

Students protest at private university



Trump, Sanders win big in New Hampshire



Hunting houbara: Kidnap casts spotlight on Gulf 'sport of kings'



In Aleppo, young boys box to drown out bombs



MPs AGAINST SUBSIDY CUTS, END DEBATE WITHOUT VOTE

GOVT SEEKS TO PRIVATIZE SOME MINISTRIES

By B Izzak and A Saleh

KUWAIT: Lawmakers stepped up their opposition to proposed government plans to cut subsidies on fuel and electricity in the second day of a debate, and the Assembly ended the discussion without voting on any recommendation. The Assembly action is likely to delay government plans to enforce the cuts unless the Assembly bureau resorts to measures that could accelerate the process.

At the end of the debate, a group of MPs presented a recommendation calling on the Assembly's financial and economic affairs committee to meet with the government until they agree on a comprehensive plan of economic reforms including subsidy cuts. The Assembly however could not vote on the recommendation due to a lack of quorum and then moved to other issues. When quorum was restored later, the speaker did not ask MPs to vote on the recommendation.

During the first day of the debate on Tuesday, speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem proposed that the financial panel should be consulted in an open meeting until they arrive at a comprehensive program for reforms and subsidy cuts. On the first day, several MPs opposed the cuts, saying it will lead to price hikes and eventually hurt low-income people, and demanded compensation for Kuwaiti citizens before the cuts are enforced.

But the lawmakers stepped up their opposition yesterday, echoing public resentment, as Islamist MP Hamdan Al-Azemi warned that if the subsidies were lifted or cut, he will grill the prime minister.

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UAE NAMES WOMEN MINISTERS FOR HAPPINESS, TOLERANCE

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates yesterday appointed women to the newly created posts of state ministers for happiness and tolerance, and a 22-year-old female for youth affairs. Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum named eight women as he revealed his latest cabinet lineup of 29 ministers in a series of tweets. Ohoud Al-Roumi, who serves as director of the council of ministers' office, was appointed "minister of state for happiness". She will also keep her former post.

"Happiness is not just a wish in our country. There will be plans, projects, programs and indices. It will be part of the job of all ministries," tweeted Sheikh Mohammed, who is also the ruler of Dubai. The new post "will align and drive government policy to create social good and satisfac-

tion," he said earlier. Shamma Al-Mazroui, 22, was appointed state minister for youth, while Lubna Al-Qassimi, a veteran minister of international cooperation and development, was handed the new post of state minister for tolerance.

"The post of Minister of State for Tolerance has been created to promote tolerance as a fundamental value in UAE society," Sheikh Mohammed wrote when he announced the reshuffle earlier this week. The cabinet has eight new ministers, including five women, with an average age of 38, WAM state news agency said. Sheikh Mohammed described the cabinet shake-up as the "largest structural change in the history of our federal government," merging



Ohoud Al-Roumi



Shamma Al-Mazroui

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AMIR RETURNS HOME



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is welcomed at the airport by HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah after he returned home from the United Kingdom yesterday. — KUNA



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