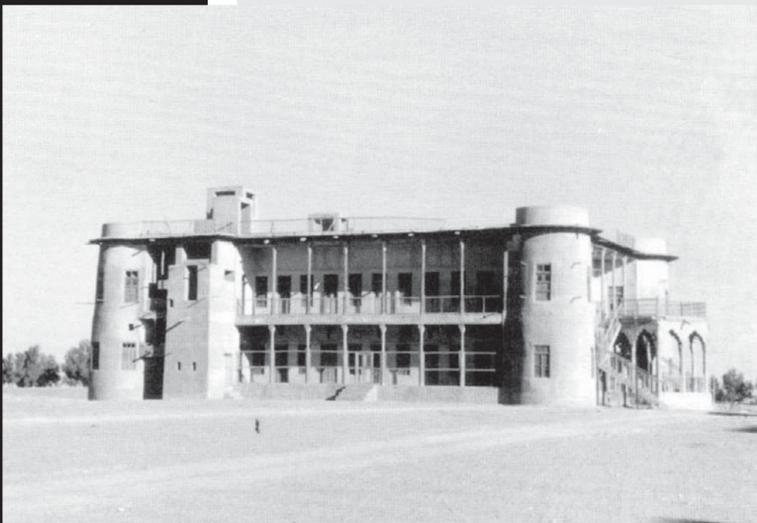


REMEMBER WHEN

Local Architecture

Photograph courtesy of The Center for Research and Studies on Kuwait and the work of Dr Yacoub Al-Hijji in the book *Old-Kuwait: Memories in Photographs* first published in 1996.



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A royal diwaniya was built by the Sheik of Mohammarah (Persia) at the beginning of the 20th century for his occasional stays in Kuwait. It was an architecturally unique building which was later used to house the national museum of Kuwait. It was left empty after the museum moved to its present site, only to be destroyed by the Iraqi invaders in 1990.

The architecture in old Kuwait is characterized by its success in "transforming the local values and way of life into architectural terms," as stated by a contemporary architect of Kuwait. The Kuwaiti master builder, known locally as *ustad*, drew no plans on papers; he figured the proportions and made the plan in his mind. His success, however, in using traditional techniques with locally available materials such as mud, gypsum, coral and mangrove poles, is all too evident. A house or a mosque in old Kuwait

was always built around a courtyard where a brackish water well or a fresh-water cistern stood. In daytime, there would be plenty of sunshine throughout the house. Invariably, a few stairs led to the roof, a much preferred place for sleeping during hot summer nights. Close to the house stood the diwaniya, or men's meeting place, with its private entrance and coffee-hearth in the center. It was there that the men of the house would entertain their guests.

In nearby villages, however, houses were less sophisticated and blended beautifully with the surrounding environment. Some were fishermen's homes; others, such as the romantic kubar, were retreats that belonged to city dwellers. They resided there in the spring when the desert bloomed after the winter rains. (From the book *'Old Kuwait: Memories in Photographs'*)

Courtesy of The Center for Research and Studies on Kuwait

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Competent, meritorious citizens vital to take Kuwaiti boat to shore'

"IN POLITICAL action, everything is possible and expected, and the circumstances and repercussions change attitudes, like in a game of soccer, the game plan and the players change, but national issues and popular demands remain constant and the positions of MPs or political observers cannot change," columnist Dr Turki Al-Azmi wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"This is not the place or the area to play tug-of-war and the escalation of what is happening on the scene, especially since what the voters demand from various groups and components of society is fixed and known but it to a large extent remain ignored with or without knowledge.

"Where are we going? This question concerns the government's work program and the strategic action plan, and the answer will be based on knowledge that some may be ignorant of.

"The beginning is with the vision of Kuwait, to which we must in the first place make adjustments after the Corona pandemic and after the awareness of Kuwaiti society.

"The vision is a long-term ambition about where the organization/country wants to go within 5, 10, 15, 20 years compared to its competitors and the link that connects the current situation to the future is strategic planning.

"Here, I would like to point out a very important issue, which is vital, that is to say any strategy that needed certain procedures related to the provision of requirements to achieve the vision, and must include change of laws. The Civil Service Commission Law has not changed since 1979, so how can these institutions form a vision while not being able to change the laws that help them implement their strategic plan?"

"When you politicize any particular issue or project, this means that you will eliminate it in its infancy, no matter how accurate your vision is not to mention that the vision is often -- with the consensus of researchers in management and leadership sciences -- is formulated by competent leaders, thus you can imagine developing the vision while we are struggling with parachute appointments.

"It is surprising that some continue to ignore the established rule: 'Today's mistake is tomorrow's strategy'. This is what we have learned and know and what you see today in terms of administrative, political, social and media confusions are results of that there are many experienced people known for good conduct and behavior who know what others in leadership positions unfortunately do not.



Turki Al-Azmi

"The reason for this loss in which we live is due to the closing of doors in the face of every national savior who is competent and meritorious, but we have become dependent on a handful of ignorant people and that is why we do not think that one day we will find a sound vision in light of the current conditions."

Also:

"It is wrong on the part of those who think that we overlook the mistakes of the opposition and focus on the government, and if it seems to some that we are doing that, it is because the government is the one who holds the keys to the public treasury, and it is the one who appoints the administrative and financial leaders, and it is clear that it has committed disasters in the past twenty years that have brought us to this stage. The appointments have not been at the level of responsibility, and a large part of the state's funds were wasted in the form of undue bidding for influential people and theft of public money," columnist Qais Al-Osta wrote for *Al-Jarida* daily.

"In the meantime, this does not mean that the performance of the opposition was exemplary. If we want the reality, it has contributed to the approval of cadres that led to inflation in the state budget, which did not exceed five billion in 2004 and reached twenty-one billion at the present time. It is the opposition who watched closely what is happening around them has remained silent as graves due to tribal, sectarian and family considerations.

"The current opposition is under obligation to realize that the real number is close to twenty-five members, and it is sufficient to bring about a political balance with the government team. As for the rest, the government and its allies will use them if the need arises and there is no objection to some of them sitting with the opposition and hold a sit-in with at the parliament gate as long as the numerical calculation allows for that.

"As for the method of winning over these MPs, it is difficult to mention that because we do not want to be dragged between the legal channels we do not bear claims from anyone.

"The opposition is asked to unify positions and it must agree on a specific agenda, and the government's mistakes are so many that it will allow the opposition to develop a flowering work plan. No one can deny the mistakes of the government such as the Malaysian Fund, the Army Fund, and the Eurofighter planes, and not recovering money from those who stole the Social Security funds, and many thefts, some of which have been unveiled and others are still in the process of being unveiled or remains at the depth of the sea.

"The credit for uncovering these thefts is not for National Assembly. Rather, it belongs to Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad, may God have mercy on him, and to Fahd Al-Rashid, may God prolong his life, and to the local and international press, which means that the one-vote Assembly headed by the current president is either aware and this a calamity, or doesn't know, which makes the calamity ever greater.

"I return to the opposition and ask it to focus on issues of public money, as it is the only institution capable of rallying the political street behind it. As for the current government, it realizes more than anyone else that it is out of date. If it attracted some parliamentarians, it is unable to win over the people, and it is far from popular legitimacy."

□ □ □

"The movie, 'Lawrence of Arabia', which was produced in 1962 and filmed in Morocco and Jordan, won several Oscars. It is considered one of the greatest classic films in the history of world cinema. Even some months ago, Britain re-screened it during the opening of cinemas as a way to attract viewers," columnist Sami Abdulatif Al-Nisf wrote for *Annahar* daily.

"The film was also considered a turning point for Arab actor Omar Sharif to launch his career internationally.

"This wonderful film showcases breathtaking views and immortal music. Arab countries prevented its showing in their territories for the sole reason that it depicted the proceedings of the Arab Parliament meeting held in Damascus in 1918 and the overwhelming chaos that prevailed - screaming, fighting and jumping on the tables. "Arabs saw in the year 1962, which coincides with the start of the Kuwaiti Parliament show, that these scenes do not represent them and that they are more civilized than those doing these childish acts."

"The screaming and shameful chaos that happened in the National Assembly on Wednesday is not far from what the movie 'Lawrence of Arabia' has shown. Absolutely, there is no justification for such chaos, except that the opposition forces want to lose popular support and direct it completely towards the support of two leaders since the screaming approach was used.

"Chaos and lack of interest in the conditions of the country entail the inability to counter the argument or work under the banner of the Constitution and the reverence of Abdullah Al-Salem Hall."

— Compiled by Ahmad Al-Shazli

Govt offices wear deserted look

Staff, clients missing

KUWAIT CITY, April 15: A clear absence of clients, quiet corridors of ministries, and offices that are almost empty of employees – this is the general scene in the ministries complex during the working hours in the month of Ramadan so far. Calm prevailed in many offices in light of the commitment of some government agencies to the number of employees not exceeding 30 percent, reports Al-Qabas daily.

During the tour in the corridors of government agencies, it was noticed that the employees were congratulating one another and wishing well to each other in this month of Ramadan. The discussions that trended among the employees were mainly concerning the partial curfew and their inability to meet their daily needs due to the lack of time, as well as concerning politics and social affairs.

A striking aspect that was noticed was the decrease in the number of employees due to the commitment of government agencies to operate on a 30-percent workforce capacity in all its departments, and reduced working hours to about four and a half hours.

It was also noted that the employees adhere to the Cabinet's instructions regarding health and preventive requirements at workplaces based on the instructions of the health authorities.

A number of clients affirmed to the daily that they did not face any difficulties in completing their transactions, that there were sufficient parking spaces for their cars, and they did not experience any congestion like in the past.

They explained that they did not come across any obstacles in completing their transactions despite the decrease in the number of employees in compliance with the decision of the Council of Ministers. Some government agencies have automated their services, which enabled many of them to complete their transactions online. This turned out to be one of the advantages of the COVID-19 pandemic, as it pushed the authorities to adopt e-services.

Director General of the Directorate General for Civil Aviation Eng. Yousef Al-Fawzan issued a circular regarding working hours during the month of Ramadan.

In the circular, he declared that work in DGCA will start from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, and called for the observance of health and preventive requirements.

Meanwhile, the official spokesman for the Ministry of Public Works and the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport, Engineer Abdullah Al-Ajmi announced the ministry invites applications for vacant supervisory positions.

The ministry is looking for Department Head, Observer and Director of Department at the Ministry of Public Works. The door for receiving applications opens on Sunday, April 18, 2021.

Huawei: Optimizing portfolio to boost business resilience and navigate a challenging environment

Huawei held its 18th Global Analyst Summit in Shenzhen today. More than 400 guests, including industry and financial analysts, key opinion leaders, and media representatives joined the event on-site, along with analysts and media representatives from around the world who attended online.



Eric Xu, Huawei's Rotating Chairman, shared the company's business performance in 2020 as well as five strategic initiatives moving forward. According to Mr. Xu, Huawei will:

- Optimize its portfolio to boost business resilience. As part of these efforts, Huawei will strengthen its software capabilities and invest more in businesses that are less reliant on advanced process techniques, as well as in components for intelligent vehicles.
- Maximize 5G value and define 5.5G with industry peers to drive the evolution of mobile communications.
- Provide a seamless, user-centric, and intelligent experience across all user scenarios.
- Innovate to reduce energy consumption for a low-carbon world.
- Address supply continuity challenges.

«Rebuilding trust and restoring collaboration across the global semiconductor supply chain is crucial to bringing the industry back on track,» stressed Eric Xu.

«Moving forward, we will continue to find ourselves in a complex and volatile global environment. Resurgence of COVID-19 and geopolitical uncertainty will present ongoing challenges for every organization, business, and country. We believe deeply in the power of digital

technology to provide fresh solutions to the problems we all face. So we will keep innovating and driving digital transformation forward with our customers and partners to bring digital to every person, home and organization for a fully connected, intelligent world.»

William Xu, Director of the Board and President of Huawei's Institute of Strategic Research, began his keynote by discussing challenges that will affect social well-being over the next decade, including ageing populations and increasingly high energy consumption. He followed with Huawei's outlook on the intelligent world of 2030, including nine technological challenges and proposed directions for research efforts. These include:

- 1) Defining 5.5G to support hundreds of billions of

- different kinds of connections
- 2) Developing nanoscale optics for an exponential increase in fiber capacity
- 3) Optimizing network protocols to connect all things
- 4) Providing advanced computing power strong enough to support the intelligent world
- 5) Extracting knowledge from massive amounts of data to drive breakthroughs in industrial AI
- 6) Going beyond von Neumann architecture for 100x denser storage systems
- 7) Combining computing and sensing for a hyper-reality, multi-modal experience
- 8) Enabling people to more proactively manage their health through continuous self-monitoring of personal vital signs
- 9) Building an intelligent Internet of Energy for the generation, storage, and consumption of greener electricity

«In the decade to come,» said William Xu, «we can expect to see many great improvements in society. To promote these efforts, we hope to join forces with different industries, academia, research institutes, and application developers to address the universal challenges facing humanity. With a shared vision, we all have a role to play as we explore how to make connections stronger, computing faster, and energy greener. Together, let's march ahead towards an Intelligent World in 2030.»

The first Huawei Global Analyst Summit took place in 2004, and has been held annually ever since. This year's summit, «Building a Fully Connected, Intelligent World», runs from April 12 to 14, with a number of breakout sessions where industry experts from around the world can share their unique insights and discuss future trends.