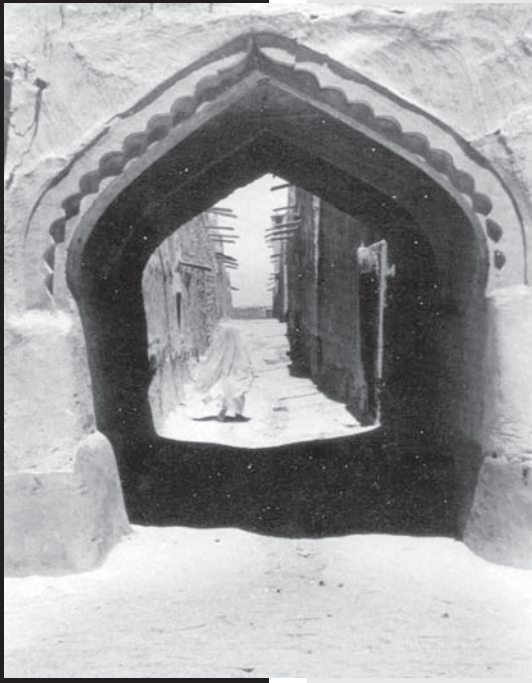


REMEMBER WHEN

Local Architecture

Photograph courtesy of The Center for Research and Studies on Kuwait and the work of Dr Yacoub Al-Hijji in the book *Old-Kuwait: Memories in Photographs* first published in 1996.



© N.M.M.

Sometimes two houses facing one another and belonging to one family were connected by an archway as shown in this photograph. There were many beautiful archways in old Kuwait, under which people passed freely.

The architecture in old Kuwait is characterized by its success in "transforming the local values and way of life into architectural terms," as stated by a contemporary architect of Kuwait. The Kuwaiti master builder, known locally as *ustad*, drew no plans on papers; he figured the proportions and made the plan in his mind. His success, however, in using traditional techniques with locally available materials such as mud, gypsum, coral and mangrove poles, is all too evident.

A house or a mosque in old Kuwait was always built around a courtyard where a brackish water well or a fresh-

water cistern stood. In daytime, there would be plenty of sunshine throughout the house. Invariably, a few stairs led to the roof, a much preferred place for sleeping during hot summer nights. Close to the house stood the *diwaniya*, or men's meeting place, with its private entrance and coffee-hearth in the center. It was there that the men of the house would entertain their guests.

In nearby villages, however, houses were less sophisticated and blended beautifully with the surrounding environment. Some were fishermen's homes; others, such as the romantic *kubar*, were retreats that belonged to city dwellers. They resided there in the spring when the desert bloomed after the winter rains. (From the book *'Old Kuwait: Memories in Photographs'*)

Courtesy of The Center for Research and Studies on Kuwait



diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Opposition must work jointly, on one platform for nation's betterment'

"EVERYONE realizes that the country has reached a bad stage. The political horizon looks gloomy and the path of development remains unpaved," columnist **Dr Hamad Muhammad Al-Matar** wrote for *Al-Jarida* daily.

"The incidents of corruption and the number of corrupt people are increasing coupled with dominance of the culture of private interest over the public, and that - without a doubt - due to the government performance and its practices through multiple and effective tools found in the political arena.

"This is what Kuwait is witnessing today as the country rides the wave of unprecedented political crisis, which has paralyzed the supervisory role of the National Assembly by disrupting the interrogations submitted against the Prime Minister, taking shelter of the Constitution, and the political maneuvers that have preceded with no intention to get out of the crisis, but to deepen it and marginalize the options and weakening the democracy that characterized Kuwait during the previous stages.

"Kuwait now needs another voice to pull the country out of this situation and put in on the track of real reform. This voice can only be the voice of the combined national opposition, and this is the real idea of the opposition associated with democratic regimes throughout history.

"What we see now is popular anger which is imperative for the national opposition to take upon itself to adopt a comprehensive rescue project, especially since what we see among the young generation - the frustration, which will have dire consequences for the country.

"So far, the oil prices are still working in the interest of the government, covering up its shortcomings, and enabling it to deliver the pension to every family.

"However, the economic situation is not reassuring, and it may lead us to the unknown tunnel, especially with the absence of statesmen in the government who can guide the country to a safe shore.

"All of this necessitates that the opposition meet on one idea and on an explicit project to save the country, not to achieve some electoral gains, a project that secures national reconciliation, lays the foundations for real political reform, and takes on the responsibility of saving the country.

"We are optimistic, and we realize that political battles are part of the democratic practice and we need to take a deep breath, if in the end people have to be victorious."

Also:

"In response to a parliamentary question, Minister of Interior Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali announced the deportation of expatriates who were caught filming and selling judicial files, and that the measure was taken to ensure that expatriates do not exploit their jobs or evade legal measures through administrative or legal loopholes," columnist **Muhammad Al-Jalhamah** wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"Some may argue that the Ministry of Interior should have referred the 'document thieves' to the judiciary so they get punished commensurate to the offense they committed and not deportation, but in my opinion, these people have the financial ability to hire lawyers and stay in the country, so the faster and more costly punishment for them is deportation, especially in light of what we are suffering from due to the spread of the Corona virus.

"Administrative deportation is often right, especially when dealing with such employees for betraying the trust given to them and the same can be said of the drugs pushers, but what I am calling for is for the formation of assistant undersecretaries at the Ministry of Interior to compile reasons for deportation.

"In most cases there are incidents when expatriates are blackmailed by citizens through some sort of relationships and this can be used as a tool to oppress and deport expatriates administratively when it comes to financial or commercial disputes, and this is what the Ministry of Interior or we as citizens cannot accept, as I suggest the formation of the committee to look into such issues so that no one is wronged or abused before he is deported from the country.

"I largely agree with those who see that the administrative deportation is entrusted to the Undersecretary of the Ministry, Lieutenant General Issam

Al-Naham, who examines the circumstances of the deportation and has the authority to approve or reject, but the formation of a committee for this purpose, from my point of view, will prevent exploitation by a specific segment, especially since there are expatriates who are partners with citizens in multiple commercial projects."



"Let us move away from the flatteries, and ask openly - For whom is Kuwait? Is it for all of us or is it for a particular category? If it is for all of us, then why do we still adhere to the concepts of discrimination or partisanship for this group without the other?" columnist **Dr. Ali Al-Zuabi** wrote for *Al-Shahid* daily.

"If Kuwait is meant for a certain group only, then why insist that all Kuwaitis are first-class citizens? Why isn't the nationality distributed to each group with its own color, and discriminate between groups by imposing concrete barriers, as it happens in Brazil, for example?"

"For someone who describes himself as a historian, he is supposed to remember the events of certain families, and denounce the events of the rest of society. In a book that is being incubated by the state, this is not only a catastrophe in itself but also a disaster for the official political discourse to insist that Kuwait is for all.

"Those who describe themselves as political analysts are supposed to remember the names of some union members in the 1960s and 1970s, and deliberately forget the trade unionists from the Shiite tribes and sects. This is also another indication that Kuwait is not for all.

"To say with conclusive evidence to a former minister that a person is not fit to lead the government sector he is responsible for because he is not qualified administratively, and the minister replies by saying, "Yes, but he is son of Kuwait", as though others are the children of Tanzania or Tora Bora ... we wonder - Is Kuwait for all of us, or us alone or them alone?"

— Compiled by **Ahmad Al-Shazli**

Egyptian kills compatriot

Pakistani dies in Abdali mishap

By **Munif Nayef**
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 6: An unidentified Egyptian who murdered his 54-year-old compatriot and room-mate has been arrested.

According to a security source, the Ministry of Interior's operations room received a report on the quarrel happening in the so-called 'singles' accommodation and by the time the police reached the source of the complaint they discovered the quarrel had resulted in the death of one of the fighters.

The victim was allegedly stabbed with a knife and was

rushed to a hospital in an ambulance but he died on the way. Police are investigating the cause of the accident.

Pakistani killed: Two days after the death of two Kuwaitis in a painful accident on Al-Abdali Road, a Pakistani succumbed to his wounds at a hospital at the same spot and his vehicle overturned for an unknown reason, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to a security source, the Ministry of Interior operations room received a report of the accident and the securitymen and paramedics rushed immediately to the spot and discovered the man had succumbed to his wounds.

The man's remains have been referred to Forensics. It is noteworthy to mention the Abdali Road during the past week witnessed several traffic accidents some of which resulted in deaths and one of the causes is the potholes on the road.

Contractor dies: A Syrian working as a contractor fell to his death from a house under construction in a suburb of Surrah.

According to a security source, the Ministry of Interior's operations room received a notification about the incident and immediately the securitymen and paramedics went to the site, and discovered the 40-year-old Syrian was supervising the work when he lost balance and fell.

His corpse has been referred to Forensics. Police are investigating the incident.

Duo doing drugs: Two Kuwaitis, who were under the influence of drugs, have been referred to the Criminal Investigation Department, reports Al-Rai daily.

Personnel from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) have also seized from the men four sachets of psychotropic substances.

The suspects were caught by police during a security tour in Hawalli.



Scene of the accident.

3 hurt in bus-tanker collision

Three expatriates were treated for non-serious injuries at the Al-Adan Hospital, following a collision between a bus and a water tanker, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily added, the injured men were riding in the bus. Personnel from the General Traffic Department (GTD) are investigating the cause of the accident.

'66,689 complaints received online'

KUWAIT CITY, April 6 : The General Traffic Department announced that since May 2020 - the day the service was launched - until March 30, 2021 it had received 66,689 complaints on "WhatsApp" number 99324092 - the service that has been designated to receive, reports and suggestions, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The administration said in a press statement yesterday all complaints and reports have been dealt with, saying 764 complaints have been referred to the traffic engineering department, while the police patrols dealt 21,441 reports of traffic violations, and 284 reports were dealt with by the control room.

'MEW adopts latest technologies'

Eye on malfunctions in water network

By **Muhammad Ghanem**
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, April 6: The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity and Water, Eng Jassem Al-Nouri, said the ministry is always adopting modern technologies and linking them to info systems to enhance customer service '152', pointing out that the smart 'We Kuwait' application is an important step for the ministry to support its efforts in speed interaction when it comes to complaints about water distribution network.

Al-Nouri indicated the smart program through the mobile phone detects the wrong behaviors of water consumption and is one of the quick solutions to solve the problems that the water distribution network suffers from, so that it is followed up on an up-to-date basis, as it provides workers in the emergency sector time and

place in determining the location of malfunctions or faults and carry out repairs in the water network.

This is in addition to giving citizens the opportunity to know the progress of the reforms being carried out by the ministry, to report and see the work they carry out, and the speed of the ministry's response to emergency center, '152'.

For his part, Assistant Undersecretary for the Water Projects Sector, Eng Hamoud Al-Roudhan, affirmed that the Ministry of Electricity and Water has not neglected its efforts over the past years to provide water to citizens until now, and this tremendous development is followed by the huge amount of doubling water production over the past years to meet the growing demand for fresh drinking water.

He added, "The Ministry has a clear vision that is consistent with

the Kuwait Development Vision 2035 and has introduced methods to keep pace with the increasing demand for water," noting that the application of the mobile system is one of the best smart solutions possible to monitor areas of water leakage in fresh water distribution network, as well as it is one of the smart methods adopted by the ministry to fix faults as soon as possible.

Al-Roudhan stated that water leakage from the network constitutes an obsession and a concern for the ministry because it is considered a material loss, pointing out that the efforts of the Kuwait Water Association were and are still appreciated by the Ministry's departments because of their role in promoting the concept of water sustainability because it has adopted initiatives that support the state's efforts in the governorate on the water reserves of the state.

News in Brief

Misprint regretted: The Arab Times newspaper in its Friday/Saturday issue, April 2-3 published an article 'Mekrad meets Polish envoy'. The name of the envoy was inadvertently mentioned as Paul Schweiz. The correct name is Pawel Lechowicz. The error is regretted.

KNPC incurs losses: The Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) has incurred \$183 million losses last year, as a result of its increase in the quantities of fuel oil production, as the selling price of fuel oil is less than the average price of purchasing crude oil, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The sources pointed out that despite the decrease in the selling price of fuel oil and the company incurring additional losses, the company continued to increase its production in its affiliated refineries, as the percentage of increase in the planned fuel oil product reached 85% at the Ahmadi refinery, and to 190% at the Mina Abdullah refinery.

Draft law on employment: According to informed sources from the oil sector, the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) have presented their opinions regarding the draft law on public employment in the country which was discussed by the parliament's Human Resources Development

Committee, reports Al-Anba daily.

In this regard, KPC stressed the need to cancel the proposed text of the law that contains the requirement to consider working in government-owned companies within the definition of a public position.

It explained that state-owned companies, including subsidiaries and those wholly owned by the KPC, are commercial companies established in accordance with the provisions of the companies law promulgated by law No. 1/2016, which are not public laws, but rather private laws without changing that it is owned by the state.

Accordingly, the jobs in these companies are not considered as public jobs, just as the workers in these companies are not public employees.

Therefore, according to the general principle, work in state-owned companies may not be included within the definition of public employment, as stipulated in the proposed draft law.

Drugs seized: Personnel from the General Administration of Customs have seized 21 kilos of narcotic herbs which arrived from an unidentified European country, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source said the air cargo men suspected the contents of the parcel, and upon searching it, the herbs were found neatly packed.

The daily did not give more details.