

Local

Kuwait Cabinet refers 2019-2020 state budget to Finance Ministry for further action

Acting PM chairs weekly Cabinet session, reviewing various issues

KUWAIT: Ministers were briefed yesterday about a recommendation included in minutes of the meeting of the government's economic affairs committees regarding reports of the economic development commission of the Supreme Council of Planning and Development, with regards to the proposed state budget for 2019-2020, as well as government borrowing. The Cabinet decided to refer the two reports to the Ministry of Finance to take the proper decision in this regard, in coordination with the higher council. The Cabinet also examined a request by Kuwait University to approve compensation for students studying in the US who were affected with the cyclone Florence and decided to task the university, in coordination with the ministry of finance, to allot required funds for this purpose.

Amir's letter

The Kuwaiti Cabinet held its weekly session under chairmanship of the Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Seif Palace yesterday. At the start of the session, the ministers examined a letter addressed

by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, expressing congratulations on classifying Kuwait among the 20th top countries with respect of ease of doing businesses. His Highness the Amir, in the address to His Highness the Prime Minister, affirmed significance of such uplifting for Kuwait in terms of overhauling the national economy, boosting competition, as masterminded by the head of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority, with participation of 12 government apparatuses, in addition to contributions by civil society associations.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah informed the executives about his participation as part of the official delegations, led by His Highness the Prime Minister, to the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly and contents of the premier's address in which he called on the international community to cooperate with the UN for bolstering the world's security, stability, and combating terrorism. His Highness the Prime Minister had affirmed



KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet's meeting yesterday. —KUNA photo

necessity of peaceful co-existence, underlining the State of Kuwait resolve to continue supporting the UN efforts for sake of global peace and stability, as well as for backing up development for an honorable living for humankind throughout the globe, Sheikh Sabah Khaled noted during the session. He addressed the session about his participation in the annual consultative meeting of the GCC foreign ministers, held on sidelines of the

UNGA session. He also briefed his colleagues about the talks he had also held on the same occasion with his Norwegian counterpart and peers from friendly and sisterly nations.

Condolences

The Cabinet also expressed deep condolences to French President Emmanuel Macron and the French people over the demise of former president Jacques Chirac. During the

meeting, they recalled his historic position in favor of the Arab issues and rights. The Cabinet also condemned the recent explosion in Al-Arish area in Sinai, Egypt, in which a number of security men were killed, expressing their sincere condolences to Egyptian president, government, and people as well as the victims' families, stressing Kuwait's firm stance in rejecting terrorism in all its forms and types. —KUNA

News in brief

15,000 traffic violations per day

KUWAIT: Traffic statistics raised a red flag towards increased violations reaching 15,000 per day, ie 645 traffic violations per hour. The traffic planning and research department recorded 4 million violations since the start of the year until Saturday. It was noticed that women were more compliant with the traffic law, as 500,000 violations were recorded by them, compared to 3.5 million violations committed by men. Stats also showed that speeding topped the number of violations, followed by running red lights. Meanwhile, 400 violations were recorded against policemen for speaking on the phone while driving, while hundreds of the motorists were involved in texting while driving. Psychologists warned that a lack of applying the law equally will result in more violations and points at a social defect. They said violating the traffic law is an aggression against state rights and endangers people's lives. It also indicates that concerned authorities are unable to enforce the law. —Al-Qabas

Kuwaitis marrying non-Kuwaiti women

KUWAIT: Justice ministry statistics over the past five years showed 2018 saw the highest number of Kuwaitis marrying non-Kuwaiti women. Stats showed 2,500 marriages of Kuwaitis with non-Kuwaiti women, compared to 2,253 cases in 2017, 2,316 in 2016, 2,306 in 2015 and 2,276 in 2014, a total of 11,651 such marriages in five years. —Al-Qabas

'Nonfunctioning' security cameras

KUWAIT: Informed sources said the public prosecution's investigations into the border security cameras deal, based on a memo from the interior ministry, revealed that several of them were not operated since they were installed in 2014, and others were not completely installed. Moreover, several of those cameras malfunctioned only days after installation and were not repaired despite the valid warranty at the time, adding that this caused losses of more than KD 100,000. The sources said a public prosecution team examined the cameras along the country's borders for 18 hours. They said the cameras are heat-seeking and supposed to photograph anyone attempting to infiltrate the country or attempt to smuggle banned material under all weather conditions. But the surprise was that the cameras were out of commission for five years without any interior ministry leaders calling for their repair or calling the supplying company for maintenance. The investigations revealed correspondence between the border departments and the financial department at the interior ministry regarding the cameras' functionality, but those sectors did not demand their replacement or repair as stipulated in the warranty contract with the supplier. —Al-Jarida



KUWAIT: Nuwaiseeb customs officers found a pistol and five rounds with a Gulf national upon his arrival into the country. The pistol was hidden under the seat. The suspect and the gun were sent to concerned authorities. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

Kuwait compiles first climate change report

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Environment Public Authority (EPA) has issued its inaugural report over the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which contains the latest information on how the Gulf state is coping with the global challenge. When compiling the report, Kuwait's environment agency strictly adhered to the provisos under the aforementioned UN framework, EPA chief Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Sabah said in a statement. He mentioned His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's plan to have 15 percent of the country's energy needs come from renewables, which in turn, would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the long run. The report was a major collaborative effort

involving numerous state bodies, the official revealed, saying EPA remains committed to all global conventions over climate change. The report primarily pinpoints the factors responsible for climate change in Kuwait, according to EPA's Assistant Director General for Environmental Inspection Dr Sameera Al-Kanderi. On climate change statistics, total greenhouse gas emissions recorded in Kuwait in 2016 amounted to 86,336 million tons, with that figure likely to be slashed by four percent by the year 2035, said Sharif Al-Khayat, an EPA researcher. The oil industry's marquee projects, including those focusing on renewable energy, will be highly instrumental in bringing that plan to fruition, he added. —KUNA



KUWAIT: EPA chief Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Sabah (right) and assistant director general Dr Sameera Al-Kanderi attend a press conference yesterday to announce the report. — KUNA

Kuwait's Deputy FM meets UN official



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with the WFP Regional Director for Eastern and Central Africa Erika Jorgensen. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met yesterday with the UN World Food Program (WFP) Regional Director for Eastern and Central Africa Erika Jorgensen and her accompanying delegation on the occasion of visiting the country. The talks between the two sides focused on means of enhancing bilateral ties and cooperation

between Kuwait and the World Food Program. During the meeting, Erika Jorgensen praised Kuwait's leading role in the humanitarian field and supporting the program activities. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's office Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar. — KUNA

Gulf security requires clarity at states' level: Kuwait



RIYADH: Officials attend the General Security Directors of the GCC's meeting in Riyadh yesterday. — KUNA

RIYADH: Kuwaiti Interior Ministry Undersecretary for General Security Affairs Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah affirmed yesterday that security development in the region requires clarity and sincerity, hinting to the favored approach that should be taken by the regional nations in this respect. This came in a statement after the meeting of the General Security Directors of the GCC. Sheikh Faisal stressed on responsibility to achieve "our

peoples' aspirations and hopes in stabilizing the region." He confirmed that GCC countries are working together as a whole in securing the area and facing all challenges that threaten it. He noted that despite the rising concerns because of terrorism and radicalism, all GCC countries are cooperating in defeating them. The undersecretary expressed his appreciation to all officials for preparing and organizing this meeting. — KUNA

Kuwait Progressive Movement ends boycott, to run for parliament

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Kuwait Progressive Movement (KPM) yesterday announced its intention to take part in the upcoming parliamentary elections to be able to address the public and mobilize public opinion against violations of freedoms, democracy and public gains. In a press release it issued yesterday, KPM added that the aim of taking part in the elections is to expose what it described as the organized looting of Kuwait fortunes, expose corruption, defend public funds and gains and reject any infringement of those gains. "For us in KPM, running for the coming parliamentary elections is not motivated by illusions about achieving reform from within the parliament regardless from the role to be played by the people. It is rather a chance to address the people and mobilize public opinion," the KPM statement.

Further, KPM noted that after boycotting parliamentary elections in 2012 and 2013 in protest against the one-vote law, which it still rejects, with the nearness of the opening of the last term in this parliament's tenure, the proximity of the coming elections and the noticeable electoral activity by many nominees and political blocs, it decided to run in the coming elections to advocate public freedoms and social and democratic gains, expose corrupt practices and "organized looting of public funds and fortunes." KPM also promised to follow a different electoral and parliamentary approach and to make use of and revive earlier democratic opposition experiences of the 1960s and 1970s.

Minister hypes up arts gathering

KUWAIT: A pan-Arab gathering bringing together arts enthusiasts in Kuwait next week is an opportunity for the youngsters to exchange views over their common hobby, said a minister yesterday. The five-day forum, which will attract participants from the Gulf region and beyond, is a testament to the fact that Arab youth have increasingly begun to foray into the field of arts, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri said in a statement. The event, which features a slew of workshops and lectures given by experts, will "prove beneficial" for participants as they seek to further their fledgling art careers, added the minister. Such gatherings are also indicative of the support youngsters in the Gulf region have been offered, he emphasized, saying he was confident that Kuwaiti participants would steal the show. — KUNA