

## Local

# Harbi: MoE decisions based on students' health concerns

## Virtual classroom system activated • KTV to broadcast classes

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Education Saud Al-Harbi confirmed Wednesday that the health of students and workers at the ministry is a concern to him and that any decision taken is only in accordance with this concern. He said that every country has dealt with the epidemic according to its economic, political and educational capabilities.

The education ministry's plan focuses on vital issues, such as ending the 2019-2020 school year for the 12th grade, in addition to determining the calendar for the new school year that will start on Oct 4. Harbi drew attention to activating the virtual classroom system. The evaluation for 12th grade students after the decision to cancel the written tests is based on 25 percent for attendance and absence, 25 percent for participation and interaction, 25 percent for duties and 25 percent for reports submitted by students.

He referred to the ministry's preparations to complete the studies of 12th grade students, as all curricula were uploaded to the MoE website in PDF format, which are accessible to students. All accounts have been activated, preparing awareness programs on how to use the programs for students, teachers and parents, as it can be used across various smart devices, Harbi added.

On the ministry's preparations for the coming academic year, Harbi mentioned that kindergarten and first grade to third grade learners should not deal with remote education;

instead they need asynchronous learning.

Starting from Sunday, Kuwait TV will broadcast recorded classes, including up to 849 lectures for all subjects, while a schedule is being prepared to record the first semester of the new academic year, he indicated. He explained that the accounts activated on the educational portal are of 457,220 students, 73,415 teachers and 10,203 technical supervisors and department heads. Also, ministry leaders can enter the portal and follow work progress.

A ministerial decision has also been issued to reduce 25 percent of fees of private schools approved for the 2019-2020 academic year. Harbi explained that the majors offered for the 2020-2021 are the same majors that were offered during the 2019-2020 academic year, which are open from now, and every student can obtain approval from any recognized university. Registration for scholarships will be open for all students of private and public education from September 1 to 30, he said, pointing out that 90 percent will be allocated to students of general education and 10 percent for special education students. MoE has presented a detailed plan, including the countries, specializations and conditions on its website.

The board of trustees of private universities decided to reduce 20 percent of fees and higher education scholarships for students studying at their expense. Harbi spoke about the status of the study at Kuwait University, saying that studies will resume for the remain-



**KUWAIT:** Education Minister Saud Al-Harbi addresses a session of the National Assembly on Wednesday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

der of the second semester of the 2019-2020 academic year on Aug 9 and will end on Sept 24, followed by a period of tests, in addition to setting up an exceptional summer semester to help students graduate. He added that the first semester of 2020-2021 will start on Dec 6 and

end on April 3, 2021. He presented the steps taken by the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, from formulating a training plan, collecting scientific content, training faculty and starting work on implementing virtual classes. — KUNA

## PM: We will spare no effort, money for best education

**KUWAIT:** HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on Wednesday said the government has great responsibilities and challenges in tackling the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on education, stressing the government "will spare no effort and money in providing suitable educational conditions for students". This came in his speech at the National Assembly session to discuss a request submitted by some MPs on issues related to public, private and higher education.

"With the cooperation of the National Assembly, the government will go a long way and will pass through the least damages, and that is its responsibility," the prime minister said. The government will continue to work and strive to provide better condi-

tions for student education without delay, he stressed. Kuwait has capabilities to be that we are proud of, and did that within a short period by exchanging views with those concerned in the Gulf, Arab and countries worldwide, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled added.

The premier referred to a statement issued by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday saying that the coronavirus pandemic has caused "the biggest disorder" in education systems around the world in history. Guterres warned the world of facing disaster of generations that could waste human potential and undermine decades of progress.

Kuwait has communicated with the Gulf, Arab, Islamic, world countries and international organizations to learn about their experiences and benefit from their experiences on how to deal with the health crisis in this regard, in addition to sharing the local experience, the PM added. The responsibility of executive and legislative authorities is shared towards education, as the government is keen to present the educational plan to the National Assembly to take advantage of the views of representatives regarding the future of students, he said. —KUNA



**KUWAIT:** HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah is seen during a session of the National Assembly on Wednesday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat