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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Hunt for loyal people who can pull out nation from whirlpool'

"YOU can reach the truth through many search engines across the Internet, which carry a huge amount of information or through your mobile phone via social media. I mean the good ones," columnist **Dr Turki Al-Azmi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"Do not take shelter under the umbrella of a group that struggles with another group. Keep a moral distance between blocks, groups and individuals and focus on what the so-and-so aspires to be, if their goals are correct, then you must work out your mind at that time.

"We are going to talk about the loyal, specifically among the members of parliament under the dome of the National Assembly and members of the government by virtue of their positions.

"Any deputy or minister who takes the oath can say 'I swear by Almighty God to be loyal to the homeland and the Amir, to respect the constitution and the laws of the state, to defend the people's freedoms and interests, and to perform my duties honestly and truthfully.'

"Nearly six months have passed and we have been suffering from a conflict, as a result of which we lost the content of the constitutional oath, the constitutional articles and the people's interests are lost, and the people's money is still being looted and as for the trust, and only God knows what's next. As for honesty, we only have the outward appearance, although some incidents indicate a defect that some of its perpetrators have become afflicted with.

"We are looking for education, health, housing, demographics, reasonable and controlled prices, a standard of living and the freedom to send constructive initiatives to decision-makers.

"The price of a barrel of oil rose to above \$71, and years before it was above \$100, and Russia expects the price of a barrel to reach \$200 and we gained a huge financial abundance, and did not benefit from it, and we have a semi-fixed sovereign fund: where is the desired benefit?

"Sincerity in work is only mastered by loyal people with bright minds, and this type of cadres is not desirable or welcomed by the symbols of corruption, and therefore there is no reform we have achieved or corruption that we have fought.

"We say to the loyal members: 'If you see in your national goals the realization of the interests of the people, then why have we been going around in a circle for months?'

"We want someone to revive the hope in the souls of the public. Sticking to the theory of chaos -- and I mean administrative chaos, whether under the dome



Turki Al-Azmi

of Parliament or its committees or state institutions -- is an indication of the lack of seriousness for reform.

"Put all papers on the table, and with all transparency let us know in which direction we are going: Either an immediate reform that fulfills what was stated in the constitutional oath, or else..."

Also:

"As soon as Kuwait is criticized, you will receive violent responses from most Kuwaitis, as the case with the Saudis, Emiratis, Qataris, Bahrainis, Syrians, Yemenis, Moroccans, Sudanese, Egyptians, Lebanese and so on," columnist **Dr Ali Al-Zoubi** wrote for **Al-Shahed** daily.

"On the other hand, if a foreign person, for example, criticizes the President of America with worst types of statements, we do not find a fiery electronic attack, but we may find the Americans themselves agreeing with the criticism and may themselves join the bandwagon because they believe that criticism is to fix crooked ways, even if it is harsh criticism and they ignore false criticism.

"This also applies to any British personality or the government, or to a French figure or government or to a German or Indian or any other person and other countries.

"Why does this happen only in our Arab world? Have we turned, under the pressure of an exaggerated and unrealistic patriotic feeling, to electronic flies?"

"Although our countries suffer greatly from lack of freedom, and most governments are based on authoritarian, dictatorial tendencies, even if they are adorned with fake or imperfect democracy. Why do we not take other people's criticism of our countries, even if it is harsh, as freedom of opinion, or that, at least, it may open a door to improve the general situation?"

"This article aims to open a door for discussion, and not an opportunity to vomit anger or insults, to evaluate the criticisms directed at our governments and countries; perhaps it will be a general introduction to reform."

"How long will the management of economy and politics remain suspended due to the conflict between the parliament and the government? If the time of crises had mercy on the reluctance of politics, we would say we have received divine assistance. However, it does not seem that either side is aware of the scale of the crisis," columnist **Hassan Al-Essa** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"Unfortunately, each side is continuing to be stubborn. When disaster occurs, the authority does not find a solution for it to pay salaries and wages other than devaluing the price of the dinar. The rest of the budget doors will be closed forever. Then there will be no difference between Venezuela and Kuwait, and

we may end up equating Kuwait with Somalia or Yemen. As for the illusions of the future generations fund and its billions, or the investment portfolio, they have gone with the wind.

"Indian economist Ruchir Sharma, in his book "Ten Rules for Successful Nations", wrote that two types of investment binge effects can be judged (if the translation is correct). The first is that this benign investment leaves huge transportation lines, fiber-optic cable manufacturing, etc. You let the economy grow and return to its natural state after disasters and crises. There is the bad binge investment that left behind real estate speculation, financial markets, and consumer goods that will leave nothing but ruin and devastation in the economy, and thus making it impossible to recover from it.

"You realize here what kind of investment the authority has made after decades of accumulating oil wealth ... nothing but financial ruin accompanied by the bulge of looters of public money huddled around the power, and those who will reside tomorrow in Nice, Cannes, and close to London stores.

"How badly do we need someone who can settle matters today without procrastination! How badly do we need a wise decision-maker who will recalibrate our future to its proper course that inspires optimism? It seems even that person is in the haystack."

"Government support in Kuwait is devoid of even an ounce of justice, such that the rich, middle and poor classes are equal in all kinds of support. How do we deal with this unfair method of support?" columnist **Hamed Al-Saif** wrote for **Annahar** daily.

"This is a unique Kuwaiti problem as support does not go to the needy lower class only. Rather, support goes to all -- the wealthy, lower, middle and upper classes equally.

"This is an abnormal imbalance in the distribution of support, because the middle class and the rich do not need support. They are covered by the tax system in other countries that finance the lower class. They do not receive support like the lower class.

"The question now: Why the confusion over the fact that all segments of the Kuwaiti society receive support? Is it fair? Why does everyone accept it? They know the cost to public money.

"These are legitimate questions that decision-makers must answer. As for the natural alternative that works to regulate this, it is the tax system which depends on dividing society into clearly defined segments -- upper class, middle class and lower class -- based on their income."

— Compiled by Ahmad Al-Shazli

Minister says virus situation unstable as 'infection rate, hospitalization' up

Kuwait-Saudi meeting hot on agenda



Fire-fighters battling the blaze spread in a vast area. KUNA photo

180 firemen tackle Amghara inferno

Teams of fire crews have put out a massive fire that broke out at a scrap yard in Amghara area north of Kuwait City, with no immediate reports of casualties, the fire department said on Tuesday.

More than 180 firefighters were involved in suppressing the inferno late Tuesday morning, which burned over 60,000 square meters, the Kuwait Fire

Force said in a statement. The flames, fanned by strong winds, gutted a construction facility in the area, added the statement, underlining the "Herculean effort" it took to put out the blaze amid an ongoing operation.

A probe into the circumstances behind the incident has started, it added. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY, June 8, (KUNA) : The Kuwaiti Cabinet on Monday held its weekly meeting at the Seif Palace, under chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

At the beginning, the Cabinet listened to a presentation made by His Highness the Prime Minister on the successful visit of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Saudi Arabia where he met Prince Mohammad bin Salman, Saudi Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister.

His Highness the Crown Prince handed Prince Mohammad a letter from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to King Salman bin Abdulaziz.

The two sides discussed the historical ties, and reviewed regional and international developments and efforts made to enhance stability and security as well as other topics of common concern, Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah said in a statement after the Cabinet meeting.

The Cabinet noted that the visit reflects keenness of the two countries' leaderships on continued consultations on varied developments and current matters.

Furthermore, His Highness the Prime Minister briefed the Cabinet on the outcome of Palestinian Premier Mohammad Shtayyeh's visit to Kuwait and the gist of his meeting with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Afterwards, Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Sabah made a presentation on his meeting with Yemen's President Abdrabbu Mansour Hadi in Riyadh where he delivered him a letter from His Highness the Amir on the relations between the two countries, and means of developing them in all fields as well as the latest developments on both regional and international arenas.

Sheikh Ahmad Nasser also briefed the Cabinet on the outcomes of participation, as His Highness the Amir's representative, in the virtual global vaccine summit, hosted by Japan on Wednesday.

He also appraised the ministers of the results of the first meeting of the Kuwait-Saudi coordinative council held in Riyadh that ended with signing some agreements and memoranda that mirror the sincere desire of the two countries' leaderships to develop cooperative relations in all domains to serve their common interest.

The deals and memoranda cover some fields like education, and higher education and scientific research, quality, sports and direct investment.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet listened to an explanation by Minister of Health Sheikh Dr Basel Hmoud Al-Sabah on the latest developments of the spread of the coronavirus on the global and regional levels.

He said that the number of infections has reached so far 173 million all over the world, the death toll hit 3,730,000 and the number of vaccine doses distributed across the globe is about 2.99 billion.

He also spoke about the country's latest health situation, based on the statistics that show the instability of the epidemiological situation in recent days due to a remarkable rise in infections and beds' occupation at hospitals.

At a time when the country is moving to normal life, the Cabinet called on all citizens and residents to continue abiding by health and preventive requirements, noting that the successful plan to return to normal life needs responsibility of all. It called for cooperation of all individuals and institutions of society in order to preserve the health of society and everyone who lives on this good land.

The Cabinet discussed recommendations issued by the ministerial coronavirus committee and assigned the Directorate General for Civil Aviation to resume direct flights with the United Kingdom as of June 13 to be one flight per week.

The Cabinet also agreed on re-opening all museums and cultural centers as of June 13, with implementing all health requirements.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister and Justice Minister and Minister of State for Nazaha Enhancement Abdullah Al-Roumi presented a guideline of complaints submitted from the government institutions to the public prosecution or to the anti-corruption body.

The Cabinet approved a decree on establishing Kuwait academy for arts and referred it to His Highness the Amir.

Then the Cabinet discussed the affairs of the National Assembly and approved a draft law linking the budget of ministries and government departments for the 2020-2021 fiscal year with an additional appropriation worth KD 600 million to the budget of the Ministry of Finance to cover the cost of rewarding the front lines of those assigned to confront the spread of the coronavirus in appreciation of sacrifices.

Other Voices

'Alarm bells keep ringing'

By Ahmad alsarraaf

We have a bunch of popular proverbs with contradictory meanings, such as 'Spend what is in the pocket and what is in the unseen will return to you or 'Save the penny for a rainy day'.

We also say that heads of state are often of the same type as their own people. The warriors and people who are adventurous often choose a leader who is a warrior and adventurer. If the people love the arts, they will definitely not choose those who hate arts, and so on.



alsarraaf

On the other hand, however, we find that societies and states change and are radically shaped based on the desire or vision of those who take charge or who manage them just as the saying goes 'People follow the religion of their kings'.

A healthy family is the product of good mother and good father; a successful company or school is the fruit of the efforts of its top management. Thus, when the family, the company or the school fails the blame falls on the head of not the children or the workers.

When King Henry VIII decided to divorce his wife, contrary to the instructions of the Catholic Pope, he appointed himself head of the English Church and within a short period a majority of Englishmen converted from Catholicism to Protestantism, the new religion that their king had embraced.

And when Kemal Atatürk decided to carry out his secular revolution, severing all links with the Ottoman Caliphate and its religious and cultural heritage, the Turkish people followed him without much thought.

From my personal experience and coexistence with education for nearly half a century, I find that its decline began with the government handing over the ministries of education and training

to the religious trend to shape it at its whim; thus we have reached this level of backwardness in all outputs.

This is what prompted many families, who are often educated and affluent to transfer their children to private and often bilingual schools to escape the low level of public schools, and the religious ideology that the minds of public education teachers were exposed to, especially Kuwaitis and Egyptians.

Within a few years, everyone who enrolled his child in a private school realized the correctness of his decision. The results appeared and the failure of the government education system became clear as a result of the Brotherhood and the Salafis control over education, and the damage caused to the liberal educational foundations laid by Abdullah Al-Jaber and Abdulaziz Hussein.

The youth of "Kuwait 2021" is the product of an education stage in which the decline at all levels did not stop. The matter could have been pursued and dealt with if the Corona pandemic had not struck us and more importantly if the government had had a semi-intent to develop an education plan that was binding on all those who would take over the affairs of the ministry for the next ten or twenty years so that education could be rescued from the gendarmerie that had reached it.

However, the continuation of the health crisis and the continued absence of the will and desire for development, and the increase in the number of births in many families in specific areas with almost no education in the foreseeable future, the greatest danger facing the state is not the depletion of oil or the deterioration of its prices or the scarcity of resources or the erosion of money of future generations, rather, the low level of education, which will quickly reflect on the society with a combination of lack of funds, poor upbringing and a clear decline in morals and education.

I will keep ringing the alarm bell over and over again, because as a writer, I can do nothing more.

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News in Brief

Kuwaiti dies in accident: A 70-year-old Kuwaiti died in a traffic accident on the Abdali Road. His corpse has been referred to the forensic medicine department, says Al-Seyassah.

Without giving details, the security source said, after the Operations Room of the Ministry of Interior received a notification on the accident, the security men and paramedics immediately rushed to the spot but could do nothing to save the man.

Congrats to Mussallam: Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Saban send a congratulatory cable to Dr. Hussain Al-Mussallam for his election as new president of the International Swimming Federation (FINA).

In a press statement, Minister Al-Sabah stressed that winning such a high sport position is a big achievement for the Kuwaiti sport. He praised Al-Mussallam's accomplishments in the sport and administrative fields, wishing him a successful and productive career. (KUNA)

10 days jail for motorist: The General Traffic Directorate (GTD) said the traffic court has put a motorist behind bars for 10 days with hard labor for violating a traffic law which is considered a serious offense, says Al-Seyassah.

The suspect was caught driving a vehicle emitting annoying sounds. Major Abdullah Bu Hassan, speaking about the incident said, the annoying sounds does not only annoy the sick people but also the elderly and healthy people as well, and for this reason the traffic and operations sector of the GTD fights this phenomenon. Major Bu Hassan stressed those who

fix special exhausts that emit annoying sounds is punished by imprisonment.

Traffic police insulted: A General Traffic Department (GTD) policeman has filed a complaint with the police accusing two young men of insulting him when he issued them a traffic citation, says Al-Seyassah.

According to a security source, the traffic man has filed a complaint with the West Sulaibikhat Police Station, accusing the two men of humiliating and insulting him.

The police man said after insulting him, the two men drove off. The GTD said an arrest warrant has been issued against the two men.

New cadet officers: The Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior for Public Security Affairs, Major-General Faraj Al-Zoubi, in the presence of the security directors of all governorates, addressed the new officers - graduates of the 46th batch who have been inducted into the public security sector reports Al-Anba daily.

The Directorate General of Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Interior Ministry stated the address of Major-General Al-Zoubi was a sort of introduction to the procedures followed within the public security sector to drive home a point that the new employees must take advantage of what they studied theoretically within the Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences and apply it in practice through cooperation with everyone and benefit from the experiences of their colleagues and deal with citizens and residents in the spirit of cooperation and the application of the law on everyone equally.

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