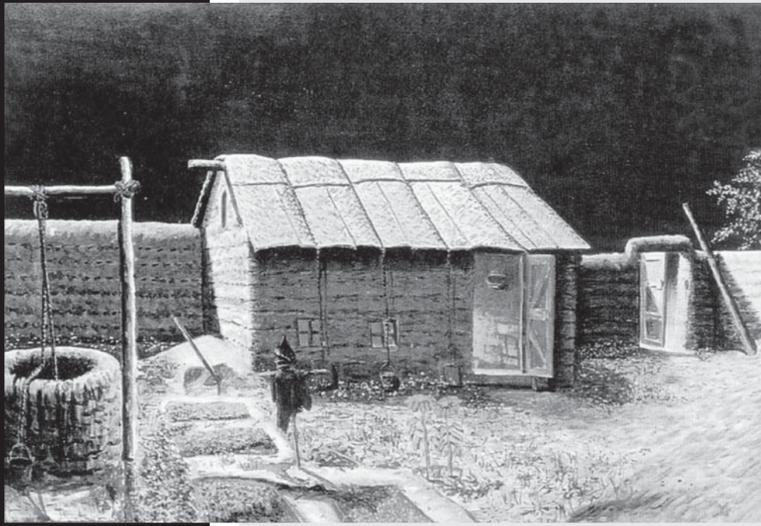


REMEMBER WHEN

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.



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Local Architecture

This simple Kubbar was portrayed quite romantically in this painting by Ayoub Hussain. The design of this hut blends nicely with its desert surroundings, making it a relaxing retreat for any city dweller.

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

‘Nation is built by good, experienced guys ... end fake appointments’

“IN AN interview with the *Al-Rai* newspaper in last Thursday’s issue the former CEO of the Kuwait Finance House, Mazen Al-Nahedh said achieving reform requires eliminating parachute appointments. We need a competent Kuwaiti to fight the corrupt; Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Kuwait do not deserve support,” columnist **Dr Turki Al-Azmi** wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

“With regard to parachute appointments, this is what we have been demanding for two decades, starting with the Supreme Council for Planning, where the vision of Kuwait and its development projects which need qualified effective leaders, reformulate the vision, and create projects that eliminate all the problems that the Kuwaiti society suffers from, on top of which is development of education, health system and e-government.

“According to what we see -- until the time of writing this article -- nothing is mentioned in this regard although we, as a country, have signed the ‘Sustainable Development Goals’ of the United Nations 2030 Program, and the reason is due to the low level of officials in charge of the Supreme Council for Planning and the senior officials in our institutions.

“With regard to the issue that SMEs do not deserve support, we disagree with him in a simple part, which is that the concept of SMEs to the best of our knowledge is related to certain aspects, fields and activities carried out by large companies, which are supposed to be carried out by small and medium companies to create a standard of integration between large companies and SMEs business owners for the benefit of society and its economy.

“The projects we see are like initiatives of grocery, restaurants and we did not see the industry as a field to mention, and we did not see food or industrial integration as a glimmer of hope that promises what is called ‘self-sufficiency’, even though we have all the required resources.

“The nation is only built by good guys with experience, good conduct and good behavior, and they are many -- praise and gratitude be to God -- but unfortunately the parachute appointments have sidelined them alongside the quota system and many destructive factors.”



Dr Turki Al-Azmi

Also:

“In a humble attempt, I wanted to make a comparison between two militants (Maryam Rajavi and Rania Al-Sa’ad). The first, Maryam Rajavi, enjoys the support and legitimacy of millions of hungry and oppressed people in Iranian prisons who are subjected to daily kidnappings and executions by the security services, not to mention millions of intellectuals, university students, merchants, and businessmen, and thus the international humanitarian and human rights organizations support her in her quest for justice as she struggles against a dictatorial fascist regime that has practiced injustice, oppression and starvation of the Iranian people for decades and squanders the wealth of these peoples through futile wars at home and abroad,” columnist **Saud Al-Samaka** wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

“As for the second militant, Rania, she is fighting from her resort in the British capital against her regime in Kuwait which guarantees her all her rights as a Kuwaiti citizen in terms of salaries, passport and freedom of movement and she is not subjected to the slightest restrictions on going and coming back to her country Kuwait, and if God forbid, had health problems, the Kuwaiti embassy rushed to take care of her immediately, and the state bears all the expenses of medical treatment.

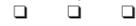
“The fight that Rania fights for the revolution over the rule of her country she receives the highest salary from the state as an employee in the world, and receives monthly everything almost free, add to this \$150 for every child she gives birth, and the state also bears the costs of medical treatment and education from kindergarten to University Education and postgraduate studies and a semi-free marriage loan and housing (villa) from the state of the latest model, for a small rent.

“The fighter, Rania, in front of these living privileges does not have the lowest obligations towards the state (Kuwait) unlike the whole world, and she obtains electricity and water services at nominal prices by the state.

“Rania lives in a country that does not know the visitors knocking on your door at dawn (arrest squads). We live in a democratic constitutional system, a judicial system that the world attests to its independence, and the security stability has no parallel in the world.

“She is bored and wants a revolutionary method of rule instead of a stable, compassionate rule as evidenced by the fact that she writes and speaks in a high voice in front of the public day and night without anyone intercepting her because this is one of her rights guaranteed by law, without anyone objecting to her.

“What is the difference between Maryam and Rania?”



“Bedoun residents, or rather illegal residents, are those who were born, raised, studied and graduated in Kuwait. They include young men and women who graduated from universities in various specializations. Their fathers were either a soldier in the Kuwait Army or in the police or had worked in one of the state ministries, committees, institutions and bodies,” columnist **Muhammad Al-Juma’a** wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

“We do not have the option to be Kuwaiti or non-Kuwaiti, or to be from a simple or a rich family. Neither of us choose our color, shape, or even name. So, what is the sin of these youth who are lost between security cards and Article 17 passports?!”

“Why does the state accept them in schools and universities and then deny them?! Why are these young people not being used to fill the shortage in state agencies like before? Why not choose the best among them after they undergo the interview and pass tests?!”

“Many of them want to work in state agencies. They can work as drivers in the police force like before. There are some people among them who are more loyal to this country than some other nationalities. They need to work so that they are not compelled by circumstances to ask for charity and handouts. The state also needs employees in all agencies, including technical, administrative, financial and other specialties.

“I am not talking about their fathers, or their entitlement to citizenship, passports or supplies. What they need is government action like the times prior to the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait.

“Oh Almighty Allah, protect Kuwait, its people, its Amir and Crown Prince from all evil and harm.”

— Compiled by Ahmad Al-Shazli

Selling ‘non-existent’ farms



Police rounding up the partial curfew violators.

34 curfew violators arrested

By Munif Nayef
Al-Seyassah Staff

The Ministry of Interior announced the public security sectors of the ministry have launched widespread security campaigns in all governorates to arrest those who violate the partial curfew, and called on everyone to abide by the decisions of the Council of Ministers.

A security source said during the campaign 34 curfew violators were

arrested in Jaber Al-Ali, Al-Sabahiya, Al-Jahra, stables and cesspools areas.

The Directorate General of Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Interior Ministry Security Media Department confirmed those arrested include 23 Kuwaitis and 11 non-Kuwaitis.

Five were arrested in Hawalli, 10 in Farwaniya, 7 in Jahra, 4 in Mubarak Al-Kabeer, and 8 in Ahmadi. Cases have been filed against them.

Al-Ali witnessed accident

Top Mol official’s mother perishes

KUWAIT CITY, April 20: A tragic traffic accident on King Fahd Road in the direction of Kuwait City, opposite the entrance of Club for the People with Special Needs claimed the life of an elderly woman who is believed to be in her eighties and the mother of the Director-General of Hawalli Governorate Security Department, Major-General Abdullah Al-Ali, who happened to be at the checkpoint when the accident happened, reports Al-Jarida daily.

A security source said one of the vehicles driven by an Asian slowed down because the checkpoint was ahead of him,

and a four-wheel drive crashed coming in full speed crashed into the rear of the vehicle which led to the death of the elderly woman who was in the vehicle and serious injury to the Asian driver.

When the security officers rushed to investigate the accident, they were shocked to find the mother of the Major-General Al-Ali.

According to security sources, the driver of the other vehicle has been detained. She is believed to be a Kuwaiti and a doctor by profession and was on her way to work.

Indian jumps to death

By Munif Nayef
Al-Seyassah Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, April 20: An unidentified Indian committed suicide by jumping from the roof of a building in Mahboula.

His remains have been referred to Forensics and a case has been registered at the area police station.

According to a security source, the operation room of the ministry received a notification that an Indian fell from the roof of a building in Mahboula.

When police and paramedics rushed to the spot, they discovered the man had died on the spot after hitting the ground which large appears as a suicide case.

However, the security authorities have opened an investigation to know the truth behind the ‘suicide’.

Meanwhile, there was an ugly incident at the Dasma Police Station when an unidentified person lit a cigarette in front of the major during fasting period and when the former was reminded that this is the month of Ramadan, he allegedly lost his cool.

However, the man was controlled and a case has been filed against him.



Swindler nabbed: Personnel from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) put an end to the story of a dismissed employee from the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) who was swindling citizens by selling them farms that do not exist, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Security sources told the daily the man has been arrested and referred for investigation. He was seized after the security authorities allegedly received about 20 reports and complaints from citizens about the employee’s activities detailing how they were swindled. One of the Kuwaitis said the suspect took 100,000 dinars from him for the sale of a farm and after the money was paid he disappeared from view.

Following the arrest the suspect is said to have confessed to the crimes he committed and that he had made a big fortune through fraudulent activities.

The investigations revealed the suspect was working as an inspector for PAAAFR and was dismissed from work after he was found guilty by a court in an unidentified court case and had been sentenced to seven years in absentia.



Theft continues: The theft of electrical cables from transformers continues unabated and an employee of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy informed the Riqqa Police Station about the theft of an electrical cable from a power transformer in the region, with an estimated value of 8,000 dinars.

According to a security source, the employee who discovered the theft of the cable registered a case against an unknown person.

Other Voices

Leakages of ‘secret’ docus

By Ahmad alsarraf

Among the manifestations of the dissatisfaction of nations with their governments is seeking to slander them with jokes, spreading true and false news and rumor mongering, leaking confidential documents, exposing their illegal activities, and performing other negative acts.

In recent years, these phenomena increased with the increase in popular dissatisfaction with our government, including leaking confidential correspondence especially that marked ‘secret contents’ or ‘Top Secret’ and here the issue of ‘leakage’ becomes more attractive.

A colleague and friend Sami Al-Nisf says a committee was formed in the 1960s in the US Congress, headed by Senator Patrick Moynihan, to look into top secret and classified documents and found out, as stated in a television interview, that 90% of correspondence and documents of the US government that carry such classification did not deserve secrecy, so they were removed from that classification.

Nowadays, with the camera in the pocket of every employee, porter, cleaner and messenger, marking any document ‘secret’ is nothing but an invitation to photograph and distribute it, so there are no secrets that can be protected once the letter is printed on paper and given a number and distrib-

uted.

A few days ago, a circular issued by the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers and marked “top secret” addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and perhaps to the rest of the ministers has gone viral including a request for the need to obtain written permission and the prior approval of the Amiri Diwan before placing any pictures, models or murals in public places of senior leaders. The top secret classified letter included a request to present the matter to the Council of Ministers to circulate it to all concerned parties and to adhere to its content.

First: As long as the letter of the General Secretariat was described by its author as a circular, this cancels the secrecy classification.

Second: This order was issued so that all members of the nation, citizens and residents would know about it. It is directed to them so that none of them would put pictures in the future without taking written permission from the Amiri Diwan, so how is it top secret?

Third: a “very secret” or top secret classification on some government correspondence is a legacy of the Arab dictatorial administrative systems, and is not consistent with the requirements and conditions of the present times. Therefore, the matter requires the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers to instruct the various government agencies to reduce as much as possible the use of such classifications.



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Zakat House charity goes hi-tech

KUWAIT CITY, April 20: Acting Director General of Zakat House Dr Majed Al-Saafak said the institution granted a total of KD24,724,257 financial aid to 29,805 families in 2020; affirming that Zakat House expanded the use of technology in its charitable work due to the corona pandemic,

reports Al-Jarida daily. He added: “Zakat House is currently implementing the Ramadan food basket project for deserving families, while updating its website and smartphone applications for benefactors to easily pay their zakat and donations.”