

DIWANIYA ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'State must reform institutions, maintain law and order'

'Shun selfishness, work hard for your homeland Kuwait, or lose all'

"SHEIKH Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad, in his last tweet, drew a road map to real reform and the eradication of corruption, and it accurately defined the places of the disease," columnist *Sattam Ahmad Al-Jarallah* wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"In this context, we would like to point out the recent experiment adopted during the coronavirus pandemic a lot of issues which could not be ignored were detected, because these issues are likely to lead to total collapse, in light of the aggravation of these issues which have started threatening the national security on several levels and any failure to resolve these issues, or overlook some of them because of patronage, or other political considerations, or for specific interests, means abandoning the country to an unknown fate.



Al-Jarallah

"As a matter of fact, many states have passed through some circumstances similar to that of the State of Kuwait where corruption is rampant, but these states have managed to reform the defect, restore the ability to develop.

"Therefore we say if the conviction that Kuwait is the final homeland for all of us, we must work hard to address all our problems consciously, and not fall into the trap of selfishness, otherwise we will lose everything, the first of which is stability and the future.

"However, the persistence of the State's might must be based on sincere belonging as well as confidence in the State institutions, the rule of the law and its enforcement without favoritism, but unfortunately we did not see all this through the past three decades – post the invasion shock, because the Kuwaiti citizen had lost his/her conviction in himself/herself.

"Hence, he/she strived only to accumulate wealth even at the expense of the country's national security. Take for example, the scandal of the forged academic certificates which the authorities detected during the recent period.

"This is in addition to the Bangladeshi (resident, who is also known as 'Pablo' and is a Member of Parliament in Bangladesh and allegedly owns a cleaning company in partnership with a Kuwaiti), the sovereign funds and money laundering operations.

"Is it reasonable that all this is taking place in a country like Kuwait, unless there is a defect related to the psychological state of the citizen, and is encouraged by an official who does not trust himself.

"Anyway, we will not say look around. Rather, we will say that the social contract upon which Kuwait was based on uniqueness

has many positives that make us believe that we have a lot that we can build upon, and get rid of the shortcomings that were generated during a period that can be called greed fever and lack of self-confidence.

"Therefore, we suggest that reforms should begin with self, not only in laws and decisions, and accountability should be very harsh, because during surgical operation, the patient feels a lot of pain, but he accepts it because it relieves him of the disease he is suffering from."

Also:

"Last Thursday evening (July 23, 2020) our esquire brother the former first deputy premier and the former minister of defense, Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad, once again tweeted through the voice of right," columnist *Khaled Ahmad Al-Tarrah* wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"That evening, Sheikh Nasser, exploded the consciences of the loyal Kuwaitis on his official Twitter account.

"He tweeted, 'fighting corruption is a battle that will begin by purging the State institutions from the corrupt people as well from those who are linked to them without any discrimination, particularly under the difficult economic circumstances because no development and justice will be realized under the existence of the corrupt people who have a foothold in the State institutions.

"Any other action will mean nothing but adding corruption to the current phase because what we are seeing at the moment is still less than what we hope. There is neither development nor justice in the State where corruption is rampant.

"However, before that, Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad, had left the government of Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak leaving behind a political vacuum.

"Moreover, his name remained engraved in the conscience of the Kuwaiti people and at the forefront of the local, Arab and international media attention, because of his positions and decision, he had laid solid foundations for the pillars of the State.

"This happened following the detection of suspicions revolving around the deals concluded by the Ministry of Defence and the relevant violations had accumulated in fund that was similar to the Wizard of Pandora's Box.

"In this connection, one may refer that Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad, had shown no leniency in his official function but his personal conviction and national certainty, which he endured for a period of time and before he entered the ministerial battle.

"He was closely monitoring what was happening and what had happened, before and after the death of the late Amir Sheikh Jaber

Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, we pray to Almighty Allah to rest his soul in peace.

"Not only that, Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad is still speaking in the language of the honest citizen, exposing his views and the visions of others for reform, adopting the requirements and needs of political and economic reform as seen through the eyes and consciences of the Kuwaiti people for the benefit of Kuwait today and future generations, through the magazine 'Al-Zaman' (Time), which belongs to him personally, where he has never denied this fact.

"Rather he was welcoming and striving to listen to the opinions and comments that may reach to him irrespective of the latter source to such an extent he ignored that he is one of the pillars of the Al-Sabah Ruling Family, and is the first born of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, we pray to Almighty Allah to protect him and he may recover soon.

"Anyway, the lines of the tweet in question, were few, but is needless to say that these lines have summarized the ideas which currently grip the mind of Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad as a citizen as well as the other citizens.

"In other words, this tweet came at a time when corruption scandals are continuing in Kuwait, such as money laundering and human trafficking issues, as well as abuses in the Ministry of Defense.

"Undoubtedly, this tweet carries a national goal and significance at this particular stage and timing as well. In other words, Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad is not intending to gain from the popular echo, but rather to deliver a message to the government and the people at the same time, and to confirm the solidity of his position at the national level on the scourge of corruption. I am writing this opinion that is not courtesy of Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad and is not blasphemous to anyone else.

"There is a correlation between human trafficking, including the exploitation of children and women, money laundering, international corruption, drugs, and other tools, and the manifestations of international organized crime. Therefore, reform of any of these behaviors must take into account a comprehensive approach. We are in the times of international strategy for corruption. A testimony to that is what is happening to us and others in terms of corruption", columnist *Prof Ghanim Al-Najjar* wrote for *Aljarida* daily.

"The 12th report on human trafficking was recently released by the US State Department, covering more than 195 countries and territories. Although the American State Department issues other reports such as on human rights (which is the old-

est), religious freedoms, anti-terrorism, anti-corruption, and others, the report on human trafficking has a different qualitative situation and weight due to its clearer methodology which includes punitive measures such as stopping aid or provision of loans and boycotting countries that fail in the American human trafficking test.

"The report ranks countries in four categories based on the degree of their commitment to the minimum standards for combating human trafficking.

"In terms of the government's sluggishness, recklessness and lack of seriousness, Kuwait has never been in the top ranked category from the time the report was issued first in 2000. In fact, it has been in the lowest position for 11 years.

"It is worth mentioning that the former US president George W. Bush had initially intervened, by virtue of his powers, to exclude Kuwait so that it would not fall to the lowest rank. However, due to the failure to carry out the required reforms, the exception was withdrawn, and it descended to a lower degree. Had it not been for some variables, it would have remained in this degree.

The report also criticizes Kuwait and its insistence on dealing with human trafficking cases through administrative procedures, despite the issuance of a law, as well as the continuation of the sponsorship system.

"The US ambassador to Kuwait first emerged to announce the release of the report, announcing some improvement in the Kuwaiti performance. However, the ambassador stressed that there are still pending issues that Kuwait should work on.

"Given that the ambassador used the highest levels of diplomacy, an official source whose name and position was not mentioned had stated that Kuwait had responded to all requirements, and would prepare to respond to the American allegations.

There is nothing wrong, but the question remains – Why are we failing in this issue? Or rather why isn't Kuwait succeeding in combating human trafficking?

"We are not concerned about its response to the American report, but about fixing the ongoing miserable conditions, so that society becomes more stable, secure and consistent with the human values contained in its constitution, part of which exploded during the COVID-19 crisis.

"Furthermore, why have these issues, which have been raised since the year 2000, continue without real treatment, except for temporary patches here and there to improve the image of the country, which however caused us to be among the countries at the bottom?!"

"Based on the statement: 'No sound rising above the battle sound,' the region is on the verge of war – one step away from the first shot," columnist *Dr Abdullah Al-Hawwaj* wrote for *Annahar* daily.

"The region is ignited by paper scraps and files on the shelf, but it has left the ground to express what was kept in secret. The secret came into the open and what was done behind the scenes became clear.

"The Arab project no longer exists and the three regional projects – Israeli, Persian and Turkish – are just around the corner for verification. A crescent is raising the banner of the faith in the East. A brother is raising the Holy Quran on the spear of spears in the West. Between them, Israel sits on the throne of its 'religious' project called 'Judaization of the Zionist', with a Western umbrella that still pays off despite all that has been said about the lie of the international community whose residents are not moving. The League of Arab States paved way for them, without a clear project that manages the concerns and affairs of the region.

"The disappearance of the Arab project has historical reasons, ideological motivations and Qatari considerations. Its disappearance or burial was not achieved arbitrarily. This did not come from the vacuum as it is filled with regional ambitions, racist inclinations and incoming constants (Badics)."

"It is of the ugliest trait and the worst act that one tries to spread and incite in order to offend or harm opponents, competitors or violators!" columnist *Abdulaziz Al-Fadhli* wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"It was reported by the scholars and creditors that they were enraged and warned against the informers and instigators. Ali bin Abi Talib, may God be pleased with him, said to Ashter Al-Akha'i when he entrusted Egypt: 'Do not hurry to believe a watchman, because the courier is cheating, even if he likes the advisers.'

"It was mentioned in the noble hadith about the Prophet – Peace and Blessings be Upon Him: 'None of my companions informs me of anything, for I love to go out to you with a good heart.'

"If we contemplate our reality, we will find various types of whistleblowers and instigators. Some of them may be singled out for Twitter cheaply, bought with money to incite advocates, scholars and reformers. It could be a chant or a reader. It could be a famous means of communication and it could be political. The ugliest form is that the instigator is someone who emulated righteous predecessors in body and clothing, yet he disobeyed them through self-perversion, misprinting and action."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb

Fishermen prove stronger party, deprive local market of 'mead' fish; demand high

Consumers forced to pay steep prices for fish

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: Fishermen have finally proven that they are the strongest party in the equation after succeeding to deprive the market of 'mead' fish at the height of its season, in order to protest the imposition of fixed prices for mead fish, reports *Al-Rai* daily.

Baskets of mead fish can be seen leaving the ports and taken quietly to cars from where they are delivered to customers who order them after viewing ads sent via WhatsApp.



Empty stalls in the fish market.

Is it for visa trading?

Empty stands in Jleeb fish market raise questions

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: At a time when it is necessary to tighten controls on the local market to protect consumers from manipulation of prices, it was observed that there are empty stands in the fish and vegetables market in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh area to the left on the way towards Abdullah Al-Mubarak area. The design is similar to that of the markets of Mubarakiya, Sharq and Al-Kout but with a lesser number of customers and limited display of goods, reports *Al-Qabas* daily.

Some people in the areas surrounding Jleeb Al-Shuy-

oukh area visit this market to buy fresh vegetables, fish and meat. However, there are many licensed stalls that do not experience any commercial activity. This raises questions about the reason why they have been leased, which could perhaps be intended for purposes of visa trading or other commercial matters that are in contravention of the law.

Regarding the lack of fish stalls in the open market that is operating, workers said there are more than 20 stalls that are

The cost of one basket of mead fish is around KD 45 including the charges for the delivery service.

As for the consumers who are painfully deprived of this delicious fish which is known for its high fat and Omega 3 content, they are now paying whatever the delivery men demand, so that they are not denied.

The level of deprivation is increased due to the bad weather conditions of strong winds and high humidity, in addition to tightening of control over the places where fishing is prohibited.

It is worth highlighting that Kuwaiti shrimp faces the same situation as the mead fish. It has become available to consumers via delivery service even though it is not allowed to fish shrimp yet.

The question to ask is – When is fishing permitted? Will the fish prices increase, like with the mead fish?

Also, the Kuwaiti fish Al-Shahami currently costs between KD 40 and KD 42. The cost of one basket of mead fish used to cost KD 35 prior to being allowed to fish but the cost soon increased to KD 45 after allowing the fishing of mead.

In a related context, the Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan has issued a ministerial decision, obligating fish brokers to refer a copy of the daily transaction record to the Central Statistical Bureau.

Al-Roudhan's decision No. 129/2020 amends the text of article 19 of resolution No. 421/2019, which states that "a broker must maintain a special record issued and approved by the ministry. This includes the quantity of fish or shrimp over which brokerage was carried out, the value of each transaction, the way it was paid for, as well as names of those to whom it was sold. A copy of the auction must be given to the observer on a daily basis."

Following the amendment, the text has become as follows – "The broker must maintain a special record issued by the ministry and whose pages are approved. It includes the deals of fish or shrimp brokered in the brokerage business, the amount and value of each deal, the way it was paid for, and the names of the people in whose favor they were sold. It is important to hand a copy of the record daily to both the Central Statistical Bureau and the auction observer."

Some Kuwaiti or expatriate sellers have opened their stalls, which do not exceed four or five, only to practice the activity of selling fresh fish or those imported from abroad."

تطورات مرض فيروس كورونا COVID-19

Tuesday 2020/07/28 الثلاثاء

4 حالة وفاة جديدة NEW DEATHS الإجمالي 442	624 حالة تعافي جديدة NEW RECOVERIES الإجمالي 55,681
4,732 مسحة جديدة NEW TESTS الإجمالي 494,298	770 إصابة جديدة NEW CASES الإجمالي 65,149
124 إجمالي الحالات في العناية المركزة TOTAL SERIOUS CASES	9,026 إجمالي الحالات التي تتلقى العلاج TOTAL ACTIVE CASES

KUWAIT_MOH

'Transfer on cards to cover staff shortage'

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is preparing to issue a decision regarding the transfer of workers in the administrative corps that include about 50 employees in missions and embassies in various countries, including the return of these people to the ministry's main office, reports *Al-Rai* daily quoting sources.

Sources disclosed a number of Kuwaiti missions and embassies abroad are facing

administrative difficulties due to the shortage of staff after the minister decided in April to refer several diplomats working in some countries, who have completed eight years abroad, to the main office.

Sources said the ministry is considering the possibility of issuing a limited transfer decision so that the shortage in the missions facing difficulties will be filled, at the request of some heads of missions.

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