

Local

Lawmakers demand urgent debate of election amendments

Some MPs object to new bedoons draft law

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Five lawmakers yesterday demanded an urgent debate in the National Assembly of proposed amendments to the election law to change the voting system. MPs Riyadh Al-Adasani, Abdullah Al-Kandari, Bader Al-Mulla, Mohammad Al-Dallal and Abdullah Fahhad said that a draft law on the amendments had been submitted to the assembly and referred to the interior and defense committee.

They said that the head of the interior committee promised that the committee will send its report on the amendments to

the assembly but has so far failed to do so although the amendments were submitted several months ago. The amendments basically call to allow voters to pick up two candidates in the assembly elections instead of one candidate under the existing law. The lawmakers said that under the assembly charter, any particular bill can be debated directly by the assembly without the need for the concerned panel to review it especially if it takes a long time.

In the meantime, a number of lawmakers yesterday expressed their opposition to a draft law submitted by the assembly speaker last week to resolve the problem of stateless people locally known as

bedoons. MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subaie said he totally rejects any law that does not fully provide bedoons their rights especially the right to Kuwaiti citizenship, adding that he and others will continue to press until bedoons get their rights.

The lawmaker was commenting on a draft law submitted by assembly speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem that calls to grant some bedoons Kuwaiti citizenship and others a premium residency provided they uncover their actual nationality. Subaie questioned how many more suicide cases among the bedoons are needed to highlight the plight of bedoons and push to resolve their decades-old problem.

MP Khalil Abul reiterated his backing to a draft law calling to grant bedoons full humanitarian and basic rights submitted by a number of MPs in the previous term. He also declared his support for a similar law presented by the lawyers association. MP Faisal Al-Kandari meanwhile denied reports that he had signed on the draft law filed by the speaker.

Head of the Foreign Relations Committee MP Abdulkareem Al-Kandari said yesterday that the committee decided to invite the foreign ministry to review latest regional developments and the issue of mediation efforts Kuwait is carrying out to resolve the Gulf dispute.

Automobile parts dealers must present warranties

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan yesterday issued a decision on regulating the second-hand automobile spare parts market, by which vendors are mandated to offer warranty for the parts they sell to customers.

In other news, the Hawally committee at the Municipal Council yesterday approved a proposal by member Abdullah Al-Roumi on building a tunnel underneath Messila bridge to link Taawon Street and the Sixth Ring Road. The committee also approved a request by Touristic Enterprises Company to develop the Ras Al-Ardh Club and offer 5 percent of its total area, due to be reduced from 35,750 sq m to 35,265 sq m, for commercial use. In addition, the committee approved a request by Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research to build new research and educational buildings along the seafront in Shaab. Meanwhile, the committee postponed discussing a number of requests by the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources and the finance, awqaf and social affairs ministries.

In the meantime, Municipal Councilmember Ali bin Sayer yesterday filed an inquiry to Kuwait Municipality's executive body concerning the lack of signboards at the new university's location in Shadadiya showing the names of 'Saihed Al-Awazem,' a historical name of the area, and Shadadiya, noting that such practices efface history and violate the Sabah Al-Salem University establishment law, which clearly mentions the location.

Bid to revive KPTC bus fleet

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Kuwait Investment Authority's board of directors is currently studying a strategic plan by Kuwait Public Transport Company (KPTC) suggesting increasing its capital to handle the losses it has been suffering over the past few years to restructure and revive its bus fleet, well-informed sources said. The proposed strategy, which is expected to be approved, would take 3 to 5 years to revive KPTC's status as a leader and pioneer of the local public transport sector, the sources added. "Keeping the company as it is will only mean more losses of public funds," the sources stressed, pointing that restructuring the company and modernizing its fleet will increase its value in the event of selling it to a strategic investor in the future.

Housing units

The Public Authority for Housing Welfare said the total number of housing units in South Sabah Al-Ahmad project is 10,663, distributed over six out of the city's 11 districts. The authority explained that the project also includes 545 public buildings. In addition, the authority said the total number of housing applications made until the end of October is 87,828. The authority distributed 51,000 units in the period of 1956 to 1992, while 102,000 units were distributed in the period of 1993-2019.

Man with gun arrested at airport

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Police arrested a man carrying a gun inside Kuwait International Airport's Terminal 1 yesterday, the Interior Ministry said. The suspect had approached security officers, then pointed a gun to his own head, prompting police to evacuate the area. They then surrounded the suspect until he entered a safe zone where he was disarmed and arrested, the ministry said in a statement. The suspect, Kuwaiti, was inebriated at the time of arrest. The man has a criminal record and was previously deported from an Arab country for his misconduct, the ministry explained.

Five hurt in crash

Five persons were injured during a collision between an ambulance and a bus carrying workers on Abdali highway. The medical emergencies department said an accident took place resulting in the injury of five persons, including two paramedics. The injured were transferred to hospital by helicopter and four ambulances, all in good condition.

Kuwait wins int'l property ownership case

KUWAIT: An international court has issued a verdict in favor of Kuwait regarding a property ownership case, a senior law official announced yesterday. The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) dismissed the lawsuit filed by a foreign company against Kuwait, Chairman of Fatwa and Legislation Department Advisor Salah Al-Masad said. The Fatwa and Legislation Department was able to rebuff the first of such a lawsuit, which demanded a \$320 million-worth of compensation and alleged ownership of 80 million square meters of properties, valued at billions of US dollars, all of which based on alleged and "uncertified" ownership documents, said Masad. It is suspected that these "forged" documents have been issued for heirs of a Kuwaiti citizen in areas of Wafra and Khairan, he said, adding the foreign company alleges owning several properties in them and some investments as well. The judging panel heard both sides' pleadings at ICSID's headquarters in Paris, France, Masad mentioned.— KUNA

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