

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'With continued stalemate Kuwait will miss reform train...for good'

"THE political opposition in the National Assembly has a rare opportunity to achieve long-awaited results, because it has an invisible majority. Yes, if we exclude the seventeen deputies who are supporting the government, and we also exclude the seven deputies who raise the slogan 'No to the two presidents' and the three deputies who were recently appointed ministers, we will have twenty-one deputies who can be classified as moderate or moderate opposition," columnist **Mubarak Fahad Al-Duwailah** wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"It holds the reins of initiatives and embarrasses the rest of the blocs to agree with them in their priorities, so all that is required for this group is to identify a number of issues that it believes have a popular and national priority, and put them forward and pass them with a comfortable majority because projects of a popular nature will be supported by the bloc of seventeen MPs, and projects of a reformist nature, such as the abolition of some laws restricting freedoms, will be supported by the bloc of seven with some Shiite deputies affiliated with the seventeen bloc, and thus the twenty-one deputies will find that their decisions are passable.

"But if this group disagrees among themselves, and the currents of alignment quarrel with them, we will see a number of them gasping for the two presidents, and others walking in the shadow of the seven deputies for fear of political combustion. If Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, the prime minister, does not change his method of dealing with the parliament and its deputies, the result will be catastrophic for democracy, and perhaps we will regret missing an opportunity for reform that may not be repeated again.

"These days, the eleventh anniversary of the passing away of Uncle Khaled Al-Youssef Al-Marzouq, may God have mercy on him and forgive him, God willing, and I witnessed him in many stages of his life, so I knew about his chivalry and pomp in his dealings with his opponents, and this was evident in his competition for the list of the economic family in the Chamber of Commerce elections in the early nineties, and perhaps the debate that took place between the two competing lists in my office, in which the late Al-Marzouq participated, is the best evidence of what I say.

"When a journalist does not deter from lying to anything, do not be surprised by what comes out of it! You see him writing constantly, trying to prove that religion, religious lessons, educational schools, and everything related to religion is the reason for the nation's backwardness and when someone criticizes him for this proposition, he accuses his critic of lying and slandering him.

"And he writes criticizing a particular group, accusing it of all the failures of the nation, then a colleague of his in thought and direction comes to criticize



Al-Duwailah

him for this focus on this group, and alerts him about the illogicality of his opinion, and responds to him underestimating his point of view and denounces his criticism.

"And when you criticize his position on the issue of 'bedoun' and his disregard for their human rights, while he heads an association that is supposed to be concerned with humanitarian work, and when you criticize the policy of the head of the bedoun central apparatus in dealing with this segment, he defends the central apparatus and its head with truth and falsehood, and claims otherwise.

"With all this, this claimant speaks of secularism and denounces those who exposed his tendencies and reveals his hidden abnormal ideas and accuses his opponents of lying. And he says, 'If you are not ashamed, write whatever you want.'"

Also:

"The problem of real democracy, in my opinion, is that the voter cannot defeat the representative who abandons his electoral promises and begins implementing a proposal that is different and contradicts what he promised," columnist **Dahem Al-Qahtani** wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"The voter here is well aware that his good intentions have been horribly exploited, and he is also aware that the deceitful and fickle deputy is clever about others by justifying everything he does.

"Yes, voters have the ability to hold deceptive representatives to account, but it is a matter that comes too late. These representatives are betting on the shortening of the voter's memory, and that they, as MPs, will conduct some speculative interrogations to restore their electoral luster with the approach of the elections.

"For this, we need in Kuwait a different method for holding the representatives to account, so that the minds of the voters are not manipulated, and so that the flowery phrases and the charming style of speeches do not become the criterion for differentiating between the candidates.

"I do not know if there is a legal way to withdraw the vote morally, but I will present the idea that each voter submits a letter through a legal report to the representative in question stating that he is withdrawing from voting for him in the elections. With this, we may monitor, through the data of the Ministry of Justice, the number of voters who have withdrawn from their vote.

"This will be achieved morally unless it is achieved on the ground, as the entire people will testify that there are voters in a particular district who reject a candidate they previously elected as a result of a fraudulent electoral rhetoric."

"Before we think about any plan to implement new projects in the country, it

is necessary to review the current procedures in this regard," columnist **Abdulrahman Al-Awwad** wrote for *Al-Sabah* daily.

"The slight rain that the country witnessed in the past week revealed the failure of all treatments carried out on public roads and internal streets. We returned to square one after the phenomenon of flying gravel, which the country has suffered for a long time. We thought we finished it forever.

"We all remember the words of His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to then Minister of Public Works Rana Al-Faris, when he asked her to take advantage of the curfew period at the beginning of the corona pandemic to restore and repair the country's infrastructure.

"The minister promised His Highness that this idea would be implemented in an integrated manner... We saw the ministry's equipment replacing the asphalt layer on most roads in the country.

"We said that the phenomenon of flying gravel will be a thing from the past... but it seems we erred in our judgment again... After the recent wave of rain, it became clear that the treatments were mostly patches which did not withstand even the slight rains."

"With the beginning of the work of the new government, its prime minister and members have sworn twice to respect and defend the interests of the people," columnist **Dr Hind Al-Choumar** wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"The first section was in front of His Highness the Crown Prince, the deputy of His Highness the Amir - may God protect and support him, while the second section was in Abdullah Al-Salem Hall where the government presented its work program - a document that reflects the government's commitment to protect the interests of the people.

"This program will be discussed in the National Assembly, but this does not mean it does not need to be presented within a broad social dialogue in order to reach the people who are the stakeholders in all its categories. I believe the government's work program needs support, care and societal consensus before starting the implementation steps.

"Therefore, the Ministry of Information must distribute the program on a large scale - to newspaper writers, civil society, public benefit associations and community leaders, while organizing media programs to shed light on the axes of this program and listen to the opinions of stakeholders and planners.

"This is in addition to researchers and those interested in public affairs, because the government's work program, after the positive community dialogue, will reflect the aspirations and hopes of the people. Thus, the government can justify its oath by protecting the interests of the people in proportion to their requirements."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb

Tajikistan Embassy Press Release

'Kuwait among 52 countries not required to acquire visa for trip'

THE Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan in the State of Kuwait is honored to express its sincere gratitude and appreciation to HH Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and HH Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah for their continuous support for cooperation relations between Tajikistan and the Kuwait given the good relations between the two brotherly countries based on the common spiritual and cultural commonalities between the Tajik and Kuwait peoples, and the bonds of brotherhood between His Excellency President Emomali Rahmon, the Leader of the Nation, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan and his brother HH Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The Embassy also thanks the Government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kuwait for providing all forms of support and for ensuring conducive conditions for the Embassy to carry out its tasks in the best way for the benefit of strengthening relations between the two brotherly countries.

Thanks and appreciation to all of you, ladies and gentlemen, representatives of the media, activists of social networks, airlines and tourism, for your distinguished presence in this meeting.

The links between the Tajik and Kuwait peoples, as I mentioned above, are deeply rooted in history. However, the modern relations between Tajikistan and the Kuwait are the product of independence.

Tajikistan regards the State of Kuwait as its most important partner at the international and regional levels, and is keen to strengthen cooperation with it at all levels and areas of common interest.

The government of the Republic of Tajikistan has recently introduced entry visa exemption for citizens of 52 countries, including the State of Kuwait by its resolution issued on October 26, 2021, which became effective on January 1, 2022.

This initiative is the first of its kind since Tajikistan gained its independence, as for the first-time nationals of countries outside the CIS or the former Soviet Union are exempted from visa.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, by its aforementioned decision, included the State of Kuwait into the list of the countries, whose nationals enter the Republic of Tajikistan without the need for a prior visa, given the dynamically bolstering positive relations between the Republic of Tajikistan and the State of Kuwait as well as the Tajik government's eagerness to strengthen and develop cooperation relations with the Kuwait in all areas of common interest.

This decision enables all Kuwait citizens to travel to Tajikistan without a prior visa (neither cardboard nor paper, nor upon arrival at the airport) as of January 1, 2022 and to reside in the country for a maximum period of thirty days. In case the visitors decide to stay longer than the indicated period, they can extend their visas by applying to relevant authorities.

Tajikistan's initiative on visa waiver for the Kuwait brothers would contribute to the influx of tourists, visitors and investors from the Kuwait to Tajikistan. Having announced this wise and important step, we look forward to the pivotal role of the authorities and departments in charge of business, trade, investment and tourism to take care of Tajikistan as a promising destination for them.

We also look forward to positive steps and initiatives from the airlines of the two countries to launch regular direct flights between the cities of the two countries.

Tajikistan is an attractive tourism destination.

Thanks to its favourable climate, picturesque nature, mountains and towering peaks, historical and cultural sites, in addition to its potential for eco, medical and sports tourism, Tajikistan will become a promising destination for Arab visitors, especially Kuwait and Gulf tourists, because it is a Muslim country, and shares many commonalities including but not limited to spiritual, cultural and civilization values with the Arabs.

It is worth noting that, in recent years, the government of Tajikistan has paid great attention to the development of tourism in the country, and respectively announced the years of 2018-2021 as the period of development of rural areas, tourism and folk crafts, which has contributed to making remarkable achievements in the development of tourism in the country.

Today, Tajikistan is a country promising and attractive for foreign investments. It has ensured transparent and modern legal system encouraging and protecting investment, and offering a large number of guarantees, incentives and privileges. In addition, the government of Tajikistan has adopted its revised Tax Code in 2021 granting significant tax exemptions to foreign investors who enter the country's vital sectors with their investments.

There are several areas that Tajikistan gives priority to in its economic and social development process, as well as the development of its investment market in order to achieve the plans and obtain in its 2030 National Development Strategy.

Tajikistan considers Kuwait an important partner at the international and regional levels, and is keen to strengthen cooperation with it at all levels, including economic, commercial, investment and tourism cooperation.

In this context, the Republic of Tajikistan will host the next session of the Joint Committee on Trade, Economic and Technical Issues in Dushanbe, the capital. On the sidelines of this session, a businessmen forum will be held with the participation of investment, economic and trade departments from both parties.

We also have a plan to organize an exhibition of agricultural products in Tajikistan in the State of Kuwait.

Given the great interest by the State of Kuwait to building a strong and competitive economy by improving the investment environment at home and abroad, as well as the developments witnessed by the Republic of Tajikistan in terms of conducive climate to attract and encourage investments, Tajikistan looks forward to strengthening and revitalizing investment cooperation in the fields of industry and modern technologies, agriculture, energy, transport, tourism and articles.

The development and diversification of industries is one of the most important strategic goals of Tajikistan. President of Tajikistan recently declared the years 2022-2026 as the "Period of Industrial Development".

Tajikistan has abundant water resources accounting for 60 percent of the water resources in the Central Asian region. The electricity generated from hydropower makes 98 percent of the total energy produced in our country, which ranks the country among the lead states of the world in terms of the share of "green energy" and the development of green economy.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan
H.E. Zubaydullo Zubaydzoda



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Bedoun gets death ruling for stabbing, killing man

Youth beaten, strangled to death

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 13: The Criminal Court has sentenced a bedoun to capital punishment by hanging for stabbing to death a man last April in Kabd following a dispute between them, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily added, the corpse of the victim was found by securitymen inside his vehicle parked behind the Kabd Cooperative Society.

Forensic report showed the man was stabbed in the chest and died on the spot. After the murder the suspect allegedly had surrendered to the police.

According to reports, the suspect's father told the area police station after the incident that there was a reason why his son killed the man.

Suspect arrested: The security services have opened extensive investigations into the murder of a non-Kuwaiti youth whose lifeless body was found in Julai'a desert after he was allegedly beaten and suffocated to death, reports Al-Rai daily.

The criminal investigation officers have arrested a Kuwaiti suspect.

Comp for trader: The First Instance Court ordered a major general contracting and construction company to pay KD 500,000 to a businessman for violating the terms of the contract on the demarcation and finishing of a commercial tower, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The lawyer of the businessman, Attorney Abdul Mohsen Al-Qattan, filed a lawsuit against the company, in which he asserted that the defendant did not implement what was stated in the contract with his client for the demarcation and finishing works in his property. He said that some works were not done according to the principles of the profession and the terms of the contract, leaving defective works and negative impact on his client, which prompted him to file a lawsuit.

Detention continues: The Public Prosecution has decided to continue the detention of two officers, a Colonel and Lieutenant Colonel pending investigations into the incident of torture, reports Al-Rai daily.

The men were arrested by the State Security police based on the complaint filed by the victim.

Earlier the victim had said he was tortured and abused verbally and made to sleep on a cold floor because there were no chairs to sit on in the interrogation room.

607 deported: According to statistics issued by the General Administration of Correctional Institutions, Department of Deportation and Temporary Arrest Affairs, 340 men and 267 women were deported from the country in the first 11 days of January 2022, reports Al-Anba daily.

The Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior said in a press statement that these measures come within the framework of the security establishment's keenness to take quick legal measures against those arrested for violating the law, and to expedite work to expel them from the country.

Small fire tackled: The Public Relations and Media Department of the General Fire Brigade stated that a small fire broke out today, Thursday, in one of the air-conditioning units of the Ardiya Health Center, and the firefighting teams dealt with it without causing any injuries or damage, reports Al-Rai daily.

The daily did not give more details.

Sex ... and forget

Ex-MP ordered to pay marital comp

By Jaber Al-Hamoud
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 13: The Court of Appeals obligated a former MP to pay compensation worth KD 107,000 to his ex-wife for the material and moral damages she sustained after he denied their marriage and refused to authenticate the contract.

Lawyer Maryam Al-Bahar, the defense counsel of the woman, had filed a lawsuit in which she asserted that her client sought help from the defendant, when he was a member of the National Assembly, for a transfer from her job, as he was a well-known MP and had relations that qualify him for that purpose. However, she was surprised when he repeatedly offered to marry her, insisting that her request will not be granted until they are married. The defendant then married her client under a legal marriage contract in 2016 with a dowry of KD 5,000 in the presence of two witnesses and under the guardianship of her son.

Lawyer Al-Bahar indicated that the first clause of the contract included an affirmation that the contract is a legal marriage contract.

She explained that her client's acceptance of the contract came after the defendant promised her to document it. However, after he achieved his purpose and desires by cohabiting and having sex with her, he denied the marriage and the contract, out of fear of his position in society as a famous member of the National Assembly, as well as out of fear of his tribe and his first wife.

Power abuse cited

Four officers suspended

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 13: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Ahmed Al-Mansour has issued decisions to suspend 4 officers of different ranks, in line with the course of investigations conducted by the Public Prosecution on the background of suspicions of abuse by some of its employees during investigations, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior said in a press statement this comes within the framework of efforts exerted by the ministry officials to combat any unacceptable behavior and make public facts contained in the accusations.

The sources added, the results of investigations are being closely followed up by the concerned authorities.

The security sources indicated Minister Al-Mansour will look into the procedures adopted by the State Security apparatus and will form a committee, whose main tasks will be to review and develop policies and work rules for the apparatus in accordance with the best international human rights practices.

It was decided that one of the committee's tasks would be to ensure conformity with the policies currently in force with the applicable laws and international treaties signed by the State of Kuwait.

An integrated procedural guide on the work policies of the State Security apparatus will be put in place in line with best international practices that guarantee human rights and protect the dignity of individuals as well as adopting policies to ensure the impartiality and professionalism of the State Security agency when it performs its duties.



Sheikh Ahmad