

Local

Kuwait elections held amid high degree of integrity and transparency: Watchdog

Interior Minister thanks Amir for praising policemen's role in elections

KUWAIT: Kuwait Society of National Integrity insisted that the 2020 National Assembly elections were conducted with a "high degree of integrity and transparency," and were "well managed" in light of the large voter turnout and strict health measures adopted. The elections watchdog had monitored the electoral process after being invited to do so by the Cabinet, its director Mohammad Al-Otaibi told a press conference at the Kuwait Lawyers Association. The one-day event was lauded as an "achievement" due to it being held on schedule amidst the nationwide COVID-19 pandemic emergency. The society's assessors were deployed across all electoral districts, with a large number of electoral committees and polling stations visited, and the voting process examined. They also attended the opening of ballot boxes and the sorting and setting up of results, which were all carried out in "very high transparency," he underlined. "The judges, prosecutors, and Ministry of Interior staff showed a great deal of cooperation in dealing with the society's teams. In its final assessment report, the society recorded "many positive points, with

some recommendations and observations," he said, however positive points "prevailed" with a "high degree of integrity and transparency." There were 63 positive points, 18 observations and 12 recommendations recorded, he said, explaining that this illustrates a "high commitment to local and international standards of electoral integrity."

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Anas Al-Saleh on Tuesday sent a cable of thanks to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for lauding the efforts made by the ministry's sectors so as to make a successful National Assembly poll. In the cable, Saleh said "I and the ministry's staff have received with great gratitude and thanks the praise of Your Highness to efforts made by the different sectors of the ministry in order to make a transparent and successful election," the ministry's security media and public relations department said in a statement. This success was made due to the distinguished and fruitful cooperation amongst all government ministries and bodies as well as citizens, he added. He expressed pride for His Highness the Amir's com-

mendation which will be, as he said, a push for further progress and efforts so as to maintain the security of the country and citizens. He prayed to Allah Almighty to preserve His Highness the Amir, and maintain the country's security and stability under His Highness' leadership.

Saleh sent a similar cable to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for commending the efforts of policemen in creating appropriate conditions to help citizens practice easily their electoral rights during the 2020 National Assembly elections. Saleh voiced pride for His Highness the Crown Prince's cable, stressing keenness on doing their best to maintain security of the country and people. Furthermore, Saleh sent a cable of thanks to His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah for commending the role of policemen in the National Assembly elections. "It pleases us to send Your Highness sincere greetings and gratitude, and we wish Your Highness everlasting good health," he said. The minister wished His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister ever-



جمعية النزاهة الوطنية الكويتية
Kuwait Society Of National Integrity

lasting well-being, and the country permanent security, stability and prosperity, under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince. —KUNA

Kuwait's Prime Minister to attend KAFO-4 Forum

KUWAIT: Under the auspices and in the presence of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the fourth forum of Kuwait's Achievers for Future Opportunities (KAFO-4) will be held between the 12th and 16th of December 2020. His Highness the Prime Minister will address the Kuwaiti youth during the opening session of the annual event. KAFO Executive Director Dr Fatimah Al-Mousawi said in a press release yesterday. KAFO-4, a national platform connecting and collaborating with young achievers via Zoom, will gather more than 30 speakers representing national institutions as well as guests from the World Bank, she noted. "As many as 100 figures were selected for various voluntary roles in the ten

communities of KAFO this year, with emphasis being on the suggestions that could contribute to stronger and more active cooperatives," Dr Mousawi revealed. "A new community on public policy has been added to KAFO and 2021 KAFO agenda will see new initiatives for cooperation with the various institutions," she added. Founded in keeping with the directives of His Highness the late Amir of the Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as part of the National Youth Project 2013, KAFO aims to establish a database of young achievers in different professions, academic careers, and creative fields. —KUNA



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah

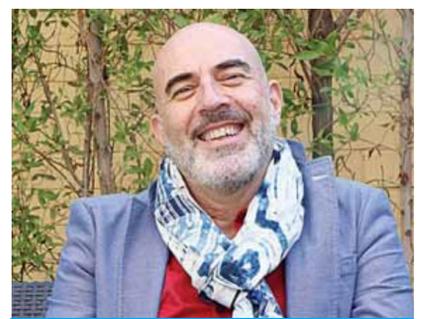
France readying education, arts for 'new normal'

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: France is ready to receive new applicants and enrollees in its schools and universities as it sees an end to the coronavirus pandemic soon. "It's the reality of life for many countries around the world, but we refuse to be affected and are readying our institutes for the 'new normal' very soon. Arts and culture are considered the heart of France. Our life and activities were disrupted, but we can see the light as coronavirus vaccines are being rolled out all over the world," said Pierre Colliot, Counselor for Cooperation and Culture Affairs at the French Embassy, and the current Director of Francais du Koweit, an institute run by the embassy.

Colliot admitted things will still be slow until the second quarter of next year, but believes life in France in the fields of culture, literature, music, research and education will be back to vibrancy very soon. "Tourism is one of the badly-hit sectors by this pandemic all over the world, but with the vaccines, we can see life returning back. We are still in strict lockdown in some areas, but the government is contemplating opening businesses soon. Once vaccines are rolled out, we will soon be back to a 'new normal', and this is the reason why we want to announce that we are now ready to accept students from Kuwait," he said.

"Some Kuwaiti students are back in France, but we want all of them to come back and are ready to accept new enrollees - our education affairs are ready now," Colliot added. France has around 200 students from Kuwait studying in the fields



KUWAIT: Pierre Colliot, Counselor for Cooperation and Culture Affairs at the French Embassy. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

of medicines, judiciary and engineering. "I am happy to serve as the counselor for cooperation and culture for France in Kuwait. Kuwait and France enjoy very close cooperation in the field of education and we want them to know that we are ready to accept their inquiries. If they want to learn French, we have online classes available at our institute. We have the technology - we only need to be ready and reinvent. Soon we will reopen cinemas and museums - probably with a small number of attendees at first, but we can all agree that this is very important in our social life," he said.

Colliot said his priority is to enhance cooperation in the field of education and culture between France and Kuwait. "My priority is making sure French language is widespread in Kuwait's schools, and maybe in colleges and universities. Kuwait has taught French since 1966 in the country and we are happy that they are welcoming this language as a foreign language in high schools," he said.

COVID-19 raised humanitarian needs: Kuwait

NEW YORK: The State of Kuwait has said that humanitarian needs were on the rise due to the upsurge of conflicts, catastrophes, and the spread of dangerous ailments including the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Delivering his country's statement to the high-level annual meeting of the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Tuesday evening, third secretary at the Kuwaiti mission to the UN Ali Al-Yahya indicated that it was vital to support the needs of the fund to battle all challenges facing humanity.

Kuwait had provided over \$9 million to the CERF since its inception knowing the importance of the fund's role in addressing issues of humanitarian needs. The global community is in need of boosting cooperation in the efforts to battle against the rising humanitarian concerns created by conflict, natural disasters, and the spread of disease, Yahya said, reiterating his country's support to the UN's calls for a global ceasefire due to focus efforts on battling COVID-19, which infected more than 67 million people and claimed the lives of 1.54 million others. Since March, Kuwait had donated \$100 million to help the world confront the coronavirus, while \$188 million were allocated via the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) to help struggling countries during this pandemic, affirmed Yahya. The Kuwaiti diplomat urged all countries to address the needs of the CERF to help lessen human suffering and save lives worldwide. —KUNA

Kuwait lists five COVID deaths, 304 new cases

KUWAIT: Kuwait listed 304 new coronavirus infections yesterday raising the total to 145,204, while five deaths recorded over the past 24 hours upped the death toll from the outbreak to 905, the health ministry said. The ministry had announced earlier that 351 COVID-19 patients had recovered during the same period, raising the total number of recoveries to 140,989. The number of people hospitalized with the virus stood yesterday at 3,310, with 79 of them in intensive care units, according to ministry spokesman Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad. He added that 6,656 swab tests were conducted over the same period, while total swabs reached 1,158,859. Dr Sanad went on to urge the public to abide by health precautions, mainly following social distancing, which he said is the best way to halt the spread of the virus. —KUNA



Stay safe. Stay home. Stay informed.

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in the Arabian Gulf



KuwaitTimes f t i 94488888