

'Democracy is worthy but despotic regimes flourish'

"PERHAPS, this is one of the most famous statements of former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill: 'Democracy is the worst kind of government, if we exclude all kinds of government that have been tried so far,'" columnist Dr Ghanim Al-Najjar wrote for *Al-Jarida* daily.

"Churchill is well known for his cynicism that there are at least 13 publications devoted solely to his sarcastic expressions. When the British people voted against him and he was defeated in the elections after World War II despite his victory in that war, he commented: 'It seems no joke.' 'Is democracy really that? Perhaps, what he meant was that it is the best in existence, and that it is not the end of the road, not limited to the transfer of power through elections, but an integrated package that includes justice and equality. Although it is based on the majority, it respects the minority, does not discriminate against it, and respects human dignity.



Dr Al-Najjar

"Since the end of the Cold War in the late 1980s, dozens of countries have abandoned their totalitarian, dictator and autocratic regimes. They entered the democratic arena, such that we have a new science called 'transitional justice', according to which the transition process is organized from a highly centralized State to a pluralistic fluid State. Gradually, regional organizations made it a condition for membership — that the country must be democratic.

"Some said the world is moving toward its end in terms of the form of democratic rule. However, the increase in the size of democracy setbacks in many countries has been noticeable over the past 10 years, including those in the Western world. The European Union considers this an existential threat to its member nations.

"It is also noticeable that countries that have not changed their totalitarian regimes have gained economic, political and military weight on the international scene."

Also:

"The difference between electoral action and national political action is huge," columnist **Mohammad Al-Ruwaihel** wrote for *Al-Jarida* daily.

"When electoral work dominates national political work, it is inevitable that absurdity prevails. We have seen this over the past 10 years, when electoral work overshadowed the performance of the so-called 'opposition', so we have yet to see any real achievement.

"The one-vote law succeeded in starting the electoral game and imposing it on political reality, thus, stripping political action of its content and establishing absurd rules that made national action a mere slogan to tickle feelings, while principles and the Constitution are merely scribbles on worthless paper.

"Most of our politicians — if it is permissible to describe them — are good at the electoral game, but they do not know anything about political and national work. Personal and temporary interests dominate the general and permanent interests. They are subject to the desires of certain individuals without any achievement.

"Therefore, most of their promises do not go beyond statements and nothing is fulfilled. Rather, the citizen has been in a circle of doubt and skepticism, while the country is in a state of decline, backwardness and deterioration.

"We have entered a new stage and a different era, so we have to clear the opposition of its impurities, purify its ideas, and create a patriotic and responsible spirit for it.

"The nation needs statesmen who understand and have mastered political and patriotic work, aware of the political reality, deal with this reality according to their capabilities and intelligence, and stay away from electoral work.

"After the elections, politicians have a duty to become statesmen, not to represent their voters through fake slogans and promises that they do not have the ability to implement or the means to achieve them."

"With the beginning of the consultations to form a new government, I think it is my duty to shed light on the importance of putting heart health on top of the new government's priorities," columnist Dr **Hind Al-Choumar** wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"The National Center for Health Information in Kuwait released a report that raises the alarm on heart health, because it contains important indicators of heart health and comparisons between several years.

"Despite the large number of figures and tables showing these indicators, the number one cause of death is

still heart disease and rates have been increasing from 2016 to 2020.

"As a member of Kuwait Heart Association, I believe preventive and awareness programs and community initiatives must precede operating rooms, medications, catheters and intensive care rooms.

"It is known that the risk factors for heart disease can be prevented through the early detection of these factors, such as obesity, overweight, unhealthy food and physical inactivity. The rates are alarming according to the indicators about Kuwait published on the World Health Organization website in terms of heart and chronic non-communicable diseases like diabetes, cancer and respiratory diseases. These diseases consume a lot of health budgets — whether for treatment at home or abroad.

"I hope the new prime minister will focus on achieving good health for everyone through an integrated program with clear goals, objectives and indicators to prevent heart and chronic non-communicable diseases, after reviewing Kuwait's commitments to the international community.

"It ratified the resolutions of the United Nations and the World Health Organization to address challenges that are related to health, as well as comprehensive development and achieving sustainable development goals until 2030. The third of the 17 goals is related to achieving health and well-being for everyone through the implementation of plans and programs."

"Oil is the backbone of the Kuwaiti economy. Rather, it is the only wealth which the Kuwaiti State depends on at present and in building its future," columnist Dr **Hamad Al-Matar** wrote for *Al-Jarida* daily.

"Therefore, every effort that does not focus on developing this wealth in a way that suits economic and technological developments is futile in the long run. It does not fall into long-term strategic plans, including the increase of production, improve its quality, and explore new horizons for its manufacture and utilization to the maximum extent possible.

"Some experts indicated in the last period that oil production in the State of Kuwait is in continuous decline. The production reached 2.51 million barrels according to Mays International Petroleum Bulletin issued on Nov 17, 2019.

"This means continuation of decline in production at an accelerated pace, which has become a clear and tangible reality in the past few years. Unfortunately, this happens despite all the reassuring statements about ambitious plans, or I would call them good hopes, to increase production and its continuity.

"Our oil sector faces many problems and obstacles — internal (within the sector) or external (the surrounding community). I have no doubt about the sincerity of intentions and the strength of determination of the people of Kuwait who are in charge of the oil sector. However, the size and gravity of this challenge call for frankness and recognition of the existence of the problem as the first step in the treatment."

"In September 2011, the United Nations issued an important declaration to prevent chronic non-communicable diseases and the risk factors," Dr **Hind Al-Choumar** wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"Now that more than 10 years have passed since the political declaration of the United Nations and our commitment to the international community, what has been achieved in terms of scientific indicators which monitor achievements beyond mere speech?"

"What has been achieved in terms of reducing the rates of smoking, physical inactivity, unhealthy eating habits, cancer, diabetes, heart disease and chronic respiratory diseases? Which body prepares follow-up reports for submission to international organizations? Are you keen on monitoring the status and reputation of the State?"

"I think that associations concerned with public interests must be involved in this national task with a developmental dimension, because ratification of the United Nations political declaration and its decisions, as well as the repeated decisions of the World Health Organization since the issuance of this important political declaration is a commitment to the State as a whole, not just a department or ministry that may not have the expertise or capabilities to shoulder such obligation.

"If we followed the meetings of the United Nations and the World Health Organization in the past 10 years, we would have realized that we have not missed anything. Certainly, official delegations traveled and received allocations from the State to submit, follow up and present reports with indicators, which the national health information systems have prepared in accordance with international standards and commitment. In front of the international community, it is unacceptable or not permissible to overlook such negative factors."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb

Death sentence of Asian upheld in friend murder

Woman jailed in immoral clips saga

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 6: The Court of Cassation upheld the death sentence issued against an Asian expatriate who was accused of killing his friend during the month of Ramadan due to financial disputes.

According to the case file, the incident began with an argument between the victim and the perpetrator inside a warehouse in the Shuwaikh Industrial Area, over a sum of money. During the argument, the perpetrator beat him and pushed him hard, causing the victim to fall on his head and die immediately.

After committing the crime, the killer then fled from the scene out of fear of being discovered. However, he was arrested and tried before the Criminal Court, which sentenced him to death on the charge of premeditated murder.

However, he appealed the verdict but it was rejected by the Court of Appeals and the court upheld the death sentence.

Meanwhile, in another unrelated case, the Court of Cassation sentenced a Kuwaiti woman to two-year imprisonment and imposed a fine of KD 5,000 for sending video clips of intimate moments between her and her husband to her boyfriend in order for the latter to publish them on Snapchat for increasing the number of followers and getting money consequently.

The Public Prosecution charged the woman and her boyfriend with publishing immoral pornographic pictures and videos during the period from 2019 to October 20, 2020.

The woman, who is the owner of the

'Strengthen hate speech laws'

CAIRO, Dec 6, (KUNA): A top Kuwaiti justice official highlighted on Sunday efforts to strengthen hate speech laws aiming to establish more religious tolerance during talks involving justice ministers from across the Arab region, saying he had pitched suggestions over the matter.

Kuwait has made "palpable" progress in measures the country has taken to clamp down on hate speech and encourage religious harmony, Justice Ministry Undersecretary for Legal Affairs and International Relations Zakaria

Al-Ansari told KUNA after the talks.

Some of the legal and judicial measures Arab countries had taken during the COVID pandemic were also discussed, added the official, saying the suggestions he had made included anti-terrorism efforts and measures to eradicate corruption.

He hailed the talks, held in person in the Egyptian capital Cairo, as a "new beginning" towards greater pan-Arab judicial cooperation, saying it was needed to bring some vital legislations to fruition.

"Eve's World" account on Snapchat, admitted to filming her husband more than once without his knowledge, and getting her boyfriend to post these videos and pictures on the account in order to increase the number of followers.

The Criminal Court had sentenced the woman and her boyfriend to five-year imprisonment with hard labor, and imposed a fine of KD 5,000 each.

Acquittals in ... : The Court of Cassation has closed the curtain on the case related to the attempt to smuggle more than 40,000 bullets and sell them in Saudi Arabia.

The court said the appellate court's ruling rejected the defense's request regarding the invalidity of the investigations, as it does not harm justice as much as the impunity of a criminal is harmed by the infringements on freedoms and abuses and their unlawful arrest.

The defendants' defense counsel Lawyer Muhammad Khureibit said in a statement that the final ruling, which acquitted the defendants and over-

turned their imprisonment, came in accordance with the correct law.

He said, "The Court of Cassation took our defense based on the fact that the investigations, on the basis of which the search warrant was issued, did not contain a known name for the person to whom the seizures belong. The papers were devoid of any other evidence to convict the accused".

KD 1/2m in rent: The Commercial Section in the Court of Cassation has instructed a Syrian and another expatriate to pay half a million Kuwaiti dinars to a businessman for renting 42 refrigerator trucks.

Lawyer for the businessman, Attorney Muhammad Al-Jami, filed a lawsuit through which he demanded the assignment of an expert to estimate the value of the monthly rent due to his client, price of the lost trucks, compensation for lost earnings and other losses incurred, and obligating the defendants to pay the legal benefits resulting from the relevant report by seven percent starting from the date of the contract until full payment.

'Intensify bid to combat cybercrime'

CAIRO, Dec 6, (KUNA): Arab nations should adopt "concerted" measures to fight cyber crime across the wider region, a top Kuwaiti justice official said on Monday, citing pan-Arab agreements over the matter.

These measures include anti-terrorism efforts and "unified" legislation to clamp down on money laundering, in addition to a Kuwait-proposed suggestion to strengthen hate speech laws, Justice Ministry Undersecretary for Legal Affairs and International Relations Zakaria Al-Ansari told KUNA on the sidelines of talks involving justice ministers from across the Arab region.

On the talks, he said his country had pitched "various suggestions" over a myriad of issues, chief among them a law meant to shine light on some of the legal measures Arab countries had taken to fight the COVID pandemic.

Arab justice ministers are holding talks in the Egyptian capital aiming to bolster cooperation to keep crime and terrorism at bay, saying such a measure was necessary in light of mounting challenges.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Dirar Al-Asousi issued a decision to change the name of the Public Funds Prosecution to the Public Funds and Anti-Money Laundering Prosecution whose tasks include preparation of international reports about money laundering, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This is part of the jurisdiction of the Public Funds Prosecution; as it is the competent prosecution to investigate and prosecute in money laundering cases since the issuance of the law in this regard, in addition to public money crimes.



Thank You From NBK

We would like to extend our thanks to all the institutions and companies that played a key role in the success of NBK Run, held on Saturday 4 December 2021 including:

- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Health- Emergency Medical Services
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Kuwait Fire Force
- Kuwait Municipality
- Nissan Kuwait - Al Babbain
- Ooredoo
- Al Shaheed Park
- Suffix

- Touristic Enterprises Company
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