

النابا Al-Anbaa

WHISPER OF BLAME

By Dr Nermin Al-Houti

As we hear the news and decisions to reduce the state's budget, the initiatives of the Amiri Diwan and the Cabinet to face the economic crises that face the entire world and not only Kuwait, we find that the National Assembly did not give any proposal or positive action towards the crisis, and with a whisper of blame to the nation's house, I remember an incident that happened with me when the respected Jassem Al-Khorafi, may Allah bestow His mercy on him, was speaker of the Assembly.

I was heading to Cairo, and when I got on the plane, and everyone was in their seats getting ready for take-off, the door was not closed waiting for five passengers. Suddenly we found "Uncle Jassem", with four MPs, boarding the plane. The doors closed and the plane took off for the Arab Republic of Egypt. When the seat-belt sign was switched off, I headed to the seat of Uncle Jassem to greet him and ask why he was visiting Egypt. He replied: Official delegation to attend an Arab League meeting. I told him: Why didn't you take a private jet? He said: Why should I incur costs for the state?

May Almighty Allah bestow His mercy on Uncle Jassem Al-Khorafi, and from that incident, my whisper of blame starts with the nation's deputies. It was expected that the nation's house to be the first to relieve and reduce the burden on the state's budget, as our MPs have many things that they can forgo to help rationalize the budget, and some of these are for example, and not limited to:

\* The vehicles given to them. Just a suggestion - the purchase of those vehicles must be stopped, and each MP should be given a token amount of money instead.

\* Buffets that are laid between sessions. I believe that while we face a collapse in oil prices, such meals should stop as a kind of rationalization.

\* Juices, dates and incense. Why are these bought and brought to the nation's house at the current time?

\* The lights that are on most of the time in the offices of our Assembly, without having anyone of them. Is it not time for the rationalizing principle be activated in the nation's house?

\* Reducing the number of employees for each MP.

A final word: Our words today are just a whisper of blame.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

MARRIED FEMALE ABSCONDERS CAN SHIFT TO DEPENDENT VISA

KUWAIT: Security sources said Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Nationality and Passport Major General Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah issued decisions to reduce the number of those on the absconding list. Al-Jarrah ordered the "absconding" be lifted from married females on Article 18 visas and transfer their residency to Article 22, under their husbands as dependents. The husband must have a valid residency and salary that allows him to sponsor his wife. The wife must be reported absconding by her sponsor. Any women transferred to Article 22 visas in this way will not be allowed to hold an Article 18 visa in the future. It was not clear from initial reports how many female expatriates in Kuwait fall into this category. — Al-Anbaa



Major General Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah



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TEN YEARS OF AMIR'S WISDOM

By Thaar Al-Rasheedi

Kuwait celebrated the tenth anniversary of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah's ascendancy on Jan 29, as on the same day in 2006, he assumed power in a most democratic and constitutional way to be the first Arab leader to be fully appointed by public demand through the parliament.

I fail to find the exact words to give an accurate description of the past decade since His Highness assumed power but I can only describe those 10 years as the 'ten years of wisdom' due to the alarming radical developments that locally, regionally and internationally took place over the past 10 years, during which many of the once-thought-of as unbreakable and unchangeable concepts gave way. However, thanks to His Highness's wisdom, Kuwait managed to steer through such developments safely.

Regardless of arguments over some recent decisions, time proved that those decisive decisions were 100 per cent correct and were the direct reasons for the political stability we enjoy nowadays, which are also agreed upon by politicians who used to disagree with them.

The decisive decisions His Highness made during a

period of political instability had a very good impact on enhancing the pillars of our democracy and bringing things back to the right tracks with minimum damage. For instance, following the issue of the one-vote decree, the country regained a state of political serenity that was followed by the achievement of many projects on the course of boosting development. His Highness's wisdom was also behind reinforcing national unity after some parties tried to strike it for the sake of temporary political goals.

His Highness was behind bringing things back on track on many political issues - things that would have not been so smoothly administered if it were not for the wisdom of His Highness and capabilities to solve the most complicated issues. Ten years of wisdom have regained our country's elegance, and despite challenges, placed us politically, democratically and developmentally back on the right path towards a better Kuwait. Finally, we need to highlight that ships sail and move on water's surface by sailors but need to be still led and commanded by captains.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

HEALTH MINISTER CALLS FOR REDUCING PRIVATE HOSPITAL BUILDINGS' AREAS

KUWAIT: Health Minister Dr Ali Al-Obaidi has called on Kuwait Municipality to reduce land area restrictions for private hospitals in order to allow smaller private hospitals to be built. Obaidi added that according to earlier regulations, a general private hospital's area was required to be at least 5,000 square meters and a specialized hospital had to be on land of at least 3,000 square meters.

The minister requested however that given Kuwait's small size and limited availability of land to allow private hospitals reduced area requirements of 3,000 square meters (for general hospitals) and 1,300 square

meters (for specialty hospitals) respectively.

"Lands available for building medical projects like private hospitals are limited in view of Kuwait's area," the minister said, noting that medical facilities' efficiency was measured by hospital performance and competence rather than its size and that such requirements were unreasonable. Further, Obaidi noted that the health insurance law that had been passed by the parliament required the presence of medical facilities providing profound health care services and that Kuwait needed such hospitals. — Al-Qabas



Health Minister Dr Ali Al-Obaidi

Crime

Report

More bribes for travel ban escape at the airport

KUWAIT: A policeman from Kuwait International Airport to the prosecution for enabling an Egyptian man who is banned from traveling, to leave the country without documenting his movement in the computer. Director General of Residency Detectives Department Brig Saud Al-Khader learned from an undercover source that an Egyptian left the country without having his departure documented in the computer at the airport.

Concerned authorities asked Interpol whether the suspect entered Egypt or not, and the answer was that he did on 5/5/2015, and it was learned from the stamp on the boarding pass the identity of the policeman who said that the stamp is his but was not on duty on the day of the incident, but data proved otherwise, and showed that he processed more than 450 transactions that day. Investigations are ongoing to find out the rest of the network members and discover the amount of bribe he received. This is the third report in recent months of custom officers at border points accepting bribes to allow residents or citizens facing travel bans to leave Kuwait.

Family stabbing

Ahmadi detectives are looking for a citizen who stabbed his cousin following a family dispute between the two at the victim's house. A security source said that a citizen in his 30s told Fahad Al-Ahmad police that a cousin of his went to his house to talk about a problem, then an argument erupted and an exchange of blows took place, then the suspect pulled a knife and stabbed him in the arm. The man filed a complaint of attempted murder.

Thefts cases closed

Criminal detectives closed several theft cases, arrested several wanted people and drug dealer. A security source said that Hawally detectives arrested an addict who stole cars, and was under the influence of drugs. In Jahra, detectives arrested a wanted citizen to serve a jail sentence on a drugs case and a wanted Afghan national was arrested in the scrap yards and will be sent to serve an outstanding three year jail sentence. They also arrested an Iranian in Saad Al-Abdallah, and an Indian who stole heroin and hashish, and had one kilo of heroin with him.

Weapons traders arrested

Four citizens were sent to the public prosecution for trading in weapons, a charge that may be punished for 10 years in jail and fines of up to KD 50,000, an AK47, pistols and ammunition were sent with the case files. Detectives received information that there are weapons in three homes in areas of Hadiya, Sabah Al-Salem and Egaila, and that four citizens are trading in them. One of the suspects was lured into a deal to sell a pistol, and was arrested and weapons were found in his house. The three others homes were raided and weapons found. All four confessed to trading in arms for extra income.

Adan hospital imposter

A strange incident took place at Adan hospital when a drunk man entered the ICU at Adan hospital and examined a patient. The suspect was taken to Hadiya police station. A security source said that a citizen reported that his father was in the Adan ICU, and when he went to visit him, he found a man inside the room examining his father. The man was in an inebriated state and so the citizen called hospital authorities. He was prevented from escaping and found not a doctor. — Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa

GROWING DEMAND FROM FOREIGN BANKS ON DINAR

KUWAIT: Official sources from three Kuwaiti banks said that demand for the Kuwaiti dinar has remarkably increased on Interbank and that interests paid on three to six-month deposits had jumped to 3.5 and 3.75 per cent after they used to be only 0.8 per cent last year. Experts explained this growing interest rate by the growing demand on deposits in local currency from both foreign and local banks, which made them wonder about the reason behind getting liquidity at such high cost compared to a few months earlier.

The sources said that several reasons might be behind this trend, such as the possibility that foreign and local banks need to increase liquidity, especially when the government only restricts its deposits to local banks. Other bankers explained this increase by the fact that some foreign banks were increasing demand on Interbank to make up for deposits that had been withdrawn and avoid a drop in its liquid deposits in Kuwaiti dinars. — Al-Rai

MINISTRY BANS DRONES FOR SECURITY REASONS

KUWAIT: The recent seizure of a remote-control drone hovering above the Ministry of Interior's (MoI) headquarters call for immediate and strict measures to prevent the threats such drones pose to national security, said security sources. The sources explained that MoI has contacted the civil aviation department, the ministry of commerce and industry and the customs demanding a ban on importing such aircraft without prior permission from MoI. The interior ministry also decided confiscating any drones that had been already imported without permission and referring importers to relevant authorities for evading taxes and importing banned items without permission.

The sources highlighted that a decision was made banning all companies and individuals from importing Phantom drones without MoI's written approval. The decision also includes referring individuals arrested with the possession of any of these electronic aircraft to state security for investigation, especially after realizing the threats they pose to national security.

Moreover, the sources said MoI's undersecretary Lt Gen Suleiman Al-Fahd called a meeting between MoI's concerned officials and relevant ones in other state bodies like the customs department, the ministry of commerce and the civil aviation department to discuss the measures. — Al-Rai



KUWAIT: (From right) Mohammed Ameen, Senior Specialist Learning and Development at Apparel Group Kuwait with Sheikha Fatima Al-Sabah, Vice Chairperson and Executive Director of K'S PATH and Samir Dogra, Manager of Human Capital and Training at Apparel Group Kuwait, with other staff members. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



A cleaning campaign at the Harmony beach in Shuwaikh, featuring 105 volunteers. A total of 3,760 kilograms of waste were removed during the two-hour campaign.

K'S PATH, APPAREL GROUP ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Society for the Protection of Animals and Their Habitat (K'S PATH) announced that Apparel Group Kuwait has become the first partner of its new program - the Corporate Friends

Program 2016. Sheikha Fatima Al-Sabah, K'PATH's Vice Chairman and CEO said that as a partner, Apparel Group Kuwait and employees will demonstrate their corporate social responsibility by participating

in a number of community activities including volunteering at beach clean-ups and sponsoring the care of three shelter animals. As part of the partnership, 60 Apparel Group employees participated in

a cleaning campaign at the Harmony beach in Shuwaikh, featuring 105 volunteers. A total of 3,760 kilograms of waste were removed during the two-hour campaign.

