

Local

Kuwait voices deep concerns on threats to maritime navigation

Cabinet warns against COVID complacency, names new Amiri Diwan minister

KUWAIT: The Cabinet on Wednesday expressed deep concerns about the dangerous consequences of the threats to security and safety of maritime navigation in the waters leading to the Arabian Gulf and waters surrounding the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.

The Cabinet, in a meeting held at Seif Palace under the chairmanship of the HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, also voiced backing to the presidential statement issued by the UN Security Council on Aug 9 on the importance of ensuring maritime safety and safeguarding oceans' legitimate use, according to a statement read out following the meeting by Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah.

It noted the UNSC statement has outlined the international references and laws related to the protection of the maritime routes, which are lifelines for the global economy. The Cabinet reiterated Kuwait's call for all parties to adhere to relevant international conventions and treaties, mainly the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The government also expressed Kuwait's readiness to work with the international community to retain the security and safety of maritime routes and ensure the unhindered movement of ships along global trade routes.

The Cabinet also warned the public against complacency when it comes to compliance with COVID-19 health measures as ministers said they are satisfied with the latest drop in cases, deaths and hospitalizations. This came as Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah briefed ministers on developments regarding the virus as the country prepares for a gradual, safe post-pandemic transition.

The minister said that the COVID-19 recovery-to-infection ratio has risen to 97.3 percent as the nationwide vaccination campaign continues to witness a huge turnout of nationals and expatriates alike at centers across the country. On this, ministers expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the public's commitment to health measures and the efforts of frontliners in responding to the pandemic.

The Education Ministry's plans for the upcoming 2021-22 academic year for both public and private schools across the country were also discussed. Education Minister Ali Al-Mudhaf briefed the Cabinet on the ministry's coordination with the health ministry and the precautionary measures in place as pupils prepare for a return to in-person learning.

The Cabinet also approved a draft decree to appoint a new Minister of State for Amiri Diwan Affairs, naming Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Sabah to the role, the government said. The draft proposal has been referred to HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, pending his approval, the Cabinet said on its official Twitter account.

On Yemen, the Cabinet strongly condemned the continued attempts of the Yemeni Houthi militias to threaten the security of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The continuity and escalation of these hostile actions which target the security of the kingdom and the stability of the whole region and ignore the international community's efforts to end the conflict in Yemen are blatant violations of the international law and the international humanitarian law, it said.

The international community should take a swift action to stop these acts and hold perpetrators accountable to their actions, the Cabinet added. It voiced Kuwait's full support for Saudi Arabia in all the measures it takes to maintain its



KUWAIT: HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs a Cabinet meeting at Seif Palace on Wednesday. —KUNA

security, stability and sovereignty. It welcomed the appointment of Hans Grundberg as the new UN Secretary General's Special Envoy to Yemen.

The Cabinet wished him all success in his mission to help find a solution to the Yemeni conflict based on the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and its executive mechanisms, outcome of the Intra-Yemeni dialogue, and the UN Security Council resolution no. 2216. The Cabinet renewed Kuwait's backing to all international endeavors to find a political solution to the Yemeni crisis with the main goal of putting an end to the sufferings of the Yemeni people and boosting security and stability in the region.

Meanwhile, the government expressed sympathy and solidarity with Algeria, Turkey and Greece which are witnessing huge wildfires that left material and human losses. The Cabinet extended condolences to the three countries for their human losses and wished speedy recovery for those injured by the fire. It also

wished success for the local authorities in controlling the fire soon.

In this regard, the Cabinet expressed appreciation of HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf's directives to offer a helping hand to the three friendly countries and to contribute to their efforts to extinguish the wildfires. The Cabinet also instructed all the relevant Kuwaiti government bodies to offer all kinds of support to these countries to bring fire under control, through dispatching fire-fighting and rescue equipment and teams.

At the onset of the meeting, Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad briefed the Cabinet about his recent visit to Tehran to represent HH the Amir at the inauguration ceremony of new Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi. He pointed out that he also handed the Iranian leader a letter from HH the Amir. The Cabinet congratulated the Iranian president on the post and wished success in his missions in a way that enhances the region's security and stability. —KUNA

Kuwaiti import funding rose to \$1.8bn in June

KUWAIT: Financing of Kuwaiti imports jumped in June to KD 570 million (\$1.8 billion), rising by 92.9 percent compared to May, according to statistics released by the Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday. The CBK's department of economic research said in the report that money supply (M2) rose one percent in June, reaching KD 40.7 billion (\$134 billion). Deposits of the private sector in the local banks in Kuwaiti dinars climbed one percent in June, reaching KD 34.9 billion (\$115 billion), while the private sector's

deposits in foreign currencies jumped by 15 percent, reaching KD 2.3 billion (\$7.5 billion).

Total local banks' claims on the CBK in dinar in the form of the central bank bonds, settled at KD 2.9 billion (\$9.6 billion) while interest rate on one-year treasury bonds settled at 1.375 percent. Meanwhile, local banks' total assets rose by 1.1 percent recording KD 74.9 billion (\$247 billion), according to the CBK statistical report, which also noted that net foreign assets rose by 3.1 percent, reaching KD 5.8 billion (\$19 billion).

Time deposits with the CBK jumped by 12.5 percent in June, reaching KD 2.1 billion (\$6.9 billion), while cash credit facilities rose by one percent reaching KD 40.7 billion (\$134 billion). Average USD rate against the KWD settled in June at the level recorded in May, amounting to 300 fils. —KUNA

Kuwaiti official: Arab states have concern for youth

CAIRO: A Kuwaiti official yesterday affirmed that Arab states dedicate significant concern for the young citizens. Walid Al-Ansari, director of voluntary work at the Public Authority for Youth and representative of the Kuwaiti Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, made the assertion during a gathering celebrating International Youth Day.

"Arab youth have proven day after day that they are the hard number in the international youth equation," he said, noting that young Arabs



CAIRO: Walid Al-Ansari, director of voluntary work at the Public Authority for Youth, speaks during an event celebrating International Youth Day. —KUNA

have made some noticeable and successful projects at various levels. He conveyed to the conferees greetings from minister Mutairi. —KUNA