



Al-Qabas

CABINET DECISIONS

By Qais Al-Usta

The decision of the Cabinet to reduce the documentary cycle and transfer the major part of pre-supervision is a correct decision, and at the right time and direction. Also, the decision of the Cabinet to develop Failaka Island and establish a sea transport company to take citizens and expats who want to spend time at the beautiful resort that was constructed on the island is an excellent decision and indicates that the idea of diversifying sources of income has moved from ideology to direct true action.

The same applies to the ministers asking the National Assembly to hold an open session so concerned ministers can give a clear picture with documents on issues that were shrouded with some mystery, such as the farms, Eurofighters and other issues that were mentioned by the media. The decision by the Health Minister to instantly accept treatment abroad transactions by heart, cancer, liver and kidney transplant patients warrants thanks to the minister.

The decision of the Cabinet to form a committee to examine forged certificates, especially with those who got it while at work without any ministerial decision in that regard, which is a violation of the law, and recovering the money from such employees is a good decision that restores the academic integrity in Kuwait and returns confidence to PhD and masters degree holders in Kuwait.

The decision of the social affairs minister to dissolve all sports unions and have laws that fit the era in which we live to prevent the slander Kuwait sports is exposed to is something the minister should be commended for. The press conference that was held by the chairwoman of Kuwait Airways to explain the company's plans to expand to new routes like Australia, Japan and China, as well as some states in the American West, especially since KAC will receive 10 Boeing 777-300 aircraft, is something comforting after the suffering the Kuwaiti citizen faces while moving from one place to another while searching for a respectable carrier to take him to some remote destinations. While I was attending the press conference held by civil aviation chief, the alarm sounded to wake me up to go to work. The whole story is a good omen. I pray to Allah to make it a good dream - oh, all this is a dream? Was the message delivered? I hope so.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



Communication

—Al-Anbaa



Al-Anbaa

THE THORNY WAY TO 2020

By Sami Abdullatif Al-Nisf

The way to the year 2020 will surely be a thorny one because four years before that year, in 2016, US presidential candidate Donald Trump, who has been already threatening in recent media appearances, will have made his way to the White House and will surely change all forms of friendship with Arabs to a state of animosity with Arabs in general and GCC nationals in particular.

In view of the continued deterioration of oil prices in 2020 and the negative impact this would have on states that import all their needs, GCC states will have used up all their foreign investments and reserves in solving deficit problems resulting from their five-year plans for the years 2015-2020, said a report published by the British Financial Times on Thursday.

By that very near year, countries like Iraq, Syria, Libya and probably Yemen and Lebanon will have

been divided following a decade or more of civil wars and political blockades. Other countries will have already joined, or on the way to join the comprehensive regional chaos and intercultural, racial and sectarian conflicts.

According to Wikileaks, the year 2020 is the one in which the former US ambassador to Kuwait Deborah Jones predicted that Kuwait would vanish. She obviously did not mean vanishing in seas of honey and milk, but rather expected this to happen due to fatal conditions of disorder.

Finally, GCC states' best option then is to quickly form a confederation, if possible, to build a joint GCC army, politically and securely educate young people and turn them from tools manipulated and used by enemies to positive striking forces defending their nations rather than destroying them. We do still have time, though!

—Translated by Kuwait Times



Al-Jarida

CONTACTING MINISTERS

By Mudaffar Abdullah

To start with, it is a nice thing that the information ministry held a debate discussing the e-media bill and invited those with second thoughts about it before referring it to the parliament. Secondly, it is highly commendable, as a genuine right of citizens, to speak without any barriers with those responsible for your daily errands. This was the headline of Al-Qabas daily published on Oct 20 in an article written by my colleague Yousef Al-Mutairi. The story said that Kuwait's e-gate website provides access to communicate with HH the PM and 300 senior officials from 32 government bodies via email, telephone and fax.

The question here is: How is this communication going to take place? Kuwait is a very active arena in terms of using the Internet and social media networks, while it is ironically ranked on top of Arab and international countries in hunting bloggers, according to a report by the Arab Human Rights network. According to a KUNA report, the total number of bloggers in Kuwait reached 85,000, a majority of them young people, and those who have Facebook accounts are 880,000, which is a large number compared to the population.

Viewing things from a different angle, the total number of e-transactions made by the Kuwaiti population through the official e-gate portal amounted up to 305,000 in the first few months of this year, mainly focusing on fee collection (KD 30 million was collected in that period) and looking up information, which is a good and heartening rate of interaction that encourages the idea of communicating with ministers.

Nevertheless, I personally and excitedly read the report by Yousef and logged on to the official e-gate site, but noticed that, with the exception of senior officials' emails, clicking on any minister's email takes users to the concerned ministry's website, which means that they are not using personal email accounts, which means that any communication will be 'cold' and nominal, depending on each body's PR staff skills. One can never know whether the whole experience is serious enough, that is having an active, well-qualified staff responding to such mail.

I wished they would launch communication means that are more developed than emails, phones and faxes, such as social media networks like in Dubai that has boldly developed to the extent that the ruler Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid inquires through personal individual messages whether people are happy in Dubai!

There is a great distance between officials and citizens in Kuwait. Most ministers' interaction with the media happens through press releases and statements, which means that information is conveyed one-sidedly and coldly. Though some young Kuwaiti Cabinet members use Twitter to communicate with the public, this remains a personal initiative that is not generalized with the whole Cabinet.

I was greatly offended to find that some of the emails on the e-gate portal belong to officials who retired this year, including some of my friends!

—Translated by Kuwait Times

Crime

Report

SCHOOL 'NEGLIGENCE'

KUWAIT: A citizen accused the administration of an elementary school of not supervising children after her nephew was bitten on his nose by another student. The administration initially attempted to convince the student's parents he had fallen on his face. She said that a complaint was lodged at Rumaithiya police station and investigations are ongoing.

Houbara bustards smuggled

Jahra police arrested two citizens, an Iraqi and an Iranian, with 24 houbara bustards smuggled in the country by sea, and they were on their way to sell them for KD 240. A security source said police patrols stopped two cars that were driving in sync, which raised suspicions. Police men searched the cars and found the birds. The smugglers and birds were sent to criminal detectives.

Egyptian dupes Kuwaiti

An Egyptian expat swindled a female citizen out of KD 5,200 in a car sale before disappearing. A security source said a citizen in her 50s told Fintas police that an Egyptian who volunteered to buy a car for her daughter took the money and told her to be ready to transfer the title the next morning. He then switched his phone off and disappeared. In another development, a Syrian wanted in a civil case failed to escape from a police checkpoint in Farwaniya. He was detained by police before being sent to the concerned authority. The suspect is wanted to pay back KD 50,000.



ABK SPONSORS CAN MARATHON FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

KUWAIT: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) yesterday announced the Bank's sponsorship of the Cancer Aware Nation (CAN) Marathon, which is scheduled to take place on Saturday, 5th December 2015. The marathon will start at the Scientific Center and will end at Green Island, on Gulf Road. Fawzy Al Thunayan, General Manager of Board Affairs at ABK met with Dr Eman Al Shammeri and Reem Al Salem from CAN at the Bank's Head Office to hand over the donation for the marathon.

The CAN Marathon is an annual event which is held to raise awareness of the relationship between exercise and cancer prevention, and to promote physical health awareness overall. ABK has launched a number of activities during Breast Cancer Awareness Month to support this important cause. The Bank continues to play a significant role in raising awareness of this disease to the community by supporting various activities both internally and externally. For more information about the various activities and offers during Breast Cancer Awareness Month visit www.eahli.com, contact an ABK representative via 'Ahli Chat' or a customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.

GCC ENVIRONMENT MEETING KICKS OFF

DOHA: The 36th meeting of Undersecretaries of GCC environment ministries kicked off in Doha yesterday, to tackle joint environmental issues. Qatar's undersecretary of the environment ministry Ahmad Mohammad Al-Sadat said in his opening remarks that the Gulf region is having a steady economic and social growth due to its leadership's directives that aim at achieving a sustainable development for its natural resources.

Environment in the GCC countries is facing many challenges, he said, adding that these challenges require a joint effort, exchange of information and technologies as well as good planning to sustain a good life for its communities. He pointed out that the meeting will tackle many issues regionally and internationally, especially

that of marine environment. It will also discuss environment cooperation among Turkey, Jordan, Morocco, UK and Japan.

On his part, head of environment and human affairs at the GCC general secretariat Dr. Adel Al-Zayani said that environment joint effort in the Gulf region has reached an advanced level where many programs are near completion. He pointed out that studies on establishing a GCC environment observatory, e-gate for environment issues, Sultan Qaboos environment award are almost done and ready for implementation. Kuwaiti delegation to the meeting comprises of Director of Environment of Public Authority Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, his deputy and a number of senior officials. —KUNA

AL-MAJLIS TV CHANNEL TO AIR NEW PROGRAMS

KUWAIT: Al-Majlis TV channel, the tongue of the National Assembly (the Parliament) will begin today broadcasting new programs in conjunction with opening the new National Assembly's session, said Assistant Secretary-General for the parliament's media sector, Abdulhakim Al-Sabti. The channel will continue to show some previous programs, along with the new ones, to be presented by professional media personalities, Al-Sabti told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

One will be presented by former minister of information Mohammed Al-Sanousi, another by Yousef Al-Jassem in addition to others by lawyer Abrar Al-Saleh and a morning show on public services' issues.

Al-Sabti said the new programs, expected to enhance the channel's performance, include one about youth enterprise. Lawyer Mohammed Oqlah will address a program about the Kuwaiti Constitution. Mubarak Al-Wasis, in another

program, will host MPs, ministers and famous personalities. Most of the programs will be related to the National Assembly, including news, follow-up work and activities in addition to broadcasting the council's sessions. About 'Al-Dostour' newspaper, Al-Sabti said it will be re-published "with new character" and will follow up on local and parliamentary affairs which will be the basic material. It will be available on the internet, along with e-accounts.

QUAKER
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- بدون ألوان اصطناعية
- بدون إضافة غلوتومات
- أصادي الصوديوم
- بدون مواد حافظة اصطناعية

IT'S HERE
The SOUP you've always wanted

شوربة
الدجاج بالشعيرية مع الشوفان
Chicken Noodle with oats

شوربة
خضار بالكومون مع الشوفان
vegetable Cumin with oats

شوربة
لحم الدجاج مع الشوفان
Cream of Chicken with oats

شوربة
عطر مع الشوفان
Creamy Mushroom with oats

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