

Other Voices

Candidates ... types of subversion of the democratic process

"SOME candidates try to get elected to the National Assembly, through various means – by holding illegal by-elections, spreading rumors, tweets on their personal accounts, attack, praise, building alliances, shuttling between electoral districts and dancing on all tight ropes, forgetting that the formula for success is the same and that some successes are a failure, and some failures are successes," columnist **Saleh Ghazal Al-Anezi** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

Although such actions and sayings may be partially or totally justified by some according to the inclinations, desires and whims, the bad thing is when the candidate exceeds all the permissible rules, and lowers the level of competition by indulging in vote-buying, injustice is done to the electoral process because the attempts to win a seat are illegal. To win the seat, some attempt to destroy some norms of societal values and crosses red lines and this violates the rights and duties of the system of citizenship.

"A few days ago, I read a tweet by one of the creative personalities, and he conducted a calculation to sell the votes through which he proved the possibility of the buyer (candidate) become an MP for years and the one sold the vote gets five hundred dinars. In a simple calculation the seller earns a quarter of a dinar per day.

I also asked a friend if he had participated in the by-elections of his tribe a few days ago, and his reply was negative, so I said, 'Certainly, you were afraid of Corona', and then I jokingly criticized him for not being loyal to the tribe.

His stern reply was, 'We may accept that the candidate violates the social distancing law because he will win a seat, but is it worthy for others who violate the law by participating in the by-elections and get infected?'

"This is because the candidates are just two but the lunatics are two thousand, and permanent losers in the process are the crazy voters, because success in the elections is like a commercial enterprise where a price tag is put on the product, and the price is always subject to the value. If the

value of success is less, the price of the voter and the prestige of the deputy decrease.

"Therefore, if many merchants, dignitaries and academics, enter the election battlefield, they use various means to win, but they never fall to the level of buying votes, not because they respect values, but because they are looking for a seat that is too big to be bought with money, since only the hungry are satisfied with crumb, and any council in which the number of members of the crumbs increases its value and its achievements decreases, and it becomes power deprived or forfeited.

Perhaps the by-elections are the least disruptive to the democratic process, as they are characterized by some factional democracy outside the law of course, although it perpetuates the factional tendency and directs the efforts of deputies at the interests of some at the expense of the homeland, but these elections do not contribute to the spread of the phenomenon of vote-buying, or allow controlling the desires of those aspiring to contest.

"While the spread of some negative phenomena is much more dangerous than the by-elections, and they may be equal or close to the phenomenon of vote-buying, and among these phenomena is spreading an atmosphere of intimidation under the pretext that a candidate may harm the chances of success of another candidate from the same faction, tribe, or sect.

This unjustified pressure or intimidation fails to persuade the candidate to concede to the other candidate on the basis that the chance of his success is real and certain. It is only a disease of interests or a disease of envy.

Among these phenomena is also an attempt to weaken the supporters of the candidate because of his candidacy in a district other than his own, as if the constitution or

the law does not allow this, although such a thing is repeated frequently even among the successful representatives."

Also:

"French President Emmanuel Macron provoked more than a billion and a half Muslims when he targeted Islam by saying Islam is living in a crisis today everywhere in the world and needs to be reconstructed and there are those who want to establish a parallel system of government in France," columnist **Abdulaziz Al-Fadhli** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"During his speech, Macron repeated dozens of times the word Islam, Islamic radicalism and political Islam and called for France to confront what he called Islamic separatism.

"Unfortunately, we did not find any appropriate response from the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Arab League, the Muslim World League, or most of the Islamic governments to this convulsive speech of the French president.

"And unfortunately, we find that the accusation is ready against Islam, with every incident committed by any Muslim extremist, even though those who adopt extremist ideology in our Islamic world do not exceed one percent.

"It is strange and weird that we do not hear talk about Christian terrorism – for example – when a Christian extremist commits a massacre or a crime against innocent Muslims, as happened in the attack on a mosque in New Zealand last year, which led to the martyrdom of more than 50 Muslims, including women, children and the elderly people.

"The French president should not have embarrassed himself in talking about Islamic extremism, because the history of his country is stained with the blood of innocent people.

"France killed more than five million Muslims during its occupation of Algeria, guillotined a group of resistance fighters, and sent them to the museums of France.

"France is considered one of the most active supportive of the massacres committed

against civilians in the Republic of Mali by the mercenaries. That is why we say to the French President 'Whoever lives in a glass house, should not throw stones at other people's homes'.

"We also say to him: 'If Islam is in a deep crisis worldwide – as you claim – then we would not have found it the most widespread religion in the world. I read a wonderful tweet on Twitter by Dr. Abdul Mohsen Zaban Al-Mutairi, in which he indicated that a British female journalist was captured in Afghanistan and after her release she converted to Islam, and an Italian hostage who was caught in Somalia after her return, she converted to Islam, and a French advocate who was captured in Mali after her release she declared her conversion to Islam.

"The light of Islam will remain until the Day of Judgment, and Macron will disappear, as will many of his ilk who are hostile to Islam."

"Debates and demands are increasing about the importance of providing guarantees for the integrity of the upcoming elections, creating the appropriate atmosphere to be a new and good start for the new era, and avoiding the major failures we have seen in the nation's councils that have passed through the country in the last few years," columnist **Abdulmohsen Jouma'a** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"For these demands and requirements to be fulfilled, there must be a neutral government, or it should not suffer from offense and rivalries with political blocs or MPs. This is not available in the current government, as most of its members were interrogated, involved in violent arguments during the discussions of their interrogations, and no-confidence motions were submitted against them.

"Most ministers had rounds of requesting the Parliament's approval to bypass requests to cast confidence in them and strengthen their political positions. This resulted in entitlements, and perhaps, debts that must be repaid to those who submitted to them. This put some ministers in a posi-

tion of weakness.

"The safest way is to form a mini-government to oversee the upcoming elections, regardless of the interpretations and news that are circulating – the most important of which is Al-Jarida newspaper – about the irregularities involving some ministers in terms of appointments, promotions and transfers for electoral reasons, as well as the issue of electoral restrictions that were fortified due to the negligence of some ministers."



"Mina Mubarak is a Kuwaiti port on Kuwaiti land that was mainly created to serve Kuwait and neighboring countries such as Iraq and Iran. It was not created with the intention of harassing neighbors, as some Iraqi political figures claimed in their continuous conflict with the Iraqi government," columnist **Sami Abdulatif Al-Nisf** wrote for **Annahar** daily.

"The best that the Kuwaiti and Iraqi governments can do in their bilateral relations is to present goodwill. The relationship between the two brotherly countries, extending for centuries, has not witnessed anything disturbing in its description except a few years in general. This is not comparable to the periods of intimacy in the relationship between the peoples of the two countries who are united by ties of religion, nationalism, lineage and common interests.

"Past experiences have proven that the outstanding issues between the two countries in the end caused extraordinary losses for both parties. These losses are not commensurate with the value of what they disagreed on, so we must – in Kuwait and Iraq – be keen on a relationship based on the profit-profit equation, from which our peoples could benefit, especially with the upcoming huge challenges.

"We have to move away from the methodology of the pre-2003 regime in Iraq, which was always based on the relationship of loss-loss, until the defunct tyrant lost his life because of this clumsy and destructive policy."

— Compiled by **Ahmad Al-Shazli**



Al-Enezi

Principals exploiting for more work hours: female teachers

'MoE must clarify situation'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: A number of female teachers said they are suffering from great pressure as some school principals are exploiting the teachers under their administration by obliging them to work during the morning shift until 1:00 pm and then return to school to conduct classes in the afternoon shift from

3:00pm to 5:00pm for the fourth and fifth grade students, reports Aljarida daily.

A group of teachers working in primary schools affiliated to the Capital Educational Zone, who requested anonymity in order to avoid accountability, explained that the school principals with whom they work obligate them to work in the morning and evening shifts, even though the ministry's instructions oblige teachers to work in the morning during the official working hours.



Photo by Bassam Abu Shanab

The Friday Market popularly known as 'Souk Juma' is back at full flourish as customers throng to the place to buy new and second-hand items of all sorts.

Contrary to that, the principals obligate them to work in the morning as well as in evening shifts to conduct virtual classes from their schools. The primary education control monitors schools in the evening shift to ensure the presence of female teachers in their schools.

Making female teachers work both in the morning and evening shifts is against the Civil Service Law. It also leads to great fatigue and pressure on the female teachers, especially since they have familial obligations, and some of them have children who need follow-up in distance education.


The teachers stressed the need for the Ministry of Education to issue clear and explicit instructions that would prevent teachers from being required to attend evening hours inside schools and to allow them to perform classes from their homes, especially since all officials of the ministry have the powers to follow up and monitor classes through the program itself, which eliminates the need for a teacher to be present in the school.



Social assistance: The Ministry of Social Affairs confirmed that the social assistance disbursed monthly is about KD22 million for 16 groups who are eligible for aid; indicating the minimum is KD255 while the maximum is KD1,200 monthly, reports Al-Shahid daily.

In a press statement, the ministry affirmed the Public Aid Law is one of the most important laws as it reflects Kuwait's commitment to serve its citizens. The State grants social assistance to a number of segments in the society under the umbrella of the ministry which, in turn, provides assistance to eligible beneficiaries; in addition to overcoming obstacles they might be facing, the ministry added.

The ministry revealed the beneficiaries include the elderly, divorced women, widows, housewives, girls, orphans, the sick, those with financial problems, young people with material needs, families of students studying at home, families of students studying abroad, families of prisoners, released prisoners, the repentant, those incarcerated and those married to non-Kuwaitis.



وزارة الصحة
الإعلام الصحي

تطورات مرض فيروس كورونا COVID-19

الخميس 2020/10/15 Thursday

<p>746</p> <p>إصابة جديدة NEW CASES الإجمالي Total: 114,015</p>	<p>8</p> <p>حالة وفاة جديدة NEW DEATHS الإجمالي Total: 684</p>	<p>610</p> <p>حالة تعافي جديدة NEW RECOVERIES الإجمالي Total: 105,846</p>
<p>133</p> <p>إجمالي الحالات في العناية المركزة TOTAL SERIOUS CASES</p>	<p>7,485</p> <p>إجمالي الحالات التي تتلقى العلاج TOTAL ACTIVE CASES</p>	<p>8,554</p> <p>مسحة جديدة NEW TESTS الإجمالي Total: 809,491</p>

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'MEW focuses on services to clients'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: Member of the Customer Service Team in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Eng Iqbal Al-Tayyar said the Ministry of Electricity and Water in Kuwait has succeeded in providing services to 700,000 subscribers electronically -- about 100,000 electronic transactions per day, including 39 online services, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Al-Tayyar made the statement to the daily after attending the online Gulf workshop entitled, "The Impact of Corona Pandemic on Electricity and Water Customer Services in GCC Countries." Director of the Customer Service Department Falah Al-Mutairi also attended the workshop.

According to Al-Tayyar, each GCC country submitted a scientific paper on electronic customer services during the pandemic. She revealed the scientific paper presented by Kuwait focused on the services provided to customers -- the most important of which are the electricity and water bills, meters, faults, inquiries and complaints.

She confirmed the existence of an integrated Gulf system for electronic transactions and the provision of various services through modern means. She added the GCC nations are keen on ensuring the safety of employees assigned in the electricity and water services sectors and auditors.

Ministry allows entry of 429 Saudi teachers

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: Ministry of Foreign Affairs has officially agreed to allow entry into the country for 429 teachers who hold Saudi nationality and whose names were listed by the Ministry of Education, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to official sources, the Higher Ministerial Committee for COVID-19 Emergencies held a meeting about two weeks ago during which they discussed a letter sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which was attached with an educational report bearing the names of Saudi staff members working in public education sector and the extent to which schools needed them in light of the current exceptional circumstances.

The committee agreed to the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to permit the Saudi teachers to enter the country,

provided the health and preventive measures imposed by the Ministry of Health in this regard are implemented.

There is coordination among the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior and the Saudi Embassy in Kuwait at the highest level to grant Saudi teachers permits from their country and facilitate their exit and entry process from and to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, especially those living in the Khafji region.

The sources indicated that the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would address the Ministry of Interior to refer the names of the teachers to the border checkpoints as a preliminary step for facilitating the process of exit and entry to and from Kuwait, taking into account their compliance with health requirements.

Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education Faisal Maqsid addressed the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Consular Affairs via an official letter to affirm the ministry's need for the services of about 429 male and female Saudi members of the educational body and demand that they be allowed to enter Kuwait as soon as possible after coordinating with the Saudi authorities.

According to the list, the number of Saudi teachers belonging to the Ahmadi Educational Zone is 252, Jahra Educational Zone 54 teachers, Capital Educational Zone 56 teachers, Hawally Educational Zone about 32 teachers, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Educational Zone 23 teachers, and Farwaniya Educational Zone 10 teachers as well as only two from the Religious Education Department.



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