Parliament leaders, Ministers tout Amir’s speech

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and Deputy Speaker Issa Al-Kandari extolled His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his call for national unity and cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities.

Commenting on the address delivered on Wednesday by His Highness the Amir to the nation on the occasion of the last ten days of Ramadán, Ghanem said His Highness the Amir made it clear that national unity is the key to development and prosperity. “Social cohesion and political stability on the local and regional scales are inevitable prerequisites for development and welfare,” the parliament speaker said in a statement carried by Al-Dustur network.

“These are of paramount importance and constitute the main objective of any political action. This is why His Highness the Amir renewed his call for putting aside any sectarian or tribal or factional differences, cementing the national unity, and boosting cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities,” Ghanem pointed out.

“On regional dossiers, His Highness the Amir shed light on the suffering of the Palestinian people and the situations in Syria and Yemen, which signals his recognition of the impacts of these situations on Kuwait. His Highness the Amir raised the alarm about the impending impacts of regional political, economic and social instabilities on Kuwait so as to prompt us to take the necessary precautions and strengthen the immunity of our country,” he went on. Ghanem prayed to Allah the Almighty to protect Kuwait against all evils under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince.

Closer cooperation
On a similar note, Kandari echoed His Highness the Amir’s call for closer cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities. “As a veteran leader, His Highness the Amir has a long history of addressing countless local, regional and international issues. He shed light on the essential issues and reminded the citizens of the security challenges in the neighborhood in order to protect our security, abide by the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and stand united against sectarian and tribal tendencies. “This is what we need today in order to guide our national mass media and social networking sites to promote amity, tolerance and coexistence,” Kandari noted.

On His Highness the Amir’s call for cooperation between the MPs and cabinet members, Kandari said this call is enshrined in Article 50 of the Constitution that provides for such cooperation in order to meet the aspirations of the people.

Comprehensive speech
Meanwhile, Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Fahad Al-Afasi hailed His Highness the Amir’s speech as “holistic and comprehensive.” His Highness the Amir’s speech had also conveyed noble messages, and outlined priorities for national and regional action, the minister said. He added that the speech had drawn a roadmap for Kuwait’s future and highlighted national, regional and international challenges. He applauded His Highness the Amir’s call for retaining national and Gulf unity and achieving greater cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities to better serve the homeland and citizens.

His Highness the Amir had also showed keenness on empowering national cadres, especially youth, Afasi said, citing His Highness the Amir’s call for bringing the conflict in Syria to a halt and for reaching a political solution to the crisis in Yemen.

Ministers laud speech
Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri and Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Hamed Al-Azemi extolled His Highness the Amir for his vision for promoting comprehensive development.

Commenting on the address, Jabri said His Highness the Amir made clear his vision for tackling the local and regional issues. “His Highness the Amir set forth the stances of Kuwait, as a peace-loving country, towards domestic and foreign issues,” the minister said in a press release by the Ministry of Information. Jabri appreciated His Highness the Amir’s call for cementing the national unity as the key to development and prosperity.

In the meantime, Azemi said His Highness the Amir’s speech spoke of a historic achievement in Kuwait in all fields with emphasis on youth role and education. “His Highness the Amir is keen on promoting the educational process and encouraging the youth to gain knowledge in all areas of science,” he pointed out in statements. The minister also appreciated the call of His Highness the Amir for protecting the youth against erroneous ideology and delinquency. — KUNA

Finance minister affirms support for KAC
KUWAIT: Minister of Finance Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf said that the government fully backs Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) in its efforts to restore its trailing role. “The flag carrier, which has a special status in the hearts of all Kuwaitis, faces some difficulties and we are committed to helping it restore its status,” he said. The minister made the comments at a ghabqa hosted by KAC Wednesday night.

“Throughout its 64-year long history, the airline was able to overcome a lot of difficulties,” he noted, expressing appreciation for the founders of the airline who attended the ceremony. He also thanked the incumbent board of directors and staffs, saying they are making history while trying to restore the trailing status of the national carrier on the regional level.

Meanwhile, KAC Chairman Youssef Al-Jassem said the airline pursues its plan to modernize its fleet and facilities, and expand its destinations relying on the national cadres. Terminal T-4 at Kuwait International Airport, allocated to KAC, passengers, marks a landmark in the modernization plan,” he said, noting that the terminal will open in early July. — KUNA

Expert sees growing EU-GCC cooperation in clean energy
BRUSSELS: The collaboration between the European Union (EU) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in the renewable energy sector is progressing “very well,” said a leading energy expert yesterday, Frank Wouters-Director of the EU-GCC Clean Energy Technology Network-affirmed that there was a lot of interest in events focusing on developing cooperation between the EU-funded ensemble and the six-member states of the GCC. The GCC includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, UAE and Saudi Arabia. The official’s statement came on the sidelines of a seminar on “EU opportunities for the energy transition in the Mediterranean and the GCC regions” held as part of the EU Sustainable Energy Week in Brussels.

Carrying on, the director noted that the network in April organized a study tour for GCC officials to Germany, which was highly appreciated, adding that the officials looked at the clean energy sites and installation and research institutions in the country.

Wouters said oil price fluctuations have little effect on clean energy projects in the GCC. “The business rationale for switching into renewable makes sense even if a country earns a lot of money from hydrocarbons,” Wouters said, adding that you can use the hydrocarbons for higher-value purposes like in the petrochemical and fertiliser industry which is much more interesting than burning them for electricity when you can do the same cheaper with solar panels,” he said.

Meanwhile, experts and analysts at the seminar discussed policies, technologies and best practices that can unlock the clean energy potential in the Mediterranean and the GCC regions. They spoke about the challenges of the transition towards clean energy that is currently taking place and how EU stakeholders can engage and establish win-win partnerships in these regions, at a policy, technology and research level. Wouters told the seminar that the Middle East has presented several world-record breaking solar energy plants in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia. He noted that hydrogen is now seen as a fuel of the future and it is being developed across Saudi Arabia with incredible results.

The EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) is an annual event organized by the European Commission. Nearly 2,500 policy makers, authorities, industry, stakeholders, NGOs, researchers and academia from Europe and around the world are participating in the 4-day event. EUSEW debates energy policy, creates networking opportunities and spreads the word about the latest developments on the sustainable energy market and in research. — KUNA