

Local

Efforts to prevent barrage of grilling motions at start of parliament term

Education Ministry moves forward with banning soft drinks in schools

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Well-informed parliamentary sources stressed that some lawmakers have already initiated contacts to prevent filing grilling motions before the new parliamentary term opens on Oct 29. "The aim of this effort is to prevent filing several grillings and discussing them in the opening session and extending it to the early hours of the following morning in vain," the sources said. They noted that MP Riyadh Al-Adasani is planning to file a grilling motion against Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah before the new term, MP Mohammed Hayef is preparing to grill Finance Minister Nayef Al-Hajraf, and MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subaei intends to file a motion against Social Affairs Minister Saad Al-Kharraz to be discussed in the first session, in addition to other motions against Education Minister Hamed Al-Azmi and Minister of Public Works Jenan Bushehri. The sources added that a number of lawmakers had started contacting their colleagues to delay their grilling motions until after the opening session.

Soft drinks ban

Responding to social media reports that some school administrations have banned soft drinks and food products containing preservatives, the Ministry of

Education (MoE) stressed the decision coincides with the launch of the 'healthy school canteen' project to protect students' health. In its statement, MoE elaborated that the project was launched at the beginning of the new school year in collaboration with the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition and Kuwait Flour Mills and Bakeries Company with the ultimate goal of fighting malnutrition-related diseases.

Co-ops' Kuwaitization

Deputy Chairman of Kuwait Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies (KUCCS) Khaled Al-Hudhaiban announced launching an initiative to 'Kuwaitize' various positions in co-ops, noting that the initiative will be launched on Oct 23 under the auspices of Minister of Social Affairs Saad Al-Kharraz. "This initiative targets Kuwaitizing all leading positions in various co-ops and facilitating citizens' employment there," he added, noting that applications can be made at KCCS after launching the initiative.

Fatal accident

A Kuwaiti citizen reported yesterday that an Egyptian fisherman working for him was killed at dawn when two fishing boats collided. An investigation was opened into the accident.



The National Assembly.

Suspects' extradition approved during GCC justice ministers' meeting

MUSCAT: Justice Ministers in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) discussed yesterday many topics aimed at strengthening legal and judicial cooperation among the GCC states. Kuwaiti Minister of Justice and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Advisor Dr Fahad Al-Afasi said that the 29th ministerial meeting discussed the extradition of suspects between the GCC countries, which was approved. The meeting also discussed the role of Gulf judicial institutes in improving judicial officials, by preparing courses and exchanging experiences between

the GCC states. The establishment of a committee of judicial directors was approved to discuss cooperation mechanisms, Afasi added. They also discussed the draft agreement to renounce hate speech, adding that Kuwait submitted this draft to the justice ministers' meeting, Afasi said. Afasi was accompanied by a delegation from the Ministry of Justice, including Justice Assistant Undersecretary for Legal Affairs and International Relations Zakaria Al-Ansari and Office Director of the Minister Dhawi Al-Mutairi. — KUNA



News in brief

17 newspaper, magazine licenses canceled

KUWAIT: The information ministry has cancelled licenses of 17 weekly and monthly newspapers and magazines. The cancellation was part of a series of decisions issued by the ministry's assistant undersecretary for journalism, publication and prints affairs to cancel licenses of Dalal, Kuwait Auto, Sawalef and Ostora monthly publications, in addition to the cancellation of 13 licenses of monthly newspapers and magazines - Yaqtha, Al-Majales, Waseet Al-Jahra, Elanak, Al-Intiyaz, Nujoom, Ummati, Arab, Jufaina, Kalam, Burgan, Rumooz and Safaqaq. — Al-Qabas

Govt goes after fake accounts

KUWAIT: The government is preparing a list of bogus social media account owners who instigate strife, which will be submitted to concerned authorities to deal with them. Informed sources said the Cabinet will not be satisfied with closing the accounts - rather it will take those behind them to court in Kuwait or abroad in coordination with embassies. The government's communications center met representatives of all government departments to discuss the development of the media mission. Sources said the center stressed that it is necessary to use all technological means to fight rumors, while forming teams in ministries to combat them. Sources called upon government departments to use the opportunity presented by people's communications with ministries through WhatsApp and develop ministries' accounts that are lagging behind their counterparts. — Al-Qabas

Repair works to be organized

KUWAIT: The commerce and industry ministry is contemplating a decision to regulate car, motorbike and boat repair workshops in order to set the timespan for all mechanical and electric repairs as well as paint jobs. An informed source said the decision is to control the guarantee invoices of repair jobs legally so they will be a reference for consumers and supervisory divisions. The source said after the organization of the mechanical work market, the ministry will move to other markets such as electronics maintenance to regulate their work and boost consumer confidence. — Al-Qabas

Private sector's hiring

KUWAIT: Statistics issued by the Civil Service Commission showed an increase in the number of expatriates hired in the private sector since 2015, indicating that expats' numbers in the private sector rose to nearly 1.7 million by the end of August 2019, compared to 1.4 million in 2015. Meanwhile, the number of Kuwaitis hired in the private sector reached 71,013 by August 2019 after 4,506 were hired during the same period. — Al-Rai

Entertainment City development on panel meeting's agenda

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Headed by councilmember Hassan Kamal, the Capital committee at the Municipal Council is scheduled to discuss annulling the allocation of unused sites on Failaka island, a project to develop the Entertainment City and a proposal made by Kuwait Ports Authority to allow adding commercial activities at the port's administrative building at Shuwaikh port. The committee is also set to discuss proposals on expanding the parking lot of Al-Sadhan mosque in Faiha, building a metal fence to protect joggers in Adaliya and allocating a site to build a mosque in Doha, in addition to several other proposals.

Central bank initiative focuses on workforce development

KUWAIT: Kuwait's top banker yesterday highlighted the significance of a local initiative to bolster the workforce in the country's banking sector, saying the broad endeavor also allows novice employees the chance to hone their skills. The initiative entails varied training programs directed at employees of the banking sector, read a statement by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK), citing its governor Dr Yousef Al-Hashel. The programs are part of a plan that aims to have the careers of bank employees remain on a steady upward trajectory, CBK's governor emphasized, saying an efficient workforce would help better serve the populace. On other initiatives in the works, he said a program seeking to lure fresh graduates into the banking sector is coming up, in addition to other ones catering to researchers and economic experts. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait's National Security Bureau Chief Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah held talks yesterday with US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman on bilateral relations. According to a statement by the bureau, the talks dealt with the latest regional and international developments, as well as issues of common interest. — KUNA



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