

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Debate brews over economic equality, promoting social justice'

"THE economic gap is an unfair phenomenon that does nothing to humanity. It negatively affects all groups within society, harms politics, impedes economic growth, stifles social mobility and encourages the spread of crime and violence among individuals, as well as its moral impact, as it threatens the integrity of democracy where the rich control the two authorities, political and economic," political researcher and columnist **Dr Fatma Lamharhar** wrote for *Al-Jarida* daily.

"This is in addition, to the existing gaps between social groups in relation to income represent the most prominent forms of inequality, as we mentioned, and forms of inequality exist at the level of consumption, disparities between regions within and between the countries of the Arab region, and differences at various social levels (work, education, gender).

"Talking about the economic gap in the Arab countries is a talk about the major transformations that our Arab societies have undergone in its entirety – an experimental method that analyzes the reality of life in the Arab countries.

"Thus, the economic gap constitutes one of the most prominent shortcomings of the development path that the Arab countries have pursued throughout the post-independence decades. The economic and social development policies that the governments of these countries have been preparing and implementing since the beginning of the 1960s have failed to achieve spatial balance and reduce the gap between social components.

"In any case, the events in the Arab region, where Libya is still mired in internal tribal, regional and other external conflicts, in addition to the challenges of the democratic transition that Lebanon is witnessing and the exacerbation of the repercussions of the war in Syria, Yemen and others; exacerbating the economic gap and social inequality between the various components of Arab society; the majority of social groups in this society suffer from marginalization and increasing exclusion, as the rate of poverty and unemployment in the countries of the region has reached its highest levels in light of the Corona pandemic.

"This, and the preliminary reading of Arab economic indicators as a whole suggests several things, most notably the increasing disparities between social groups in the level of economic and social development, and the low level of savings with the accumulation of capital and the decline in inter-investment.

"This has led to the exposure of many societal groups in Arab countries to various forms of inequality. It is often the responsibility of governments, and sometimes with them some institutions of the private sector and civil society.

"It is worth noting that economic inequality is not endemic to the Arab region, but rather the result of historical, political and economic conditions, due to the absence of proper planning and management based on the scientific

method, which in turn led to disparities in living standards, especially in countries with less ability and wealth.

"Moreover, the crisis related to the Covid-19 pandemic, along with the phenomenon of drought, conflicts and increasing internal turmoil, has weakened economic and social balances within Arab countries, which poses more economic challenges that threaten to widen economic inequalities between social groups.

"In conclusion, we can say that the phenomenon of unbalanced development within the Arab countries and the unequal distribution of resources between the center and the periphery, were evident in the decline in the standard of living, high unemployment rates, income disparities, widening economic disparities and insufficient social services.

"Thus, the inclusion of the issue of inequality in the debate on development has become necessary, in conjunction with the emergence of the call for the adoption of policies aimed at reducing economic inequality and promoting social justice, including social protection, labor and financial policies.

"Consequently, it is not possible to achieve equality without partnership between the government and non-governmental stakeholders, especially individuals and marginalized groups, and enhancing their ability to influence the development and implementation of public policies, especially since there is a loss of trust between citizens and their governments in Arab countries, due to the escalating economic gap and various manifestations of inequality."

Also:

"During the early sixties of the last century, the Non-Aligned Movement was proclaimed as a movement that does not affiliate with an Eastern or Western camp, and its entity is one of global countries that have the same conviction to follow a balanced approach until the present day," **Mohammad Al-Saqr** wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"The strange thing is that the leadership of this bloc included a group of leaders whose names bear the letter 'J', and that was optimistic about this entity – Jamal Abdel Nasser, Joseph Broz Tito, and Jawaharlal Nehru, and each of them belonged to a supercontinent – Africa, Asia and Europe, and thus this successful entity.

"In Kuwait's speech on the occasion of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the moderate political bloc, Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr. Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammed expressed, in the name of Kuwait, the Arab world, and the Islamic world, praised all the purposes and objectives of the Non-Aligned Movement in word and deed for the stability and peace in the world, without further exhausting humanity from ethnic tragedies, the devastation of wars, the wasting of human resources and other daily tragedies and disasters for overpowered peoples and governments, and everything that leads to the disruption of their security and safety and the suffering of their international institutions due to the consequences of all that catastrophic human uproar, as its scourge returns to all

individuals and groups in those continents.

"But those disasters have not stopped in spite of bloody consequences, and if the goals of the Non-Aligned bloc were implemented and peace prevailed all of humanity, neither a follower nor a global follower would depart from its entity, its scourge would not have increased, as is happening today with the stubbornness of some and following the method of international extortion of poor peoples, despite the accumulation of their wealth through ignorance and the instability of their security and safety by an active act.

"It seizes its wealth behind the curtain of political and abnormal technical and scientific progress with the intention of controlling by force and its current methods that are disguised by the deadly virus of strife between its extremities, countries and groups without a cannon or a warplane, but it is a subversive method for scattering and controlling wealth away from the goals of non-alignment with ethnic bias or interests that have twisted ways with intent inhuman control of countries with bacterial and other wars, which shocked the ecological and natural systems, as is happening today with catastrophic climatic changes whose approach is aligned with the demonic human malice and the accumulation of human woes."

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"All media outlets and websites have looked at us due to the bold statement of National Bureau of Human Rights President Ambassador Jassem Al-Mubarak, who complained that the sponsorship system in Kuwait harms the country's standing in the field of human rights in the international community – the field he is responsible for," columnist **Dr Hind Al-Choumar** wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"It seems that Ambassador Al-Mubarak has a lot to say about amending the law in Kuwait in line with international standards, in addition to what any country's signature on international documents and agreements means as long as it does not express any reservation, and that it agrees to amend its national legislation in line with international agreements.

"The ambassador's frank remark is consistent with this principle in the field of human rights, an area in which the interests of international organizations are increasing day by day, and that you should not say anything about our country's reputation in any way.

"The question is: Who is responsible for the periodic review of our national legislation in terms of its compatibility with human rights? The world is constantly changing in the areas of human rights and concerns, but the basic structure of legal affairs in ministries or government agencies entails they must play their role in such matters, away from investigations, cases and disputes which they are currently doing."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb

Bid to hike shareholder profit

Other Voices

Scam seen at co-op

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: According to informed sources, the Ministry of Social Affairs has opened an investigation into a video clip in which an individual complains about a cooperative society where the accountant recorded the purchases of a customer on the number of another shareholder's fund whose purchases exceeded KD 100,000, which the ministry considers as an "abnormal reading" and demands verification, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to the video clip, a customer who did not have a shareholder number wanted his purchases to be credited to a co-op shareholder's account through the cashier. The latter asked him for his account number, and the customer said he doesn't own one but he uses another one which turned out to belong to one of the Hussainiyas. It was found in the invoice that the value of the purchases on the account number exceeded KD 100,000 during the year, according to the owner of the circulating clip. He demanded preventing the phenomenon of recording purchases by some customers on the numbers of other shareholders' accounts.

Regarding the ministry's procedures, an official source revealed that the ministry has opened an investigation into the video.

He said in such cases, the ministry is keen to investigate any "anomalous readings" in the purchases, find out their causes, and tackle them in a way that ensures the veracity of purchases and saves shareholders' money.

It is worth mentioning that the cooperative societies system is based on allocating a fund (account) for each shareholder to keep his purchase invoices. They are then collected at the end of the fiscal year in order to distribute profits. The suspected scam is aimed to increase the share of profits at the expense of the shares of other shareholders.

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4 kilos drugs seized: The Customs officers in cooperation with the Search and Investigation Department of the Shuwaikh Port have seized 4 kilos of narcotic (shabu), reports Al-Rai daily.

The daily added, when a container loaded with pieces of furniture arrived at the Shuwaikh Port from Iran, the officers suspected the contents and ordered a thorough search and found the drugs hidden among furniture.

The daily did not give more details, but the importer of the cargo will be summoned for interrogation.

Kuwait, India reach deal on hiring domestic hand

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: Kuwait and India succeeded in defining the approval frameworks for the agreement on the recruitment of domestic workers after the Cabinet approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India recently, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting sources.

Sources said India specified the age bracket for the recruitment of new female workers – 30 to 55 years old; while the salary should not be less than KD100 per month and a bank account must be opened for the worker to transfer the salary instead of paying her in cash.

Sources added there is also a clause stipulating the need for the Indian Embassy and an accredited recruitment agency to approve the employment contract.

Meanwhile, Chairperson of Kuwait Union of Domestic Labor Offices Khaled Al-Dakhnan told the daily that setting the age bracket reduced the number of new contracts from India; indicating that Kuwait has prohibited the issuance of visas for those below 30 years old since the signing of the MoU.

Moreover, an official source from the manpower sector revealed that 10 Indian recruitment offices were specified for the recruitment of domestic workers.



Top and above: Heavy vehicles parked amongst the smaller cars.

'Space taken by heavy vehicles'

Farwaniya parking crisis worsens

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: The residents of Farwaniya suffer from lack of parking places because most open areas in front of their homes are occupied by heavy duty trucks and heavy machinery, reports Al-Rai daily.

This is because the population density in Farwaniya is high because of its vital geographical location in Kuwait in terms of commercial and investment activities, but the parking crisis has exacerbated because of the practices of belonging to some of those companies which have established their own 'irregular' parking facilities.

During a tour of some areas of the district, Al-Rai photographer saw how the area has been exploited by trucks and heavy equipment and trailer trucks which have resulted in many shopkeepers and residents of the area complaining about the phenomenon but to no avail.

Many residents of the area are ap-

pealing to the concerned authorities through the media to do the needful to solve their problems and force the heavy duty trucks and heavy equipment to move elsewhere.

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Contractor cheats woman: An unidentified Kuwaiti woman has filed a complaint with the police accusing an Egyptian 'contractor' of cheating her, reports Al-Rai daily.

In her complaint the woman said the man posed as a contractor and she signed a contract with him to renovate her house. After the work was completed, she discovered the work was not done according to the terms and conditions of the contract and later discovered that the man works as a salesman and is not a contractor and that he does not have any experience.

The 'contractor' has been referred for investigation.

'Long-term, non-commercial'

Average housing loan KD 6.3 m/day

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: According to official statistics based on data issued by the Central Bank of Kuwait, the daily average amount of housing loans obtained by Kuwaiti citizens from commercial banks in Kuwait during the month of August, excluding the loans granted by the Credit Bank (which totals about KD 196 million), is KD 6.3 million per loan, reports Al-Anba daily.

The total installment loans reached KD 13.64 billion, which is the highest level throughout the past decade. These are long-term personal loans that the customers use for non-commercial purposes, particularly

for the repair or purchase of private housing. They are paid in monthly installments within a period not exceeding 15 years.

Since the beginning of this year, the value of housing loans obtained by citizens from traditional banks reached the level of KD 1 billion. They received about KD 936 million during the first eight months of this year.

It is worth noting that the Kuwait Credit Bank grants citizens a loan of KD 70,000 to buy, build or renovate their own houses. However, the value of this loan may be insufficient for many citizens to build a new house.

Palestine ... & lessons of WW II

By Ahmad alsarraf

Many British fighter planes were hit by German anti-aircraft guns during World War II, so the British Air Force decided to add some iron armor to them but this would increase their weight and maneuverability, so mathematicians and engineers were asked to study the use of protective shields.

From the analysis of injuries, it was found that the planes that returned safely received an average of two bullets per square foot near the tail of the planes, while they received approximately one bullet per square foot closest to the engine.

Thus, it was logical to add armor to the aircraft's tail because it was exposed to more bullets, but a mathematician named Abraham Wald said otherwise. The need requires protection of parts of the aircraft that have not been exposed to bullets, i.e. around the engines.

Airplanes that were hit in their engines have not returned to their bases at all. He cited as an example of the situation of the wounded on the battlefields.

The number of those who were shot in the legs or shoulders was more than those who received them in the chest, and this means that the latter died.

These historical facts are featured in Jordan Ellenberg's book 'How Not to Be Wrong'.

If we look at the Arab-Israeli conflict, we will find that the resistance has taken roughly more than seventy years, the same strategies and plans in its struggle with Israel, and the leaders and organizations have made the same mistakes time and time again.

From the beginning they stood on the wrong side, and bet on Hitler only because he hates the Jews, and not because he is the most useful to

the cause.

Hitler, as stated in a book by the Palestinian writer Nasser Al-Nashashibi (1920-2013), despised the Arabs, and placed them, within his ethnic classification, in the 14th gendarmerie, before the Jews and people of black skin.

The losing bets of the Palestinian leaders continued for decades, the last of which was their standing side by side with the tyrant Saddam Hussein on the day he invaded Kuwait and against the Kuwaiti people who were the most devoted and honest to their cause since day one.

They also put their cause in the hands of their 'brothers' who differ with each other in everything, so their differences were reflected in their cause, and they did not learn anything from this lesson and they are still betting on them.

A bigger part of them also bet on the Muslim Brotherhood, and they continue to do so in spite of all the damage that has befallen them, because they have remained loyal to the people of religious beliefs and not in national beliefs. As for their bet on Iran, feel free to talk.

They also continued to cling to dreams of complete liberation, and delusions of rhetoric that tickle their emotions, and how many believe that the demise of Israel and the return of the right is near, just by reading an article by an Israeli writer predicting that demise, or hearing a statement by a Western personality saying the same thing, unaware that all these words and statements will not change anything on the ground.

The solution to the cause will not advance an inch unless we forget, reconcile, sit down and study the mistakes of an entire century, during which the Palestinians have paid a heavy price, and their leaders have lost all possible opportunities.

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Eye on real estate basements

'Don't use car parks as warehouses'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21, (KUNA): Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Urban Planning and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Shaya Al-Shaya affirmed tightening control by intensifying inspection field tours to inspect the vaults of commercial real estate and the extent of commitment to use them as parking lots according to licenses. Al-Shaya explained in a press statement today, Wednesday, that dealing with this file will be through activating the role of the supervisory bodies entrusted with the application of the law to stop any abuses related to converting the basements of real estate or parts of them into temporary stores, contrary to the regulations and regula-

tions followed in this regard.

He added that officials and those responsible for the work of the regulatory agencies were directed to intensify inspection tours to detect any violations related to the use of real estate car parks as warehouses, and to take all deterrent legal measures for such violating uses and to refer violations reports against violators to the competent authorities.

He stressed that the municipality will not hesitate to hold accountable any employee who proves his inaction and failure to implement the law regarding those violating stores, and to monitor any violations related to this file to prevent any accidents or fires that threaten the safety of buildings and residents.