

# diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## Who to blame for the deteriorating situation, how to rectify it?

"A LARGE part of the deterioration of the general situation in the country is due to the (triangle) 'the voter, the deputy and the minister', which cast a shadow over everything even if its parties did not intend this, and the results were truly catastrophic, and the presence of the huge and flabby public sector contributed to the perpetuation of these catastrophes, and getting out of this painful reality has become impossible," columnist **Nasser Al Abdali** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"The founding fathers stressed in the constitution the need for the public and private sectors to share economic activity, and not to be left at the 'mercy' of the public sector so that this activity does not become sluggish. Our forefathers were far-sighted at that time to ensure the existence of a real private sector that does not depend on the government in its work; rather, it is a self-financing, creative sector that is competitive with the public sector in attracting national labor and an actual participant in the national product.

"What happened is exactly the opposite, when the government seized this activity to transform it from a production activity, as it is supposed to be to a consumer activity that devours the state's general budget, and creates a sector alongside it that some insist on calling it the private sector, although it is, rather it is a substitute for the public sector, and lives on budget items as a simple citizen does, and the tragedy is that with time, the two sectors have given us this dangerous triangle.

"The representative is a victim of the voter and wants to please him/her at any cost, even if it is at the expense of public money, the law, or trampling on the rights of ordinary citizens who do not have a voice, in order to provide what services he can provide to this insatiable voter.

"Who can we blame for this miserable reality? Do we blame the demanding and always dissatisfied voter no matter how many services the deputy and minister provide him/her with, until he/she reached a point of accepting the salary without real work?

"Or do we blame democracy, which just so happens to be not at the level required preventing any viruses from infiltrating it? Or do we blame the government for its insistence on sticking to the public sector, even if it knows that the end of this insistence is tragic? We can blame everyone, but the question remains: How do we get out of this reality?"



Al-Abdali

**Also:**

"We are neither in the process of shedding light on the efforts of the Central Agency for the Affairs of the Illegal Residents in the country (the so-called bedoun) nor we are in the process of praising what the state has done for the past decades towards this category of people, despite the lack of clarity in the true picture of their conditions in this country, but we are here in the context of martyrdom that was recently reported by the European Union or the European Parliament, which recently stated that Kuwait is among the best in treating bedoun, as witnessed by those who have always spoken inappropriately about Kuwait's treatment of residents on its land, whether legal or illegal," Dr. **Issa Mohammad Al-Amiri** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"We may also cite here statistics and figures, with all humility, for this apparatus, which expresses the efforts of the state behind it. We mention, as an example that approximately 1,312 disability IDs were issued in 2019 and 2020. The agency also issued nearly 4,563 new driver's licenses in a humanitarian gesture of great value to alleviate the pain of this segment to facilitate their social affairs.

"On the educational level, 82 male and female students were admitted to the university during the 2019/2020 academic year, bringing the number of enrolled students to 421, while the number of graduates reached 336 at the end of 2019.

"As for the catering services granted to illegal residents, according to the statistics of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the number of beneficiaries reached 105,107 people, which cost the state 5,790,196 dinars.

"As for the insurance provided to illegal residents for the number of living retirees from the beginning of the implementation of the Insurance Law, the number reached 786, and the number of children of the deceased who received due shares reached 3,033.

"As for those who were employed in the Ministry of Health through the Central Agency, their number reached 131 doctors, 595 nurses, 45 ambulance drivers, and 580 in several other jobs and they benefited to the tune of 145,75,836 dinars, and in-kind the aid cost the state 504,253.

"In what can be considered a brief account of what the state is doing recently, the statements from a source in the Ministry of Education said there are 18,000 "bedoun" students who are covered by the charity fund, whose estimated budget is 7 million dinars, which explicitly indicates the extent of the great attention paid by the state and the central apparatus to modify the status of illegal residents.

"After all this, we affirm that the state has spared no effort whatsoever towards

this group, and perhaps here we extend our sincere thanks to the head of the Central Apparatus for Illegal Residents' Status, Saleh Al-Fadala, and his distinguished efforts in this regard, which are undoubtedly appreciated and respected at the level of the whole world, which are praised by the European Union.

"We also extend our sincere thanks to Professor Salaf Al-Mishal, the chief specialist of the office of the head of the Central Apparatus for Resolving the Situation of Illegal Residents, for providing all the necessary facilities to serve everyone in this apparatus. God bless."



"A logical question arises with every new ministerial formation, especially since we have some precedents for health ministers who were not doctors, but succeeded in managing the ministry. Hence, it is unnecessary to assign the Ministry of Health position for doctors only," columnist Dr **Hind Al-Choumar** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"It is natural that the minister does not engage in medical technical work, as he politically manages the health file in terms of meeting the needs of citizens in development or construction projects and doctors at all levels. This must be in line with the State budget, number of health workers, society's aspirations regarding health and the need for scientific planning that might not require the presence of doctors.

"On the other hand, a doctor must focus on his medical and professional work without thinking about administration, political burdens and political games in corridors that cannot be dealt with through endoscopy or known medical tools only.

"The concept of health is totally different from the concept of traditional medicine. The tasks of the Minister of Health do not include writing prescriptions, performing surgeries or obstetrics, but leading an integrated system.

"It is necessary to focus on strategies, plans and programs aimed at achieving health for everyone as the main component of comprehensive development, which needs scientifically and practically capable assistants to be the technical arm of the minister, not necessarily doctors.

"The accountability of the Minister of Health is about policies and plans, which are more comprehensive and greater than a medical error or erroneous administration of medication or unprofessional practices. Scientific plans and programs must be available to address health challenges, regardless of the profession of the minister – whether he is a doctor or not."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb



KUNA photo  
The National Military Service Authority officers receiving the new recruits.

### Rigorous training awaits recruits

## 49th batch conscripts join NMSA

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20, (KUNA): The National Military Service Authority (NMSA) received Saturday morning the conscripts of the 49th batch after they completed all the necessary medical procedures and examinations for their acceptance and joining the authority.

The Ministry of Defense said in a press statement that these recruits are distributed over the governorates of the capital, Hawalli, and Farwaniya at the National Military Service Institute, while the Ahmadi governorate is at the Air Defense Institute, while the Jahra governorate is at the Land Force Institute and Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorate is at the Amiri Guard Institute.

It added that the recruits were received at the moment of their entry by the head, officers and members of the National Military Service Authority, who organized the entry process and completed all procedures re-

lated to joining the service.

The authority stated that it had made all the necessary arrangements and preparations to receive the recruits by preparing training and rehabilitation programs that would enable them to pass this stage and engage in field service after that.

The ministry indicated that the period of active service for the conscripts is a Gregorian year, divided into two parts, the first of which is a period of two months without an overnight stay, during which the conscripts are trained and taught various military sciences and skills. The second part is for a period of ten months performed by the conscript in the National Military Service Brigade.

It indicated that rehabilitation courses will be held, according to the approved training plan by the National Military Service Authority.



The counterfeit items seized.

### Fake goods seized in raids

Inspectors from the Commercial Control and Consumer Protection Sector of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry raided 3 stores at an unidentified location and seized counterfeit branded products – 32,000 counterfeit branded watches, in addition to 2,000 pieces of accessories; 1,000 bags, 300 women's

shawls, 12 pairs of shoes and the third store was a printing press that helped print trademarks on bags and boxes, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The daily added, the contraband has been seized, some workers arrested, and the issue has been referred to the Commercial Prosecution.

## 'Shamlan' boat-owners get citations

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: The Public Relations and Media Department at Kuwait Firefighting Force (KFF) said the Fire Prevention Sector carried out an intensive inspection campaign on Friday, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, Environment Public Authority (EPA), Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), and Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA), reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

In a press statement, the department confirmed the presence of Capital Gov-

ernor Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled during the campaign; which was aimed at uncovering violations in Naqa' Al-Shamlan and ensuring strict compliance with fire prevention regulations.

The statement revealed the Capital Governorate Protection Department issued a number of citations to the owners of ships; where different violations were discovered, such as failure to coordinate with specialized companies in checking fire extinguishers, cooking and storing gas cylinders.

## PAI shuts 15 'fraud' factories

'Market bears brunt'

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: The construction market in Kuwait continues to suffer either due to a shortage of construction materials which was the cause of recent rise in prices or shortage of construction workers which is attributed to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic or cheating, reports Al-Rai daily.**

The sources added, cheating has been the worst scenario which led to the closure of one-third of the construction materials factories in Kuwait after the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) issued orders to close 15 factories and refer them to the Commercial Prosecution citing commercial fraud.

Informed sources told the daily, "the inspection teams from the authority recently carried out an extensive inspection tour of the factories, foremost of which were 48 bricks making factories and after checking found out the samples did not match the specifications.

The result showed 15 factories so far were involved in commercial fraud and that some of them sell to citizens bricks which are not according to specification but contains more sand.

The sources pointed out that "the results of the first inspection round concluded that this batch of factories did not comply with the established quality specifications, which required the officials of the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) in accordance with the law to close these factories by an administrative decision as a preliminary procedure, and giving them a specific period to adjust their conditions," noting that "In the event that they do not comply with the applicable quality standards, the plots of land given to them to conduct business will be withdrawn."

The sources confirmed that "the PAI inspection teams are continuing to monitor and inspect construction materials factories, in a move to control fraud".

## GTD collects KD380m in six years violations

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: The Ministry of Finance recently released official data showing that the total amount of fines for various traffic violations in the last six years reached KD380.39 million, reports Al-Anba daily.**

The daily obtained a copy of the official data indicating that fines for traffic violations recorded for fiscals 2015/2016 to 2020/2021 totaled KD380.39 million with fiscal 2015/2016 recording the highest at KD69.47 million, followed by fiscal 2016/2017 at KD66.05 million, fiscal 2018/2019 at KD62.16 million, fiscal 2020/2021 – when curfew was imposed and operations in government agencies halted due to the Corona pandemic ranked fourth at KD61.6 million, fiscal 2019/2020 ranked fifth rank at KD61.03 million, and fiscal 2017/2018 recorded the lowest at KD60.03 million.

**Fines**

Meanwhile, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the General Traffic Department of the Ministry of Interior has collected 600,000 dinars in fines, in spite of the country being under partial and complete lockdowns in some areas, reports **Al-Anba** daily citing a statement from the Ministry of Finance.

The statement issued by the Ministry of Finance, a copy of which has been obtained by the daily, shows the value of traffic violations committed in Kuwait during the past 6 years was about 380.39 million dinars.

Giving the breakdown, the revenues collected by the State from traffic violations from fiscal 2015/2016 to 2020/2021 was 380.39 million dinars; for fiscal 2015/2016 – which topped in terms of violations – was 69.47 million dinars; 2016/2017 was about 66.05 million dinars and in third place was 2018/2019 which fetched 62.16 million dinars.

Fiscal 2020/2021, the period that saw lockdowns and disruption of businesses and closure of government institutions, surprisingly the government collected 61.6 million dinars, an increase of 600,000 dinars in the value of violations over the previous year. Fiscal 2017/2018 ranked fifth and was the lowest in terms of violations, with 60.03 million dinars.

### Other Voices

## Scientists & religious belief

By Ahmad alsarraf

A survey conducted by the American Pew Research Center in May 2009 on members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science found that they are much less religious than the general public. More than half of them believe in some form of God or a supernatural power, but the center found that the proportion among the rest of Americans rises to 95%!

In a more recent survey, 4 out of 10 scientists did not believe in a supernatural power but only 4% of their citizens shared the same opinion.

The latest survey of scientists closely follows previous surveys, which measured their opinions about religion, and the first of these experiments was conducted in 1914 by the Swiss-American psychologist James Luba, who conducted his research on the opinions of about 1,000 scientists in the United States of America to ask them about their opinions about God. The scientific community is evenly divided, with 42% believing in a specific, identifiable deity, while a similar percentage said they do not.

More than 80 years later, Edward Larson, a historian of science who was at the time teaching at the University of Georgia, reformulated the Luba survey, asking the same questions to the same number of scientists. It found that 40% of scientists believe in a personal God, while 45% say they do not, and other surveys of scientists have yielded nearly similar results.

Given the low numbers and levels of belief of a large proportion of scientists in a supernatural power, it is not surprising that the proportion of those who do not belong to any religion is much higher than it is among the common people. Thus, it follows that most religious traditions are represented in smaller numbers in the scientific community than in the public as a whole.

For example, we find that the proportion of Protestants in the scientific community constitutes only 21%, despite the fact that evangelicals of them represent only 28% of the American population, and their percentage constitutes only a small segment (4%) of the scientific community. A notable exception is that Jews, who make up a larger proportion of the scientific community (8%), make up only 2% of the general American population.

A Pew Research Center survey also found that levels of religious belief among scientists vary according to their scientific specialization and age group. For example, 41% of chemists believe in a hidden divine power, a larger proportion than those working in other major scientific fields. Meanwhile, younger scientists, ages 18 to 34, are more likely to believe in supernatural power than those who are older.

A Pew Center study, related to religious background, wealth and education, showed that Jews are the most educated, with an average share of 13.4 years of schooling, while Christians have 9.3 years.

I leave it to you to estimate the per capita share of education in our countries, even though we are the highest in the world in the number of holders of invaluable doctorate degrees.

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