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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Form rescue team, set up pharmaceutical factories affiliated to govt'

"We entered the third millennium 20 years ago, and we hope to catch up with civilization and development, but the reality, unfortunately, remains limited to what we import from abroad," columnist **Abdullah Saud Al-Subaie** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"As for being participants in this industrial renaissance, this is so far, unfortunately, out of reach, and our problems are increasing and exacerbating, and solutions are nonexistent, and no one has the answer for all questions.

"Today, our health reality is tragic, specifically the drug shortage crisis that all of Kuwait is talking about, in addition to the frightening rise in prices and the domination of this trade by certain companies over imports, and the lack of vision to provide health security like food.



Al-Subaie

"Kuwait has so far been dependent on Arab and foreign countries in importing medicine, and we do not have professional and advanced local factories for medicines, with the absence of a good appreciation by medical warehouses of the state's need for the necessary medicines, and we also place our necks on the guillotine of local exclusive agent in Kuwait as a single point of contact between the producing company and the state. Do not deny the logistical reasons related to shipping, distribution and storage.

"The matter does not stop at this, as the number of violations in pharmacies is terrifying, as 1,256 violations of private pharmacies were monitored during the ministry's inspection campaigns, and 1,646 violations in some private medical centers and clinics, and nutritional supplement stores during the year 2021 for the presence of unregistered medicines, cosmetics and expired materials, and this is a calamity. Others need the ministry to follow up, especially in the field of cosmetics and skin.

"We were happy to launch the first project in the pharmaceutical industry sector with foreign funding, and to launch a line to produce 26 products in implementation of the agreement to localize the manufacture of these products. You go for the worse.

"All this does not change the reality of the acute shortage of medicines, which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health, which purchased large quantities of masks and gloves during the corona crisis, and forgot to provide drug security, especially for incurable diseases.

"Many medicines are cut off from the market without introduction, which prompted many to order them from abroad because they are not available. Is this reasonable, Minister of Health?

"Where is the strategic plan to ensure health security?! Where is the medicine for the elderly, people with diabetes, cancer and chronic diseases? What is the fate of these people today?

"Where is the control from the Food and Drug Authority over the outrageous rise in prices and the difference in price from one pharmacy to another, and from one country to another, with a difference that may reach 12 dinars for one product sometimes?"

"We hear about the theft of medicines and their storage in a carpentry shop, we hear about the leakage of medicines from the ministry, all of this indicates an administrative defect and the lack of serious and responsible action to save the deteriorating situation in the reality of the availability of medicine that cannot be dispensed with in any way.

"The ministry is called upon today to form a rescue team and establish pharmaceutical factories affiliated to the government, not to the private sector, and to support and provide medicine as soon as possible so that we do not fall into indispensable problems."

Also:

"We should not be too optimistic about the rise in oil prices, as energy prices may not last for long periods and are volatile," columnist **Abdulaziz Al-Kandari** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"Yes, we will achieve financial surpluses this year, but then what? We must be serious and develop sustainable non-improvised solutions and structure government institutions in a professional manner.

"It is difficult for a country to rise in this changing era without the private sector having a pivotal role in production, as it is an essential partner in the process of building modern states and privatizing the administratively slack service sectors.

"A short time ago, we were talking about budget deficits and the inability to pay salaries without borrowing. We must learn from history and take lessons and cues from it, and we are still in danger for the coming years because of our dependence on oil as a semi-sole source.

"Previous oil crises were uneven. In the period from 1948 until the end of the sixties, the price of a barrel was \$3. Then, in 1974, the price of oil rose four times, exceeding \$12 a barrel. Then, during 1974 and 1978, world oil prices stabilized between \$12 and \$13.

"Because of the Iran-Iraq war, the price of a barrel of oil rose in 1978 to more than \$35 a barrel; in 1986, prices collapsed to less than 10 dollars; in 1999, the price of a barrel rose to \$25 and in 2005, prices reached \$78 a barrel and after that, we saw record prices that exceeded \$100. Then oil prices dropped during the "corona pandemic.

"Why should we think of alternative sources of oil? Because we live in a world that is changing in a way that the human mind never imagined.

"The speed of this change is not accustomed to eastern societies, and technology will replace many people and many jobs. There are jobs that will disappear and other jobs that will appear.

"Now imagine that the largest car rental companies do not own a car, and they are like 'Uber'. The reservation of tickets and hotels is done through some applications in smart phones, and educational institutions that did not see distance education as a need, have become insured in it as a result of the variables.

"National Geographic magazine has addressed the future of medicine through a series of investigations focused on the breakthrough in technological gains and innovations in the field of treatment, and the potential it contains that

will reshape many aspects of the future of medicine, such as artificial intelligence and proactive care that anticipates disease before it occurs."

"In the historic speech of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah – may God protect him, His Highness announced the dissolution of the National Assembly and the call for early elections. He affirmed his adherence to the Constitution and support for His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah – may God protect him. He promised not to exceed his powers guaranteed by the Constitution," columnist **Mohamad Al-Dowaihis** wrote for **Al-Shahid** daily.

"His Highness also affirmed that he will not interfere in the people's choice of their representatives in the Assembly or in the selection of the speaker, and that he stands at the same distance from everyone.

"A wave of joy, happiness and optimism swept the Kuwaiti society after hearing the speech of His Highness the Crown Prince, especially after the period of waiting and anticipation in light of the worsening relationship between the legislative and executive authorities since December 2020.

"With this lofty speech of His Highness the Crown Prince, a new phase has begun that aims at focusing on the interest of the nation and the citizens. We, as citizens, must support the political leadership through a good selection of the members of the next Assembly.

"We stress the necessity and importance of finding a fair electoral system, commensurate with the new phase that guarantees fair division of electoral districts and equal number of voters in electoral districts, and ensures the smooth conduct and integrity of the next electoral process."

"A group of MPs decided to hold a sit-in at the National Assembly building in protest against the disruption of the parliamentary institution and general political situation. Many of us said it was a classy act and a worthy protest, away from the people of the protesting parliamentarians with whom we agree or disagree," columnist **Mohamad Al-Rowaihail** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"The sit-in of MPs is a new political tactic in the Kuwaiti political arena, especially since it spared the citizens and the authority from friction in the squares and the entry of intruders or saboteurs to cause chaos.

"This disturbed the corruption system and its tools, which no longer have any means of attacking such act except to judge the intentions of sit-ins or their supporters among the former MPs and politicians who follow past actions that we do not agree with or approve of.

"Some of them are representatives who supported laws restricting freedoms and contributed in one way or another to the political and public absurdity in which we live. However, we see them today, not yesterday, on the side of the right and the Constitution, which is politically commendable. We cannot judge their intentions as long as they announce them."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb



Al-Qabas photo

Migratory birds flock to various Kuwaiti islands before moving on to further destinations.

Rising temp fails to deter migratory birds 'journey'

Thousand of species in Jahra Reserve, islands

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: Despite the significant and noticeable rise in temperatures in the country, the nature reserves, whether in Jahra or the islands, have turned into large settlements for migratory birds of various kinds, according to what bird watchers in the Kuwaiti Environmental Protection Society have to said in this regard who have monitored the presence of 7,600 different species of terns on the island, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

While the society expects that the number of terns in Kubbar to reach about 15,000, it is no secret that the flocks of birds will leave Kuwait at the end of its migration season next August heading towards the Indian Ocean. The society revealed that 11 other birds' species have been monitored in the Jahra Reserve.

The Society stated according to records since 1954 about 391 species of migratory birds have been visiting Kuwait, while the diversity of migratory birds has been monitored in many areas since last March until this month, starting from the areas of Al-Zour Port, Jahra, Doha, Al-Wafra and the Green Island.

Meanwhile, the Environment Public Authority documented the settlement of large numbers of terns in Kubbar, whose environment is characterized by low sandy coasts.

The EPA referred to 4 species of "tern" that inhabit the island in the

Saudi 'tik-toker' held Chadian runs over, kills Syrian

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: A Syrian (born in 1998) died when he was run-over on the Nuwaiseeb Road, opposite Sabah Al-Salem, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

According to a security source, the Syrian was in the safety lane and a car driven by a Chadian veered towards him and ran over him.

By the time, the ambulance reached the spot the man had died of injuries. A case has been registered against the motorist, although it is not known if he is arrested.

The corpse has been referred to Forensics.

Saudi arrested: Police have arrested a young Saudi man who

appeared in a video clip lying on a public road, which not only put his life at risk but also endangered the lives of others, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The man acted because of his desire to increase the number of his followers on social media. The police said they took the legal measures against him, and referred him to the Public Prosecution, while completing the procedures for arresting those who documented the clip.

Hundreds of Saudis circulated the clip, criticizing such behavior that compromise people's lives for the sake of show and adventure, and called for strict punishment for those who indulge in such activities.

summer (from May to August) to reproduce in large numbers, despite the harsh temperatures that sometimes reach more than 50 degrees Celsius, and the lack of fresh water sources.

The EPA mentioned that the four types of terns found in Kubbar are: Port, White Cheeked, Small Crested, and Large Crested, as they build single nests or in the form of close colonies, impeding the landing of predatory birds.

The EPA added that it has been observed some senior terns guiding their young from the island's coast to the sea to learn about the surrounding environment and also to receive one of the parents to feed them. The sources indicated that the presence of these types of migra-

tory birds helps the ecological balance because of their role in transporting seeds and nutrients from one place to another, traveling thousands of kilometers, forming a link between ecosystems in different parts of the world.

The authority called for the preservation of these species and the environments frequented in the country, including the islands, in order to sustain the environment and its biodiversity, in addition to fulfilling Kuwait's obligations towards regional and international agreements, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on the Conservation of Wildlife and its Natural Habitats in the Gulf Cooperation Council states.

Court Cases

Ruling in murder case nullified

Ministry computer contracts sent for probe

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Community Development, **Abdulaziz Shuaib**, announced six private computer contracts in the ministry have been referred to the Public Prosecution on suspicion of wasting public money, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.



Abdulaziz Shuaib

Shuaib said in a press statement, that the referrals came based on the report of the committee formed by Ministerial Resolution No. 9/A of 2022 regarding the work and review of computer contracts in the ministry, and the investigation of its observations in the reports of the regulatory authorities.

Shuaib added that the ministry dealt with a great deal of firmness and transparency with the observations of the Audit Bureau regarding computer contracts in the ministry, and formed a neutral committee of stakeholders in several competent authorities.

He stressed that the ministry is keen to implement the recommendations of that committee, including referring some facts related to these contracts to the Public Prosecution, which has the competence to investigate and act, while informing the Audit Bureau of the procedures taken in this regard, in order to preserve public money and in compliance with the provisions of the constitution and the law.

Court ruling nullified: The Criminal Section in the Court of Appeals, headed by Judge **Nasr Al-Haid** nullified the ruling of the First Instance Court, which sentenced the murderer of a citizen – **Farah Akbar** – to death by hanging, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

This came after lawyer for the

Mol efforts hailed

'Drop seen in drug deaths'

KUWAIT CITY, June 25, (KUNA): The Ministry of Interior on Saturday declared that number of drugs-related deaths dropped by 24 percent in 2021 due to the successful interior security personnel efforts in clamping down on dealers and traffickers.

The Mol said in a statement that the general directorate for combating narcotics recorded 2,360 cases, with 2,990 accused persons in 2021, in contrast to 1,825 cases and 2,489 charged individuals in 2020.

In the first half of 2022, the security apparatuses seized large amounts of drugs and detained many dealers.

The First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister **Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah** and the Mol Undersecretary **Anwar Al-Barjas** place the combating of the drugs among the top priorities.

The ministry has added that it

is continuing to launch awareness campaigns and playing the main role in facing this phenomenon as it observes the World Drug Fay for combating narcotics, falling on June 26.

The Mol public relations and security information directorate has carried out in coordination with the anti-drugs department, state institutions and civil societies, an awareness campaign themed "Wiyac."

The campaign aims to enhance the level of awareness, check spread of addictions, with emphasis on the family guidance role, it said, noting parents' responsibility to notify the relevant authorities if any of their children fall victims of this scourge.

The concerned personnel are reachable round the clock via the emergency number 112 in addition to the services on the number: 1884141.

heirs of the victim – Attorney **Abdul Mohsen Al-Qattan** – filed an appeal against the previous decision on the life imprisonment of the defendant.

In a statement after the issuance of the ruling, **Al-Qattan** revealed: "We will also submit the appeal to the Court of Cassation."

Professor acquitted: The Court of Appeals upheld the verdict of a lower court that acquitted a professor at Kuwait University of tampering and forging students' test scores and attendance sheets, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The Public Prosecution charged the accused and an unknown person with forging official documents – the final exam scores of students in an

undisclosed college at the university for academic year 2017/2018.

The prosecution added that the accused and an unknown person also forged the attendance sheet for academic year 2018/2019.

Jail for duo upheld: The Court of Appeals upheld the ruling of a lower court that sentenced a Kuwaiti and a Syrian singer to three years in prison for questioning the authority of HH the Amir and spreading false news through fake accounts on Twitter, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The Public Prosecution charged the accused with defaming HH the Amir in their tweets, questioning his authority and insulting him in their social networking posts.

Court acquits owner of firm

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: The Misdemeanors Section in the Court of Appeals cancelled the ruling of a lower court that imposed KD48,000 fine in absentia on the owner of a company for hiring workers from abroad even if they are not needed, leading to the acquittal of the defendant, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

Earlier, the Public Prosecution charged the defendant with recruiting workers from abroad even if his company does not need them as per the violation and inspection reports from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor.

Lawyer for the accused, Attorney **Jarrah Al-Shareka**, argued in court that the documents presented as evidence do not contain anything to prove his client hired the workers even if they are not needed. He pointed out the record book of the director of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) showed many contradictions and loopholes in the procedures followed.

Kuwait Today

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