

DIWANIYA ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Time not right to blame any party'

'Hats off to Kuwait, GCC states for helping Lebanon in need'

"A SHIP came to Beirut port in 2014 carrying ammonium nitrate, which is a highly explosive material if exposed to high heat, and unloaded its cargo in one of the port's warehouses (Store No. 12)," columnist and former Kuwaiti ambassador *Ahmad Al-Dawas* wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"Years passed, and the authorities did nothing to move these dangerous materials away to another remote and safe area – away from the port and the neighboring residential areas, and the issue of the materials became a case before the judiciary, which delayed its decision, which was a serious mistake, since it was the responsibility of successive governments that came to power after 2014.



Al-Dawas

"On the afternoon of Tuesday, August 4 this year, a fire occurred near these materials, and soon it spread to the ammonium nitrate depot. A huge explosion happened in the port, similar to an atomic bomb, which destroyed half of Beirut, killed more than 140 people and wounded about 5,000, while some worried families went looking for their children, and about 300,000 Lebanese became homeless. The 'fleeing' Lebanese found solace and shelter among the villagers and those who lived in the mountains who offered to host those who suddenly found themselves without food and shelter.

"Before the incident, the Lebanese were critical of the politicians and the ruling authority for the poor performance, corruption and mismanagement of the country, and fed up with the political system based on patronage and sectarian identity, which failed to provide the most basic needs of the Lebanese citizen.

"The Lebanese had taken to the street after October 17 last year and are still demanding the resignation of the government and change of all politicians, but the Lebanese decision was hijacked by the hegemony of 'Hezbollah' which held hostage the will of the Lebanese, which plunged Lebanon into deep political and economic crises.

"The Hezbollah members in Parliament contributed to obstructing the formation of the government nine months after the elections, as they demanded ministerial posts for their allies, when the government was about to be formed. It was disrupting the ministerial formation in some governments, and it contributed to delaying the selection of the Leba-

nese president to the point that Lebanon lived without a president for two years from May 2014 up to May 2016.

"In these difficult circumstances the Lebanese were exposed to internal economic crisis with the devaluation of the local currency and the rise in prices, the high unemployment rate, with the continuous electricity cuts, the poor infrastructure, the decrease in the number of tourists, as well as the outbreak of the 'Corona' epidemic, and to add insult to injury the explosion happened in the port to make Beirut a 'disaster' city, according to its people, as the losses amounted to about five billion dollars.

"Some Lebanese political analyses say that 'Hezbollah' has warehouses in the port, and that ammonium nitrate was in the possession of Hezbollah elements when they were arrested in Thailand, Germany, Kuwait and elsewhere over the past years. One of the Lebanese said, the party controls all aspects of life in the country, and responsibility for the accident rests on the shoulders of Hezbollah.

"However, hats off to the Gulf Cooperation Council States for sympathizing with the Lebanese who sent plenolods to build field hospitals with necessary medicines. This is not the time to blame any party.

"We should help our Lebanese brothers and provide them with financial assistance, and we may together bear the cost of rebuilding Beirut, so that the Lebanese keep in their memory the position taken by the Gulf countries during their ordeal, instead of praising the position of France, for example, and some Western countries that announced their readiness to extend the necessary assistance to Lebanese citizens.

Also:

"Lebanon – this beautiful country at the moment suffers from a choking economic crisis and needs someone who is ready to rescue it from this scenario which has cast a shadow over all the Lebanese in light of a disturbing political polarization until the news came that made the calm and quiet human into a bewildered personality -- the explosion that destroyed the vital port and Lebanon's artery, the unimaginable destruction and its impact on various sectors of the state for a long time" columnist *Abdulaziz Al-Kandari* wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"This port is considered one of the most important passages for ships crossing, and it has been run by the Beirut Port Company since 1960, and it is estimated that more than 3,000 ships dock at this port annually, and it receives about 70 percent of the goods that cross into Lebanon, and last year's revenues amounted to about 199 million dollars.

"What happened is a severe blow to the Lebanese economy, because this port was the

main artery and outlet for the entry of materials, goods and medicines to hospitals, and this explosion will exacerbate the economic crisis and help increase prices unexpectedly and with an increase in the exchange of the dollar vis-à-vis to the Lebanese lire.

"Therefore, after this incident, we say Lebanon will not be able to rise from this disaster on its own, so friendly and brotherly countries must help this beautiful nation, and what is not strange to Kuwait, the Gulf states and the world, as they declared their solidarity with the brothers in the Lebanese Republic to confront the effects of the huge explosion that occurred at the Beirut sea port.

"The Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement that 'the State of Kuwait followed with great sorrow and pain the huge explosion that occurred this afternoon in the Lebanese capital Beirut, and led to dozens of deaths and injuries, in addition to heavy material losses', and that 'the State of Kuwait supports Lebanon in facing the effects of this painful incident overlookd its repercussions, and its complete backing for the brothers in Lebanon in a way that preserves their security and stability.

"Now it is the turn of Kuwaiti charity and humanitarian societies to open the door for donations to Lebanon, and one of the pride of my beloved country Kuwait is charity and humanitarian work, and these societies -- with their various orientations and actions -- have great confidence in the official authorities and the Kuwaiti people, rather the whole world, and this is a human effort exposed to error and right. But there is no doubt that their business and success far outweighs their negativities.

"As a matter of fact, the Kuwaiti gallantry had extended a new and distinguished example for the Kuwaiti charity campaigns and this was evident through the unprecedented cooperation among the various Kuwaiti charities that are since the outset of corona epidemic.

"In this context, we suggest that we at the moment need to float a new campaign under the title 'Lebanon Gallantry' to enable this country to rise once again.

"However, we hope Lebanon, will rise again -- God willing -- by virtue of the concerted efforts and cross over to the safe side."

"Last Sunday, Al-Rai Satellite Channel 8/2 -- coinciding with the 30th anniversary of the invasion of Kuwait -- showed a documentary film titled: 'The Role of the Islamic Movement during the Brutal Iraqi Invasion of 1990,' *Abdul-Aziz Al-Fadhli* wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"The film was produced by a group of young people connected to the movement, and the film producers were keen on clari-

fying the prominent role the children of the Islamic movement played internally and externally during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"The film indicated the people in question, since the first day, arranged their actions and organized their efforts in order to confront the invasion, and worked to resist it, until God Almighty authorized the liberation; thus social, solidarity, military, medical and advocacy committees were formed.

"Some of them were keen to support families financially with money received from the government or donated by merchants and philanthropists, and others managed the cooperative societies to help the people who stayed to obtain their needs, striving to provide the necessary supplies. Also, there were teams working in the clinics and hospitals to take care of the sick and the injured and other health services.

"The scholars and preachers also had a preaching and guiding role, which contributed in boosting morale of the people in the homeland, calling them to be patient and reckon until liberation came from God. Many of them also participated in the armed resistance, ambushes, and bombings.

"On the external level, many symbols and the children of the Islamic trend participated in the delegations that visited the countries of the world to explain the Kuwaiti issue and the injustice against the country, and also responded to the suspicions and arguments of the Iraqi regime put forward to justify its invasion of the country.

"Perhaps, one of the most famous delegations was the one that visited Algeria in which Sheikh Ahmad Al-Qattan participated and delivered a sermon at a sports stadium, and with that speech, was able to change the scale in the interest of Kuwait and its just cause.

"Do not forget the role played by the foreign student unions, which organized conferences, seminars and rallies to introduce the masses of western countries to the Kuwaiti issue.

"Perhaps, one of the most important positions of the children of the Islamic trend during the period of the invasion was their active participation in the popular conference held in Jeddah where most of their symbols were in attendance. Uncle Abdullah Al-Mutawa, may God have mercy on him, made his utmost efforts to make the conference a success, after some obstacles almost hindered its holding.

"The children of the Islamic trend in Kuwait have proven their love and loyalty to their homeland and willingness to spend dearly for the sake of the homeland and its freedom and dignity. Martyrs had fallen among them and many of them fell into captivity, so all of this is for the sake of the homeland.

"I believe that the movie (Al-Mourabitoun) came on time, and it is the greatest response to those who question the loyalty of the children of the Islamic movement to the country. Thanks to Al-Rai Satellite Channel, which showed this documentary, for being fair to the children of the movement.

"Important note: Talking about the role played by the children of the Islamic trend in this film does not mean that they are the only ones who worked for the liberation of Kuwait.

"Thank God that by His grace the righteous is accomplished".

"The entire Kuwait is following up news and details on the path of the Fouad Network case. Based on what has been published about the case so far, it has become clear for us that a very serious matter must be addressed not only by the responsible authorities, but even the Kuwaiti people who must pay attention to what is going on around them. In short, the issue is a new invasion with new methods -- different from the previous invasion" columnist *Talal Al-Saeed* wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"The more the investigations expand, the clearer it is for us that this network has penetrated various groups of Kuwaiti people. This means the one who runs the network chooses his partners and does not lack accuracy and focus as he tries to reach every important place in Kuwait. He chooses his partner in the network, thus, he benefits from his influence in one way or another.

"This is done in the sense that the network has strong influence and abundant relations. Therefore, the main defendant is not stingy in disbursing to friends. One of the circulating videos showed a 'red' evening with the main defendant spending extravagantly and 'throwing' money to the evening dancers, not to mention the spillage of alcohol in the dancing area beyond description!

"In the same manner, there are many groups of misers who occupy positions, searching for the night of drunkenness for free. After the second or third evening, they become part of the network on their own will -- either an active member who contributes to the network's activities or an honorary member who does not spare his friend -- owner of the evening -- the information he needs. Here lies the danger.

"The availability of information made him strong throughout that period. It was difficult to overthrow him as he made his activity last for a long time. Within a very short period, he penetrated everywhere. It may have happened by chance, but the coming days will reveal new names to us, which we may not expect."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb

Main suspects in money-laundering case to appear before judge, seek bail release

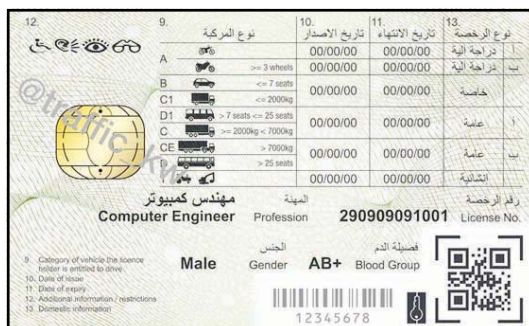
Accused deny blame

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The suspects involved in the case of the Bangladeshi resident -- who is also known as 'Pablo' and is a Member of Parliament in Bangladesh and allegedly owns a cleaning company in partnership with a Kuwaiti -- the Deputy Undersecretary for Train-

ing Affairs at the Ministry of Interior, Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah, a senior official in the Public Authority for Manpower and a former candidate who contested the National Assembly elections from the Fourth Constituency will appear before the Detention Renewal Judge, reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.



The new face of driving license .



Illegally obtained licenses will be rejected

New state-of-the-art driving licenses soon

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The new driving licenses of Kuwait are distinguished in terms of specifications and are probably of the latest kind in the world, as they have modern security features that conform to international standard ISO-18013 that would make forgery impossible, reports *Al-Anba* daily quoting a security source.

The source highlighted that the Ministry of Interior had recently announced the launch of new driving licenses, which will initially be issued to citizens via the traffic departments in various governorates and via the electronic machines installed in the Avenues Mall and Al-Kout Mall, adding that renewal or replacement of lost and damaged driving licenses will also be carried out in these locations.

He indicated that the next step is the issuance of these licenses for all citizens and expats, revealing that the Ministry of Interior, from the beginning of the year 2021, is expected to oblige about two and a half million people to replace their current licenses, of which one million and 650 thousand are expatriates and about 800 thousand are Kuwaiti citizens.

The source said obtaining these licenses will require the person to pay the fines of all the traffic violations recorded against the motorist, and review the implementation of the provisions if there are obstacles

Bid to expedite transactions

National ID Center new branch opened

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Ministry of Interior has inaugurated a new branch of the National Identity Center (the Citizenship and Passports Sector of Hawalli Governorate) at its new headquarters within the building of the Directorate General of Police Force Affairs in Mubarak Al-Abdullah suburb, reports *Al-Rai* daily.

In a statement issued by the Directorate General of Public Relations and Security Media, the ministry explained that this step is based on its strategy to develop and expedite the completion of transactions and services offered to citizens who will be received at the center after they book appointments in light of the

before being allowed to issue.

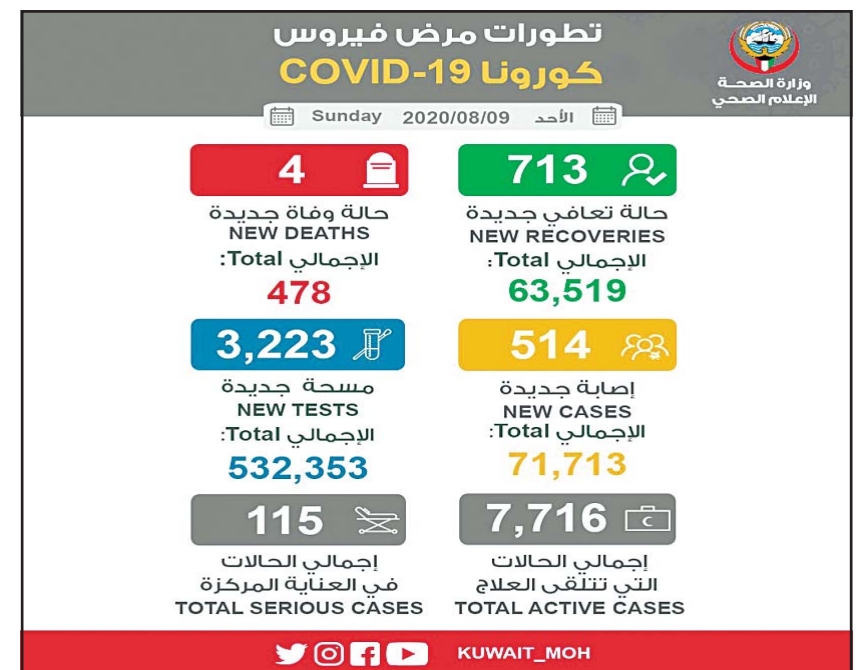
He explained that the new licenses would reject the renewal of all driving licenses obtained illegally or under exceptions and may require the presentation of identification documents online if found that the license holder did not comply with

COVID-19 pandemic.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Assistant Undersecretary for Citizenship and Passports Affairs Lieutenant General Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawwaf. He listened to a detailed explanation from the supervisor of the center Major Fahad Bodhi about the work mechanism and services offered to citizens.

It is worth mentioning that the center offers services related to issuing citizenship and passports, registering newborns, changing of names, changing profession, change in marital status, and other services related to civil ID cards and the services of the Ministry of Health.

the requirements at the time of issuance. Also, renewal of licenses will be rejected for those who changed their profession for licenses that were issued after 2013, provided a grace period is granted to replace old licenses with new ones, rendering the old licenses invalid.



Probe underway as 2 die in 'freak mishap'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Executive Vice-President for Financial and Administrative Affairs and the spokesperson for the Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC) Mahmoud Abul said a 'freak accident' at dawn yesterday, resulted in the death of two subcontractor workers who were working on the liquefied natural gas import facilities in the Al-Zour region, reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.

In a press statement, Abul said a preliminary investigation is underway

to find out the circumstances and causes of the accident.

KIPIC will also take all measures into the comprehensive investigation according to the procedures in force.

He stated the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) will form a committee to know the details of the circumstances of the accident and the reasons that led to its occurrence and to give its recommendations to prevent similar incidents in future.

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