

DIWANIYA ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'FATF unlikely to overlook discrepancies in cases probe'

'Kuwait going through real test regarding money laundering issue'

"MONEY laundering is a relatively modern-day crime, which in many cases transcends borders. The cross-border characteristic is what made the international community lay down controls for financial operations, follow-up and even pursue and prosecute them," columnist *Dr. Fatima Al-Zubairi* wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"The international action crystallized in 1989 when the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was established in Paris as an intergovernmental organization to combat money laundering crimes. Today, the Financial Action Task Force comprises 39 members, including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Cooperation Council, in addition to 31 observers and affiliates. Among the associate members is the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF).

"MENAFATF, as a subsidiary organization, works to ensure that the recommendations of FATF, as well as the relevant UN resolutions, are implemented within the Middle East region. It should be noted that Kuwait is a member of 'MENAFATF'.

"Therefore, the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force apply to Kuwait. The FATF combats money laundering by issuing recommendations to countries and financial institutions to legalize financial operations and control crimes.

"It also monitors the extent to which countries of the world – members and non-members of the organization – adhere to anti-money laundering measures. The actual role of the Financial Action Task Force can be likened to that of the UN Security Council in the field of combating money laundering and terrorist financing, as their decisions are binding and backed by economic sanctions.

"Despite my reservation on this role that conflicts with the principle of sovereignty, which I detailed in my book 'Colonialism and Modern Colonialism ... and Combating Terrorism', what matters to me here is explaining Kuwait's obligations as a member and the consequences in the event of failure to combat crimes on its territory.

"The FATF emphasizes the effective implementation of its standards around the world, and works with countries that need help to address their shortcomings. The role of the Financial Action Task Force is based on cooperation. Nevertheless, there is a more severe and strict aspect, which is, as stated

in its mandate document, recognizing the organization's competence 'to hold judicial authorities accountable for failing to adequately implement FATF standards' for the Financial Action Task Force to monitor and evaluate its members through mutual reports 'to determine the degree of technical compliance, implementation and effectiveness of anti-money laundering regulations'.

"Based on the performance of countries, FATF has 'to identify and deal with high-risk, non-cooperative judicial authorities, and those suffering from strategic deficiencies in their national systems.'

"So, the FATF has the right to monitor and determine the extent of the success or failure of the judicial authorities to enforce the laws, and in addition to these powers, it has the right to place a country unwilling or unable to combat money laundering on the list of non-cooperative countries internationally, which is also known as the blacklist.

"Were it not that Kuwait had developed its laws and financial systems in line with the recommendations of the FATF, which the latter approved in 2015, describing Kuwait as 'making great progress in improving its systems', Kuwait would have been under the microscope of international supervision. No one wishes his country to be under that microscope.

"Kuwait is going through a real test regarding combating money laundering crimes, as the issues on the scene are from the issue of the Malaysian sovereign fund to the army fund and ending with the so-called Fashionistas ... it requires firmness and serious application of the law.

"Any complacency, such as referring the incomplete file to the Prosecution or forgetting to put the date in the verdict, will not be met by the FATF as a mere unintended mistake, as the consequences of any mistake mean loss of confidence and international embarrassment.

"It must be emphasized that money laundering crimes contain huge sums to be tracked which are easier to track compared to other money crimes, and perhaps the actual

difficulty is in tracking all the members of the criminal network, some of whom reside in other countries.

"Then, we may say the Public Prosecution office holding those who are found guilty accountable will be a step in proving the civilized and just face of Kuwait not only before its people, but before the international community."

Also:

"I firmly believe that the term 'money laundering' these days in Kuwait has become more common and widespread than the coronavirus, and the reason of course is the prevalence of cases whose corruption has reached various countries of the world, and I also believe that had it not been for this global resonance, the pace of prosecutions would not have accelerated and the names would not have been revealed so quickly," columnist *Ali Mahmoud Khaja* wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"Personally speaking a little more than a year ago, I was using an international website that provides electronic bank cards service, so I filled in this electronic bank card from my Kuwaiti bank account with the amounts that I specify, and I use the electronic card to purchase some needs from external sites to ensure that my Kuwaiti bank account is not pirated from these sites and that my data is kept confidential.

"The bank, of course, did not exceed the money deposited in the electronic card and in most cases the amount was one thousand Kuwaiti dinars, and one time I bought some goods online through that electronic card, but this purchase did not take place, so the site from which I wanted to buy returned the money that was transferred to my electronic bank card, and I in turn withdrew that amount from the electronic bank card and deposited into my Kuwaiti account, which was approximately seven hundred dinars.

"After less than two days, the Kuwaiti bank contacted me, inquiring about the amount deposited in my account, its source, its reasons, and some other annoying questions. I was also informed that no transfer of funds received from my e-card site will be accepted in future. Upon inquiring about the reason for this cordial investigation by the bank, the bank informed me that it was subject to the laws of the Central Bank of Kuwait.

"In this context, I would like to pinpoint that

all of the investigation had been conducted just to inquire about KD 700 only, given the fact that I have narrated the above although I know such a story represents nothing vis-à-vis to many other stories relate to anyone from those who would like to deposit just an amount of KD 3,000 for instance without proving the source of the said amount obviously.

"Consequently, we wonder, how the transactions of millions of dinars happen in Kuwaiti local banks as well as the foreign remittances by some individuals who are living in the State of Kuwait without any investigation or any actual follow up with the Central Bank of Kuwait.

"Otherwise, what is the benefit of disclosing the financial assets of those who hold leading posts, particularly if the disclosure behind the balance of any officials which runs in millions of dinars in addition to a lot of properties inside and outside the country although the total salary of the official doesn't exceed KD 5,000.

"Anyway, the Public Prosecution, has taken action against those who are suspect in money laundering operations, but we hope the evidences that have been submitted to convict the suspects are good enough.

"But the question here is, what about the employees and officials who were involved in passing the suspicious transactions and no deterring action have been taken against them during the past months and years? Should they be also not punished?

"I hope that those who fail to be held accountable and accountability is not limited to amounts that do not exceed 700 dinars."

"The BBC Arabic broadcaster tried cynically (how much we suffered from their unprofessional coverage of the invasion) to embarrass the poet, Dr Suad Al-Sabah, in the first weeks of the Iraqi invasion when he asked her: Why are you asking for the use of force to get Iraq out of Kuwait? Why do you not resort to negotiations with Iraq? Is not this the Iraq that you used to sing and write poems about?" columnist *Ghanim Al-Zuabi* wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"Sheikha Dr Suad Al-Sabah answered him, a response that still shakes in my ears. I remember it despite the long years and the exhausting memory that formed later, forgetting a lot and leaving a little. Dr Suad's

response was: 'Let them take out the knife of treachery and betrayal from the back of my country after every recent incident. How do I negotiate with one whose knife is still stuck in my back?'

"I remembered this wondrous dialogue, with news after news about thefts, embezzlement, bribes and money laundering of billions of goods and the dissolution of this small country. One of the brothers described it as a new invasion, but this time from inside and not from outside.

"Kuwait is currently the same as most countries in the world suffering from the Corona crisis and its devastating economic consequences. The financial crimes against it will make matters worse and make it difficult for the government to fulfill many of its obligations towards citizens."

□ □ □

"Napoleon's campaign against Egypt was the first shock to the Arab conscience in the modern era. Napoleon occupied Egypt for a short time and there was an opportunity for dialogue between two civilizations that existed at the same time despite their great cultural and scientific separation," columnist *Dr Abdulwahab Salem Al-Mosallam* wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"What made Napoleon able to conquer Egypt with ease? Is the reason scientific progress in applied sciences only?

"Is it possible to develop just by taking the results of Western civilization, without paying attention to the fundamentals through which this scientific revolution brought one of its fruits in technological and military progress?

"Egyptian writer Taha Hussein said: 'A civilization that fits modern life is a complete thing, one that cannot be taken away and left to each other. Those who take it all are those who live and impose themselves on time and on other people, and those who leave it all or take each other and leave each other are the ones who die and are subjected to exploitation.'

"Taha Hussein said we must take the foundations of all civilization or we will be left behind. Japan is a perfect example of a country that has taken the foundations of all civilization. Therefore, it is now in the ranks of developed countries."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb

Confiscate properties of famous social media personalities: attorney general

Celebrity questioned over inflated bank account

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: Attorney General, Counselor, Dirar Al-Asousi, has issued a decision to confiscate the property of well-known social media personalities

including yachts and jet ski until the completion of investigations and the source of their money is identified based on a complaint filed against them by the Financial Investigation Unit after it became clear that their bank accounts had suddenly bloated, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.



Minister of Education Dr Saud Al-Harbi poses for a picture with the officials during his visit to one of the schools in Mubarak Al-Kabir governorate.

Taiwan provides Kuwait face shields Municipality awaits nod to name cities, squares

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: The Municipality is waiting for the approval of the regulations for the concerned committee to prepare proposals on the controls for naming cities, suburbs, squares and streets by the Cabinet, reports **Al-Qabas** daily quoting Deputy General Director for Projects Sector Affairs Eng Nadia Al-Shuraida.

Al-Shuraida disclosed the proposal of Municipal Council member Eng Abdul Salam Al-Randi to name Street 46 in Al-Zahra, Block Seven, South Surra – where the Kuwaiti Scientific Club is located – after great astronomer Saleh Muhammad Al-Ajiri has been included in the proposed group

of names by the executive branch. She added all requests are being compiled until the controls on naming cities, suburbs, squares and streets is approved by the Council of Ministers.

She explained that the proposal of Municipal Council member Eng Hammoud Al-Enezi to display street names on all the indicative signs and placing street numbers in a very clear and visible manner is being implemented according to the specifications and systems followed by the Projects Department.

Meanwhile, Taiwan provided Kuwait with 200 face shields, which were delivered recently by Commercial Rep-

resentative Hua Wei Mo to Director General of the Residency Affairs General Administration Hamad Rashid who expressed his gratitude to Taiwan; indicating that the protective equipment will be used to protect frontline officers and department workers from the covid-19 epidemic, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

Earlier this year, Taiwan contributed 50,000 surgical masks, 10,000 N95 masks, 800 protective suits through the United Nations Office of Human Settlements in Kuwait and in the GCC, as well as the Kuwait Society of Surgeons, which in turn distributed them to hospitals and the Kuwaiti society.

تطورات مرض فيروس كورونا COVID-19

الجمعة 12/08/2020

<p>3</p> <p>حالة وفاة جديدة</p> <p>NEW DEATHS</p> <p>الإجمالي: 489</p>	<p>692</p> <p>حالة تعافي جديدة</p> <p>NEW RECOVERIES</p> <p>الإجمالي: 65,451</p>
<p>4,397</p> <p>مسحة جديدة</p> <p>NEW TESTS</p> <p>الإجمالي: 543,858</p>	<p>717</p> <p>إصابة جديدة</p> <p>NEW CASES</p> <p>الإجمالي: 73,785</p>
<p>117</p> <p>إجمالي الحالات في العناية المركزة</p> <p>TOTAL SERIOUS CASES</p>	<p>7,845</p> <p>إجمالي الحالات التي تتلقى العلاج</p> <p>TOTAL ACTIVE CASES</p>

KUWAIT_MOH

Reshuffle postponed until after election

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 12: The Ministry of Electricity and Water revealed as it anticipates overhaul of senior employees in the ministry's customer service sector, which is expected to happen within the next two days at the latest, it is likely that the appointment of the assistant secretaries for financial and administrative affairs in the ministry will be postponed until after the new government formation after the National Assembly elections, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily quoting ministry sources.

The sources indicated that the Council of Ministers has been informed of the names of the shortlisted candidates to take up 'Finance' and 'Administrative'

positions. They will take over from the current officials until a decision is issued on the appointment of officials for the two positions.

Regarding the rotation of employees, the sources suggested the Minister of Oil, Minister of Electricity and Water Dr Khaled Al-Fadhel, has issued decisions for the need to transfer a senior official from the Farwaniya Governorate to work in the Jahra Governorate and the latter will be transferred to Farwaniya, and an official from the Mubarak Al-Kabeer will be transferred to the Capital, and the official from the Capital governorate will be transferred to the Al-Ahmadi Governorate.

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