

First Deputy Premier chairs govt follow up committee's meeting

Sheikh Nasser stresses keenness on cementing bonds with Iraq



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the meeting of the ministerial committee of preparing and following up the government's programs yesterday. — KUNA



First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets with Sayyid Ammar Al-Hakim, Leader of National Wisdom Movement of Iraq.

KUWAIT: The ministerial committee of preparing and following up the government's programs met yesterday under the chairmanship of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, said the defense ministry's moral guidance and public relations department. A number of ministers and top concerned officials attended the meeting, including Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State

for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Hamed Al-Azmi, and Finance Minister Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf.

In other news, Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad received at his bureau at Seif Palace on Wednesday Sayyid Ammar Al-Hakim, Leader of National Wisdom Movement of Iraq, and the

accompanying delegation. the Ministry of Defense, in a statement, quoted Sheikh Nasser as praising during the meeting bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries, affirming keenness on bolstering these ties further. The two sides discussed issues of common interest during the meeting, attended by the Amiri Diwan Advisor, Mohammad Abulhassan.

Separately, Kuwait's National Security Bureau Chief Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah

and US envoy for the global coalition against the so-called Islamic State (IS) Brett McGurk discussed topics of common concern at a meeting on Wednesday. During the meeting, the two officials reviewed cooperation and bilateral relations as well as means of developing and promoting them, the apparatus said in a press statement. They also focused on key issues on regional and international levels that concern the two countries, it added. — KUNA

MPs demand probe into cabinet finances

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The controversy over MP Ahmad Al-Fadhli's statement that the government will pay lawmakers before the summer got a new turn yesterday after seven lawmakers demanded a probe into the cabinet finances while Fadhli himself asked the Anti-Corruption Authority to investigate his sources of finance.

A video posted on the social media a few days ago showed Fadhli clearly saying that the government was going to pay lawmakers before summer. Fadhli later explained that his statement was old and that concerned payments made to needy Kuwaiti citizens with the help of lawmakers and insisted that the lawmakers never received the cash which is paid directly to the needy citizens. But the issue received great attention from other lawmakers who alleged that the government uses such payments to influence lawmakers and boost

its control over the national assembly.

MP Riyadh Al-Adasani threatened to grill the prime minister if the government did not issue a statement clarifying its position regarding the alleged payments. The government obliged and issued an explanation following its weekly meeting on Monday and explained that assistance from government bodies to citizens is done through well-known regulations and without any goals.

But the seven MPs in a request filed yesterday demanded that the Audit Bureau should be assigned to investigate the finances of the council of ministers between the start of 2016 and end of May this year. The request signed by MPs Adasani, Yousef Al-Fadhlah, Abdulwahab Al-Babtain, Ali Al-Deqbasi, Abdullah Al-Roumi, Abdulkarim Al-Kundari and Rakan Al-Nasef, wants the Audit Bureau to submit its findings to the assembly by the start of October this year.

The lawmakers want the Audit Bureau to specifically review the council of minister's spending on social benefits, other expenditures and transfers, rewards for non-staff and other activities. The request calls on the Audit Bureau to ensure that spending is done in accordance with the rules and regulations and to highlight any violations.

Amir congratulates new Municipal Council chief

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a cable of congratulation to the newly elected Kuwaiti Municipal Council's Chairman Osama Humoud Al-Otaibi. In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished Otaibi the best of luck in serving the dear nation.

His Highness the Amir sent another cable to the council's newly elected deputy chairman Abdullah Abdulaziz Al-Muharri. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent them similar cables.

Otaibi was elected chairman after winning 12 votes to four votes for member Hamdi Al-Azmi. Muharri was elected deputy chairman with 13 votes to three votes for his rival Dr Hassan Kamal. The opening session of the council was also followed by the election of members of the main committees. The Technical Committee consisted of Maha Al-Baghli, Abdul Aziz Al-Mujal, Abdullah Al-Roumi, Fahid Al-Muizri, Mohammed Al-Mutairi, Hamoud Al-Anzi and Hamad Al-Madalj. Other committees followed suit.

Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Hussam Al-Roumi said that Kuwait's Municipal Council represents the cradle and legacy of democracy in the country. In a speech during the opening session of the 12th term, Roumi congratulated the members of the new council and thanked the members of the former municipal council for their achievements. He called for continuing municipal achievements and putting the public interest above all other considerations.

The council, which inaugurates its work today in the holy month of Ramadan, includes young and experienced professionals, "which makes us optimistic about the excellent performance through the cooperation between the members and the executive body of the municipality," he added.

He said that His Highness the Amir praised the performance of Kuwait Municipality in the recent period, considering that "a great asset must be maintained and strengthened, within the framework of cooperation between the members and executive body," he confirmed. — KUNA