

DIWANIYA كيوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'No place for corruption, corrupt people in my country'

'Saddam failed to create schisms in the fabric of Kuwaiti society'

"SUNDAY, August 2, 2020, marked the thirtieth anniversary of the brutal Iraqi invasion of our beloved Kuwait," columnist *Adel Khalaf Al-Mezel* wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"This barbarian invasion was never witnessed before in world history since the occupation of Palestine in 1948 and the defeat of the Arabs in 1967, and it is truly unfortunate that this aggression comes from a neighbor that belongs to Arabism and Islam. This brutal aggression against my country, Kuwait, was a striking example of ingratitude, and gave a bad image of the Islamic religion and Muslims.

"Unfortunately, Iraq did not abide by the covenants and charters that were between Kuwait, Iraq, the United Nations and the Arab League, as well as the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

"The criminal Saddam Hussein and his aides wanted to occupy Kuwait with all its wealth and all its goods and the occupation of its people, and we all remember this painful memory where the suffering and tragedies that Kuwaitis and those with them lived during the occupation period, they saw all the colors of torment and insults and disregarded human dignity.

"The invaders were like rabid animals and relished in cold-blooded killing and violated the sanctities of Kuwaitis and were artistic in dismembering pure bodies and stealing money and antiquities and all that they came across.

"The criminal Saddam Hussein believed in his unclean method to erase the Kuwaiti identity and cancel the history of the Great Kuwait, but he drastically failed, and he had ignored the fact that the State of Kuwait represents men maker.

"However, the will of the Almighty Allah, with the help of the international coalition along with the Arab and friendly states protected the Kuwaiti legitimacy as such the dreams of the heathenish aggressor to swallow the State of Kuwait evaporated in thin air.

"We have to thank God for having blessed us with the liberation of our country. Perhaps it is an invitation to a child, an old man, or any creature who called God to liberate Kuwait.

"Kuwait was liberated and thanks to its charity work in various parts of the world, and we have to know that Iraq and the Ba'ath Party is not only Saddam Hussein, this is a fact that we must put in front of our eyes.

"In the meantime, we have to know and realize that Iraq is not represented by Al-Baath Party and Saddam Hussein, and this entails that we have to keep such a fact in our minds although the principles of this party still existing in the veins and the bloods of some Iraqis, but the members of this party have failed to penetrate the Kuwaiti people or to convince any Kuwaiti to collaborate with them.

"We found how all of the Kuwaitis – Sunnis and Shiites and Bedouins and the people of civic areas – encountered the invaders and set a unique example of heroism and sacrifice by placing the State of Kuwait at the top of the priority far away from the notorious partisan interests.

"However, this behavior was not strange for the Kuwaitis, because their long history show they have never known any type of division. Moreover, they had never known any type of loyalty except their loyalty to the State of Kuwait and to the Al-Sabah ruling family.

"Oh Kuwaitis, you have to maintain your country, simply because the State of Kuwait is an honesty in your consciences, necks and hands, hence, by the virtue of the Kuwaiti solidarity as well as their love for the country the State of Kuwait – God willing – the State of Kuwait, will restore its position as the Pearl of the Gulf and this means there will be no place for corruption and the corrupt people in our country – the country of love and peace.

"In conclusion, we pray to Almighty Allah to protect my country the State of Kuwait, its Amir and people from every devilish action.

"We also pray to Almighty Allah to heal our dear leader His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad and bestow upon him a very speed recovery through the cure that does not leave a disease.

Also:

"During the ordeal of the Iraqi invasion, people discovered that there are a lot of loopholes and abuses, attempts to infringe public funds, and ongoing practices to break laws, which established the belief among people that Kuwait after liberation will differ completely from the pre-invasion phase," columnist *Saud Al-Samaka* wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"This certainty increased with assurances by the then government in exile, and according to His Highness the Crown Prince, then Prime Minister, the father Amir – we pray to God to have mercy on him – which the government will work to correct all practices that were prevalent in the pre-invasion period.

"Unfortunately, things went from bad to worse, we found how the solemnity of the state was exposed to violation by some elements from the ruling family, given the fact that such phenomenon encouraged by government neg-

ligence, which was not familiar in the context of the history of the modern state, the state of order, the constitution, and modern laws.

"When talking started loudly from the National Assembly, the press, political forums and symposia, about the theft of the era that occurred during the occupation period, desperate defense attempts started to nullify that theft and its leader 'A. Baba', by the government at the time, and delayed his referral to the judiciary but later bowed to intense pressure from the National Assembly and the press.

"In spite of the above, however, the verdict, was issued without date, as such, we wonder whether this was intentional – God Willing -- or it was the mistake of the typist who typed the verdict.

"In any case, this incident was the beginning of insulting of the state's prestige by some family members, and other influential people, which was regrettably the seizure of state property, unfortunately, which was followed by all the violations that exist today, such as bribes, falsifications of the national identity, scientific certificates and then the so-called famous individuals from the social media.

"Today we are going through a crisis like everyone else in the world. However, some countries of the world reconsider their programs, curricula, and future visions in anticipation of a better future, to rebuild their economies, ideals, skills, practices, and ethics, and to avoid its pitfalls and bad deeds, and the limitations of its legislations, to build pillars. His life is on a new basis, and with what is characterized by the stage of modernity that constitutes the highest moral virtues, so that he can be in line with all that the next stage holds.

"It is undoubtedly an international movement coming inevitably post Corona pandemic, and therefore this movement will have impressive results, which will not be able to keep pace with it except the society that prepared for it, so do we have to prepare ourselves to be within this movement?"

"The past few days were filled with exciting news and tweets about corruption in our Kuwaiti society to the point that there is no news without citing a case of corruption, followed by another case of corruption that is even worse, crammed with imaginary sums involving prominent names in our society and government," Retired Major General (Dr) *Adel Ibrahim Al-Ibrahim* wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"There is no doubt that the issues in question are a double-edged sword, the first of which is its direct impact on Kuwait's reputation externally and its projections on Kuwait's record in fighting corruption. The second edge is to convey a message on government's efforts to hit the dens of corruption of any kind and the corrupt people. This undoubtedly helps in reducing criticism directed to the executive branch, as to not fighting corruption hard enough. Unfortunately, corruption spreads in Kuwaiti society in an unprecedented manner. Perhaps, the last of which is related to money laundering issues involving social figures and freezing of their money.

"Those personalities had a great impact on many societal groups, especially the youth, by virtue of following up what is circulated on social media by these personalities.

"On the other hand, it was a tweet from a politically, socially and economically influential person who has a great impact in society in what it bears as an indication of government corruption and the need to face it through elimination to ensure development. Otherwise, it would become corruption upon corruption!"

"The tweet by Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad several days ago, in which he addressed the importance of cleansing the government agencies from corruption and those associated with it without discrimination, affirmed that there is no justice and development in a country of corrupt people and institutions!"

"There's no doubt about the statement, as he is familiar with facts, giving a clear indication that what the government agencies are doing in the face of corruption is not commensurate with its prevalence.

"In this context, we recall many government institutions where public money has been permitted as one of the manifestations of corruption. Perhaps, the infamous ones are the issues of interior hospitality, Public Institution for Social Security, sand theft and the Army Fund of Ministry of Defense- all of which are pending before the judiciary. Perhaps, the latest rulings have been issued concerning theft in the Police Cooperative Society.

"There is another aspect of corruption declared in government institutions, whose effect is no less than that of public money theft. I'm talking about the forgery of equivalency of certificates and human trafficking"

"Personally, I am absolutely confident that what is going on -- the security and legal movement to combat the hotbeds of corruption among the so-called 'celebrities' who entered the wealthy through the dirty doors of the Sacred, or young employees with important jobs but do not have honesty and honor -- wreaked havoc in the country and intensified corruption or the visa traders," columnist *Saoud Al-Samakah* wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"I see that this movement is based on the

rule of law, as it does not look at the origin and separation. It is based on the rule of law, as well as jealousy over the prestige of the State and protection of its future, security and stability.

"From this standpoint and in light of what the benevolent people see in society -- unlike what is expressed by skeptics, stalkers and frustration makers among society -- it is a blessed security and legal movement upon which the State works. This makes the benevolent and good news a corrective start towards hitting the dens of corruption and the corrupt. Some are wishing such acts will continue and be credible, because most people have precedents for many corruption cases that have been 'hidden'.

"By the way, in light of this blessed movement, some people started talking about an influential woman whose influence stems from her social and political dimension, as well as her position in one of the decision-making slots. She interfered several times in the criminal precedents of one of the accused who is currently imprisoned upon the order of the Public Prosecution in connection with certain cases. She was able to lift his suspension and stop his deportation."

"Let us ask honestly: Is the situation of Kuwait better than it was before the issuance of the One-Vote Law, or is the general situation heading towards deterioration despite the completion of a number of major construction projects?" columnist *Dahim Al-Qahtani* wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"Some argue and want to delude us into thinking that the single vote saved Kuwait from internal strife. It is a major lie which, after eight lean years, ended with a sloppy internal situation -- an extremely poor situation, disjointed parliamentary situation, a general feeling that corruption has prevailed, and that reform has become a hopeless matter.

"Unfortunately, the Kuwaiti political system was designed with a stereotype that prevailed in the world in the 1960s -- balance between the powers of Parliament and government in the complete absence of the role of civil society.

"That is why no matter how optimistic we are about the role of civil society institutions, the influential authority is in the hands of the government and Parliament. Whoever controls the way the Parliament is formed practically controls all authorities in Kuwait, followed by the one-vote legislation as if the Parliament did not have an actual presence."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb

Sale of chalets, other real estate plots raises suspicions of money-laundering

Brokerage firms to be referred for probe

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: Several social media personalities, from owners of luxury goods auction accounts and real estate brokers (auctioneers), have entered the line of suspicion on money laundering, after a number of them was registered in the recent past for operations that indicate their involvement in deals that violate provisions of the Anti-

Money Laundering and Terrorism Funding Law, reports *Al-Rai* daily.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is preparing to refer six real estate brokerage offices to the Financial Investigation Unit, after it has been proven that they have registered in their books of brokerage of the sales of chalets built on state properties, and that they did not observe the specified instructions in this regard.

According to informed sources, chalets and industrial or agricultural real estates or plots, and any possession within the state properties are not to be sold according to the traditional method whereby properties are registered and acquired first through the auction book. This means transferring their ownership to another party must be done by its withdrawal in the Ministry of Finance, provided the property is registered with the Ministry of Justice in the name of the new party. The role of the auctioneer in possession of any state property is limited to reconciling the price between the seller and the buyer.

The sources revealed that the highest price of a chalet recorded in the monitored violation list was KD 1.4 million, and the most suspicious chalets to be sold cost KD 850,000, even though the initial estimated value of its price does not exceed half a million dinars. They indicated that the six chalet locations are different.

They said, "Ministry of Commerce and Industry is not concerned with the exceeding of the real market value of these chalets, but rather with the fact that the six signers have registered their assets on state property."

The sources indicated that "The violation carried a suspicion of money laundering, as they violated provisions of the law regarding their activity books. The files will be referred to the Financial Investigation Unit concerning the observed violations, and the latter will open an extensive investigation on these violations from its side."



The sun rises as worshippers sit for Eid prayer on the first day of Eid Al-Adha.

KUNA photo

National Guard ends duty in Mahboula hospital

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: The National Guard ended its duties in supporting the Ministry of Health by equipping and managing the field hospital in Mahboula after spending nearly four months providing health services to the 30,000 Kuwaitis and expatriates during the ban period, reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.

The Associate for Administrative Support assigned to the Guard, Brigadier Engineer Essam Nayef, confirmed in a press statement yesterday that the National Guard, under the guidance of his Supreme Command of HH Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Head of the National Guard, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Head of the National Guard, and with the follow-up of the Deputy National Guard Lieutenant-Colonel Engineer

Hashem Al-Rifai harnessed its capabilities and manpower to support various state ministries and institutions during the emerging Corona Virus crisis (Covid-19).

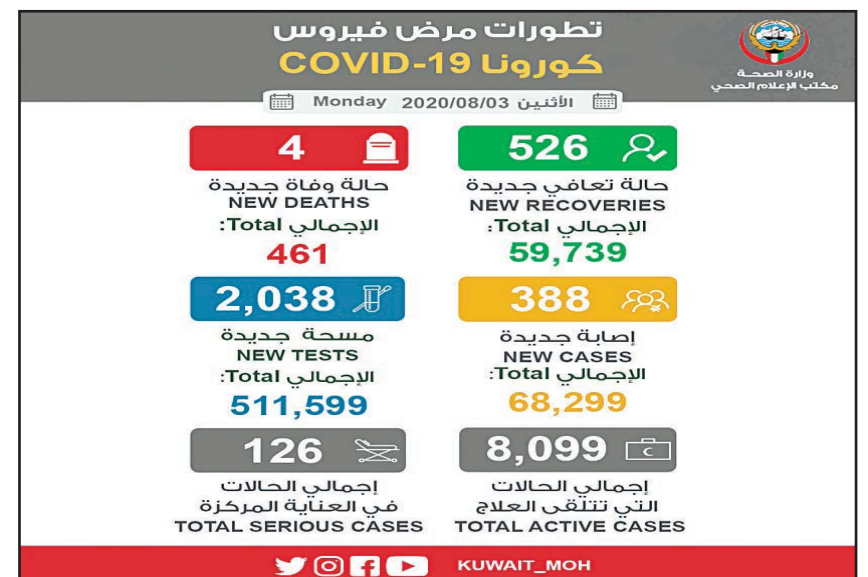
He added that the National Guard activated the cooperation protocols signed with many entities, foremost of which is the Ministry of Health, by preparing and managing the field hospital in the Mahboula region in order to reduce the burden on the Ministry of Health in that densely populated area, which underwent a



Eng Nayef

long period of regional isolation in terms of provision of health care to the people of the region at the hands of specialized medical staff from the National Guard.

In a statement to the *Al-Seyassah* daily, Brigadier-General Nayef confirmed that 200 to 300 members of the technical, medical and military National Guard forces and crews provided full support to the Ministry of Health and participated in operating health facilities in the field hospital as well as protecting and securing the site and extending the transportation of patients with the participation of emergency medical services personnel as well as a unit from the Chemical Defense Branch sterilizing and disinfecting devices, equipment and people as well.



MoE sets school hours for 12th graders

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: The Ministry of Education has specified the school hours to complete the academic year 2019/2020 for 12th grade students -- five hours from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, provided the supervisory staff in the schools will work in accordance with the regulations of the Civil Service Commission (CSC), reports *Al-Qabas* daily.

In a statement posted on its Twitter account, the ministry announced: "The school hours will be from 8:00 am to

1:00 pm, while the number of workers in schools other than the supervisory body should be in accordance with the percentage specified by the CSC as per the rules for gradual return to work."

The ministry stressed that the presence of the teachers assigned to work on the educational portal in order to teach the 12th grade students will be limited to a quarter of an hour before the start of the class and they should leave immediately upon completion of the class.

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