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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Taxes will not serve citizens' cause ... can't bet on govt, parliament'

"THE MPs from all of the consecutive national assemblies, have been continuously saying 'the pocket of the citizen should not be touched', while the consecutive governments including the incumbent strives to endorse the bill of taxation as well as raising the fees of the state rendered services on citizens under the pretext of a deficit in the state budget," columnist **Sattam Al-Jarallah** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"In spite of the above, the government has yet to pull the rabbit out of the hat to ease the torment of the people of limited income who represent a majority of the Kuwaitis and it is not a secret that most of them suffer from the burden of paying the installments on their loans and other debts which means any tax or increase in services fees shall take a large segment of people to the 'brink' of poverty.

"However, today under the so-called the dialogue between the executive and legislature, undoubtedly such a topic, shall remain in the orbit of discussions, during which the government, shall take whatever it wants from the financial point of view and leave the crumbs for the MPs in the form of amnesty for those who are currently living in 'self imposed exile' in Turkey.

"In other words, the government's gain in this connection, will exceed its 'surrenders' to the MPs who are currently see nothing but the amnesty to such an extent they are ready to make any concessions for the sake of their objective including the acceptance of the endorsement of the Public Debt Law in addition to increasing of the fees on state rendered services as well as imposing tax where un mindful that it is the citizen who will the sole victim.

"In this connection, it will be useful if we look realistically at the country's financial and economic situation and look for serious solutions, not to the easy way out through patchy solutions. In other words, we wonder, why doesn't the government resort to recover all the money which the corrupt people have looted from the government coffers prior to the endorsing the unfair laws. It is no secret but we know the stolen money and according to the media are estimated to be in tens of billions of dinars. Likewise, the government must extend all facilities to the foreign investments and after that, it can study the imposition of taxes.

"In all the countries of the region that imposed taxes had earlier provided many services and facilities to their citizens, including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which approved a series of important legislations, and then began imposing the value-added tax, while in Kuwait the government has not provided anything, even in light of the 'Corona' pandemic.

"This led to the closure of thousands of companies and private interests were affected, and instead of helping citizens, it is seeking to impose taxes that undoubtedly will not serve the citizens who have to start from today to hold the MPs responsible who see nothing but the green chair to serve their own inter-

ests, which confirms that the government and the parliament are worse than each other, and you can't bet on them."

Also:

"The government decisions that are taken without any consideration for the citizen's interest and without looking at their repercussions on his daily life. These decisions are tragic for the citizen and one of the decision is the difficulty in citizens getting to hire a domestic worker and if the government considers this file is easy and does not have any priority it should realize that domestic labor is not a luxury, but rather an essential thing for any Kuwaiti family, and even for expatriate families," columnist **Dr. Hamad Mohammad Al-Matar** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"If this file is not solved how can the government say normalcy has returned to the country following the opening of schools and universities. How can the families cope up with the house chores if there is not (a domestic worker) to help?"

"This in addition to the lack of drivers to take the children to school and bring them back. How can the father and mother go to their jobs without the presence of domestic workers to take care of the children during their absence? Is the government really thinking about this problem? Can you imagine the extent of the daily difficulties faced by the Kuwaiti family due to the severe shortage of domestic workers and the difficulty of obtaining them?"

"Is it reasonable for the costs of hiring a housemaid having reached \$7,000? Is it reasonable to oblige the head of the family to pay 500 dinars, just for the institutional quarantine of the domestic worker upon arrival in Kuwait? What is happening in Kuwait? Did everyone - the traders and government - join forces to fight and torture the citizen?"

"If officials and merchants do not feel the importance of the file of domestic workers, the citizen faces this problem on a daily basis. He has to take his children to school and bring them back, and go to his work, and the mother has to worry about her children all the time while at work. Is the problem simple or fabricated? It is only the result of confused government decisions that do not take into account the citizen. All that the government is interested in is the benefit of the merchants at the expense of the citizen.

"Here we may question the role of the government company Al-Durra for domestic workers, and why was this company established if the government could not control domestic workers hiring offices? And why should the citizen bear the exorbitant costs of institutional quarantine for the worker? If this company had previously said it is ready to take over the institutional quarantine of the incoming domestic workers for free as part of its work or is the issue hidden from the citizens?"

"The citizen complaints of random government decisions, high costs, and confusion that have made him spin in a vicious circle, and wonder why there are no such problems in neighboring countries? Why only in Kuwait does it

become one of the biggest problems of the family, and one of its greatest concerns, when it comes to getting domestic worker?"

"The government must expedite the solution to this issue, activate the Al-Durra company, confront private offices, and facilitate the family's access to the domestic workers it needs with the simplest procedures and the lowest costs. Catalyst -- Suffering of the family + domestic labor = absent government."

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"From 1980 to 1990, Kuwait witnessed a major developmental breakthrough in all fields that made it the 'Pride of the Gulf'. We are still living in the successes, facilities, plans and programs that it left us, contributing to an unprecedented boom in the country of 'friendship and peace'," columnist **Abdulrahman Al-Awwad** wrote for **Al-Sabah** daily.

"Kuwait faced big and dangerous challenges, most notably the treacherous Iraqi invasion that took place in 1990. Since that date, rather after the country was liberated from the clutches of invaders in 1991, up to this day, the country has been witnessing an incomprehensible response in all fields.

"The observer of the situation in the country and who studies what is happening around us is almost certain that something went wrong during that period, which resulted in this regression and backwardness. The area around us has advanced, yet we have fallen behind and the reason is not yet clear.

"Billions are wasted annually, but they have no effect on the ground. We find the cost of building a bridge in the country or a football stadium many times more than the cost in neighboring countries. This can only be explained by the fact that we are looting in broad daylight."

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"Who monitors the performance of the Central Agency for Public Tenders?!" columnist **Mubarak Al-Duwailah** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"Is it the board of directors of the agency? But, we know very well that the board was the reason behind the poor performance of this sensitive agency in previous years.

"How many rights and opportunities of the deserving were lost due to the strange decisions of this agency, until the fourth and fifth awarding of the tender at certain prices became apparent in this body?!"

"Is the minister concerned with monitoring the agency and its performance? But for the most part, the successive ministers supervising this body have not monitored the performance of the members who interfered in the appointment process to achieve their goals.

"Therefore, we hope this agency, after the pumping of fresh blood and the presence of new members, will be a watchdog for itself and that God will watch its performance."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb



Sattam Al-Jarallah

'National Shield 4' drill ends



KUNA photos
Top: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah inspects the drill. Above: The drill in progress.

'Army units coordination vital'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah stressed on Wednesday the importance of joint work between the military authorities to achieve harmony in the implementation of various tasks and duties in defending the homeland and preserving its security, stability and territorial integrity.

This came in a press statement during the closing activities of the 'National Shield 4' exercise, which was implemented in two stages in the Saleh Al-Mohammad Al-Ali / 94 brigade, with the participation of a number of Kuwaiti army units and sectors of the Ministry of Interior and the National Guard.

The Minister of Defense said that this exercise comes as a translation of the joint efforts between the military authorities in the country with the aim of developing the capabilities and skills of its members to keep pace with the rapid development in the field of armament and equipment and to bring them to the highest levels of readiness and efficiency which enables them to carry out their duties to the fullest.

Praised

He praised the high morale and outstanding performance of the participants in the exercise, which reflects the capabilities and field skills of employees of the Kuwaiti army, the Ministry of Interior and the National Guard.

He called on the participants to continue working, exerting and giving to achieve the desired goals of carrying out such joint exercises and maintaining the level and efficiency of performance of the armed forces personnel.

Meanwhile, Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense Sheikh Dr. Fahd Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah affirmed Thursday that all capabilities of the military installations engineering sector have been harnessed to provide all forms of support and assistance to the various military and civil sectors in the ministry.

This came in a press statement by the Directorate of Moral Guidance and Public Relations of the Kuwaiti Army, following an inspection visit by Sheikh Fahd Jaber Al-Ali to the arms and ammunition factory and the southern warehouses of the Arms and Ammunition Command at the Supply and Supply Authority in the Julai'a area, in implementation of the directives of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah.

Explanation

During the visit, the agent listened to a detailed explanation from the officers of the Logistics Authority to know the latest developments in the work mechanism and the procedures followed. He was also briefed on the equipment and devices used in the production line and the follow-up of the role played by the engineering of military facilities and inspected the mechanisms and equipment of the rain emergency team of the Ministry of Defense in the southern region to provide support and engineering support to the Ministry of Public Works to achieve everything that would serve the country.

The visit was attended by the Assistant Undersecretary for External Equipment, Dr. Eng. Sheikha Shamayel Ahmed Al-Sabah, and the commissioned Assistant Undersecretary for Engineering of Military Facilities Amer Al-Naseem.

Cultural strategy of GCC states discussed: official

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): The Minister of Information and Culture, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Chairman of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi participated on Monday in the 25th meeting of Ministers of Culture of the Gulf Cooperation Council via video conference.

The official spokesman of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, Assistant Secretary-General for the Culture Sector, Dr Issa Al-Ansari, said in a press statement that the ministerial meeting discussed the cultural strategy of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries 2020-2030, in addition to discussing the approved cultural activities plan for the GCC countries for the years 2021-2022 and work regulations and common cultural rules.

He added that the meeting also discussed ways to enhance cooperation with countries and cultural institutions and develop joint work between the culture and tourism sectors in the GCC states, in addition to approving the submission of the Charter for the Preservation of Urban Heritage to the Supreme Council for approval in the next session.

Other Voices

Al-Sobeih & Al-Bukhari book

By Ahmad alsarraf

An article I wrote in 1995 about Sahih al-Bukhari, which included analytical figures from the reality of what al-Bukhari himself wrote in the introduction to his Sahih, that he researched, studied, revised and moved from one village to another and from one city to a metropolis during sixteen years after which he was able to come up with approximately six thousand authentic hadiths out of 600,000 hadiths he had previously collected.

In the said article I mentioned that the simple calculation process that I performed showed that every authentic hadith reached by al-Bukhari took him approximately 5 minutes to verify its accuracy and safety.

I did not realize at that time that with my article I had entered the hornets' nest, where verbal and written protests poured out against me and the newspaper in addition to dozens of articles that were written in response to the article, and nobody stood by me at the time except Hisham Al-Sultan, and "Nabil Al-Fadhl whom I only knew through his articles.

After more than a quarter of a century many changes have occurred but after so many innocent youth died after being fuel for extremist religious movements due to the hadiths contained in those books. Attitudes changed and opinions changed, and the black clouds of ignorance removed from many tired eyes, and it became clear to the authorities of several countries, including Gulf States, that it is necessary to review the hadiths of Sahih al-Bukhari and abandon

a large part of them, especially those whose texts either contradict with logic or with texts of other hadiths in the same book. The process of revision, revision, both textual and intellectual, is still ongoing.

Almost two weeks ago, I saw an announcement issued by the House of the Qur'an in Kaifan that the Women's Committee shall hold a seminar entitled "Is there any doubt in the Sunnah" by Professor Suad Sobeih Al-Sobeih, via the Zoom program.

The announcement stated that the topics of the seminar would be as follows:

- 1- How do we adhere to hadiths written 194 years after the Prophet?
 - 2- Is it conceivable that a man like Abu Huraira memorized more than 5000 hadiths and did not make mistakes?
 - 3- During the time of the Prophet (PBUH), there were hypocrites, and after him there were many liars, so how can we abide by the dreams promoted by these?
 - 4- There are conflicting hadiths in Sahih al-Bukhari, and this means that one of them is weak, so how can we adopt and glorify this book?
 - 5- The Prophet (PBUH) forbade writing hadiths, so how did scholars write hadiths? And when?
- This seminar and others are signs of a true awakening, not the corrupt one that ruined the minds and souls of tens of millions, demolished thousands of homes and overthrew several regimes.
- We hope that those who participated in that symposium and others have reached the correctness of what we have been calling for more than a quarter of a century, and that what we have been subjected to in terms of injustice and threats of liquidation, other than our material losses, was not justified in the first place.

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Travel ban challenged

Court adjourns hearing to Oct 20

By Jaber Al-Humoud
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The High Court adjourned to October 20 a lawsuit filed in demand for the suspension and cancellation of the Cabinet's decision that prohibits the overseas travel of those who have not received the COVID-19 vaccine. The court adjourned the case in order for the government to respond.

According to the lawsuit, the decision is deemed unconstitutional for violating the articles of the constitution regarding freedom of movement and limiting citizens' freedoms. The rights of citizens gained from the Kuwaiti Constitution are not entitled to those who were robbed of them, and that this decision is contrary to the Constitution.

It is worth mentioning that the Administrative Court rejected another lawsuit which requested the cancellation of the decision that prevents citizens who did not receive the COVID-19 vaccination from traveling.

In its ruling, the court affirmed that the requirement of vaccination for overseas travel is not considered compulsory.

It explained that, "The ban is temporary and dictated by exceptional circumstances.

The Minister of Public Health has the right to issue a decision for compulsory vaccination of all residents. The deci-

sions were made in accordance with the frameworks of legality, as the health and life of the citizens are deemed superior to such that there is no other matter more superior to it.

Kuwait has made great efforts at an early stage to obtain the most effective COVID-19 vaccines.

Kuwait provides the vaccine free of charge to all, with full awareness of the seriousness of this disease"

Verdict postponed: The Constitutional Court, presided over by Judge Mohammad Bannaji, postponed the issuance of a verdict on two appeals related to "end-of-service gratuity for expatriates" to the session of November 24.

The first appeal was submitted by an expatriate against the head of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) in his capacity. He demanded the constitutionality of the Civil Service Council's decision in its meeting No. 3/2018 regarding postponing the payment of end-of-service benefits to those wishing to transfer their government residency to join a family until they submit a notice of departure.

The second appeal was filed against the undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and the undersecretary of CSC regarding the constitutionality of the same decision of the Civil Service Council.