

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Need to invest in human resources ... projects never see day of light'

"THE report about the unbelievable cost of the new zoo in the country indicates that KD 112 million will be spent on this project. This does not surprise me because this was expected by anyone who is involved in following up the implementation of the new projects in the country," columnist **Asrar Jawhar Hayat** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"By the time the new projects are implemented the cost is likely to double by virtue of the prospective changes in the projects as this happened with most of our 'development' projects, or rather all of them.

"Anyway, I don't care whether the cost of the zoo is correct or not since it has been denied by the same official who disclosed the cost, rather I would like to go on record, like as any other citizen who is jealous about the interest of their country, particularly since the country was young when it was seeking distinction in every field throughout the past century, but now the country has become old and is eagerly looking for development and spending a lot of money in vain to achieve this dream.



Asrar Hayat

"In this context, we elucidate that most of our projects cost millions or billions of dinars - double the money than our counterparts in other countries spend but, ironically, we see our budget exhausted but nothing is produced on the ground.

"Speaking of the delay in the implementation of the projects, we see the cost of our projects becoming more than double the original estimated cost but the concerned project is seldom completed, given the fact we will be lucky if this project reaches completion, thanks to the intervention of the Amiri Diwan.

"For example we have been hearing about the Kuwait University in Al-Shaddadiya since the 1980s until we entered 2004, but nothing was achieved on the ground except the signing of some contracts. The cost during that time was KD 500 million but our children entered the campus only in 2019 when the cost had reached KD three billion. Sad to say the project is still being implemented and the colleges have still to see the daylight although many decades have passed since for the project. The same can be said of most of our projects.

"In spite of the above, the Secretariat General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development has lost its vision in following up the projects in terms of delivery on time as set up by the relevant executing authority. In other words, it seems the role of the Secretariat has been confined to postponing the expected completion date.

"In this connection, we wonder how many projects got extension for completion but none of those who were behind the delay have regretted over disbursing money or about the doubling the cost of exhausting public funds.

"Such being the case, the delay in implementing and the completion of the costly projects in due course, does not only mean double the cost, but sometimes this delay makes the project unfeasible.

"The most significant thing shows that our developmental plans concentrate on the 'concrete' buildings without taking into account the development of the human factor and how to invest in the same."

Also:

"In the wake of the MPs occupying the chairs of ministers they seem to be asking a lot of questions, questions which look very strange," columnist **Mubarak Mezyed Al-Moasherji** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"Take for example, MP Saad Al-Khanfour, who has called for hiring Kuwaiti imams in mosques and also the muezzins (prayer callers).

"For his part, MP Ahmad Al-Hamad wonders about the tasks of the Technical Committee to verify the certificates of physicians. However, we support the accuracy process in light of forged certificates which are detected from time to time and this constitutes a danger to the lives of people, as such this issue cannot be ignored.

"Meanwhile, the Minister of Education and the Minister of Higher Education Dr. Ali Al-Mudhaf, in turn formed a committee to investigate the classification of the Kuwait University. On the other hand, the honorable MP Marzouq Al-Khalifa calls for the formation of an investigation committee to probe this classification, but he did not wait for the formation of this committee although he had called on the Minister to form this committee, or read the comment of his colleague the MP Hamad Al-Matar who gave his opinion in this respect. On the other hand, MP Al-Matar had requested the pro government MPs to establish a government committee to organize and supervise the Kuwaiti investments.

"It is surprising, we have a number of authorities and institutions and all employees working for these institutions are 'lucky' because they are showered with rewards and increases in salaries, and all that they do is just write reports and submit proposals which more often than not collect dust in the drawers. This happens at a time when we warn of government 'failures' to pay employees salaries in future.

"Here, I would like to ask the MP and the Professor of Political Science at the Kuwait University Dr. Hassan Jowhar about his political history in comparison to that of the reverend politician, former MP and current Deputy Premier Mr. Abdullah Al-Roumi, although all of us know that ministers are supposed to show solidarity with the government during the voting on proposals and decisions submitted in the National Assembly but isn't it reasonable to see the deputy prime minister supporting the grilling motion and no-confidence motion filed against his premier.

"However, Dr. Bu Mahdi (Dr Hassan Jowhar), with regard to the issue

of nationalism, we would like to point out that the latter is an example of loyalty and obedience to the homeland, as such acceptance of Abdullah Al-Roumi to the ministerial post falls within his keenness and interest in the homeland motivated by his desire for reform, and not to destroy the homeland and crying on its ruins."



"Recklessness and negligence while driving could be due to motorists not abiding by the traffic rules and decisions on safe driving. Sometimes, recklessness is caused by officials in institutions who were appointed through nepotism. This leads to more institutional and societal repercussions than driving on the road, both of which may cause many complications for everyone," columnist **Hind Al-Choumar** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"I wish the State Audit Bureau, Civil Service Commission and other oversight bodies will control such cases and hold those behind them accountable, including personally bearing the compensation for which judicial rulings are issued due to unjust and wrong decisions.

"The danger of recklessness in institutions is more severe than the danger of recklessness on the road, because its repercussions are much greater than what happens on the road. However, how can these cases be stopped and those responsible at all levels held accountable without mediation or courtesy?

"The administrative system has many flaws. It must be opened wide to find radical solutions and treatments to protect the integrity of societies and achieve justice and equality.

"One of the most important solutions is to require an official to undergo psychological and cognitive tests before giving him a certificate of fitness to sit on the leadership seat. This is in addition to requiring him to undergo periodic examinations.

"In case there are many judicial rulings to bring justice to the oppressed during his reign, he must be excluded and changed so that the institution does not lose in these cases due to lack of justice for the employees in accordance with the decisions and laws regulating the work. In this manner, justice prevails in the institution and cooperation prevails among everyone, so the number of desired achievements increases.

"Recklessness in driving on the road may cause accidents or deaths for some road users. As for recklessness in the institution, it harms all members of society and the country as a whole.

"I ask all regulatory institutions to efficiently play their role in accordance with the laws and decisions without overstepping and without favoring certain interest over public interest, so we can achieve the vision of the future for Kuwait."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb

Interior ministry raises awareness, launches campaign to battle drugs

'Parents must talk, warn children on scourge'



The drugs brought from Iran neatly packed in chocolate packets.

Drugs found in chocolate bars

Customs officers of the Air Cargo Inspection Department at the Kuwait International Airport thwarted an attempt to bring in 5.4 kilos of pure alum, which was hidden inside chocolate bars, coming from Iran, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The daily added, the alum was hidden inside 5 parcels containing 18 boxes of chocolate bars and after careful inspection, 5.4 kilos of pure alum was

found hidden inside 16 boxes.

In a related context, Shuwaikh port customs officers impounded this morning a cargo of potatoes and bread coming from Iran and seized 6 kilos of drugs hidden inside bread bags.

The cargo belongs to an unidentified company. Personnel from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) are investigating.

KUWAIT CITY, June 28: Director-General for Relations and Security Media department at the Ministry of Interior Brigadier Tawhid Abdullah Al-Kandari said based on the awareness and guidance role played by the department to raise the level of awareness and seriousness of the scourge of drug consumption, especially among the youth, in cooperation with the General Department for Drug Control (GDCC), the Interior Ministry has activated the drug prevention initiatives through continuous campaigns which culminated in the launch of the 'National Project for Drug Abuse Prevention and Policy Management', in cooperation between the Ministry of Interior, the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), reports Al-Anba daily.

Brigadier Al-Kandari indicated this awareness campaign coincides this year with the celebration of the International Day for Drug Control, which falls on June 26 of each year.

The Directorate-General of Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Interior Ministry will launch the activities of the campaign under the slogan 'Your Closeness to them ... Protecting Them' in cooperation with GDCC and the Grass Volunteer Team.

He stressed the family has a great role in educating the children about the dangers of drugs and raising their level of awareness about this deadly scourge, in addition to the importance of positive dialogue with them, listening to them, and following up their movements in order to protect them from bad companions.

Brigadier-General Al-Kandari called on all media, including the social media to support the campaign and contribute to raising awareness to curb the scourge of drugs among all the segments of society.

Court rejects appeals, upholds 3 sentences

By Jaber Al-Humoud
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 28: The Court of Cassation headed by Counselor Ahmad Al-Ajeel sentenced a Kuwaiti identified only as KH to 10 years in jail and upheld the imprisonment verdict of 3 others, whose identities have not been given, who are sentenced to terms after rejecting their appeals.

The court also rejected requests to refrain from punishing them and instead stressed that they are guilty of money laundering, fraud and forgery.

The main accused was operating from inside the prison cell, impersonating prominent people from the ruling family and business figures and was able to deceive celebrities and Fashionistas and was able to book a private plane for a woman he had promised to marry as well as giving her valuable gifts, with the help of his assistants.

Other Voices

Cryptocurrency and crimes

By Ahmad alsarraf

Brothers Amir and Rais Kaji founded a platform in Johannesburg, to speculate in cryptocurrencies, such as Bitcoin.

The two brothers have vanished with \$3.6 billion owned by users of their platform. Although suspicions of their actions surfaced last April, the investors' lawyer did not inform the authorities for fear that this would affect the speed of recovery of the stolen funds, especially since the South African government does not recognize cryptocurrencies and their disappearance is not a clearly stated crime.

The sum of 200 million Canadian dollars from the rights of investors, placed in cryptocurrencies, disappeared with the death of its founder in India allegedly from Corona, and the code was buried with him.

In April 2021, a report showed that the 80 largest cyber thefts of the past decade resulted in collective losses of \$2.5 billion, and I was personally a victim of one of them. The records of a company I run were subjected to hacking, which resulted in the freezing of the entire company's accounts, preventing access to it, stopping all sales lines, and putting us in a serious trouble that did not end until two hours later when an unknown person called via e-mail asking for a ransom in exchange for lifting the freezing.

We agreed to his request immediately, hoping to obtain information that would help arrest him, but he was smart as he asked us to transfer the ransom in an encrypted currency to his account, and this was done immediately because we needed to lift the freezing due to work pressure and it was almost impossible to delay customers' orders.



alsarraf

Almost two months ago, the world's largest meat company was subjected to a similar operation and was forced to pay a ransom to release its records upon the advice of its lawyer to avoid a halt in the delivery of orders around the world.

A month ago, the Brazilian international company JBS was subjected to cyber-attack on its records and disruption of its entire business, forcing it to pay a large ransom to protect clients of the company from great risks.

Colonial Pipeline, the operator of America's largest fuel pipeline was also blackmailed, forcing it to pay 75 bitcoins to a group of Russian hackers and the authorities were subsequently able to recover some of the ransom.

These hackers know very well that through such operations, and demand for ransom in the form of cryptocurrency, they can make great fortune in ways that are difficult to detect. They can also use these currencies to purchase their various needs and this is the source of the greatest danger that these currencies pose as criminals can often escape punishment, therefore these cryptocurrencies will remain attractive especially to outlaws as large sums can be transferred from one account to another, kept in electronic form, and spent when needed, and their owners cannot be reached because their real addresses are withheld and their names are unknown.

According to the latest estimates, software theft and ransom schemes reaped nearly \$370 million in cryptocurrency in 2020, more than threefold increase from the previous year. This number is expected to double this year.

MP Hamad Al-Matar, or anyone else, did not find a way to attack me other than describing me as sectarian despite all my shortcomings; therefore, I will not give him the honor of replying.

e-mail: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

News in Brief

Care for elderly: Assistant Undersecretary for Social Welfare at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Societal Development Musallam Al-Subaie said the Social Welfare Sector is keen on providing the highest quality of care for the elderly, serving the biggest number of elderly citizens through the mobile service centers for elderly care, reports **Al-Rai** daily.



Al-Subaie

In a statement to the daily, Al-Subaie disclosed the sector's policy is based on the concept of simplifying procedures to better serve the elderly.

He confirmed the formation of a committee, whose members are from the ministries of Social Affairs and Health, tasked to issue car plate numbers for the elderly to benefit from the parking spaces allotted to them.

He said the committee holds online meetings to discuss each case and then issue the car plate numbers accordingly, in addition to the home delivery of car plate numbers.

He added the parking area for the elderly at the mobile service center in

Farwaniya Governorate will be completed soon.

Indian commits suicide: An Indian committed suicide by hanging from the ceiling of his rented room, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The incident was reported to the authorities by the owner of the house. The security authorities are investigating the death.

The corpse has been referred to Forensics department.

Kuwaitis attacked: Police are looking for two bedouin for attacking two Kuwaiti brothers in Sabah Al-Nasser, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The daily added, the bedouin allegedly attacked the brothers with a knife and an axe following a dispute between them and went into hiding.

The daily said the one of the brothers was injured in the nose and the other in the hand. Both brothers have been admitted to a hospital and a case has been filed at the area police station.

Reckless driver held: Traffic police officers have arrested an unidentified Kuwaiti for reckless driving and endangering the lives of motorists in a suburb of Sulaibikhat, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

Bribe attempt detected

Lawyer, client jailed for 5 years

KUWAIT CITY, June 28: The Criminal Court sentenced an unidentified Kuwaiti lawyer and his Arab client to five years imprisonment each with hard labor for attempting to bribe an employee at the Kuwait International Airport, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

According to the verdict the lawyer has been barred from practicing law for 10 years and the Arab client has been ordered deported after serving the jail term.

The incident dates back to last February, when securitymen arrested the law-

yer and his client when they attempted to bribe an employee in the departures hall at the Kuwait International Airport to help the client escape the country since he was wanted by law.

The arrest came after the female employee informed senior officials and the officials informed the Money Crimes Investigation Department and the suspects were caught in the act.

The lawyer was charged with attempting to bribe a government employee to help a man wanted by law to escape from the country illegally.