

Mol confirms two suspects arrested over Salwa murders



Death of a baby as unwanted Rohingya hunt for a home



End of an era as Castro dies; Amir sends condolences



Ronaldo brace extends Real lead over Barcelona



## STRONG SHOWING BY OPPOSITION, OUTGOING ASSEMBLY PUNISHED

AMIR THANKS STATE OFFICIALS • TURNOUT HIGH • 2 EX-MINISTERS LOSE



Max 22°  
Min 10°  
High Tide 11:22 & 22:46  
Low Tide 05:05 & 16:53

FIRST CONSTITUENCY	SECOND CONSTITUENCY	THIRD CONSTITUENCY	FOURTH CONSTITUENCY	FIFTH CONSTITUENCY
 Adnan Abdelsamad	 Essa Al-Kandari	 Marzouq Al-Ghanem	 Riyadh Al-Adasani	 Abdulwahab Al-Babtain
 Saadoun Al-Otaibi	 Thamer Al-Dhafiri	 Mubarak Al-Hajraf	 Hamdan Al-Azmi	 Hamoud Al-Khudair
 Mohammad Al-Hadiya	 Abdullah Al-Roumi	 Khalil Al-Saleh	 Jamaan Al-Harbash	 Yousef Al-Fadhlah
 Abdulkareem Al-Kandari	 Mohammad Hayef	 Saad Khanfour	 Al-Humaidhi Al-Subaei	 Talal Al-Sahli
 Adel Al-Damkhi	 Saleh Ashour	 Hamad Al-Harshani	 Mohammad Al-Mutair	 Safaa Al-Hashim
 Mohammad Al-Dallal	 Mohammad Al-Dallal	 Shuaib Al-Muwaizri	 Abdullah Al-Enezi	 Faisal Al-Kandari
 Majed Al-Mutairi	 Mubarak Al-Harees	 Osama Al-Shaheen	 Khalaf Dumaitheer	 Rakan Al-Nasef
 Waleed Al-Tabtabaei	 Khalil Abul	 Ali Al-Deqbasi	 Askar Al-Enezi	 Khaled Al-Otaibi
 Nayef Merdas	 Khaled Al-Shatti	 Salah Khorsheed	 Oudal Al-Ruwaei	 Omar Al-Tabtabaei
 Mohammad Al-Jabri	 Ahmad Al-Fadhl	 Saud Al-Shuwaier	 Faraj Al-Arbeed	 Nasser Al-Dossari
 Mohammad Al-Huwailah				

**By B Izzak**

**KUWAIT:** Opposition groups and individuals made an impressive showing in the National Assembly elections by winning almost half of the 50 seats, with Kuwaiti voters dealing a heavy blow to the previous Assembly that failed to stop the government from raising petrol prices. The Islamist, nationalist and liberal opposition, which returned to the polls after a four-year boycott, won at least 15 seats, with between seven and 10 seats won by its allies.

This will enable the opposition to grill ministers and vote them out of office, which will considerably boost its power in the next Assembly. Islamists make the backbone of the opposition, with the Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM), the local arm of the Muslim Brotherhood, bagging four seats and a few supporters.

They include Jamaan Al-Harbash, Osama Al-Shaheen and Mohammad Al-Dallal. Salafist Islamists also won four seats, including veteran former MPs Waleed Al-Tabtabaei, Mohammad Hayef and Nayef Merdas.

HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent cables to state senior officials and government bodies, voicing appreciation for the efforts they lavished to provide favorable conditions for the National Assembly elections to make it easy for voters to cast their votes. HH the Amir lauded the huge turnout by citizens and their positive response to their national duty and responsibility, as well as the spirit of cooperation that dominated the scene between candidates and the electorate. The Amir voiced deep thanks to members of the higher judiciary commission for their efforts in supervising the elections. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also

sent similar cables.

The voting saw a heavy turnout with unofficial figures putting the turnout at least at 70 percent, much higher than the previous two elections boycotted by the opposition. Kuwaiti voters severely punished the dissolved Assembly members, with only 20 of the 50 members re-elected. They included former speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and former MPs Adnan Abdulsamad and Saleh Ashour.

Twenty-two members of the dissolved house failed in their re-election bid, while eight others did not run in the polls. Two of three former ministers - Ali Al-Omair (public works) and Yacoub Al-Sane (justice and Islamic affairs) were not reelected, but former minister of communications Essa Al-Kandari won easily. People are upset from the previous Assembly for approving a large number of unpopular laws and for failing to prevent the

government from raising the prices of petrol and other services.

But the opposition's win raises fears that the country will return to political crises like before the 2013 era. Opposition candidates have raised a number of key issues as their priorities. These include a pledge to prevent the government from applying austerity measures against Kuwaiti citizens and a promise to settle the controversial issue of revoking citizenships. They also vowed to amend or completely change a number of highly oppressive legislations like the DNA test law, imposing controls on the Internet and others.

The election passed without any incident and without allegations of rigging or deliberate errors. The Shiite minority was reduced to just six MPs from nine in the previous Assembly. They won only four seats in their main stronghold in the first electoral district.



(Left) Former National Assembly speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem celebrates with supporters in Abdullah Al-Salem following his victory in the parliamentary elections early today. (Center) Former MP Safaa Al-Hashem celebrates in Adailiya. (Right) Former MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei celebrates in Kaifan. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

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 • Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) • Farwaniya ( Behind police Station) • Fahaeel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra ( Opp. Main Co-op.) • Airport (Departure Hall)