

Local

Kuwait Cabinet to make decision on curfew Thursday

Gyms, salons, tailor shops to open as part of phase four



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



Minister of Health Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah attends the meeting.



Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Anas Al-Saleh attends the meeting.

KUWAIT: Kuwait will make a decision on Thursday on whether to keep, reduce or end the partial curfew currently imposed as part of the government's efforts to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The Cabinet made this announcement during a virtual extraordinary meeting on Thursday, in which it also announced transitioning into stage four of the plan to gradually return to normal life.

The Cabinet's decision to allow the resumption of some businesses amid phase four of the coronavirus restart plan, due on Tuesday, comes after pandemic numbers stabilized, a health official said. These businesses, which were originally scheduled for phase five, include sports gyms and stadia, barbershops, beauty salons, health resorts and tailors, Health Ministry Acting Undersecretary Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi told a press conference. The move will be governed by measures, which are to be announced soon, aimed at compelling adherence to health guide-

lines, he underlined. Separately, he said the following phase will allow for public bodies and privately-owned establishments to allow the atten-



Govt ready to face potential second wave

dance of over 50 percent of their workforce. It would also allow customers to be seated at restaurants and cafes and the use of public transport while committing to social distancing rules. Asked about the reasons behind daily case num-

bers remaining between 600-700, he said this was a result of non-compliance with health guidelines. The ministry has also made contingency plans, monitoring the situation, and will be ready to take action in the event of a second wave of the virus. Kuwait expects to receive vaccinations in the coming months, he added, saying he was confident that "if guidelines are met, there will not be a second wave."

COVID-19 update

During the Cabinet's meeting chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Minister of Health Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah updated the ministers on the public health situation and the latest developments related to the novel coronavirus, including the figures of recoveries, infections and deaths. The ministers discussed the responses to the pandemic, including the preventive measures and the logistic services, Deputy Prime Minister

and Interior Minister Anas Al-Saleh said following the meeting.

After reviewing the recommendations of the ministerial committee on coronavirus, the ministers decided the following: First, maintain the ban on issuance of all kinds of visa for all nationalities unless there is approval from the ministerial committee on coronavirus. Second, resume the football activities as of August 15, 2020, in the framework of preparations for the continental and world events, provided that the activities take place without fans and in keeping with the health precautions. Third, approve the guidelines set by the cabinet secretariat regarding phases four and five of the gradual easing of the coronavirus lockdowns. Fourth, mandate each minister to implement the measures of phase four relating to their respective ministries starting from Tuesday, August 18, 2020. The ministerial committee is mandated to oversee the commitment of all sectors to the health precautions. — KUNA

In my view

Our children

By Abdellatif Sharaa

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Let me begin with an appeal to every parent and guardian to keep a close eye on their children in this era of free, open and unlimited communications and it is always advised we must learn about their friends and how they behave, because their influence is very great. Yet while being vigilant, we must have an approach that gives our children absolute confidence to come to us and inform us about whatever they face without fear.

We as a society must shed the stigma our youth fear from once they face a certain situation, as this will allow and help them to stay out of harm's way, or get out of it before it is too late. A social consultant said that a mother told him her house was turned into something like hell, as her 15-year-old daughter kept screaming and crying because her family refused to give her a phone.

Meanwhile, another mother complained to him that she found many groups on her daughter's mobile that include youths of both genders who are older than her, adding that most of them were attempting to lead her the wrong way. He added that the mother said the 13-year-old was being added to the groups without knowing who is behind them, and as a result found herself in many suspicious conversations.

When we blame parents alone for what is happening with our children, we actually hide a large portion of the problem, as there are some parents who do not neglect their children, yet they get in trouble. Now that we have realized that the problem is in the pressure of the society and friends, in addition to communications tools, shall we remain idle?

The advisor said the problem is that we do not have the courage to take a decision, adding that for a girl who is x years of age, what is the need for her to have a phone with a SIM card in it? And if you review the phone, you will find gut-wrenching problems.

It is naive to enable our children to get phones and then blame them, for their experience does not allow them to distinguish and they need guidance and supervision. Do not give your young children phones - let them cry now before you cry over the ruins of their behaviors! I say it with confidence that the situation of our children with those devices needs decisiveness and follow up. Do not allow an evil-minded person destroy what you have built over several years with just one or two messages. Be strong, be tough, be loving.

Deputy Amir sees no need to dissolve parliament: Speaker

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah stressed that there was no need to dissolve parliament at present. The speaker, however, said in a press statement Thursday that the decision to dissolve the National Assembly rests with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The speaker made the remarks just one day after he had met with His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince.

Ghanem quoted His Highness Sheikh Nawaf



Marzouq Al-Ghanem

as stating so clearly that he utterly believes in constitutional institutions and the role of the parliament, considering that this approach, established by His Highness the Amir, would remain unreversed. His Highness Sheikh Nawaf also cautioned that he would not condone any bid to undermine the country's stability amid the ongoing political, economic and health circumstances at both regional and international levels, the top Kuwaiti legislator said. However, he called on members of parliament to work together with the government

under these trying conditions, emphasizing that constitutional tools should be used in a wise mode. The speaker stated that he had also met with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on the country's current political scene.

In other news, His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has addressed a cable of condolences to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia. In the cable, His Highness the Deputy Amir expressed, on behalf of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, heartfelt condolences and solace over the demise of Prince Abdulaziz Bin Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Bin Turki Al Saud. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a similar cable to the Saudi Monarch. — KUNA

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