

Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A breathtaking view of Mirqab by night as it epitomizes the rapid emergence of new landmarks in downtown Kuwait City. —KUNA

Al-Anbaa

MASSIVE 'HEARTBURN'

By Sami Al-Khorafi

An old man recently visited a doctor telling him that he had a severe heartburn. Amazed with his complaint, the doctor wondered why he had received 10 patients on the same day with the same symptoms. "You must be a follower of Kuwaiti sport," said the doctor, justifying his diagnosis when the old man expressed amazement, adding, "All those before you gave me the same answers and you must be just like them. However, I will give you a good three-day prescription to get rid of this heartburn. You should watch two NBA matches after breakfast, two English league games after lunch and three Spanish league games after dinner. You can also watch some wrestling matches between meals. If this prescription fails to relieve your pain, we will have to resort to a suppository of sumo wrestling, otherwise, go bang your head on a wall as this will probably rid you of your heartburn."

Following this short conversation with the old man, the doctor added: "This is typical of you. Your problems never end. You like too much fuss and action as if you like the folk song that says 'I have created my own wounds and only made them worse by whining about them'. You have created your own problems and are trying to solve them yourselves. And despite all these conflicts, everything is forgotten once you kiss each others' noses as if nothing had happened. I know exactly how things are done. Kissing noses is a tradition after which all old scores are forgotten but only on one condition - you have to prioritize Kuwait's greater good."

"You mean like those fighting in an open yard and making apologies in private?" asked the old man, which made the doctor laugh out loud. "What yard are you talking about, uncle? Solving sports problems is very simple. Just bring closer those who know it better, like veteran players and those who had actually played any game. They are willing to work hard if favoritism and wasta is removed for the greater good of Kuwait. The problems will be solved and fans will go back to singing loudly in stadiums. Conflicts will disappear and all sportspeople will love each other and will, once more, listen to patriotic sports songs. On the other hand, if the current conflicts continue any longer, you will suffer heartburns forever and this year will be described as the 'heartburn' year because of the growing number of people developing it in view of the endless disappointments," the doctor said.

At this point, the old man sighed in relief. "You know what, your words seem to have cured me and I no longer feel any heartburn because I am sure the problem will be solved soon. You must be a psychiatrist rather than a general practitioner!" said the old man, and both laughed before the old man left the clinic. —Translated by Kuwait Times



Where did you get this?!

Al-Anbaa

MAN OF YEAR FOR PEACE

By Sami Abdullatif Al-Nisf

I recently attended the Mediterranean Basin Organization's annual ceremony in Napoli, where the Mediterranean Peace Award was given to Abdul Aziz Al-Babtain and Khalid Al-Malek for their outstanding role in supporting peace causes worldwide. The Mediterranean Awards (with various categories), was launched by the Fondazione Mediterraneo in 1996, and are granted every year to eminent personalities from the worlds of arts and culture, politics and science and social disciplines whose actions have contributed to reducing tensions, breaking down cultural barriers and developing shared values in the Greater Mediterranean. This award is considered one of the most prestigious acknowledgements in the world. Among those who received it are presidents and prime ministers from the US, UK, Italy and France, in addition to world politicians and intellectuals.

This year, Abdul Aziz Al-Babtain was awarded the peace award for his effective role in intercultural dia-

logue, which is the bright alternative to the destructive clash of civilizations our region is suffering until today. For the past four years, the Babtain Foundation has sponsored 14 intercultural dialogue sessions held in major capitals around the world, namely in the West, where a major Western thinker promoted the idea on the grounds that conflicts between civilizations and nations cannot end in wars, bloodshed and destruction.

The Babtain Center for Intercultural Dialogue is hosting over 500 researchers, scientists and thinkers at a two-day session at Oxford University, marking the center's 15th activity held under the title of "One World, Shared Challenges", that will be dedicated to discuss the issues of refugees, international environmental and human development institutions, youth problems, new world challenges and other peace and intercultural dialogue-related concerns.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

Al-Jarida

WHY DO POLITICIANS LIE?

By Prof Ghanim Al-Najjar

Lying is very common in politics. A politician once said: "We do not lie, we only rationalize on saying the truth". Political science professor John J Mearsheimer wrote a book titled 'Why Leaders Lie', which analyzes lying in international politics. The book is very interesting and was published by Knowledge World (Alam Al-Maarifah) after they responded to my request to translate it to Arabic to make it handy for everybody.

Inquiries have been going on in Britain about the volume of lies and media manipulation former PM Tony Blair's government had used to justify participating in the war in Iraq. Pressure groups were formed by the families of soldiers who had fought and were killed or injured there. Such pressure created public opinion against Blair's party and negatively viewed its performance.

As a result of that pressure, an inquiry committee was formed under judge John Chilcot to investigate the circumstances of the March 2003 invasion of Iraq. It is obvious that some fingers are being pointed at Blair and his media advisors and spokesperson Alastair Campbell, accusing them of faking media reports about the war in Iraq politically costing Blair so much.

It seems that the Iraq curse will haunt Blair forever, as a few days ago, the Daily Mail published a US document in which Colin Powell, the former US secretary of state during the George W Bush presidency, talked about Britain's preparations for war in March 2002 - that is one full year before the war. In the document, Powell explained that Blair had volunteered to fabricate some media news to support war plans and that he never had any vision concerning a plan for the aftermath of the war.

So, this was what Blair told Powell, while at the same time, he used to tell the media he was working hard on reaching a diplomatic solution and that Iraq could have avoided the war if all WMDs, that actually never existed except in Blair's and Campbell's propaganda campaigns and media, had been handed over. Naturally enough, this is but one example of lies in politics. However, such practices are very common in our Arab region, especially in the absence of independent media monitoring apparatuses to expose such lies.

So, is lying an integral part of politics? Does every politician have to lie in order to boost his/her political career? Those are just two open-ended and unanswered questions.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

WANTED CRIMINAL ARRESTED IN AHMADI AFTER CHASE

KUWAIT: An unemployed citizen in his 30s was arrested following a chase in Ahmadi. The suspect robbed his victims using stolen cars, or by colliding with other cars in order to steal them. He also had 11 weapons and ammunition. The suspect was identified following investigations and was put under surveillance. He was located in Dhafer, but when security men moved in, he attempted to escape, jumping across the roofs of four houses before being caught. He had eight shotguns, three AK-47s and ammunition.

Family rescued

Mangaf firemen rescued a Syrian family trapped in an elevator. Firemen lowered the elevator manually and got the family out unharmed.

Liquor trader arrested

DCGD officers arrested a suspect for trading in liquor and found 180 cases of imported liquor of various types, besides 22 cases of beer. He said he deals with two Syrians who deliver the bottles to customers. —Al-Rai

BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YAWMI ACCOUNT

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the lucky winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners for the daily draws took home a cash-prize of KD 5,000 each, and they are:

1. JEHAD SAEED ALHAMOTAH
2. JOURJY EBRAHIM ABRI
3. ANWAR TAHER SWELATI
4. ABDULHAMEED MOHAMMAD ALAJEEL
5. SHEIKHA: NAWAL MOHAMMAD AL-SABAH

To further add to the anticipation of Yawmi account customers, Burgan Bank now offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD

125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account now offers Daily and quarterly Draws, the Quarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for 2 months prior to draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account, will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The more customers deposit, the higher the chances they receive of winning.

For more information on opening a Yawmi account or about the new quarterly draw, customers are urged to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch and receive all the details, or simply call the bank's Call Center at 1804080 where customer service representatives will be delighted to assist with any questions on the Yawmi account or any of the bank's products and services. Customers can also log on to Burgan Bank's www.burgan.com for further information.

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the youngest commercial Bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base.