

## Local

# Lawmakers prepare to grill public works minister over rain crisis

## Anti-Corruption Authority sends 10 government officials to prosecution

By A Saleh and B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** A grilling is expected to be submitted against Public Works Minister Jenan Bushehri during the next parliamentary session due to the government's contradiction in dealing with the November rain crisis, which caused extensive damage to streets and vehicles besides homes, particularly in Sabah Al-Ahmad City, parliamentary sources said. There is an agreement between MPs to grill Bushehri at the start of next term in October, the sources noted, adding that the grilling may include other topics related to the housing issue and lack of services in Sabah Al-Ahmad.

According to the sources, the grilling is based on a quote attributed to the minister in which she reportedly said that the rain crisis revealed that companies did not do a good job in infrastructure projects, which led to a deficiency in drainage of rainwater, apart from flying gravel on the streets, yet the minister did not send any company to the prosecution as she announced, and this contradicts the decision of the Cabinet in depriving these companies from participating in tenders as a punishment rather than being satisfied with repairs.

The sources said a parliamentary majority is not satisfied with the government's statements about the companies and the rain crisis. The sources expect the government to explain its views on this issue before the

new parliamentary term through discussions with the public facilities committee in order to protect Bushehri against any political escalation, adding the trump card in this issue is that the anti-corruption committee has sent senior officials at the ministry of public works to the public prosecution for not doing their job.

In another development, the government yesterday informed the legal and legislative committee that a grilling filed by MP Abdulkareem Al-Kandari against the prime minister is unconstitutional because it did not deal with major public policies that the premier is responsible for. Head of the committee MP Khaled Al-Shatti said the panel will submit its report to the National Assembly early in the next term. Kandari declined an invitation to attend the committee's meeting to discuss if the grilling is in line with the constitution or not.



### 299 expat teachers terminated

of departments at the Ministry of Public Works and the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART), as well as deputy chairman of the board of a private company, to the public prosecution. Assistant secretary general for the corruption discovery sector and official spokesman Mohammad Buzubar said the sector received a statement from Boushehri with attached documents and reports.

### 650 teachers

The education ministry has asked the Civil Service Commission to complete contracts with teachers and get the necessary approvals following the commission's measures issued last year, most importantly withdrawing the exemption given to the ministry for contracting. Official sources said the number of teachers contracted so far is 650 of both genders on both local and overseas contracts, adding the commission did not approve any of the exemptions the ministry gave to teachers whose qualifications differ from what is written on

the work permit in local contracting.

Meanwhile, the education ministry terminated contracts of expats in order to replace them with citizens as part of the ministry's efforts to implement the replacement policy. The number of teachers who were terminated is 299 in Islamic education, computers, social studies and practical studies, while 275 Kuwaiti teachers were appointed in the same specialties.



Minister Jenan Bushehri

### Gone missing

Security authorities in cooperation with the coastguard and US air force located an American man who went missing on a rented jet ski. The American, who works for the US army, rented a jet ski and went out to sea at around 10 pm. He was late returning and was reported missing, prompting authorities to respond. He was found at dawn near Salmiya in good health.

### Possible liquor

Deputy Director General of Customs Detectives Department Usama Al-Roumi ordered a shipment of fizzy water bottles be accounted for as they look like imported liquor bottles, in order to destroy them. Customs information committee member Khalid Al-Rumaih said coordination between the detectives and southern ports administration resulted in confiscating a container at Shuaiba port. Customs department consulted police and the commerce ministry, who said the shipment is not allowed in as 9,264 bottles were found with flavored sparkling water that arrived from China.

—Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai

## Man kills stranger he found in his house

**KUWAIT:** A bedoon died after a Kuwaiti man stabbed him when he found him in his house, according to the latter's statements. The deceased went by himself to hospital, where he died later in the ICU. The citizen was detained for further legal action. The citizen said he found a stranger in his house, so he stabbed him, but the man escaped. A case was filed for investigations.

## Man arrested for 'insulting Kuwaitis' on social media

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** An Asian man who insulted Kuwaitis on social media was arrested in Nugra, along with four others who are in violation of residency law, the interior ministry's relations and security informa-

tion department said.

They are facing legal action and will be deported, while their sponsors will be held to account. Meanwhile, the ministry indicated that a number of people seen on social media uttering indecent words against Allah (SWT) and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) were identified, arrested and taken to the proper authorities to face legal action. In the meantime, the department denied reports on social media that an Arab national is running the affairs at Shuwaikh police station. It added the said person is a legal representative of a car rental company and his job requires him to frequent the police station to process transactions.

## Gold prices hit 6-year high: Report

**KUWAIT:** Gold price has hit its highest level in six years on Friday, peaking at \$1,452 following a sharp rise in prices since last Thursday, a precious metals trade company said yesterday. Such a rise has had an impact on local gold markets in Kuwait, of which one-gram of 21-karat gold is now estimated at KD 12.2 (\$40), Sabayik Al-Kuwait said in its weekly

report. Meanwhile, one gram of 18-karat gold is currently estimated at KD 10.5 (\$34.4), the report added, noting sales have decreased lately in most local gold stores due to the recent peak in global gold prices. It also mentioned that one kilogram of gold has recently reached KD 14,100 (\$46,200) in local markets, noting a large number of people sold their own gold to earn revenues of their old purchases. Investors tend to buy gold, which has relatively little practical value and yields no income, in times of geopolitical uncertainty such as the current tension between the United States and Iran along with recent events that took place at the Strait of Hormuz.—RUNA



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Airways recently honored Captain Abdulhadi Al-Mutairi for his professional handling of the incident that the carrier's B777-30 aircraft flight number KU182 went through during a trip to Nice, France on June 24, 2019, which helped prevent negative consequences.

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