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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## 'Govt must ward off pressures, go for major tourism, trade projects'

"OVER the past decades, successive governments have been saying they have a vision to diversify the sources of income and not rely on oil as the only source of all their work programs. However we did not see realistic plans that can be implemented on the ground other than adopting the views of the World Bank which recommend the lifting of subsidies and increasing service charges and imposition of taxes," columnist **Oweid Al-Salili** wrote for **Al-Shahed** daily.

"Although over the years the state was unable to achieve that goal due to the reassurance and reliance on the rise in oil prices and the achievement of surpluses for extended years in the state budget.

"In most Third World countries, governments are leading the development and renaissance in their countries because of the modernity of the private sector.

"In Kuwait, post-independence phase, the state led the development movement to achieve diversification of the sources of income. The state was the sponsor of most of the successful projects in the country at the level of the Gulf region.

"Among the most prominent of these projects was the government's establishment of the Kuwait Investment Authority, which supervised the Future Generations Fund, the fifth largest sovereign fund in the world, and sponsoring the idea of establishing the first bank in the country in the 1950s and early 1960s, which is a very early start to establish a sound economic system.

"The successful state projects are many and varied, but the recurring and striking thing in most of these projects is the deliberate destruction and sabotage and the attempt to convince the people of the idea of privatizing and selling them under the pretext of doing away with the losses that burden the state budget.

"There are many examples of this destructive approach, most notably the government's support in the 1960s to establish the Kuwait Airways and transform it into a government company, until in the 1970s and 1980s it became the leading airline in the Middle East and the influential people thirsted for it and unfortunately stood as an impenetrable dam for its development to the point that MPs refused to modernize its fleet in 2008 in favor of competing companies.

"We also cannot forget the pioneering role played by the government to revitalize tourism in the country when it established the Touristic Enterprises Company in 1976 which accomplished huge projects such as the Kuwait Towers, the Entertainment City, the Seafront, the Green Island, the Khairan resort and many other projects that were generating a lot of money for the state.

"A fierce war was launched against the company, as usual for the successful state projects from within the corridors of the government and coordination from outside, so it was emptied of its content, neglected the maintenance of

its projects and stopped its work until the government was fed up with it, and looked for someone to buy it at the lowest price.

"If the government is serious about achieving diversification of sources of income, it is supposed to face off pressures from the influential people, develop and support leading state projects and adopt huge projects in accordance with the state's vision to transform the country into a financial and commercial center based on the weight of the Silk City and Bubiyan Port, and the development of islands and other projects that are collecting dust on the shelves of the Planning Council and start implementing them without delay and procrastination."

**Also:**

"The financing of the upcoming housing projects can be looked as a 'crisis project' in every sense of the word if the state budget continues in this state. The government has expressed its opinion on the difficulty of financing the projects of South Sabah Al-Ahmad and South Saad Al-Abdullah due to the budget deficit. It shall be a problem if this issue is not taken into account now and you will not be able in any way to finance future projects," columnist **Ebrahim Al-Awadhi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"This is an important issue that touches every Kuwaiti family, thus it needs concerted efforts and visions to overcome it in order to provide housing care for the citizens of this country. It is an issue that needs realistic and logical solutions because if no solutions are found it will have a bearing on the future generations.

"We talked and everyone talked about the need to address the state's dysfunctional budget and to search for other alternative sources of income away from oil in order to maintain the state's financial sustainability, but it looks like we are in one valley and the MPs in another valley.

"The Future Generations Fund -- which for many years was the first line of defense for the state financially, and an important basis in maintaining Kuwait's economic stability -- has become an easy and simple solution to any problem and financial deficit facing us which is a solid dam to ensure a decent life for the future generations.

"I know that touching the money of the Fund is not taboo but that should not happen until after all available options and solutions have been exhausted. As for resorting to the easiest solution, it is something that only the weak resort to because they are unable to think properly about solving problems. I wonder here, did the government and the members of the housing committee think about the rest of the solutions so that this proposal would come out to us?"

"We lost hope in the government for a long time, and we hoped the MPs would play their role in overcoming these crises but the reality of the situation says that the mentality of the government and the mentalities of some esteemed MPs are the same in solving problems as they adopt the easiest and simplest way but at the expense of the citizen, the homeland and its future.

"And because we are talking about the state's general budget, we give everyone good news that Kuwaiti oil has reached a price of \$72 a barrel to continue its successive rises and how much we hoped that the previous decline would be a wake-up call for the government and the National Assembly to think soundly about the danger of low oil prices on the citizen before the state, but what happened confirms that those concerned with the decision only work for their day, not for the future."



"Most countries of the world have started opening their doors to travel activities without even the need for a PCR test certificate. They include Turkey, which announced the reception of citizens without tests as long as they received the vaccine, Morocco and others. However, our wise government has set conditions to not allow citizens to travel without obtaining a vaccine passport, as well as another major handicap called Kuwait-Mosafer," columnist **Mohamad Al-Jalaha** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"I do not know who is behind the so-called Kuwait-Mosafer app, which was most likely set up to prevent citizens from traveling, especially due to the problems with the app and obstructing citizens from returning to their country.

"Logic says that the so-called Kuwait-Mosafer app, if imposed, should be a facilitator for travelers' affairs, not a headache for them because of the failure of attempts to download the app to their smartphones.

"According to media reports, the most prominent problem that travelers face with the app is the requirement that the traveler must have a Kuwait number in order to download the app. This poses a difficulty for those who do not carry a Kuwait sim card outside the country. Other problems faced by the travelers are related to entering the vaccination certificate and PCR test details before boarding the plane.

"Regardless of the development of the app after the wave of popular anger that reached the nation's representatives without those in charge of the app or our rational government, there are some questions worth asking - By what right is a citizen prevented from returning to his homeland, even if he is sick? Does the state require the travel of those who receive the vaccine? Does the vaccine reduce symptoms? Isn't there an expansion in vaccination? Will there be community immunity within weeks? Is there not a test that the citizen can conduct before coming to the country and another after his arrival and then stay under home quarantine?"

"Many questions I did not find answers to ... And the conclusion I reached is that the app is utilitarian or aimed to prevent citizens from traveling to activate the movement of markets and restaurants and continue to close the door to expatriates who have valid residency.

"In my opinion, all of what will be mentioned is behind the so-called 'Kuwait-Mosafer' app. I personally advise changing the name of the app to - If you travel, you will not return even if you are a Kuwaiti!"

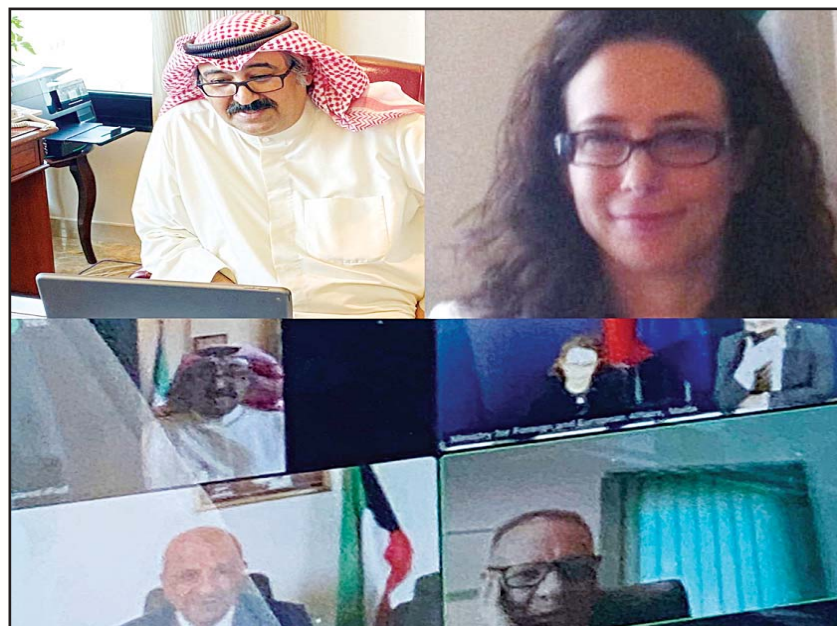
— Compiled by Ahmad Al-Shazli



Oweid Al-Salili

## MoH adopts antibody analysis to track previous Covid-19 infection

Nursing students training eyed at Mishref center



Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs Waleed Al-Khubaizi during the video meeting. KUNA photo

**KUWAIT CITY, June 12 , (Agencies): The Ministry of Health announced it has adopted measures to possibly value the antibodies of the emerging corona virus (Covid-19) within a specific data that has been approved and not to evaluate or measure the number of antibodies after vaccination.**

The ministry said in a press statement some of these analyses detect different types of IgG-IgM antibodies, so they do not have the ability to detect special antibodies resulting from vaccination.

In a related context, the ministry said the Oxford vaccine, which is produced in Russia, is licensed and approved by the AstraZeneca company and that the manufacturing process and all procedures are under its supervision because it is the licensing company.

With regard to the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, the ministry stated that it has received the third batch of the vaccine after the results of its samples matched the technical specifications and ensured that they were stored in accordance with the approved temperatures and storage conditions.

**Confirmed**

The sources confirmed the effectiveness of the first dose of the Oxford vaccine increases with the extended period of the second dose to more than 12 weeks, as indicated by scientific studies and realistic statistics.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health plans to induct 500 nursing students into the health area to be posted at Kuwait Vaccination Centers in Mishref, Jaber Bridge, and a number of ministry facilities to support medical staff during the Corona pandemic, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The Ministry of Finance, in coordination with the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training and the Ministry of Health, has worked on the financial cost of hiring 500 nursing students from the College and Institute of Nursing to support medical staff during the Corona pandemic, based on the decision taken by the Council of Ministers.

Informed sources told the daily the students will be screened over a period of 6 months to enable them to give them practical experience and qualify them to work in health facilities in future.

The sources stated the students - both male and female - will be paid 100 dinars each monthly stipend.

The Cabinet during a previous session had given the nod for the Ministry of Health request to use 500 male and female students from the College and Institute of Nursing to fill the shortage in the Ministry of Health facilities during the Corona pandemic.

## 700 out of 8,000 pass tests for Justice Dept

KUWAIT CITY, June 12: The Ministry of Justice said the expert interviews committee headed by the Under-secretary Omar Al-Sharqawi interviewed the accountants a week ago, and currently he is holding interviews with the engineers specialized in architecture and civil engineering, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The sources told the daily, the interviews with engineers specializing in architectural and civil engineering will end within two weeks, after which the interviews with engineers specializing in mechanics, electricity and computers will begin.

The sources explained about 700 Kuwaitis out of nearly 8,000 passed the exams held at the Kuwait University in December 2019.

The sources revealed the Ministry of Justice is waiting to allocate job grades to appoint those who have passed the current interviews.

**Other Voices**

## Prolonging life in Covid times

By Ahmad alsarraf

Years ago, Dr. Elizabeth Blackburn (1948), a Nobel laureate in physiology, discovered a bio-marker called 'telomerase', the enzyme that fuels the telomeres that protect our genetic heritage.

Her research showed that the life and health of telo-meres indicate a healthy mind-body connection and longevity. She said that making some changes to our habits can protect them and increase the number of years in which we remain healthy, active and disease-free including the quality of sleep, exercise, diet and avoiding chemical additives in food, while avoiding chronic stress, negative thoughts and tense relationships.



alsarraf

She added the telo-meres respond to a person and understand the instructions and feelings they receive, whether they are tension, relaxation, sadness or happiness. Thus, telo-meres contribute to the state of your brain, your mood, the speed of your aging and the risk of disease.

The occasion to return to the book of Blackburn refers to an article written by the Israeli researcher, Yuval Harari, a few months ago, in which he stated that the formation of the modern world was done through a revolutionary position that humans can control death and defeat it by perpetuating life.

Until a few decades ago, the belief was that death is inevitable and a major source of life's meaning. It was also prevalent among many, and still is, that one day fate will destroy death through a major metaphysical gesture such as the coming of Christ, but with the scientific revolution, death was given a different meaning, and it ceased to be a theoretically inevitable matter, but merely a technical problem.

People always die because of a technical defect, such as the heart stops pumping blood; cancer destroys the liver, and viruses multiply in the lungs and every technical problem has a solution. Thus we do not need miracles. If the heart suffers, we can stimulate it or even a new implant in its place, and so on.

It is true that we are currently unable to solve all technical problems, but the best minds have become preoccupied with issues of prolonging life, investigating and verifying the microbiological, physiological and genetic systems responsible for disease and aging, developing new drugs and revolutionary treatments, and achieving remarkable success in their endeavors.

Over the past two centuries, life expectancy jumped from less than 40 years to 72 years worldwide and to more than 80 in some countries. Children in particular have escaped the clutches of death, after a third of them, and until the Twentieth century, did not reach adulthood.

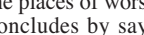
Harari asks: Will the Corona epidemic change human attitudes towards death? And he answers that most likely not. Rather, Corona will often cause a redoubling of efforts to protect human lives.

When an epidemic was spreading in pre-modern society, people feared for their lives and feared the death of their loved ones, and the reaction to that was to surrender to heavenly punishment.

However, when many in our time die as a result of horrific accidents, we tend to view what happened as a human failure that could have been prevented and not a heavenly punishment. In our time, mass death has become a reason for filing lawsuits and searching for the culprit rather than attributing it to superpowers.

Heroes today are not the priests and preachers, but doctors and scientists who work tirelessly inside their laboratories. The world has never lost hope in discovering a cure for corona, and the clergy during that time had to listen to scientists and close the places of worship.

Harari concludes by saying humanity needs less than two centuries to make life continue, and until then, we will lose our loved ones, and one day we will die.



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### Kuwait, Malta set to boost ties

Foreign ministry officials from Kuwait and Malta assembled via video link recently for a fresh round of talks focusing on economic and healthcare ties, in addition to political and security issues. The Kuwaiti side, headed by Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs Waleed Al-Khubaizi, engaged their Maltese counterparts, led by Director General for Political, External Relations and European Affairs Fiona Formosa, in talks that yielded some 14 deals designed to push bilateral ties to higher levels.

The coronavirus pandemic was expectedly in the forefront and center on the agenda as well, with the talks

covering matters that include efforts to fight terrorism and current happenings around the world, said a Kuwaiti foreign ministry statement. Educational ties have shown remarkable improvement as of late, the Kuwaiti diplomat was cited as saying, adding that many of his compatriot students have increasingly begun to take up academic opportunities in the Mediterranean island.

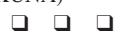
They agreed on the need for more cooperation in several key sectors, including trade and investment, ahead of similar talks planned for the near future, as both countries seek to bring common goals and aspirations to fruition, added the statement.

### News in Brief

**Unstable weather:** Kuwait's Ministry of Interior (MOI) called on citizens and residents to keep a wary eye on the currently unstable weather.

In a press release Saturday, the ministry urged citizens and residents to remain vigilant for their safety and not to hesitate in seeking help via the MOI emergency number 112, or Civil Defense number 1804000 for any assistance.

It also advised sea-goers to call the Coast Guard number 1880888 in case of emergency. (KUNA)



**12 workers arrested:** Personnel from the Ahmadi Criminal Investigation Department (CID) have arrested 12 workers for stealing sand in the Sabah Al-Ahmad area and referred them to the competent authority.

According to a security source, the CID men, in coordination with the Municipality, raided a site where the men were at work filling sand in trucks sand from an open area close to Sabah Al-Ahmad and arrested the 'men at work' and referred them for interrogation to find out who was the mastermind behind the theft.

On the other hand, a security source said the Ministry of Interior is in the process of deporting four Bangladeshis who were caught stealing construction material from houses under construction in the suburb of Al-Mutla'a.

The men were reportedly caught red-handed.



**Timings changed:** The Ministry of Interior announced changes in the schedule of allowing entry through the land borders -- from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm starting on Sunday, instead of 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

In a press statement, the Public Relations and Security Media General Department disclosed this decision is in compliance with the directive of Interior Minister Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah in coordination with the health authorities.

The department pointed out this is part of the efforts of the ministry to facilitate procedures for citizens, especially this time when temperatures are extremely high. The department called on citizens to adhere to the new schedule for the safety of everyone.

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