kazma but a joint project between the Kuwait

Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fisheries Resources (PAAAFR) and the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) has succeeded in bringing the tree back to the Shuwaikh area near hospitals.

The mangrove tree is one of the strongest trees that bear high salinity, in addition to it provides a strong environment for the growth and reproduction of many marine organisms and birds and is one of the best fenders to protect the beach from corrosion and oxygen production.

Court stays 5 years jail for blogger despite appeal

By Jaber Al-Hamoud
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 4: The Court of Cassation upheld verdict issued against the owner of the Twitter account @ThePoliticalJok who was sentenced to five-year imprisonment with hard labor for failing to present himself and surrendering to the authority. The petition he filed at the Court of Appeals has thus been nullified.

According to the case file, the prosecution charged the defendant with the use of words that can be deemed offensive to His Highness the Amir and his authority. This State Security crime was committed during the period between March 19, 2013 and December 30, 2014 via his personal Twitter account. He was also charged with the mis-

use of mobile phone for transgressing the Amiri entity.

On March 30, 2017, the Criminal Court sentenced the Twitter user to five-year imprisonment with hard labor, imposed a payment of KD 3,000 for temporarily suspending the execution of the sentence, and ordered the confiscation of the devices he used.

On September 25, 2017 the defendant appealed the verdict at the Court of Appeal, but the latter upheld the verdict, which led the defendant to resort to the Court of Cassation. However, his appeal was nullified because he failed to present himself at the court at least one day before the verdict was issued, due to which the lower court's verdict of five-year imprisonment and hard labor was upheld.

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Citizen jailed: The Criminal Court sentenced a citizen to three years in prison with hard labor and KD 5,000 fine for attacking a detective on duty, while civil aspect of the case has been referred to the competent court of jurisdiction.

According to the case filed by Lawyer Jarrah Hadi Al-Enzezi on behalf of the detective indicates the suspect attacked the detective in the course of official duty, which was recorded by CCTV at the police station, and some eyewitnesses were present during the incident. The plaintiff counsel urged the court to award stringent punishment for the crime to serve as deterrent for others since there were enough documented evidences to convict the defendant.



Firemen at the site of the blaze.

KFSD photo

2 hurt in Dajeej mall fire

Acting on information firemen from three fire centers – Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Farwaniya and Sabhan – rushed to a shopping mall in Dajeej and put out fire, reports Al-Rai daily.

As a precautionary measure people from the shopping mall were ordered

to leave. Two men suffering from asphyxiation were treated on the site by personnel from the Emergency Medical Services.

According to fire sources, the fire started in one of the offices in the mall. The firemen are investigating the cause of the fire.

News in Brief

Customs staff rewarded: Director General of Customs General Department consultant Jamaal Al-Jelawi confirmed that customs employees are keen on foiling attempts to smuggle drugs into the country.

In a press statement, Al-Jelawi said all customs employees are ready to face anyone who targets the safety and security of the country.

He thanked the Ministers Council for its decision to reward to a number of customs inspectors who discovered the smuggling of intoxicants estimated at millions.

This came after the council decided to reward customs inspectors who were part of the operation to uncover around 10 million narcotic pills.

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Call for dismissal: Over the past two weeks three requests have been submitted by the Disciplinary Council of the Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences to the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior General Essam Al-Nham to dismiss three cadet officers citing misconduct, reports Al-Rai daily quoting reliable sources.

In the first case one a student officer is said to have assaulted a lieutenant in the college, and beat him during training while in the second and third cases both the students have reportedly failed to attend the academy for a long time.

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False complaint filed: An unidentified Egyptian woman has been referred for interrogation for filing false charges against her husband, reports Al-Rai daily.

The daily added, the husband severely beat the wife and she plotted to take revenge on him. She went to the police and filed a theft case against her husband saying he asked her to give him her jew-

elry worth 1,000 dinars, and when she refused, he beat her and took the jewelry.

When the husband was summoned for interrogation, he admitted to beating his wife but denied stealing the jewelry.

The source added the CID men during investigations discovered the wife had filed a false claim against the husband because he beat her following an argument over family matters.

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Liquor peddler held: Personnel from the Criminal Investigations Department acting on information recently raided a rented house in South Surrah and arrested an unidentified Iranian for trading in booze and psychotropic substances, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily added, during the raid police seized 58 cartons of imported alcohol, a cocktail of drugs and psychotropic substances.

Police investigations revealed the Iranian in collusion with compatriots in the past were involved in such activity and that one of them is a former inmate. Some of them were arrested in Salwa, Jabriya and South Surrah and have been referred to the Public Prosecution.

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Inmates in fight: An Egyptian inmate was severely beaten inside the Central Prison by another inmate of Jordanian nationality, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to a security source the Egyptian was severely beaten during a fight with the Jordanian inmate which necessitated the intervention of the prison administration to separate the two men.

The source added the Egyptian suffering from a broken nose bone was taken to a hospital. Legal action has been initiated against the Jordanian inmate.

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Maid in suicide bid: An unidentified Kuwaiti family prevented a maid, whose nationality has not been disclosed, from committing suicide by stabbing herself with a knife in the home of her sponsor in Qortuba, reports Al-Anba daily.



Al-Jelawi