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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Let us not return to what we were before, it will have other consequences'

"IN A historic speech on behalf of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad, may God protect him, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, may God protect him, declared in all transparency, 'We will not deviate from the Constitution, nor will we amend, revise, suspend or even prejudice it' thus closing the door in the face of anyone who may try to exploit the slogans of defending the constitution," columnist **Abdul Mohsen Muhammed Al-Husseini** wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"His Highness said: The constitution will be in a safe place, as it is the legitimacy of the government and the guarantee of its survival and the close covenant between us and you.

"His Highness appealed to citizens to take advantage of the opportunity to correct the course of national participation so that we do not return to what we were before because this return, we will have other measures that are heavy in impact and event.

"His Highness was clear in the role the citizens must play to choose better persons to represent them far from sectarian and tribal affiliations, and called on everyone to have their only goal in the interest of the country and citizens.

"In the previous period, we passed through disputes and rivalries within the Council. Unfortunately, these disputes are not in the interest of the country, but rather were personal disputes and rivalries.

"His Highness the Crown Prince warned that the government role was absent in follow-up and accountability and the lack of clarity in the future vision, which consequently hindered development, and added that the government administration and parliamentary practice led to citizens' discontent and dissatisfaction with the work of the two authorities.

"We also note that His Highness did not commend any aspect of the two authorities, and it was clear to what extent the citizens suffer from the failure of the executive and legislative authorities to dictate their duties towards the homeland and the citizens. For Kuwait, not for tribalism and sectarianism.

"His Highness warned of the need to miss the opportunity for candidates who took advantage of their non-national affiliations in the previous period, and His Highness' call was clear to make our choices for the national candi-

date who puts the interest of Kuwait above all considerations.

"It is necessary that we take advantage of the opportunity to change the bad conditions that we witnessed in the Council during the previous period.

"After the speech that we heard from His Highness the Crown Prince, we can only raise our hands and pray to the Almighty to protect our Amir, who has a big heart, and to protect His Highness, the Crown Prince, who spoke to the citizens with all transparency and charted a roadmap for the future.

"From the words of His Highness the Crown Prince: 'We appeal to you not to waste the opportunity to correct the course of national participation so that we do not return to what we were before, because this return will have other consequences.'

Also:

"The contents and ideas presented by Arab drama must be reconsidered, especially since the latter plays an important role in influencing public opinion trends in a particular society, by establishing values and ideas or contributing to changing them, as drama contributes to perpetuating certain stereotypes about women that emulate popular culture, as an object outside of action and influence on critical issues," columnist **Fatima Lemharhar** wrote for *Al-Jarida* daily.

"We note that Ramadan series are a rich material for Arab drama, which is being prepared to ensure the largest viewing rates, as we monitor that many of these series depict women in the dress of weakness and subservience to the authority of men on the one hand, and on the other hand portray them in the context of boldness and temptation with many scenes of domestic violence, injustice and oppression; while we find that the few Arab dramas reflect the social, professional, and leadership roles of women in society, but unfortunately without removing them from the crucible of male authority.

"In fact, this dramatic treatment of women's issues invites us to ask many questions, especially since drama, as many specialists and interested parties state, is the mirror that reflects the reality of our Arab world with all its contradictions, but this simulation presented by the drama works most of the time to distort the facts and offend Arab societies and consolidates stereotypes of women; thus, did the drama contribute to strengthening the image of submissive and battered women?

"Did portraying scenes of violence and marginalization encourage the

underestimation of women's issues and the increase in violence against them in reality, especially since psychologists confirm that getting used to scenes of violence in the media leads to the acceptance of violence as a normal thing in daily life?

"Thus, we find that most of the dramas broke everything that was said about women's freedom, and young people are looking for an image of a girl for marriage in the image of the girls of one of the series, who are submissive and satisfied, an image that sees in women nothing but a sexual tool whose role is limited to satisfying the desires of men, which makes the relationship between women and men as based on subordination and subjugation, not on equality, which contributed to the consolidation of the underestimating view that reduces women to the body.

"We can say that the contents and ideas presented by Arab drama must be reconsidered, especially since the latter plays an important role in influencing public opinion trends in a particular society, through the consolidation of values and ideas or contributing to changing them, as drama contributes to perpetuating certain stereotypes.

"On the woman imitating popular culture, as an object outside the action and influence on crucial issues in the family and society, interested only in formalities, or her perception that she is captive to emotion and cannot resist it and turn this aspect of the woman into a defect, or that she is unable to think and has no ambitions or views on public issues.

"At a time when we were supposed to see a change in the crystallization of the transformations witnessed by the Arab region, especially after the Arab Spring revolutions, which witnessed a distinguished presence of women in the arenas of struggle to demand social justice and democracy and the empowerment of rights and freedoms, we find what motivates us to call for a search for ways to improve this picture is to keep pace with the growing role that women are playing in the region, and reflects the efforts made by non-governmental organizations alongside countries in the areas of empowering women and improving their social, cultural and economic conditions, despite the obstacles that these efforts sometimes encounter, either because of the prevailing norms and traditions that limit the advancement of the status of women, or as a result of the absence of democracy and political stability in many Arab countries."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb



Al-Husseini

6 drugs seizures in 48 hours

Passengers from various countries arrested



Some of the drugs seized by customs officers.

KUWAIT CITY, June 27: The Airport customs officers, through 6 different seizures within 48 hours, have seized marijuana, hashish, alcoholic drinks, 278 narcotic Lirica pills, in addition to cocaine and cannabis oil, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Customs Public Relations Department indicated that the air customs officers were able to seize a variety of drugs from four passengers, who arrived aboard different flights.

The customs inspectors said one of the passengers coming from Amsterdam was found carrying a bag of marijuana and a cigarette filled with marijuana; a piece of hashish and alcoholic drinks were seized from an Arab passenger coming from Sharm El Sheikh Airport in Egypt, and marijuana was found in the possession of an Asian passenger coming from Dhaka, and 224 Lirica pills were also seized with a passenger coming from Bangkok.

The air customs officers were able to seize a bag of cocaine and 3 bags of marijuana, as well as 54 Lirica pills, a bag of marijuana and hashish oil from travelers coming from London.

All those arrested have been referred to the General Department of Drugs and Alcohol Control (GDDAC) along with the contraband.

The necessary and followed measures were taken, and the seized items and their owners were transferred to the competent authorities.

Hearing on July 17: The Criminal Section in the Court of Cassation set July 17 for deliberations on the appeal of the Public Prosecution against the ruling of the Ministers Court, which acquitted the defendants in the Army Fund case, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Ministers Court had earlier acquitted former Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, former Minister of Interior and Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah, former Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense Jassar Al-Jassar, Fahd Al-Baz, Ali Al-Asaker, Adel Al-Enezi, Samir Marjan, former Treasurer at the Ministry of Defense Hamad Al-Banwan, Director of the Office of the Defense Minister Wael Al-Fraih and a colonel of all charges.

In addition, the Criminal Court sentenced a Kuwaiti university professor to 10 years in prison with hard labor for attempting to kill his nephew by hitting the latter with an iron weight several times, resulting in permanent disability and fractured skull.

Jet-skiers warned: The Coast Guard General Department -- particularly the Maritime Operations and Formations, Maritime Security, Support Services and Technical units -- coordinated with the Maritime Rescue Department in Kuwait Firefighting Force (KFF) to carry out an extensive security campaign; in response to complaints about the presence of many jet skis in some coastal areas, thereby, endangering lives, reports Al-Jarida daily.

According to the Coast Guard General Department, the campaign resulted in the registration of 24 violations and confiscation of 14 marine vessels; affirming the campaign will continue to track down those violating the regulations and to guarantee the safety of everyone.

Other Voices

'Myth of Sisyphus' and the central tender committee

By Ahmad alsarraf

The main objective of the purchases of the state, or any other party through the tender committee is to obtain the best services or goods for the money paid, or the ideal combination of the cost and quality of the item over its life span. Those responsible for approving the procurement process, when determining the basis for evaluating bids, must consider the following:

- Not rely on the price factor alone in evaluating bids
- Choose the bid that provides the best value for money
- The best bids must be approved from a technical and pricing point of view, not just one of the two



alsarraf

What is happening in the Central Tender Committee, which is governed by strict laws, is a totally different matter, as we often find that it gives weight to the price at the expense of quality.

If we take the following two examples, we will know that huge sums of public money is spent that does not benefit the state, but only gives bad reputation for the state, both internally and externally and this is in addition to the precious time that has been wasted in re-ordering the same material after it is damaged, as a result chaos happens everywhere because our inclination is only towards the cost of the item and end up wasting double that amount.

The first example: There are chairs for visitors in all state facilities and most of them are uncomfortable, the designs are ugly, and quality is poor, and are often gets damaged soon and have to be replaced by other goods unfortunately of the same quality, and this happens for decades as if the ministry is 'Sisyphus' -- a legendary king of Corinth condemned eternally to repeatedly roll a heavy rock up a hill in Hades only to have it roll down again as it nears the top.

The reason for this is that the CTC Board and the supplier are constrained by the magic price criterion.

Second example: Cleaning and other work requires heavy use of unskilled labor. Various government agencies assign cleaning work to cleaning companies, and the Public Manpower Authority sets the minimum salary for these. When tenders are opened, the tender is often awarded to the lowest price, which in many cases is even lower than the salary set by the legal authority.

We know that the recruitment of any cleaning worker requires money to be spent on many things other than the salary, such as travel tickets, the worker's exit registration fees from his homeland, and his entry fees to Kuwait, including health insurance, residence fees and medical examination. The worker will need a place to live and three meals a day, in addition to the cost of transportation to and from his place of work, the cost of work uniform while on duty, treatment and other things, and finally a specific percentage representing the company's profits.

How can we believe that the winning company, for example, with a contract to supply 6,000 workers, will be able to do so when the price it submitted is even less than the amount of the worker's monthly salary, set by law, let alone all the other costs involved to recruit six thousand workers, and the company's profits.

How does any government agency award the tender to a company while its price is less than the cost set by the ministry, and it knows for sure that the contractor will not lose and will inevitably manipulate to avoid loss.

Note: I mentioned in yesterday's article the story of the watermelon truck that overturned in Baghdad, and how some people took some of them while they were on their way to pray.

It is important to clarify the fact that this contradiction in behavior exists in all our countries, and not limited to the people of a particular city.

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News in Brief

I did it, says drug dealer: In a precedent, the first of its kind, the biggest hardcore drug dealer has admitted before the Criminal Court, headed by Counselor Hamad Al-Mulla, that he brought 100 kilos of narcotics and shabu and 10 kilos of hashish from Iran, reports Al-Rai daily.

In an unrelated development, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has added 14 items to the subsidized goods that the State distributes to citizens in the ration branches, reports Al-Anba daily quoting a source from the government sector.

The source also informed the daily that the ministry reiterated its call to Kuwaitize jobs in the ration branches in order to prevent the recurrence of problems encountered in the past, as well as to protect the citizens' resources and public funds.

The source disclosed the ministry previously submitted a request to its social affairs counterpart for the Kuwaitization of ration branches in line with the replacement policy as per the circulars of the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

KD 5m KISR budget: Kuwait Institute

for Scientific Research (KISR) has laid out an estimated budget of KD 5.1 million for the operation and maintenance of its facilities for a period of three years, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources disclosed the institute had earlier submitted a request to float a tender for the abovementioned works and it is now waiting for official approval to start the bidding process.

KISR is a leading independent national institution with scientific excellence. It was established in 1967 and its initial role was to develop three important fields -- petroleum, desert agriculture and aquatic biology. This role expanded later to include environmental conservation, sustainable management of natural resources, rational management of water and energy, and development of innovative methods for agriculture.

Shortage of Kuwaitis: According to governmental sources, some specializations still suffer from a shortage of Kuwaiti candidates compared to the need of government agencies for them. The most prominent among these specializations is statistical specialization due to the low interest among Kuwaiti students to enroll in this specialization, reports Al-Qabas daily.

They explained that the Civil Service Commission (CSC) receives requests from most government agencies to nominate graduates of these specializations. There are no applicants in the central employment system who meet this need.



Al-Mulla

Proposal to assign mayors to hold workshops okayed

KUWAIT CITY, June 27: The Interior and Defense Committee of the National Assembly has approved a proposal for the Council of Ministers to assign the mayors of regions to organize workshops with the public benefit associations to provide research, studies and recommendations to assist decision makers in the executive authority, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The proposal, which was approved by the committee with the majority of its members and submitted by 5 deputies, stipulated that the mayors of the regions be tasked with holding workshops with associations of public interest, each in his field of competence, in order to present visions, solutions, proposals, studies, research and recommendations to assist decision-makers in the executive authority in order to achieve their goals and programs that serve the state and society, provided that this coordination is at the request of the official or a proposal submitted by each association according to its competence.

The premise of the proposal states that since the process of guidance and counseling for decision-makers is one of the most important policies followed in developed countries and the advancement of knowledge of the public services they provide and the opinions of civil society and the public with the executive authority on them, strengthening joint responsibility and encouraging research, studies and decisions concerned in upgrading the level of community services has become a necessity.

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