

Local

Kuwait's Cabinet concerned over Iraq's protests, hopes for peaceful solution

Ministers informed about authority's measures to collect debts



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet's meeting. — KUNA

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti government followed with great concern the ongoing protests in Iraq which left many casualties, the Cabinet has stated. In a statement following its weekly meeting held Monday under the chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Cabinet expressed confidence in Iraqi people's ability to overcome this critical phase. It hoped that all Iraqi parties would unify their efforts to reach a peaceful solution that is acceptable to all to help restore security, stability and tranquility to Iraq. In the meantime, the Cabinet expressed sorrow over the heavy rains engulfed the Indian State of Uttar Pradesh that led to material and human losses. The cabinet congratulated Abdullah Abdullah on being elected as Afghanistan President, wishing him success and Afghanistan's people further development and progress. It condemned the deadly knife

attack, which targeted a security checkpoint in Paris last Saturday. It renewed Kuwait's rejection of all acts of violence and terrorism, whatever their motives and causes.

The Cabinet's meeting began with welcoming the return of His Highness the Prime Minister after partaking in the 74th session of the UN General Assembly which was held recently in New York, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh said after the meeting. His Highness the Prime Minister represented His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the UNGA meetings. His Highness the Prime Minister briefed the cabinet on the meetings and talks he held with several heads of delegations of the friendly and sisterly countries on the sidelines of the 74th session of the UN, Saleh added. The meetings and talks discussed means of developing and

promoting cooperation between Kuwait and the sisterly and friendly states for mutual benefits, and reviewed several issues of mutual concerns, he noted.

Meanwhile, the ministers were informed about the economic affairs committee's recommendation on the periodical report by the Public Authority for Civil Information on the uncollected debts from the first of April 2019 until the end of September 2019 as well as measures taken by the authority to collect those debts. They also studied the committee's recommendation regarding rebalancing the state's budget and relevant observations by the Supreme Council for Planning and Development's members. The Cabinet decided to refer recommendations by the council's economic development on the State's budget and the government's borrowing to the economic affairs committee to set an executive program in line with a timetable of the recommendations. — KUNA

No individual licenses for mobile trucks

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi stressed the Municipality has allocated general locations for mobile trucks and has not issued individual licenses per truck. Responding to an inquiry by Municipal Councilmember Hassan Kamal in this regard, Manfouhi explained nine locations had been set of 5,000 sq m each according to certain conditions, adding that trucks that do not comply with the set location will be fined by the Municipality and Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI).

Responding to another inquiry filed by Municipal Councilmember Meshaal Al-Hamadhan concerning fencing plots number 2,523 and 2,524 in Bnaider chalets area, Manfouhi stressed the area is government property and it is not the Municipality's duty to fence those plots.

In another municipal concern, the Municipality stressed that utilizing street billboards is done through public bidding and in case the investing company wishes to increase the number of billboards, an official request has to be made and reviewed by the Municipality's follow-up committee for further approvals.

Manfouhi also responded to an inquiry by Municipal Councilmember Maha Al-Baghli concerning disposal of electronic waste. He stressed such waste is not buried in the Municipality's landfill sites but is usually separated and sent to relevant bodies pending recycling or re-exporting them.

Tribes start preparations for 2020 elections

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Preparations for the 2020 parliamentary elections seem to have started early in the fourth and fifth constituencies, which are dominated by tribes. In this regard, informed sources said tribes have already started preparing for the elections due from mid-October to mid-December 2020. The sources said the Mutair tribe - the largest in the fourth constituency - has started coordination to avoid splitting of its votes like what happened in the previous elections, when 27 candidates from the tribe ran and only Mohammed Hayef won.

The sources added that the Ajmi tribe, Dahmash clan of Eneza tribe and Thafiri tribe agreed to hold by-elections, while Shammar tribe candidates are still arguing about holding by-elections, which also happened in the previous elections when three tribesmen ran and all lost. The sources said the Rasheed tribe, which is currently represented by four MPs, will not hold any by-elections. In addition, the sources explained that the Azmi tribe controls the fifth constituency and it agreed to field a limited number of candidates for the elections to make sure at least four of them win.

Unpaid allowances

A number of supervisors of social and psychological services, technological services and activities yesterday demonstrated demanding demoting them to go back and work in schools as librarians and social workers so they can get the allowances the Civil Service Commission (CSC) only approved for school staff members.

In a meeting with MoE assistant undersecretary for activities and educational development Faisal Maqseed, the demonstrating supervisors said their peers in other assistant educational jobs get allowances while they had even been deprived of excellent performance bonuses. "We cannot carry on working under such unfair circumstances," they stressed, requesting to go back to work in schools.

Maqseed stressed his full support to the demonstrators' demands and pointed out that Minister Hamed Al-Azmi and Undersecretary Saud Al-Harbi are looking into the matter and exerting utmost efforts to help them get the allowances like their peers. Maqseed also rejected the demonstrators' decision to stop working as supervisors and go back to schools, and asked them to wait for a while.

Three firemen hurt in Hawally building blaze



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Three firefighters suffered from heat exhaustion while battling a blaze reported yesterday morning in Hawally. The fire had started in a 10th floor apartment in a 12-storey building, which was evacuated before firemen extinguished the flames. No other injuries were reported. An investigation was opened to reveal the cause of the fire.



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