

التنبؤ Al-Anbaa

A NATION FOR US ALL

By Sami Al-Khorafi

Too much has been said recently, directly and indirectly, about the participation of those who had previously boycotted parliamentary elections in future ones. We have been hearing that the role of the opposition is over because they did not really exist in the political arena because of their fixed attitude against taking part in one-vote parliamentary elections.

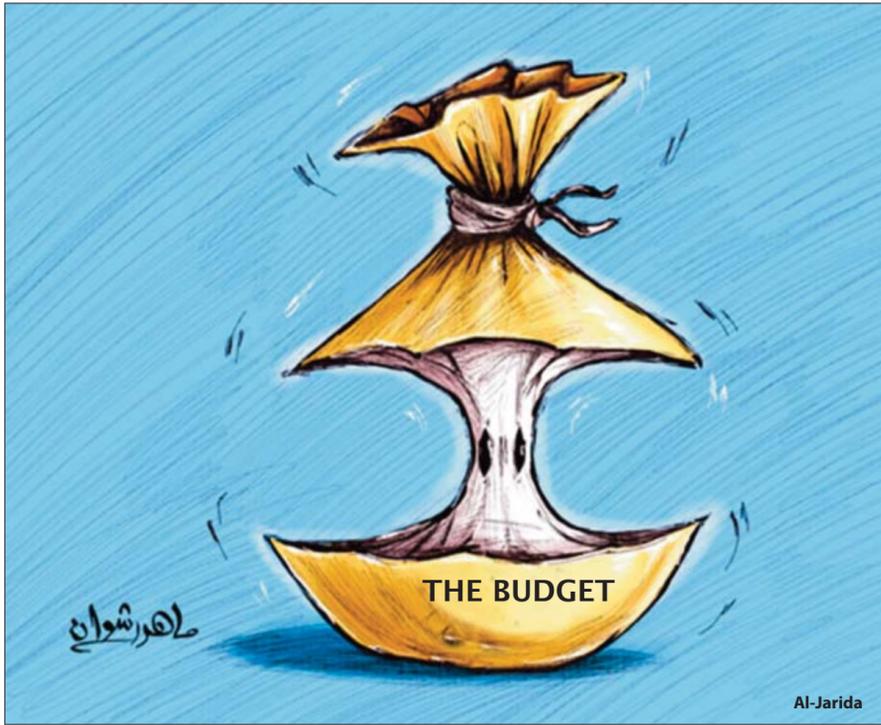
However, in view of the current parliament's passivity, its incomplete role in monitoring and legislation and using all possible methods to straighten up and reform current situations according to its members' views, some opposition members have ambitions to win seats in coming elections to find a place through which they would be able to achieve the reforms they call for according to the constitution and the law. However, they would not wish to declare this to the media lest political situations may change, leaving them no way to back out. They would not wish to be disgraced by the people for changing their rigid attitudes.

Kuwait has experienced critical times with the previous two parliaments leading to clear division and disintegration of national unity. People were torn over the one-vote electoral system. In the first election, under the speakership of Ali Al-Rashed, the boycott was very clear because the constitutional court had not yet made its ruling about the constitutionality of the one-vote electoral system. Things clearly changed in the following elections under the current speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. The court was in favor of the one vote. That is why voter participation was relatively higher because some of them believe that Kuwait is a country of institutions and that the court ruling must be respected even if it is against their beliefs.

The extremely dangerous regional situations call for unity on the domestic side. We must have domestic balance to face foreign surrounding dangers. We must forget about our disagreements and purify the atmosphere with 'pure oxygen'. We also need to unite the blue (national) and orange (opposition) colors and replace them with those of Kuwait's flag. We ought to roll up our sleeves to achieve development and jointly work on reducing the tension we have been experiencing even within single households.

Let us all gather at one table, heal our wounds, forget our disagreements and sacrifice for a beautiful Kuwait that would make an ideal model for a democratic state with its people looking forward to a brighter future and a nation capable of facing all challenges.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



Al-Jarida

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MILITIAS ARE ALL THE SAME

By Sami Al-Nisf

If only we use our brain rather than our emotions and if only we were more loyal to our generous country than we are to smaller affiliations that only divide us and alienate us from fellow citizens, we would easily realize that terrorism and destruction have the same origins and that there is no difference between illegitimate militias in the south, north, east or west. They are all responsible for nation-dividing fires and wars. They have all been serving enemy agendas and creating bloodshed wherever they appear.

Yet, if IS was the most brutal and criminal of all terrorist organizations by recording its crimes and publishing them on various media, other outlaw militias in Yemen, Libya and Somalia that kill innocent people with rockets, shells, grenades, machine guns and discrete executions are no less violent. Both murders are still the same, though may appear in different forms and shapes.

We, as the people living in the Middle East who are plagued with wars and devastation, ought to deal with

things with the same measures. We must not accept militias to revolt against regimes in certain countries and reject them in others. We must not support airstrikes against a certain country and denounce them in others. Using the same standards and the future of our nation mandates us to reject militias for the sake of legitimate states. We should denounce this devastation that only we and our double standards are responsible for, because we have been okaying our own militias and condemning those of others!

Finally, commenting on the UN report about the recent war in Gaza that condemned both Israel and Hamas, accusing them of committing anti-humanity crimes, Hamas spokesperson, Sami Abu Zuhri said that it was unfair to treat those who had lost thousands like the Palestinians did with those who only lost six people, like the Israelis; and those who lost 45,000 houses with those who lost none. Well, I would only wish to resend this remark to those who live outside Gaza and yet are in favor of war inside Gaza!

—Translated by Kuwait Times

القياس Al-Qabas

HOW CAN SALARIES LAST 45 DAYS?

By Ghunaim Al-Zo'bi

One of the funniest scenes one can watch in any co-op society is that of a Kuwaiti person shopping on the last four or five days before his next salary. On those days, you would find the large shopping carts lined up outside the supermarket while the small red baskets are being used by everybody. One might even think that Kuwaitis have at last learned how to shop wisely and stopped buying things they do not need.

However, such wishful thinking soon vanishes the moment salaries are deposited in bank accounts and one would find a Kuwaiti pushing two shopping carts; yet still ask the cashier to wait till he picked up some more items, which only means that his civilized behavior on that last four or five days was only because he had used up his monthly salary within twenty or more days since receiving the previous one.

Therefore, I wonder, how will Kuwaitis 'stretch' those salaries that are hardly enough for a single month and make them last for 45 days?! - The period they would have to wait for before they get their August salaries that are supposed to pay for back to school needs.

It is something good that the government fulfills its citizens' needs and responds to them. However, it would be much better if the government studied the consequences of such decisions beforehand.

What can we do, then? As I said in a previous article, the solution lies in giving a twice-a-year government grant before Eid and before the start of school. Some people may disagree to giving grants since Kuwaitis already receive generous monthly salaries in addition to aids and allowances to some needy ones. Huge chunks are monthly being bitten off their salaries for rent, car installment, maids' salaries, house sustenance supplies in addition to a single monthly visit to a restaurant or a recreational kids' center. All of these drain the salary at least four or five days before the following salary is deposited in banks.

We are a population of a little more than one million and government grants will not be in billions or even hundreds of millions. They would also reduce employees' demands for pay hikes to face the rapidly growing cost of living.

Finally, merchants and the private sector complain that the government does not support them. Well, grants given to citizens would entirely go to merchants and their stores and thus the government will have struck two birds with a single stone: help its citizens and support merchants.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

TRANSIT PASSENGER INSULTS FEMALE POLICE

KUWAIT: A transit trip for an Egyptian couple ended at Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh police station after the man attacked a policewoman on a sensitive part of her body. A security source said the couple resides in Qatar and was flying back there, in transit, at Kuwait airport. Hours before the trip, the couple insisted on getting into Gate Four and the female officer told the couple they cannot get inside before the flight. Then, the husband started insulting the policewoman and pushed her on a sensitive part of her body, so the officer called for backup. An officer and a policeman attempted to explain

the law to the husband but he refused and started beating them both to the astonishment of everyone. The couple was taken to Jleeb police station for questioning.

Man conned out of KD 37,000 deal

A citizen told Farwaniya police that he was swindled out of KD 37,000 by a person he knows. The citizen told authorities that he and the suspect entered a KD 37,000 sheep deal but as soon as the suspect received the money, he switched his phone and avoided him. Detectives are working on the case.

Car break-in

A police officer filed a complaint following a break in of his car and the disappearance of his pistol that was inside. Criminal evidence lifted fingerprints and the case was referred to concerned authorities.

Attempted prison break

A detainee at Fahad Al-Ahmad police station damaged the window of his holding cell in an attempt to escape. The suspect is a 36-year-old bedoon ex-convict. Additional charges were filed against him. — Al-Rai



EQUATE CONTINUES PARTNERSHIP WITH KACCH, CHILDREN HOME

KUWAIT: EQUATE Petrochemical Company, Kuwait's first international joint-venture in this industry, continued its children-related sustainability efforts in partnership with a number of official and civic organizations.

Along those lines, EQUATE contributed, for the second consecutive year, to the efforts of the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospital (KACCH) with a number of giveaways to bring joy to the society's children. During 2012, EQUATE and KACCH launched Painting Smiles (PS) campaign to create community awareness about children receiving medical care in hospitals. PS included an art exhibition that included selling paintings by those children and

Kuwaiti artists with all proceeds being for the benefit of KACCH.

In addition, as part of sharing with children to bring smiles to their hearts and interact with them, EQUATE presented, also for the second consecutive year, giveaways to members of Children Home which includes orphans under the care of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor.

EQUATE Senior Executive for Corporate Communications and Government Affairs Abeer Al-Omar said, "At all times and every place, human resources represent the cornerstone required for the success and progress of any country, society and organization. That makes it critical to provide the suitable environment to

develop and support all individuals, especially children due to their critical role in achieving sustainability at various levels."

Omar, who also heads EQUATE Sustainability Committee, added, "This continuous partnership with KACCH and the Children Home is an integral element in embodying and implementing our 'Partners in Success' tagline to paint smiles within the souls of future generations."

The giveaways were presented to KACCH and Children Home on behalf of EQUATE by Strategic Sourcing Specialist Shirin Kamshad and Environmental Engineer Asrar Mohammad, who are members of EQUATE Sustainability Committee.

Find some great valuable recipes on our social media accounts at [QUAKER_KW](#) [QUAKERARABIA](#)

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