

DIWANIYA ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Losses may be more than desired gains'

'Egypt and Turkey cannot afford long-term conflict on Libyan soil'

"MANY countries are interfering in the ongoing conflict in Libya to stand alongside one of the two parties to the conflict, the government of Western Libya led by Fayed Al-Sarraj or the government of eastern Libya led by retired Major-General Khalifa Haftar," columnist and attorney Riyadh Al-Sanea'a wrote for **Annahar** daily.

"However, to clear the image of the proxy war taking place there amid moaning and the drums of war and its tides, Turkey and Egypt stand out as influencing the course of the conflict, given the impact of the situation in Libya on their national security, and the vital interests associated with Libya loyal to one of the two parties.

"The intensity of the conflict has evolved recently, especially in light of the threats by both parties, as the Tobruk Parliament of the Government of Eastern Libya called on Egypt to intervene militarily in Libya, especially in front of the successive victories achieved by the internationally recognized national accord government supported by Turkey.

"As a matter of fact, several controversial questions have been raised about a possible war between Egypt and Turkey on Libyan soil. Is it possible for war to beat drums between the two parties?

"The reality is that the preparations are strong and serious. Al-Wefaq forces are preparing and massing their forces on the strategic borders of the city of Sirte, where Turkey announced that it will not back down from attacking Sirte and Al-Jafva, after air strikes were launched on Al-Wattia air base, and led to the destruction of a Turkish anti-aircraft missile system.

"While Egypt keeps its forces in full combat readiness, which indicates its determination to engage in the Libyan conflict in the event that the Al-Wefaq government and the Turkish forces take effective steps, the Egyptian Ministry of Defense also announced that 'Decisive Maneuver 2020', land and sea, would be conducted with the main purpose of 'eliminating mercenaries and terrorists on the Libyan border'.

"Thus, the danger of a military confrontation between Egypt and Turkey on Libyan soil becomes more tangible than before.

"And in the event of a confrontation - God forbid - who will be the victor? Expert Nasser Zuhair says that 'the Egyptian army has the power to confront the Turkish army,

and on the other side also the Turkish army possesses a great power and the force between them may be equal or there are slight differences'.

"In other words, one of the two armies may exceed the other in the volume of the navy force, while the second party, may exceed the other in terms of its overland and air force. But in fine and in view of the might of the two armies, the losses on both sides will be too big, particularly if they get involved in a comprehensive confrontation.

"Therefore, the crisis in Libya cannot be solved militarily, as a result of somewhat balance of forces. This is evident, for example, when Russia's role in Libya escalated, the United States interfered with its weight after it was absent from the scene, and 'regional or international roles are equal', even the Europeans, even if they are now inactive militarily, are very concerned with



Al-Sanea'a

Turkey's not controlling Libyan coast, because that would mean Turkey's control of the African immigration portal.

"Also, in the event of a military confrontation, each party relies on an economic tributary to support it, which is the current unavailable tributary or insufficient transfer to meet the costs of the continuation of the war in Libya in light of the Corona pandemic that emptied the budgets of countries.

"It is clear that ending the conflict does not fall within the list of external parties' priorities or among the reasons for their involvement. Everyone sees in Libya a golden opportunity to gain political and economic influence, especially after the deterioration of trade and the repercussions of the 'Corona' crisis, which reflected negatively on the economy of countries.

"The bottom line is that the talk about a war between Egypt and Turkey in Libya is not based on any logical reasoning, because the losses may be more than the desired gains even if they are about preserving national security, which will enter the region as a whole in a dark tunnel through which chaos and terrorist militias will be reactivated.

"Therefore, the comprehensive military confrontation between Egypt and Turkey is ruled out, but there may be short and quick confrontations to show off might or muscle flexing and then return to a political solution. Neither side can tolerate a long-term war of attrition."

Also:

"The hostile plans of the West that are carried out to eliminate the entity of the Arab nation did not stop at a certain point, but rather they operate on all Arab lands, and it seems that the secure and peaceful land of the Gulf has not been spared from these sordid foreign conspiracies and plans that are trying hard to infiltrate their plots into the land of the Gulf," columnist and former Kuwaiti ambassador **Mohammad Salem Al-Balhan** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"This land includes one indigenous Arab people that will not be separated by fictitious borders that have been drawn by the imperialists to achieve its purposes where these intruders have ignored that the Gulf people since the very beginning of the world stand on solid foundations of cohesion, cooperation, solidarity and love, as such this people will never respond to any conspiracy that likely to woken by the covetous people.

"This reminds me of what was mentioned on one occasion by the virtuous German man during one of my meetings with him and I mentioned that in previous articles.

"The honorable German professor from the then East Germany whose administration was assigned to the Communist Soviet Union at the time of Joseph Stalin when this country was torn to apart between the East and the West.

"He told me that he fled his country from the intransigence of the Soviet occupation to enjoy freedom in Milan in Italy, where he worked at that time as a professor in one of its universities, and he told me words that I will not forget while knowing that I am an Arab and that I am from Kuwait.

"That honorable professor said that the big countries who help them from the beneficiary countries, they will not leave the Arabs in security, but have prepared plans and conspiracies to tear the entity of this Arab nation for many reasons, the most important of which are the distinct geographical situation that the Arab nation possesses from the ocean to the Gulf inhabited by the people of one language and their origins are one, this

distinct geographical social situation enabled the Arabs to control all global land and air routes, which are inevitable from passing from east to west or from north to south, or vice-versa other than Arab airspace and seas, this is an advantage that is not owned by non-Arabs.

"Given the above, he went on to say that, the West in general and the great powers in particular are still in a state a permanent readiness and reservation towards the Arab situations, hence, they are attempting through all of their potentials to scatter the Arab entity and eventually tear apart the same for the sake of their unlimited interests.

"Consequently, he added, the Arabs should hasten to the take all precautionary measures, boost their solidarity and eventually sort out all of the differences that will likely surface among them irrespective of its type.

"Hence, the people of the Gulf in turn, should unify their ranks in order to encounter all of the foreign vile conspiracies."

"The government plan, which has been divided into five stages, is in full swing and on the right track. It coincides with the announcement made by the government about the new procedures for the third stage. The Ministry of Interior said this will be a prelude to the return to normalcy in the near future in accordance with clear procedures, and it started after the 12th of this month," columnist **Tareq Boursly** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"The next plan includes opening resorts and hotels, resumption of taxi operation according to specific procedures and controls, and increasing the percentage of employees reporting for work in State institutions. This is a good development. We hope it will take its natural course toward demographic restructuring.

"Since the beginning of the corona epidemic, I have been blessing the efforts exerted by the government to manage the crisis with the capabilities owned by the State. In addition, I have been stressing the need to develop programs to manage potential emergency crises after this global economic coup... and the image that our economy must have in the future.

"With the approach of the blessed Eid Al-Adha and the movement witnessed on the streets of Kuwait as well as the commercial centers since the beginning of the second

stage and lifting the total curfew, and what the sea fronts have been witnessing, there has been fear of rising infection rates especially after the partial return to normal life in the country. This comes with fear of the possibility that we will return to square one. We have to slow down and deliberate on the mechanism of lifting the partial curfew. The partial curfew should continue until the fifth stage, so we do not regret in case the number of those infected with corona will increase further due to social contact and interaction."

"Societies cannot be separated from their past, just as laws do not change cultures. If we take this logic, the probability that we will change the system of administration and the way of making policies after the pandemic is minimal," columnist **Dr Mohammad Al-Kumaihi** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"We missed lessons from the first disaster - the Iraqi invasion. In order to benefit from disasters, we need a political administration with a modern country project, an action plan, a program on the ground, and the use of competencies reinforced by the desire for societal change.

"The root of the problem in disrupting reform is the unhealthy relationship between the executive and legislative branches in recent decades, which opened the door for corruption. If we want 'another Kuwait', we must at least open eight 'urgent' files for serious study.

"First: produce an effective public policy that achieves the desired goals for society based on the quality of information in the possession of decision makers. Up to this day, we lack research centers and institutions which collect, analyze and compare information in all fields in our executive and legislative institutions. Without organized and accurate information, the State's implementation structure will weaken, leading to the wrong decision.

"Second: international studies tell us that the global economy lost about \$9 to \$12 trillion as of late April and industrial societies would stop production. Because we are a country that lives on oil revenues, the economic impact will be deep and long due to low oil prices."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb

Organized gangs, lax law led to laundering of over KD 700 million in real estate fraud

Media empires sold 'mirages' to customers

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: The volume of money laundering operations related to real estate fraud taking place in Kuwait in recent times is estimated at about 700 million dinars, and those behind the operations belong to an organized gang that took advantage of the regulatory inaction to create fake entities and managed to sell "mirages" to customers with the help of the famous media empire that promoted those property, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

They took advantage of their critic followers on one hand and lack of accountability by government agencies for their fraudulent activity on the other hand, until the number of victims reached about 10,000.

The daily quoting real estate sources noted these operations were not performed individually; rather they were organized, noting the procedures of fraud are similar in all suspicious companies. They affirmed the similarity of fraudulent methods used by several companies between 2013-2017 is evidence that those behind the fraud operations are organized gangs, and in Kuwait, they found an incubating environment for such operations- especially as the term money laundering was not in circulation in the country at the time.

They pointed out that the issue of money laundering through "real estate fraud" takes precedence not only in Kuwait but the region. This was proven through a Court of Cassation ruling, which considered the activities of a company as a form of money laundering. From 2013 to 2017, a feverish and significant activity emerged about the number of real estate exhibitions held in Kuwait amid generous and very good offers to own real estate inside and outside Kuwait. The real estate exhibitions were then surrounded by a set of official guarantees that encouraged many people to make purchases through exhibitions.

The same sources stated "it was very difficult to discover any fraudulent operations by the companies involved, because the companies surrounded their operations with procedures confirming their actions were real. They did so through obtaining legal licenses and also followed all regulatory procedures that were determined by government agencies

KNPC to select global consultant for Ahmadi projects

KUWAIT CITY, July 20: Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) has reportedly floated a tender to choose a technical consultant for the projects to be implemented by the company at Mina Al-Ahmadi Refinery. Six international companies have been qualified to compete for the contract, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

Informed sources explained that KNPC adopted a practice recently for choosing the technical consultant for future projects at the refinery. It has set September 24 as the date for receiving financial bids, provided the offers are submitted through the company's commercial website.

The companies eligible to enter the practice are Worley Parsons Engineering, the American KBR, Amec Foster Wheeler, Flu Consulting, Japanese Toyo Engineering and finally the French Technip -

Abu Dhabi branch.

The company stated in the details of the practice that the bidders must provide the preliminary guarantee to the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation no later than Thursday, September 24. They must attach a copy of the preliminary guarantee with the tender.

The condition states that this practice is limited and indivisible so that the supply is from the approved factories and companies mentioned in practice documents. It indicated that an introductory meeting of bidders will be held online on August 3.

The sources added that KNPC is implementing a huge set of current projects at Ahmadi Refinery, foremost of which are the environmental fuel project, construction of new facilities, and gazing of the existing facilities to handle sulfur, in addition to building the fifth gas line.

coupled with other factors that helped them to deceive many victims, which led many to seal purchase contracts at the time, then after a while, the companies failed to deliver their units or rents.

They pointed to a number of reasons leading many of those affected to fall into the real estate fraud trap, saying:

1. The ease with which regulations governing sales operations in Kuwait are considered binding legal legislation: As the content of the regulation indicates that no project may be proposed inside the exhibition, except it has been reviewed by the official authorities, and that the company preserves the assets of approvals and hands them to the Real Estate Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to grant the license. Therefore, the victims found themselves in front of legislation and official routine confirming the real estate exhibitions were real and without fraud.

2. The companies have real documents for some projects inside and outside Kuwait certified by concerned official authorities.

3. A number of projects are already under construction, some of which have already been handed over to customers but found out the property were not owned by those companies.

4. Providing the option to pay via local banks as payment for those property were not in cash but through the local banks, which gave more confidence to customers.

the defect was in the old exhibitions, not those affected.

Based on the previous data, requests for compensation are due, according to the law, constitution, ethics, and all criteria, because purchase were made based on an existing, organized and arranged legislation and oral statements of officials in the media. Therefore, all judicial precedents in Kuwait obliges the state to compensate those who fall victim to the mistakes of administrative authorities.

On the reasons for the prevalent money laundering related crimes in recent times, sources confirmed that the weakness of supervisory authorities in fulfilling their role of monitoring the movement of money is the reason behind the explosion of money laundering operations.

The sources called for holding some famous media personalities involved in false promotions accountable for promoting companies involved in real estate fraud, and deceiving customers to partner in real projects. Some of them were even "bragging" about huge received in exchange for advertisements created or endorsed for those companies.

The huge sums received indicate their participation in fraud, and therefore, the celebrities deliberately lied to promote the projects. Some of them even claimed to have already received real estate and units, which proved to be incorrect later!

They noted a number of celebrities were involved in money laundering cases that did not come out of the blue, despite the tricks they used in concealing their illegal work, such as inflating the value of advertisement contracts, which is clearly money laundering.

Sources confirmed that Sabah Al-Ahmad Seaside region had the largest share of real estate fraud operations in Kuwait, especially with the emergence of a number of companies in simultaneous times to announce the sale of real estate units and fake

chalets that later turned out that the land was owned by a person who subsequently declined to hand over those units to clients due to fees imposed on the land by Ministry of Finance. This is in addition to the fact that the land is mortgaged by a number of banks, coupled with the company's violation of regulations on converting a private housing area to an investment site.

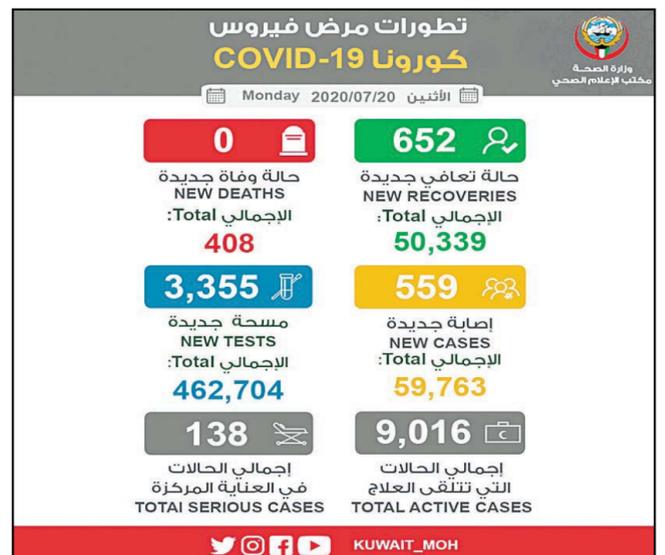
Lawyer Ali Al-Attar sent awareness messages to the people affected by real estate fraud, saying: The silence of those affected exposes others to the same fraud and taking inaccurate measures in the interest of the swindlers could lead to the loss of rights of those affected.

He pointed to the need for the affected people to raise issues related to money laundering against the companies to ensure the recovery of their money again, because money laundering cases work to track the dinar obtained through various bank accounts that removes the curtain on the movement of money poured into the interest of the real criminals hiding behind those companies and people, unlike other tracks of litigation.

Al-Attar said he sent several messages to officials on behalf of a number of those affected, which included many scenarios and solutions capable of solving these problems, but so far, he has not seen any positive interaction from them, which caused an increase in the number of money laundering operations in Kuwait.

He called on the Ministry of Commerce not to renew the licenses of any of the companies - except they submit a bank statement and undergo examination by the money laundering department to compare sales and the sum in the bank account, which reveals the practices of fraud and money laundering.

He added, "It is imperative that any citizen coming to buy real estate units adhere to the rule of Pay and Receive".



PAI strategic stock of masks for 6 months

KUWAIT CITY, July 20, (KUNA): Kuwait Public Authority for Industry (PAI) has announced the continuation of establishing a strategic stock of protective masks for a period of six months amid an outbreak of coronavirus COVID-19.

The authority said in a press statement that the daily local production of eight factories and local crafts is estimated at more than 5,000,000 million masks, as there are 522 tons of raw materials currently available at industrial facilities and 133 tons of imported raw materials to increase production capacity.

When the outbreak of the crisis,

there was only one factory for masks manufacturing, as for now they reached nine, the statement added.

PAI confirmed its support to national factories by facilitating approval process for industrial facilities to produce basic material for the production of masks, as well as providing the necessary strategic stock to citizens and residents.

Establishment of those local factories came in coordination with the Ministry of Health to meet the product requirements, it said, stressing that the industrial sector plays a prominent role in easing the effect of this crisis.

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