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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Game-changer Silk City project to make Kuwait 'business hub'

"DURING these days, Kuwait is witnessing several moves, with regard to the 'Construction of Silk City' project, after signing an agreement with an international company to play the role of urban planning consultant for it, and after completing its initial report and including it in a package of projects aimed at diversifying sources of income," columnist **Dr Laila Al-Saba'an** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.



Dr. Al-Saba'an

"In this important national context, it is worth mentioning the main forum of Al-Arabi magazine, which was held in 2014, entitled 'Arab Culture on the Silk Road'. At that time, I was responsible for editing the magazine and the forum's decision. The plan of the 'Construction of Silk City' project, given that the two 'the project and the forum' meet at one point, which is to serve Kuwait and present ideas that contribute to development.

"We also mention that when a committee was formed not long ago to implement the 'Construction of Silk City' project, we were able, after great efforts, to agree to include the work of the Arab Forum in the implementation plan.

"Knowing that this forum is a distinguished achievement for Al-Arabi magazine, and a clear plan to implement this project on the ground it was held with the participation of 82 researchers, thinkers and media professionals from 21 countries representing 18 nationalities - Jordan (9) Saudi Arabia (17) and Egypt (23) Iraq (3) the Kingdom of Morocco (4) and Lebanon (5) the UAE (2) India (2) Britain (2) Tatarstan (2) Korea (2) and the Sultanate of Oman (2) and (1) from each of China, Yemen, Canada and the United States Palestine and Tunisia.

"The forum included 20 research papers distributed over 8 sessions, 4 free evenings between authentic art and documentary and fictional cinema, an exhibition of (Al Arabi) magazine's photos on the Silk Road, and honoring more than 10 institutions and flags on the Silk Road, all of which was recorded on the 'Al Arabi' channel in 2014.

"As the papers of the Arab Forum talk about the Silk Road, in its various aspects, cultural, heritage, political, scientific and economic, which makes it a rich and useful material for the 'Silk City' project, we look forward that the research papers contained in the Arab Forum - with all the value they contain that will benefit Kuwait - will be taken into consideration, so that the achievement in which efforts have been made will not be squandered.

"Kuwait needs this project, thanks to the expected development and economic aspects it contains after its implementation, including the ability to enhance the country's national product, raise the ability to attract global investments, provide hundreds of thousands of job opportunities, increase the expected air traffic, and activate the country's current strategic relations. And strengthening Kuwait's defenses in the face of fluctuations in the commodity -markets, and supporting its regional security through partnership with China to build the region, which contributes to raising the ceiling of Kuwait's stability and security.

"It is the project that the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, may God have mercy on him, was keen to adopt and during his historic visit to China, he signed many agreements, the most important of which is the Silk City project which will make Kuwait a financial center for the transfer of trade, as well as heritage, culture and history, and contribute to reducing government spending."

Also:

"The most important foundations of political action in any democratic country is cooperation and integration between the legislative and executive authorities, away from any empty controversy or individual action," columnist **Mubarak Mazayad Al-Moasherji** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"On Tuesday, March 8, there was a classy interrogation presented by young MP Abdullah Jassem Al-Mudhaf to His Excellency Mr. Ali Al-Mousa, Minister of Public Works, Minister of Youth Affairs, and a session was set for no confidence vote.

"On Wednesday, March 9, the Speaker of the Parliament, Marzuq Al-Ghanim, adjourned the session citing lack of quorum, an order that was considered to be orchestrated by the government, from which only one minister attended, His Excellency Mr Mubarak Al-Mutairi, Minister of Social Affairs, who faced criticism only from his fellow deputies, noting that the session was to discuss government business.

"Then the distinguished MPs, Muhannad Al-Sayer, Khaled Al-Munayes, Dr. Hassan Jawhar interrogated His Highness the Prime Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah.

"I do not know the number of this interrogation because of the many interrogations submitted against His Highness and his fellow ministers in his last government or his previous governments. Yes, to monitoring and holding to account the ministers and the prime minister, but not at the expense of legislation and following up on the interests of the country and the people, or to assess the circumstances in the region and the world at large.

"After all we were the country that sought reform among countries, we were content with the role of the state that distributes aid to the stricken countries in millions, such as Afghanistan and Ukraine.

"We hope that His Excellency Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, as he was seeking to reconcile countries, will try to reform between the legislative and executive authorities so that the Parliament can devote itself to carrying out its main role, and the government can perform its required role, and that the torrent of interrogations that preoccupied the two

Houses end and get on with business."

"In times of conflict - whether regional or local, healthcare workers exert tremendous efforts to save a child or an elderly, or provide urgent care to the victims of conflict who are civilians and defenseless. Amid these responsibilities, they leave their families to devote themselves to humanitarian work," columnist **Dr Hind Al-Choumar** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"Unfortunately, the conflicting forces do not exclude healthcare workers and humanitarian services from their goals, as many of them fall during conflicts, and media reports and relief organizations have revealed this.

"I am surprised that we do not hear any condemnation, denunciation and penalties for attacks on health facilities and their workers in times of war and conflict.

"These innocent healthcare workers must have their share of duty and honor from their colleagues in unions, public benefit associations or international organizations - whether they are healthcare workers or volunteers who serve in the International Red Cross and all humanitarian organizations, because peacemakers do not deserve accidental death and blatant attacks while performing their duties.

"International organizations must act. They should not remain inactive, considering the crimes against the right to life and humanity, while ideals are violated daily."

"News on the opening of the first line to produce 26 pharmaceutical products in Kuwait in partnership with the international Abbott Laboratories surfaced recently..." columnist **Abdulrahman Al-Awad** wrote for **Al-Sabah** daily.

"It is about the first pharmaceutical industry in the country, but the news has been unnoticed. It was as if nothing happened, even though the news is important and serves as a good light for Kuwait. This is an unprecedented step that could move the country the way we have been dreaming of for years.

"Beginnings are always like this... Simple successive steps on the path of industry and development, then the wheel turns with patience and diligence, turning Kuwait into an arena for industry and production, like we have been hoping for. This is not a far-fetched dream... Rather, such steps require government support, legislation and public participation.

"Today, Kuwait should celebrate this important event, specifically the good news that the health minister announced - that the manufacture of important medicines in Kuwait will cover local and regional needs in the very near future."

"Most of the lawmakers in the last assembly of the nation, if not all of them, do not appreciate their role as representatives of the nation, that is, they are supposed to be the 'elite' of society in terms of morals, honesty, balance, tolerance, appreciation of positions, respect for others and overlooking lapses that do not affect situations," columnist **Saud Al-Samaka** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"This is the ethical role that a member of the National Assembly must play. I was offended, and many others were undoubtedly offended by the behavior of some at the dinner party hosted by the Kuwaiti ambassador in Cairo in honor of the parliamentary delegation that visited the sisterly Republic of Egypt to participate in the meetings of Arab parliaments.

"At the time, one of the representatives stood in the middle of the ceremony pointing at former MP Muhammad Juwailhel. He was angry and said at the top of his voice: 'I am not honored to sit in a place with this person.' The condition of the former lawmaker, Muhammad Juwailhel, who is suffering from a serious illness, was not taken into consideration.

"Here, one wonders if the MP benefitted from such a move, which is totally incompatible with the minimal culture of transcendence about the petty matters of the average person, so what if this person is a representative of the nation and belongs to a 'religious' group.

"The second issue: Why object to the presence of a person sitting on a piece of his homeland, which is the embassy of his country? You are not the owner of the party and the place is neither your home nor a branch of the Islah Association. Is this the culture of the ordinary person who hardly knows the origins, let alone a lawmaker representing the nation, who belongs to a religious group that bids for God's creation with their religion and a professor who teaches at the university?"

"Traffic accidents are common every time school vacation begins, because the void encourages young people to drive without a license!" columnist **Dr Najj Alzaid** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"Not only that, majority of them drive recklessly and the most that securitymen could do is refer them to the juvenile prosecution. Usually, the accused is a juvenile who takes advantage of clemency for the youth and his guardian, so the matter often ends in reconciliation..."

"In the end, the deadly crime sometimes becomes easy, and even encourages young people to drive without a license as they do not fear apprehension!

"The law is not a deterrent, as manifested in the spread of this phenomenon. It is possible to develop and enact more stringent laws, but the Ministry of Interior still faces difficult tasks in preventing the recurrence of such behavior.

"What if the ministry decides to change the regulations and laws for issuing driving licenses, such that they are granted only to those who have no history of this kind of recklessness?"

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb



Traffic congestion on some roads with the start of the comprehensive plan to return to 100 percent work in the country. KUNA photo

Traffic rush returns with 100% return to work

With the start of the comprehensive plan to return to work in the country with a capacity of 100 percent, the movement appeared to be smooth in most of the country's roads, which reflects the efforts and positive measures of the

Ministry of Interior in organizing traffic and enabling employees to join their workplaces despite monitoring little congestion on some roads.

The Civil Service Bureau had set Sunday, a date for the resumption

of work in all government agencies with the full attendance, the abolition of exemptions and the return to work with the fingerprint system, after the improvement of the epidemiological assessment indicators in the country. (KUNA)

Asians top list as suicide cases increase in 2 years

Most incidents among young people

Other Voices

KUWAIT CITY, March 15: The number of suicide cases in the country continues to increase, recording 25 cases since the beginning of 2022 till date, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

Statistics showed that the country's suicide rate has increased by 50 percent over the past two years.

According to sources, majority of those who committed suicide in the last 70 days were Asians, while those within the age group 19 to 35 years old constitute 60 percent of the total number of suicide cases, and 36 percent for those who are 36 to 65 years old.

On the other hand, men constitute 80 percent of the total number of suicide cases; while 60 percent of those who took their own lives were Indians and eight percent were Kuwaitis.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti Sociologists Association (KSA), with the participation of government and civil organizations have launched an awareness-raising campaign under the slogan 'Your life is dear - Suicides, Challenges and Treatments' under the auspices of the Ministry of Interior, in order to discuss the reasons for the increasing number of suicides among young people and teens in Kuwait during the Corona pandemic, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

The initiative aims to provide psychological and social support to citizens and residents, confront negative thoughts that lead to suicide, and work to reduce and eliminate them, with the participation of many authorities and specialists.

The head of the Preventive Psychological Committee, Dr. Wafa Al-Arada, said: "Suicide is a serious global phenomenon for public health, and according to the World Health Organization, more than 800,000 people die annually as a result of suicide in the world, aged between 15 to 29 years, in addition to the elderly."

She explained that suicide occupies the second place in death rates, but is not considered a phenomenon in Kuwait, but rather a problem that must be addressed and solutions must be found.

For his part, the Assistant Director-General of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Security, Brigadier Mubarak Marji, said, "Security and safety occupy a prominent place in our contemporary society, due to their connection to our daily lives, including the safety of lives, tranquility of souls, and integrity of behavior," stressing that "human life is dear and precious, and it is a great blessing from God, and that the phenomenon of suicide, which has recently increased in numbers threatens this blessing and requires confronting it."

Gustave Le Bon prayer

By **Ahmad alsarraf**

Gustave Le Bon, a French doctor and historian immersed in the world of humanity - was born in 1841 and died in 1931. He traveled a lot in Europe, Asia and North Africa, and wrote about archeology, anthropology, and eastern civilization.



alsarraf

Among his most famous works are the "Arab civilization", the "Indian civilizations" the "Egyptian civilization", the "Civilization of the Arabs in Andalusia", "The Secret of the Progress of Nations," and "The Spirit of Society," which was his first achievement.

Le Bon is considered one of the most famous philosophers of the West and one of those who praised the Arab nation and Islamic civilization.

He also has written influential books on group behavior, popular culture, and the means of influencing the crowd. The accuracy of his observations made him an essential reference in psychology and among researchers in the media in the first half of the twentieth century.

He also made contributions to the debate about matter and energy, and he wrote his book "The Evolution of Matter", which was very popular in France. He also achieved great success with his book "The Psychology of the Crowd", which gave him a good reputation in scientific circles. It was completed with his best-selling book "The Crowd: A Study of the Collective Mind", and his Parisian salon became one of the most famous cultural salons held weekly.

Le Bon, who traveled the Islamic world with social investigations, believed that Muslims were the ones

who civilized Europe, and therefore believed that he should resurrect the golden age of Arabs from his shrine, and show it to the world in its true form. In 1884, he authored the book "The Civilization of the Arabs" inclusive of the elements of Arab civilization and its impact on the world, and discussed the causes of its greatness and decline, and presented it to the world, presenting the debtor who owes credit to the creditor.

Gustave said: "Strictness of opinion prevails over tolerance, because the first is based on feelings or religion, and the second is based on reason."

"There is no civilization without morals. No matter how strict the law is to support moral principles, its severity is not considered exaggeration."

"Knowing the art of influencing the imagination of the masses means knowing the art of ruling them!"

"The offense that is common practice is almost becoming a justifiable right."

The quote that caught my attention is: "The religious peoples do not feel remorse when they commit a moral or legal mistake because these people were brought up on the concept that worship erases sins."

This explains the phenomenon of some people committing grave offenses, but their faith and convictions may have convinced them that their sin is forgiven, and their guilt is allowed.

Therefore, violations of the prohibition of parking in front of mosques, places of condolences, etc. abound, where the conscience of some suddenly stops reprimanding them.

They are also surprised, or protesting, if someone draws their attention to violating them and obstructing the interests of others!

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News in Brief

'No place to sit, work': With the resumption of normal working hours in various ministries and government agencies for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic at the beginning of the year 2020, traffic jams and congestion have returned to the streets of Kuwait. Meanwhile, a problem arose in some ministries in terms of the lack of offices compared to their numbers in these agencies, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

While touring the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Electricity and Water, the daily observed that many employees were crowded in the lobbies of the two ministries because there were no offices for them.

Informed sources said, "Most of the government agencies are suffering from this problem. The COVID-19 crisis, which lasted about two years, may be a fig leaf that was hiding this problem.

During the last two years, the rate of appointments in government agen-

cies rose significantly. Last year, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) succeeded in appointing 8,000 employees in these entities."

With regard to the demands to divide the shifts into morning and evening to address this problem, sources from CSC said, "The Civil Service Commission has so far been committed to the permanence of a single shift at a rate of 100 percent. If proposals are submitted in this regard, it will definitely need legislation and decisions for approval and implementation in government agencies."

Car shades new rules: The Municipal Council has approved the draft amendments to regulations on car shades, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

Earlier, Kuwait Municipality amended several stipulations; most notably banning the setting up of car shades opposite the public squares and canceling the requirement to obtain a license for car shades within the

premises of private houses.

As per the regulations, the height of the car shades should not exceed four meters, private houses are exempted from the fees for licensing these shades, one-time fee of KD1 per square meter for government agencies, and KD5 per year for investment and commercial use.

Labor subsidy increased: The budget allocated for national labor subsidy increased by three percent or KD18.5 million for fiscal 2022/2023, reports **Al-Anba** daily quoting sources.

Sources revealed the budget for the abovementioned fiscal year is KD642.3 million, compared to KD623.8 million in the previous year.

Sources said the Ministry of Finance is keen on controlling spending on national labor subsidy, which consists of eight items, in order to save the required amount.

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