

Al-Anbaa

FRIENDS OF FAILURE

By Saad Al-Motesh

The famous Arab Nobel laureate and scientist Dr Ahmed Zuwail says that the West supports losers until they succeed, while we fight successful people until they fail. Well, we will not care much for the Western stories of success, because we are a nation of consumers and the result of such successes will eventually arrive to us, but not for free. We will buy and boast that we have done so and own it.

Zuwail did not name those fighting success and trying to foil it. He did not mention whether they are ordinary men or officials. However, in view of this statement and the doctor's scientific status, it is clear that

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he had been fought by people of scientific or social status who hated that anybody else would succeed, out of envy or even upon recommendations from certain 'losers'. I found that the idea discussed by Zuwail really matches our daily life here in Kuwait, where we have many people who try to spoil the success of any official in doing their duties, which has, unfortunately, become a truly bad Kuwaiti habit.

The moment Osama Abdullah Al-Roumi, Adnan Mohammed Al-Qudhaibi and Salman Abdul Aziz Al-Fahd were appointed deputy directors of the customs department, many people started criticizing them, taking advantage of the liabilities bestowed in them by constitutional powers. They started questioning their performance though they failed to find a fault or a mistake they committed throughout their previous careers.

It eventually turned out that, in most cases, their criticism was not for greater good or seeking the best for these positions, as they claimed. It was only meant to empower and appoint certain people in certain positions, which has become a general trend by those who managed to beguile us and we authorized them to set our legislations!

— Translated by Kuwait Times



AUB HOLDS TRAINING COURSES ON SIGN LANGUAGE FOR STAFF

KUWAIT: In line with its continued efforts to enhance its services for clients with special needs, Ahli United Bank (AUB) organized four training courses for employees on learning sign language to facilitate communication with such clients.

Commenting on these courses, Naqeeb Amin, Head of Human Resources, said that the Bank operates within an integrated strategy that aims to provide the best banking services to its clients including those with special needs. Hence, training courses were held from January to April, 2016.

Amin added: "The drive underlying



the acquisition of our staff with the skill of communicating in sign language with special needs clients falls within the Bank's social responsibility. It also reflects our concern for such

clients and to enable them to receive the high quality service they require and with ease.

Amin commended the turnout of the Bank's employees and their interest in the sign language courses. He added that the success of these courses will reflect positively on developing our ability to deal with this special category of client.

Amin reiterated that the Bank and its Executive Management fully support reinforcing the various capabilities and skills of its staff which is reflected by the sustained success in gaining the confidence of our clients of various categories and segments.



FREEZING PRICES POLITICAL MANIPULATION OF ECONOMY: KCCI

KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaleel received the Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Ali Al-Ghanem, KCCI office member Osama Al-Nisf and KCCI advisor Majed Jamaluddin.

Following the meeting, Ghanem said that for the second time, Kuwaiti economic decision-makers had fallen victims to political pressure and electoral calculations. "The minister of commerce's decision to freeze prices of goods, services and craftworks is but a new example of political pressure that does not only affect the soundness of economic decisions, but also rocks one of the most important economic principles in Kuwait - free competition," he said.

Ghanem stressed that KCCI strongly rejects all forms of monopoly, and at the same time and for the same reasons, rejects any actions or measures that would hurt the market.



KCCI Chairman Ali Al-Ghanem

was not only illegal, but that it also violates the law used to support it. Ghanem concluded that the meeting with the acting PM was dedicated to explain KCCI's stance on the minister's decision and to explain its harmful economic consequences. — Al-Qabas



KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry's retirees' diwaniya organized a 'medical day' recently which included a blood donation campaign as well as blood sugar level and pressure tests.



Former speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun

SAADOUN SLAMS TAKING PART IN THE ELECTIONS

KUWAIT: Former parliament speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun stressed that current political blocs lack a reformist vision to help fight corruption. He stressed that taking part in the coming parliamentary elections would be political and national frivolity that would lead to no real change even if the 'majority' took part.

Speaking at a seminar held recently at the diwaniya of Bader Al-Mutairi, Saadoun said that the government's intention to increase

electricity consumption tariffs call for a public attitude to voice its opinion and 'call things by their real names', blaming some political blocs and accusing others of wishing to divert attention from 'the more serious case of the islands and the Silk City project'.

Also speaking at the seminar, former MP Ali Al-Deqbasi described the current parliament as a 'hear no evil, see no evil, say no evil' one that has been silent about political reforms and the electricity tariffs. — Al-Qabas

Al-Jarida

ALIA AND GHALIA

By Dr Hassan Jouhar

Talking about various forms of corruption, senior officials immediately ask for proofs and examples, which sounds more like throwing the ball back to our court. Such a challenge is logical in terms of having to prove any allegations. The challenge would even be greater if simple citizens are asked to produce statistics and authentic official documents. Therefore, occasional reports issued by some monitoring bodies like the Audit Bureau, investigations committee and judicial sources can be handy.

Logic can sometimes be enough to compare certain situations to other real examples based on figures and facts concerning some strange practices in state projects. One of these examples is the new airport project that has so far cost \$25 million in blueprints and designs only, which is a clear indication of the government's serious malfunction and mismanagement in running state errands. Like the rest of our dreams, the dream to have a new airport has turned into a 10-year old nightmare, which is a time long enough to build five airports according to the world's latest and most beautiful designs.

This project has so far cost us KD 1.8 billion (\$6 billion), which is far more than what had been spent on building Dubai airport, the luxurious Doha airport and the miraculous Singapore airport. This sum is deducted in full from the state's budget. Another simple comparison reveals our dilemma when we consider Queen Alia Airport in Jordan. It is the most recently opened airport in the Arab world. It was built in less than five years with a total cost of \$950 million (KD 290 million), which is less than one sixth of the cost of our so-called airport.

The story does not end there. The Jordanian government did not pay a single dinar for the new airport. The entire cost was collected under supervision, contribution and execution of the World Bank and three private companies. The story still does not end there. The Jordanian government annually makes \$350 million in fees paid by the company running the airport compared to when the government used to spend \$75 million a year when it ran the airport itself. Accordingly, this sums up the total gain from the new airport alone to \$425 million, which is equal to the sum paid by the government in subsidies for fuel and electricity!

To make the comparison fair, Queen Alia Airport is much larger than our proposed airport. It has 65 gates, which is the same like our new airport if we ignore the fact that Alia Airport has prepared extra 40 gates for any future expansions without any extra cost.

Our wildest ambitions now is not to compare ourselves to Singapore or Dubai, but to do so with a rather small Arab country that does not possess the same economic potentials we have. Apparently, they are mentally and humanly superior to us and that is why there is no wonder that their projects are 'Alia' (high) and ours are only 'Ghalia' (expensive)!

— Translated by Kuwait Times

MOE TO HIRE RESIDENT PALESTINIAN TEACHERS

KUWAIT: Following 25 years of banning the recruitment of Palestinian teachers in education ministry schools, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) recently contacted the Ministry of Education (MoE) allowing transferring the residency visas of Palestinians already residing in Kuwait and holding valid residency visas to join the ministry's teaching staffs. The decision covers Palestinians who carry travel documents issued by Arab countries for Palestinian refugees, as opposed to Palestinians carrying Jordanian passports who had no previous restrictions to apply for jobs in the ministry.

In this regard, a letter sent from MoI Undersecretary Lt Gen Suleiman Al-Fahd to his counterpart, MoE undersecretary Haitham Al-Athari in response to the latter's inquiry about the possibility of hiring Palestinian teachers who hold residency visas in Kuwait, included MoI's rejection of issuing visas to Palestinians outside the country. Educational sources added that this would be the first time since Kuwait's liberation in 1991 to hire Palestinian teachers, which was banned due to political considerations. — Al-Qabas

DNA LAW VIOLATES LIBERTIES: STUDY



KUWAIT: A legal study prepared by Al-Jarida daily on the DNA law number 78/2015 shows that the law contradicts with articles 30, 32, 34, 50 and 79 of the constitution. As a result, the study suggests that National Assembly must review the law's texts as it constitutes a flagrant violation of rights and liberties guaranteed for individuals by the constitution.

The study said the announcement by the executive authority to suspend issuance of passports until after DNA tests are conducted is a clear violation of article 31 of the constitution which guarantees the right of travel and movement. It said that the constitutional court decided that article 15 of the passports and travel documents is unconstitutional as it stipulated the husband's approval before issuing a passport. The cassation court also ruled that it is unconstitutional for courts to withdraw suspects' passports.

It also said that the personal status judiciary at the cassation court decided not to rely on DNA tests in deciding lineage due to its inaccuracy, and that methods of sharia should be depended on. The study also examined the US' Maryland state, which is the only state that uses DNA tests, but limited it for court cases only. And in case of "innocent" verdicts or if the case is dropped, the samples will be destroyed. — Al-Jarida

Crime

Report

ELDERLY WOMAN CHARGES EMPLOYER'S SON WITH RAPE

KUWAIT: Farwaniya prosecutor sent a 62-year-old Filipina woman to the medical examiner to document her claims that the son of her sponsor raped her at dawn, and also ordered the registration of the case as a "forced attack". A security source said the woman went to Andalus police station and told them she was surprised by the suspect entering her room at 4 am through the window, and was not able to fend him off. She gave police a medical report stating that she had bruises and grazes.

Two prostitutes arrested

Two women were caught engaging in prostitution in a Salmiya hotel, and are being processed for deportation. Detectives learned about the two Romanian women, who entered the country on a tourist visa and stayed at a Salmiya hotel. Detectives raided the place and arrested them. The two were charging KD 300 each per hour.

Right of way

A citizen lodged a case against a man who allegedly made an offensive gesture towards him following a dispute over the right of way. The citizen told Mubarak Al-Kabeer police that while driving, he differed with another motorist over the right of way, who made an indecent gesture and drove off. He gave police the suspect's license plate number, and detectives are working on the case.

Fugitive in custody

An man started running as soon as he saw a police patrol in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, and when he was caught, he was found in violation of visa laws and wanted for a forgery case. The Indian man drew the attention of police when he started running, so they chased him on foot and caught him. The man did not have a civil ID, so he was fingerprinted and his status was determined.

Suicide reported

An Indian man was detained by police for questioning after his wife was found dead inside their home. Police received a call about a woman who committed suicide, so they went and found her on the floor with a rope hanging in the room.

Theft

A citizen was sent to Farwaniya prosecution and charged with theft after her family's attempts to settle the matter with a major clothing, accessories and cosmetics company failed. The company said many thefts were committed by the woman valued at thousands of dinars, although she was caught with goods worth KD 340. Investigations are underway.

Electricity poles

Jahra detectives are investigating the case of thieves who stole 57 electricity poles along with seven kilometers of copper cables. A security source said an official from the Ministry of Electricity and Water said that the power distribution networks sector noticed a defect in the grid, and when the spots were tested, a cable was noticed missing on Salmiy road between kilo 60 to kilo 67 (7 km) along with 57 wooden posts, six suspended transformers and six switches.

Patient injured

A citizen in her thirties told police that she visited a clinic for removing fat from parts of her eyes, and the doctor told her it is best that it is removed by using laser and she accepted it. She said she was surprised after waking up that parts operated on to remove the fat were burned, and she submitted medical report stating her injuries. — Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa