

Local



KUWAIT: MPs and ministers hydrate during yesterday's session, which featured a heated debate of a grilling motion filed against Finance Minister Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf while the outside temperature reached up to 50 C degrees. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Coeducation ban canceled in new public universities law?

Copyright law sends positive message to investors : US Envoy

KUWAIT: The National Assembly approved on Monday a bill on public universities' establishment to help in the development of education and educational institutions, and encourage them to excel and reduce difficulties in all respects. Meanwhile, several reports came out yesterday suggesting that the new law canceled article 41 of the public universities' law, which bans coeducation in state-run universities and colleges. The government did not confirm however whether it had plans to end segregation at Kuwait University and Sabah Al-Salem University City (Shadadiya) colleges in the future based on the new law.

The draft law received approval of 34 members out of the total attendance of 58. Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Hamed Al-Azmi said this law is a 'fundamental pillar' in Kuwait's university education. One of the draft law articles states, "Universities are public bodies of scientific research, academic, administrative and financial independence, guaranteeing the freedom of education and scientific research, exempt from taxes and fees." Another article states, "The establishment, consolidation or abolition of public universi-

ties shall be in line of a decree after taking the opinion of the Council of Public Universities." The law paved way for establishment of colleges, research centers and vocational centers, or merging, changing or canceling them. It organized the nomination of the Rector, his deputies, the deans, their assistants, the heads of the scientific departments, as well as general rules and standards for scholarships.

Fundamental pillar in university education

copyright in Kuwait equivalent to international standards. Silverman noted that applying this law would help in securing services and products provided by Kuwaitis and foreigners alike. Kuwait's parliament on Monday approved a copyright law in a bid to protect exceptional works in the fields of arts and science. — Agencies

In the meantime, American Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman said yesterday that the copyright law, which was passed by parliament on Monday, would send a positive message to local and foreign investors. The American Ambassador said in a statement that the legislation would lead to economic diversity in the country. He added that this law is considered a positive step towards making



KUWAIT: Lawmakers vote during a National Assembly session on a draft law on public universities' establishment. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Kuwait bourse to lure \$2.8bn with promotion

KUWAIT: Financial quarters are anticipating with interest promotion of Boursa Kuwait on Morgan Stanley index for emerging markets, amid predictions \$2.8 billion might be lured into the national market. This is the third upgrade of the Kuwaiti bourse after a similar move had been taken by FTSE Russel and Standard and Poor's Dow Jones for international indices.

The forthcoming promotion is forecast to lure inflow of idle funds estimated at \$2.8 billion. The process of elevating the national stock market kicked off in 2017, when FTSE Russel enlisted Boursa Kuwait as an emerging market. The promotion that was executed in two phases, in 2019, had drawn \$950 million of inactive liquidity. Simultaneously, Standard and Poor's declared, in December, uplifting the bourse as an emerging market, effective in September.

The Kuwaiti stock exchange had met all terms to qualify for the promotion: enacting regulations and marketing new tools desired by local and foreign



investors, as part of a strategy to create the proper environment for attracting liquidity. The scenario according to Watani Investment Company is as following: If the promotion does not materialize in 2019, there will be very high chances that it will happen in June 2020. And, if the positive announcement is made later today, the execution will begin in May 2020.

However, it remains unknown whether the process will be carried out in two stages. Liquidity is forecast to start flowing into the local market, simultaneously with the announcement, however active investors are believed to have been ready in advance. The SMCI index is forecast to be used by active funds and portfolios, involving \$1.5 trillion, in addition to \$500 billion of stagnant assets. There are other factors that need to be taken into consideration in the upcoming process, namely profits' growths, transparency and corporate governing. — KUNA

but no one was hurt. It added in a statement that the left wing of the Boeing hit a bridge extending from the airport building, while the plane was marshaled by a ground personnel "who committed a mistake in guiding the plane to its parking slot." All passengers and crew were disembarked from the plane's front door and no one was harmed, it said. The return flight was cancelled, said Kuwait Airways, and alternative bookings were arranged for the passengers. Repairs of the plane are underway in order to make sure the plane returns to Kuwait as soon as possible, it said, and it was cooperating with the French authorities to investigate the matter. — KUNA

Kuwait Airways plane's wing hits bridge at Nice airport

KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways said on Monday that one of its aircraft experienced an accident after landing at an airport in the French city of Nice,

Kuwait among top five obese nations worldwide

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Associate Surgery Professor and Head of the Organ Transplant Department at Kuwait University Dr Mohammad Jamal said obesity rates are high in Kuwait, adding that the country is among the top five obese nations worldwide. He warned that eating unhealthy food and lack of exercise are among the causes of obesity.

Jamal said Kuwait conducts 5,000 bariatric surgeries annually, adding that the number of patients who need liver transplants in Kuwait is 80 per year. Currently, 20 are on the waiting list, he said, reminding that the cost of a liver transplant abroad is \$1-2 million, while in Kuwait it is about KD 20,000. He said there have been six liver transplants that were ever performed in Kuwait.

Jamal was speaking during a press conference organized by Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, which is one of the healthcare facilities belonging to Mubadalah Investment Company. Jamal said the presence of this hospital in Abu Dhabi is something historic that adds to quality healthcare in the region, and it seeks to have fruitful cooperation with the health sector in Kuwait.

Meanwhile, Head of the Digestive

Disease Institute at the clinic Matthew Kroh said many patients are traveling abroad for treatment related to digestive system diseases, "although now we see an increased number of patients who opt to remain in Abu Dhabi for advanced treatments that are available without having to travel." He said Kuwait is second over the number of patients who prefer treatment at the hospital.

He said 2-3 percent of obese patients undergo surgery, so Cleveland Clinic is

working towards making bariatric surgeries safer, and modern technology will help in this regard. The clinic conducted 35 organ transplants by the end of 2018, 10 of which were liver transplants, and it is negotiating with the health sector in Kuwait to have experts participate in complicated surgeries. It also shares its expertise in robotic surgeries, as it is considered a pioneer in the region by using robots for colon, hernia and obesity surgeries.



KUWAIT: Associate Surgery Professor and Head of the Organ Transplant Department at Kuwait University Dr Mohammad Jamal (right) and Head of the Digestive Disease Institute at the Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi Matthew Kroh attend the press conference.