



Suspension opens over-60s window

Opinion

Abolish slavery of Kafael system

Fatwa 'hold' on Al-Mousa

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IS Kuwait really serious about transforming itself into an economic power in the region like its Gulf counterparts, and benefiting from its strategic location? Or does thinking within the box prevent us from seeing what is around us and the changes that have occurred in the past three decades?

The answers to these questions are not complicated, and do not require seminars and conferences. It is quite simple and straightforward.

The solution starts with abolishing the law on residency and sponsorship. This law dates back to the 1960s, and amendments have been made on it instead of developing the laws positively, which made Kuwait more closed to itself, and subject to human traffickers who dumped hundreds of thousands of marginal workers in Kuwait just to earn a few dinars.

In fact, this negative aspect deprives the state of that income. Also, some employees in the ministries and concerned authorities colluded in this forbidden trade. They do not hesitate to place obstacles through irrational decisions to persist in their crime, which is inconsistent with the international treaties signed by Kuwait.

All this is due to the absence of a clear vision on how to kick start the country's transition process to implement New Kuwait 2035 vision, which seems to continue as ink on paper as long as the visa traders are the ones deciding the country's economic policy.

All this continues to exist at a time when the majority of the region abolished the "kafael" (sponsorship) system, and made room for all who wish to enter it by obtaining visas directly from its embassy, or through electronic services. On the other hand, a visa in Kuwait remains a rare currency, and the requirements even reach the point of impossibility.

Here we beg to ask - How do you want to revitalize the national economy when you prevent even the issuance of transit visas, and not only visit visas, which can generate a lot of money for the country? Is this how you will bring foreign investments into the country?

According to some Gulf statistics, about 60 million tourists entered the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council between 2018 and 2020. Guessing Kuwait's share in that ... It is absolutely nothing.

The income of the Emirate of Dubai from tourism alone amounts to about 300 billion dirhams. As for Bahrain, its tourism income before the COVID-19 pandemic had reached about two billion dinars. Saudi Arabia is currently seeking to achieve 80 billion dollars by the year 2026 after the great openness that it witnessed in the past five years.

These countries have taken bold measures to stop visa trade. They abolished the sponsorship system, the latest of which is Qatar whose share of tourism reached 63 billion dirhams in 2019. On the other hand, Kuwait did not record any income from foreign tourists. In fact, its citizens spent more than KD 4.028 billion in 2019 on tourism abroad, in contrast to the rest of the Gulf countries. So we wonder - Does this closure lead to a healthy economic movement?

This crisis is responsible for the underdeveloped sponsorship law. Why is the state not making the sponsor obtain without any complexity a visa for those who want to visit the country and will bear the responsibility of spending on themselves?

This is unlike what is happening now as the deportation centers are crowded with residency law violators. The specific agencies have suspended their campaigns to arrest them due to their inability to accommodate them, especially while waiting for the sponsors to provide a ticket for his or her soon-to-be-deported spouse.

The abolition of the slavery system titled "Kafeel" will reduce the financial burden on the state, as it spends more on detaining violators than it collects from fees. All this is for the benefit of human traffickers who abuse Kuwait, and the state turns a blind eye on them.

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Day by Day

OH Government, the world is laughing at us because of our 'strange' laws. Is there a law in any country that imposes gender segregation in universities and schools like us?

By God, it's a funny law. We have legislation that is difficult to implement, including the aforementioned law. The university students are forbidden from sharing a classroom, but

strange enough they can meet and greet inside a canteen.

Laws which were passed over the past fifty years must be scrapped, because they were made by old minds.

... Yet, tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



Relatives carry the body of a victim of Friday's suicide attack during a mass funeral in Kandahar, Afghanistan, Saturday, Oct. 16. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for a deadly suicide bombing on a Shiite mosque that killed dozens of people and wounded scores more. (AP)

Khaled Al-Siddiq passes

Intelligentsia lament demise of renowned Kuwaiti film director

KHARTOUM, Oct 16, (KUNA): Kuwaiti actors and intellectuals on Saturday mourned the passing away of Kuwaiti film director Khaled Al-Siddiq who introduced Sudanese cinema to the world via the movie: "The Wedding of Zein" in 1976, adapted from the novel by Tayeb Salih.

Sudanese actor Ali Mahdi, who had the starring role in "The Wedding of Zein" reminisced the late director's cinema feats, praising him as a "friendly, even-tempered and patient person who had a wide general culture and greatly contributed to cinema".

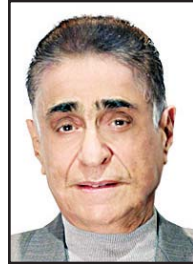
Speaking to KUNA, Al-Mahdi said Al-Siddiq had left behind an impressive cinema mark in the history of TV directing, chiefly "Bas Ya Bahr" or "The Cruel Sea", which was one of the best 100 Arabic movies.

Not only did Siddiq deal with his cast in a highly civilized mode, but he also respected his audience so much, which showed that he was a genuinely unique man, he said.

The Sudanese actor also highly commended him as having greatly contributed to unifying the Arab conscience and promoting cultural communication thanks to his amazing cinema works.

Sudanese cinema producer Tala Afifi, also speaking to KUNA, said he was so sad to hear about the passing away of the Kuwaiti cinema icon, voicing heartfelt and sincere condolences over his demise.

He believed that the movie "The Wedding of Zein" had highlighted the possibility of film industry success in Sudan, whether in view of theme, location or human capabilities.



Al-Siddiq

development of Sudanese film industry and an gateway for Sudanese actors to the world.

The prominent Kuwaiti film and TV director passed away on Thursday at the age of 76, after a rich career in the domain of film and television directing.

Al-Siddiq is a pioneer of the Kuwaiti film scene who directed iconic movies such as the 1972 Oscar-nominated film "Bas Ya Bahr" or "The Cruel Sea" in English, which was released in 1972 and nominated for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 45th Academy Awards.

Al-Siddiq's major cinema works also include other key films such as "The Last Journey" and "Faces of the Night".

The late director received many international awards and honors, especially for his movie "The Cruel Sea". His movie "The Wedding of Zein" won seven International awards.

Policy, trade

EU steps up for GCC ties

BRUSSELS, Oct 16, (KUNA): The European Union is preparing a new policy paper to be ready by next year on strengthening relations with the 6-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), said a senior EU official.

EU foreign ministers will discuss this policy paper during their meeting in Luxembourg on Monday, the official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told reporters in Brussels Friday.

"We think there is an opportunity now to engage more with the Gulf and on Monday the ministers will provide ideas on that will feed on the joint Communication (policy paper) we are preparing for next year on the relationship with the Gulf," the official said noted.

"One of the key documents that we will be producing will be a joint Communication between the European Commission and the European External Actions Service. That Communication will cover every aspect of our relationship with the GCC. That will be a very broad document that should be published around spring next year".

"There are some positive dynamics in the GCC, so we have an opportunity now of establishing closer institutional relations with the GCC. We are talking about the possibility of a Free Trade Agreement," the official said, noting that either next November or December the EU and GCC will hold their political dialogue.

The EU High Representative Josep Borrell will be soon visiting other GCC countries like Kuwait, the source said, noting that Borrell recently visited Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE.

The GCC includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

IS claims kills in Taliban's Afghanistan

The State of Kuwait strongly condemned the attack that took place in Afghanistan's Kandahar mosque, Friday, causing a number of casualties, said the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry in a statement Friday. The statement also affirmed Kuwait's firm position against all forms of violence and manifestations of terrorism.

Kuwait expresses sincere condolences to the victims' families, wishing speedy recovery for the wounded.

Also:

KABUL: The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the deadly suicide bombing on a Shiite mosque in southern Afghanistan that killed 47 people and wounded scores more. Relatives laid the bodies of the victims to rest Saturday and called on the Taliban to protect them.

IS said in a statement posted late Friday on social media that two of the group's members shot and killed security guards manning the entrance of the Fatimiya mosque in Kandahar province.

One detonated his explosives at the entrance of the mosque and the other inside.

IS's news agency Amaq in a statement gave the names of the attackers as Anas al-Khurasani and Abu Ali al-Baluchi, both Afghan nationals.

The families of the victims Saturday dug their graves and carried the bodies to their final resting place. (Agencies)

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah returned home on Saturday after a private visit abroad.

Upon arrival, His Highness the Amir was received by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and other senior state officials. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: People who have received the "Oxford AstraZeneca" doses of vaccine against the Covid-19 will be given the Pfizer booster dose, because according to the health sources integration of vaccines is safe and effective based on studies carried out by the respective health authorities in more than one country, saying this is done in more than one European country, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The sources said those who received the "Oxford" vaccine, more than 6 months ago, will be given the Pfizer booster dose in November or December calling it very effective.

KUWAIT CITY: A new crisis is brewing up in Kuwait because the names in the Corona vaccine certificates do not match with the names in passports and Civil IDs, reports Al-Rai daily.

The daily quoting sources said the names of some recipients in the Covid-19 certificates do not match with the names in their passports or Civil IDs and this has botched the travel plans of many travelers, particular the citizens who were on their way to London.