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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'We need Arab NATO for development and peace ... not for war'

"IS IT not surprising, that in the midst of these conflicts and global alliances, we present the idea of establishing an Arab NATO to develop alliances and strengthen relations between Arab countries with military capabilities, in order to fill the void for joint Arab defense agreements and Arab entities associated with the League of Arab States, including the Arab Organization for Industrialization," columnist Dr **Hind Al-Shoumer** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"Or did the alliances in the region leave no room for contemplation of an Arab NATO, as the alliances are different or rather carry different contradictions between Arab countries and countries outside the Arab groups, and such alliances may undermine relations and constants between Arab countries.

"It is illogical now to involve the League of Arab States with any tasks related to the establishment of an Arab NATO without clearly defining the boundaries of Arab defense relations in a world where military alliances and positions on military conflicts are rising, and where development, economy, food security, trade and other non-military relations remain buried.

"Arab minds have become a target for global movements because of their energy sources and power factors in any global system, regardless of their alliances. They should be tributaries of ideas for decision makers and sources of initiatives, and not just superficial centers that do not read and analyze.

"What we want is an Arab NATO, a development alliance, or a development clone of NATO, not a military NATO. Our peoples have paid a lot, and there are pages that have not yet been revealed about the use of some Arab regimes by NATO to implement military purposes in other countries.

"We need a NATO for development and peace, not for war, and that it be based on development indicators that seem not to be read properly because the indicators of awareness, reading and writing are below the standard.

"A true example of this is the indicators of health, education, women's

empowerment and food security, which are dealt with from the seats of spectators.

"We also need alliances against poverty, against inequality and against injustice to achieve the comprehensive development to which we all aspire."

Also:

"The Palestinian Film Festival was recently organized in the French capital, Paris and in Marseille, which constitutes a qualitative leap in the Palestinian struggle culturally and artistically," columnist Dr **Adel Fahad Al-Mishaal** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"This festival comes as a panorama of Palestinian creativity at the level of cinema, with all its details, starting with the text and script writing, passing through decoration and acting, and ending with directing, as the director is the leader of the artwork.

"The festival aims to find a suitable artistic environment to cultivate young talents and contact creators who have sufficient experience, and therefore the mere idea of benefiting from those experiences is a gain, but the Palestinian creator aspires to achieve more than that, that is, he aims to convey his humanitarian message about his stolen homeland and the presentation of suffering – the suffering of every Palestinian, especially those who have been living under occupation for more than seven decades.

"The process of rapprochement between Palestinian directors with some international directors aims to activate the Palestinian cinematic creativity movement in terms of developing the writing of the cinematic script project for the special short film.

"This festival comes as an opportunity to see independent Palestinian cinematic works, far from the directives of the producer who owns a hidden official ideology.

"The festival was an opportunity previously not available to the Parisian audience to see creations bearing a different flavor as long as the French audience loves culture, and it was a nice entrance.

"It is suitable for communicating ideas, in addition to being a space that allows discovering young talents by showing films by Palestinian directors,

especially from the youth category, and meeting the French audience, and opening the door for discussion about films and the continuation of the festival, which must be repeated in more than one European capital.

"The festival coincides with the seventieth anniversary of the Nakba since 1984, in terms of showing films that deal with the Nakba from human, historical, social and economic angles and the dimensions of the Palestinian cause.

"Yes, it is culture in its general sense, which includes all kinds of arts, including cinema, which is a human product.

"Whenever we can use it, it is a golden opportunity to be a link with the others who may be ignorant of the dimensions of the Palestinian cause, and therefore cinema has the ability to have a soft and slow impact, especially since the festival comes in the French capital, Paris, and then move to the city of Marseille, and therefore it is an important opportunity to deliver the message required to be delivered to the recipient, who is the French street man.

"As for Marseille, most of its residents are immigrants and they have children born in France, and therefore their information about the Islamic issue may be less than it should be.

"The films present the suffering of the Palestinian person through a work of art that presents an important cultural material in our history, given that the Palestinian issue is the most important Islamic and Arab issue.

"The direct dialogue is very important with the French intellectual or the uneducated, far from the direct and indirect interference of the French media, which may have a certain ideology towards the Palestinian cause, and therefore it is a golden opportunity for the Palestinian creator to say what he has to say about an issue that has been passed on directly through more than one generation.

"Yes, culture may carry a kind of struggle against political and intellectual injustice, and the Palestinian identity must be preserved through several cultural activities such as the film and theater festival and through organizing plastic art exhibitions in more than one non-Arab and Islamic capital in order to help clarify the truth of the issue. Culture is a powerful weapon if we use it well against our enemies."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb



Dr Al-Shoumer



KUNA photo

The joint meeting between the Municipality and the Fire Department to prevent the use of basements as storage in private and investment housing areas.

'Warehouses in basements not allowed'

Deputy Director General for Hawalli and Al-Ahmadi Governorates Sector Affairs at Kuwait Municipality Fahad Al-Shatili confirmed the intensification of inspection tours and control campaigns in all governorates on private and investment housing areas to prevent the use of basements as warehouses in violation of regulations and laws.

In a press statement today, Wednesday, after presiding over the joint meeting with the Deputy Chief of the General Fire Brigade for the Prevention Sector, Major General Khaled Fahd, and the directors of the municipality's branches in all governorates, Al-Shatili said that using basements as warehouses poses a danger to lives and property if they are used for purposes other

than those for which they are licensed.

For his part, Major General Fahd stated, according to the statement, that the implementation of the joint inspection campaigns will target real estate in private and investment housing, after it was found through monitoring and follow-up to the use of basements in private and investment housing for a purpose other than what was authorized.

At the conclusion of the meeting, they called on the supervisory teams not to be lenient by taking all legal measures against violators and to deter anyone who might be tempted to endanger lives and property. (KUNA)

Other Voices

The fierce campaign on homosexuals

By Ahmad alsarraf

The Ministry of Commerce launched a campaign against homosexual logos – the six-colored flag, and I thank the Ministry for the information that I and others were not aware of.

The matter did not need all this fuss and the dissemination of the flag in all means. Not many people knew about its colors or interested in its shape, and with the ministry's failed circular, a service was provided to homosexuals, albeit indirectly.

This unwise act reminds me of the warning issued by the highest references in Iran years ago that the blood of the British writer, of Indian origin, Salman Rushdie, should be shed because of his novel "The Satanic Verses". The fatwa drew the attention of millions to the novel, which was never worth the fuss, and without it, no one would have heard of the name of the novel or the name of Rushdie.

In its circular, the ministry called on citizens and residents to participate in the arrest of the criminal, which is the slogan of homosexuals, and to inform it if such logo is present as a flag or in any form and asked us for suggestions on a violation of public morals.

The Ministry added that the ordinary colors of the spectrum are seven, while the homosexual flag contains only six colors, and this means that the flag, emblem, or figure that contains five colors or seven colors does not contradict, and therefore the nation should be preoccupied with counting the colors of any flag or a shape that we see, and this will make the matter more spreadable because of curiosity, and it will turn many into a calculator and color counter.

Whenever they see a group of colors of the spectrum in the form of a flag or on a toy or a liquid soap package, they should immediately count the colors, if they are five or seven, then it's okay, and if the number is six, they should shout I found it and call 1900, in order to send those who confiscate and destroy these materials.

This is a great loss for the merchant who imported it, without any fault of his own, and this is an injustice on top of being stupid.

It was also stated in the messages of the Ministry of Commerce to the public that the supervisory teams will confiscate all products and goods that violate the teachings of our true Islamic religion, our traditions, our customs and our culture.

I do not know what is the relationship of the presence of six different colors on a bottle of liquid soap for children, with our true Islamic religion or our customs and traditions.

The Ministry of Commerce's obsession with the homosexuals flag reminds me of our obsession with the Six Day War and Israel's victory over us, as we count the corners of any star we find on anything.

We thank the Minister of Commerce for his educational statement, in which he drew everyone's attention to homosexuals' flag and its danger, leaving the ministry's primary task in monitoring prices and preventing manipulation of their quality, and the rest of the vital matters of interest to citizens.

Where is the minister, for example, from the wave of senseless licenses? Is it conceivable that there is a need to license more than thirty shops in the Safat complex, to sew women's clothes?

There is no doubt that there are dozens of others in other places, and each place sponsors between 5 to 10 expatriates that do not constitute any addition to the economy, but rather a burden on infrastructure, social, food and health security.

There are dozens of other similar activities that have no need other than that they represent an open trade in residences, and a hideous exploitation of human needs.

What is the need, for example, for all this huge number of car repair workshops, the number of which is unbelievable.

It is clear that the Ministry of Commerce is completely incapable of carrying out its basic functions, after efficiency went out of the door, and the ministry found no choice but to escape from its problems and hide behind the flag of homosexuals.

e-mail: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

Court postpones hearing to June 28 in 'torture' lawsuit

Actor fined in slander case

KUWAIT CITY, June 22: The Criminal Court postponed until June 28 its third session on the case of those accused of torturing an officer in the State Security Department – a colonel, a presenter and two officers, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

In the previous session, the four defendants appeared in court with their defense team, during which they denied all the charges.

On the other hand, the plaintiff's lawyer demanded for KD5,001 temporary compensation for his client.

The Public Prosecution had earlier charged the defendants with abuse of power, illegal arrest and detention, insulting a public official, embezzlement of public money linked to another felony, and forgery of official documents.

Actor fined: The Misdemeanors Section in the Court of Appeals has imposed KD75 fine on artiste Tariq Al-Ali for insulting Gulf cinema icon Hayat Al-Fahd in an audio clip, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The Public Prosecution charged Al-Ali with insulting others, slander and misuse of a mobile phone after Al-Fahd filed a lawsuit against him in the Cyber-crime Prosecution, following the spread of an audio recording of him insulting her and her daughter.

Nod to tender: The Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) has approved the awarding of a tender for replacing wooden poles and copper lines with metal poles for 11 kilovolt overhead power lines in the northern part of the country, reports **Al-Rai** daily quoting sources from the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy.

Sources confirmed the agency has agreed to award the tender to the second lowest bidder that met the conditions, indicating the offer was KD2.74 million. Sources said the ministry will complete all the procedures required to sign the contract, and then start implementing the project as per the terms and conditions stipulated in the contract.

Sources affirmed this is one of the important projects of the ministry as it aims to prevent the stealing of wooden poles and disruptions every time a truck touches the wooden pole. Sources added this will also ease the maintenance and washing of aluminum lines.



Al-Jarida photo

Senior officers of the Kuwait Coast Guard in meeting with the Iranian official.

Bid to combat maritime crime

The Director-General of the Coast Guard General Department Rear Admiral Tatal Al-Mounes, accompanied by the Director of the Naval Formations Department, Colonel Jaber Dashti, and Navy Colonel Muhammad Al-Sharrah, chaired the ninth meeting of the Coast Guard Committee between Kuwait and Iran in Tehran recently, in the presence of the Chargé d'Affaires of Kuwait Embassy in Tehran Fawaz Al-Dhafiri, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

The two sides stressed on the need to enhance maritime border cooperation, ensure the security of the maritime borders between the two countries, combat drug trafficking and maritime crime, and the importance of improving maritime security in the Arabian Gulf waters, facilitating maritime trade lines, maintaining stability and safety of navigation, and discussing ensuring the security of fishermen and sailors, and exchanging information, cooperation, combating piracy and maritime crimes, and combating drug smuggling for the benefit of everyone.

Two held with drugs: Personnel from the Public Security Sector of the Ministry of Interior have arrested two people for possessing narcotics, reports **Al-Anba** daily. The daily said, the arrests were made in the Hawalli Governorate. One of the arrested men was wanted by law on charges of possessing psychotropic substances.

According to a security source, the arrests were made in Salmiya because the man behind the wheel appeared nervous after seeing a police patrol pass by and attempted to get out of sight of the patrol.

However, he was followed and ordered to pull over. After checking the vehicle police found white powder like shabu, Viagra pills and a sum of money.

Both men, one a citizen of an unidentified Gulf country and the other Kuwaiti, have been referred to the Directorate-General of Drugs Control (DGDC) for legal action.

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