

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Non-decisive govts can push future of Kuwait into the unknown'

"EVERYONE in Kuwait is currently talking about expatriates. The government talk is confusion, short-sighted, sans planning, without vision, holistic thinking about solutions and the readers can add whatever negatives they want to, and they will be right in that," columnist, Chairman of Board of Directors of Al-Rai, columnist and Chairman of Board of Directors of Al-Rai, **Jassem Boodai** wrote for the daily.

"What I mean here is I refer to the governments of Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled in particular – governments of totalitarian planning where public issues are at the mercy of a minister or group of advisors while the whole country pays the price.

"You can call these governments of economic collapse par excellence, as if the Corona pandemic gave the government the incentive and the excuse to deal excessively negatively with the productive sectors instead of supporting economic structure so that it does not fall prey to viruses of abandonment, neglect and confusion and result in the country and the people ending up with huge losses.

"The prosthetic governments, instead of radical solutions dealt with the Kuwaitis as a test field by taking 'experimental' decisions and preferred to go with the flow to complete the experiment and if it found the going hard and no fertile soil, it did not care about the size of the accumulated losses.

"From dealing with the economic file that has almost destroyed all the productive structures, to dealing with the file of immigrants, there is a need for an explicit, rather succinct decision.

"First, no one is arguing that demographics are dysfunctional and need reform, but also no one argues that the cause of this defect was the successive governments which over the decades have helped worsen the situation through wrong policies and turning a blind eye to the visa traders who have helped the crisis to snowball in the absence of legislation and executive interference. The abolition of the Ministry of Planning only helped exacerbate the thorny file.

"Second, no one disputes the need for Kuwaitis to be given priority when it comes to employment so that they are able to run their country, but what we need to see is a right Kuwaiti in the right place.

"Third, if we claim to be civilized, which unfortunately some of our governments are not, we should have discussed the issue of immigrants, not in a racist or populist framework, but solve the problem scientifically within the practical framework taking into account the needs of the labor market and covering the areas in which immigrants excel to benefit from them in advancing the wheel of development and our businesses like the rest of the countries around us that gave foreigners incentives and 'golden residence' permits like the countries of

the developed world where the expat community was largely responsible for development and renaissance.

"How did the Sabah Al-Khaled governments deal with the expatriates? As usual, he reacted after every parliamentary vote whichever way it swings. Al-Khaled transferred the file of demographics, which is a national file par excellence, but rather at the core of Kuwait's national security, from its comprehensive institutional framework to individuals, whether they are ministers or advisors.

"A slogan may look bright but difficult or rather impossible to implement in five years is to bring down the population of Kuwait to 70 percent citizens and 30 percent expatriates. Instead of reconsidering the mechanisms of implementing the slogan, he took unrealistic measures that resulted in confusion and damaged Kuwait's reputation and direct losses to the economy.

"Let's be more frank, the Corona pandemic, the closure of airports, the difficulty of renewing residence permits have been used as a measure to reduce the number of expats in tens of thousands.

"Then some 'geniuses' came out with the slogan '70/30' by placing conditions on those who are sixty years and linked their stay in Kuwait to a university degree, and these also number tens of thousands, most of whom are skilled workers and professionals needed by every home and every market in Kuwait. The file of the sixty and the confusion that accompanied has yet to be solved, which will overthrow ten governments, not one.

"The 'genius' also spread his tentacles to driving licenses of expatriates – all expatriates – to be withdrawn and then re-organized. That is, the decision aims to create chaos in the labor market involving hundreds of thousands of expatriates from the doctor to the house driver and between professors, consultants, engineers, workers and employees.

"Just as happened to the scandal of the 'Sixties', it happened to the 'driving licenses'. The decision is taken and then frozen, then a new decision is issued with different data and then it is frozen, then things become related and a senior official in this or that party is held responsible for the crisis and the minister and his boss remain above suspicions of confusion and failure.

"These are clear examples which need direct guidance from the Prime Minister to deal with expatriate workers as required given their importance and need and seriousness of the file.

"They are a large work force in our homes, streets, markets, and all departments in the public and private sectors, and if there are mistakes that have accumulated over decades, it is impossible to solve through random and ill-thought ways.

"These examples require clear guidance. The file of national security considered the heart of the nation should not be left to individuals or entities, but rather should be addressed at the state level.

"These examples require careful and meticulous treatment. Where is Kuwait

heading in light of governments that mistreat Kuwaitis and expatriates? How long will the appeals continue to pour in while the therapists sleep? Such government non-decisive performances will push the future of Kuwait into the unknown. So is there an answer?"

Also:

"The BBC Radio broadcast two interviews about the tragedy of the bedoun in Kuwait, one of them was for a physically disabled girl who did not find the appropriate treatment except by issuing a book to sell, to save the value of treatment abroad," columnist **Dr. Abdul Hadi Al-Saleh** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"At another time, another girl forcibly migrated with her family to America to live in dignity, and her heart longed to return to her country, Kuwait. It is known that this radio has tens of millions of listeners all over the world.

"A symposium was held recently at the Lawyers Association on torture and enforced disappearance on the occasion of International Human Rights Day. The attendees dealt with cases of violating the rights of detainees inside Kuwait, depriving them of sleep and preventing lawyers from meeting with them.

"Dr. Safaa Zaman, a university professor, was referred to the judiciary because of her media opinion, in her capacity as the president of the Kuwaiti Association for Information Security.

"Prior to the first hearing of eight individuals on December 15, Amnesty International (published worldwide on 12/15/2021) said that the Kuwaiti authorities had detained them since November 4 without providing an indictment against them, and had interrogated them all for several days without allowing them to communicate with a lawyer, making their detention arbitrary and all this without any comment or denial from the government of Kuwait official spokesman or from the concerned official authorities.

"This is unfortunately something that tarnishes the country's reputation, and gives a misconception about Kuwaiti democracy, that it is fictitious, and that strict laws in it are a marginal tool.

"The character of universal humanity is now attached to our country, which Kuwait has earned since it was awarded its medal, the late His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, may God have mercy on him.

"... Oversight of public opinion, which undoubtedly takes away from democratic rule, provides its components and guarantees, and makes it, over time, the backbone of the popularity of the government.

"It is these components and guarantees in their entirety that provide citizens with an abundance of political freedom, thus guaranteeing them – in addition to the right to political election – the various elements of personal freedom...

"We pray to God to protect us from the evil of unrest and turmoil."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb



Jassem Boodai

KIA, PAI sign agreement

Site allocated for recycling of oil waste

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 22: According to an informed source in Kuwait Municipality, the request of the Direct Investment Promotion Authority was approved by the concerned department in the municipality to allocate a site of an area of one million and 560,000 square meters for the establishment of industrial project sites for recycling of oil waste in Al-Zour Refinery in north of the country, reports Al-Qabas daily.

He said the agreement was signed between Kuwait Investment Authority and the Public Authority for Industry to

cooperate in allocating industrial land for the two projects for treating used catalysts and producing anodes.

The source explained that the municipality stipulated that the land should be far away from any land-based services, if any. It must adhere to the environmental standards in the area, as these two projects are among the vital projects, and are of great importance for treating refinery waste in the State of Kuwait. It must also provide job opportunities for a large number of national cadres, so that it has a positive impact

on the Kuwaiti economy.

The study carried out by the municipality on the proposed sites revealed that it is one of the most appropriate sites classified for heavy industrial uses within the fourth structural plan due to its proximity to the fourth Al-Zour plant (the new Al-Zour refinery), and the lack of the need for transporting highly-flammable catalysts for long distances, as well as its proximity to the Al-Zour port to export the produced goods.

Chalet owner acquitted of rape using hi-tech gadgets

311 men, 402 women deported

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 22: The Criminal Court, headed by Judge Muhammad Al-Sanea, acquitted a Kuwaiti chalet owner of sexual assault, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Public Prosecution had earlier charged the citizen with sexually assaulting an individual using a spy camera, and misusing a telephone and modern equipment.

Since the beginning of the investigations, the citizen denied the charges. Attorney Salem Al-Saad from Al-Rifai Legal Group, who represented the accused in court, called for the acquittal of his client due to the absence of incriminating evidence.

Jan 6 hearing set: The Court of Appeals scheduled a session for Jan 6, 2022 to look into the petition submitted by a former official who is a member of the ruling family against the decision of a lower court to sentence him to 10 years in prison for kidnapping and assaulting a young Bedoun, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Earlier, the Criminal Court sentenced the former official and a detective to 10 years in jail with hard labor while another detective was sentenced to seven years in jail with hard labor. Both detectives were accused of helping the former official in kidnapping the young Bedoun.

713 expats ousted: The General Administration of Correctional Institutions announced, based on the directives of the Minister of Interior Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali, and the instructions and follow-up of the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, Lieutenant-General Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf, calling for speedy legal action against the violators of the law, 713 expatriates who were arrested for violating the laws from Dec 15 to Dec 21, have been deported from the country, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The deportation administration said the deportees were 311 men and 402 women.

Indian deported: The security authorities have decided to deport an Indian after he was caught selling subsidized food items in one of the areas of the Hawalli Governorate, reports Al-Rai daily.

The arrest came after the Operations Department of the Ministry of Interior received a report from a citizen that an expatriate was selling subsidized food items. Police rushed to the spot and seized the products – milk, rice, sugar and oil.

Other Voices

The Japanese morals, life

By Ahmad alsarraf

My first contact with an educated and experienced Japanese man dates back to 1968 when we were apprenticing together at Britain's Barclays Bank, living with the same English family.

From 'Kanjiro' I learned a lot about his country, the Japanese morals, his multiple religious beliefs, and the ease of his transfer from one faith to another depending on the circumstances.

I have previously written several articles about my experience with him and with Japan in general. Two years before I met Kanjiro, I had a different experience with the Japanese.

At the Gulf Bank, where I worked, the bank's top management was purely British. For one reason or another they paid great attention to my training and asked me to take part in some meetings despite my young age and lack of experience, with visitors to the bank from international banks, perhaps in order to push me to gain more self-confidence.

My first meeting was with representatives of a well-known Japanese bank, and it was as useful as it was funny and strange, for I learned from it that Japanese delegations are seldom restricted to an individual, unlike their European or American peers, who visited solo. I also noticed that all members of the Japanese delegation wrote down everything that was said at the meeting. As for the Westerners, their representative was content to write down main points of what was being said.

One day I asked the Scottish manager about the reason for the clear differences between the number of members of the Japanese and Western delegations, and the reason for the apparent eagerness of the Japanese to write down every word said, compared to the lack of keenness of the

members of the Western delegations on this.

The manager said the Japanese, because of the language barrier, do not wish to miss anything from the meeting and they match the texts they noted down with each other for fear that one of them may have forgotten a word or did not understand a certain point.

The Japanese also believes in institutional teamwork more than the Western belief in the matter, other than the absence of language or cultural differences in the latter with the bank managers.

A few years later, I visited Japan and I sat in the carriage of one of its punctual express trains, chose a quiet carriage, which was completely empty, and was listening to music on my mobile phone after plugging in the earphones, and watching the picturesque scenery.

The train was traveling at nearly four hundred kilometers per hour. Suddenly the inspector came to me and asked me for my ticket, and when he finished punching it, he asked me very politely to move to another place. I told him I listen to music through an earpiece, I don't make any calls, and there is no one around. He said this is true, but what if you receive a call and your phone rings. His clear logic prompted me to move to another place.

I also learned through them how important time is to the convergence of sanctity, in return for our indifference to time in our societies to the point of contempt, without realizing that it is indeed the most valuable thing in the life of any human being, therefore you find train operators competing with each other over who is more accurate than others in the arrival and departure times.

Note: I apologize for the absence of yesterday's article, after Al-Qabas saw that it was not suitable for publication, in addition to two other articles.

Thanks to everyone who called and kindly asked me about the reason.

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Police suspect foul play

Political activist saved from fire

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 22: An unidentified political activist was rescued from the flames after a fire broke out in his apartment in the Bneid Al-Qar area, reports Al-Rai daily.

The man allegedly sought help of the Operations Department of the Ministry of Interior after the fire broke out in the apartment hall, he locked himself in the kitchen, and when the firefighters entered the apartment, they found him lying on

the ground unconscious.

He was suffering from severe suffocation. He was rescued and the fire was put out.


The security men, after conducting an inspection of the apartment, also found a quantity of 'spirit' in the hall where the fire broke out, and they were seized, and a guard was placed on the apartment.

The political activist has been admitted to the hospital under police guard.


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