

Local

Cabinet resigns after 'tackling responsibility at crucial time'

Govt did its best to supervise 'transparent' elections: Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah tenders the Cabinet's resignation to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday. Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah who tendered the resignation of his cabinet. His Highness the Amir accepted the resignation. "The resignation of His Highness the Prime Minister and the ministers is accepted and they are tasked

with proceeding in a caretaking manner addressing urgent affairs pending the formation of a new cabinet," an Amiri Decree stated in part.

Addressing His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Prime Minister noted that he was appointed as head of the government on November 19, 2019, adding that Decree 290/2019 tasked him with formation of the government during "this crucial period of our beloved homeland's history." His Highness the Prime Minister noted that he and the ministers

did their best to shoulder the responsibilities accorded to them for serving Kuwait and attain prosperity. "I have keenly supervised the general elections of the new National Assembly to hold the polls freely, transparently and with utmost objectivity despite the very strict precautions warranted by the novel coronavirus," Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled noted in part in his address to His Highness the Amir.

"As Allah is my witness, we have been keen on

performing the accorded tasks with utmost sincerity and faithfulness," Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled affirmed. His Highness the Prime Minister tendered his resignation as well as the resignation of his cabinet to His Highness the Amir, "So you may accept it and take what you may deem appropriate with your well known wisdom as I express admiration to Your Highness for your support." His Highness the Crown Prince also received His Highness the Prime Minister at Bayan Palace yesterday. — KUNA

Kuwait's Deputy FM meets ambassadors

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met yesterday the Ambassador of Jordan to Kuwait Sager Abu Shtal. The two sides during the meeting tackled issues of common interest, and the latest developments in the regional and international arenas. Meanwhile, Jarallah received yesterday the credentials of the newly appointed Austrian Ambassador to Kuwait Marian Alexander Wrba. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations between the two countries and the latest developments in the region and international arenas. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets Ambassador of Jordan to Kuwait Sager Abu Shtal. — KUNA photos



Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets Austrian Ambassador to Kuwait Marian Alexander Wrba.



KUWAIT: Ambassador of Palestine to Kuwait Rami Tahboub visited Kuwait Times recently and discussed with Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan issues of mutual interest. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Acting Info Minister hails leadership's sponsorship of election

KUWAIT: Minister of Foreign Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah stressed that the political leadership's patronage of the democratic process in the country, which described as historic and civilized that has become a Kuwaiti legacy, which originated more than five decades ago. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Sabah said in a press statement yesterday that the close cooperation by all government agencies related to the voting process is within a plan set to ensure the success

of this democratic process. The Ministry of Information devoted its national cadres, official websites and accounts to social media, from the opening of the polls stations until the results were announced, moment-by-moment, he said. Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad praised the active role played by Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), headed by KUNA General Director and Chairman Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duajj Al-Sabah, and all its employees, in transmitting this democratic event with transparency and credibility, reflect-

ing that of the civilized face and the pioneering role of Kuwait. He also congratulated the political leadership on the success of the 2020 parliamentary elections, as he highly appreciated their unlimited support in consolidating and strengthening the Kuwaiti democratic approach. At the same time, he congratulated the winners of National Assembly member, Kuwaiti voters, in addition to the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information, Munira Al-Huwaidi, and all the employees of the ministry for their fruitful effort and constructive



Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah

work, through which they confirmed the competence of Kuwaiti media with all professionalism. — KUNA

Amir accepts resignation...

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He immediately called for a meeting at his home of all MPs who were elected. It was not known if pro-government MPs would attend. Only 19 MPs from the outgoing Assembly retained their seats, while six MPs did not contest. There are 22 fresh faces in the new Assembly, mostly young blood, along with nine lawmakers from previous assemblies.

It was a night of free fall for a large number of veteran MPs, mostly pro-government, but also a number of leading opposition figures. Shiite MPs Saleh Ashour, Khaled Al-Shatti and Salah Khorshid, along with Sunni Islamist opposition MP Adel Al-Damkhi lost their seats. Ashour has been a member of parliament since the 1990s.

In the second constituency, opposition lawmakers Riyadh Al-Adasani and Omar Al-Tabtabaei lost, in addition to pro-government veteran tribal MPs Khalaf Dumaitheer and Awdah Al-Awdah. In the third district, Safa Al-Hashem, the only woman in the outgoing house known for her attacks on expatriates, was humiliated, garnering just over 400 votes. Her loss became a key a trend on Twitter. One Kuwaiti activist wrote: "To our expat brothers: For your sake, we have brought the downfall of Safa Al-Hashem".

Along with Hashem, leading liberal MP Abdulwahab Al-Babtain failed to retain his seat from the same constituency. Others who lost include former information minister Mohammad Al-Jabri, pro-government MP Ahmad Al-Fadhl and Shiite MP Khalil Abul.

In the fourth constituency, Islamist opposition veteran MP Mohammad Hayef was knocked out, along with MPs Ali Al-Deqbasi, Faraj Al-Arbeed, Islamist Abdullah Fahhad and pro-government MP Askar Al-Enezi. In the fifth con-

stituency, Islamist opposition MP Nayef Al-Merdas lost along with opposition lawmaker MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subaei, Humoud Al-Khudhair and Majed Al-Mutairi, in addition to pro-government MP Faisal Al-Kandari.

The Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM), the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood, won three seats, maintaining its strength. Pro-government Salafists' two candidates lost, while opposition Salafists won at least three seats despite losing veterans like Hayef, Damkhi and Merdas. In all, Islamist Sunni opposition candidates won 11 seats, almost unchanged from the previous Assembly.

The Shiite National Islamic Alliance was reduced to just one seat - Adnan Abdulsamad - from two in the previous Assembly. Liberals were dealt a heavy blow, losing almost all their members. Pro-liberal new MP Muhalhah Al-Mudhaf was however elected from the third constituency. Women were a major casualty as no female MPs were elected for the first time since 2008. Three former ministers lost - Jabri, Yacoub Al-Sane and Roudhan Al-Roudhan, while one former minister - Humaidhi - won.

Tribes were the biggest winners. They increased their strength to 29 members in the 50 seat Assembly, up from 26 in the previous Assembly. Mutairis increased their strength from just two to seven MPs, while the Awazem also increased their strength by three to seven MPs. The Ajman won one more seat from last Assembly's three, while Rasheedis maintained their strength at four. The Enezi however won just one member against three in the previous house.

The opposition, now with an Islamic and tribal majority, has around 25-26 MPs, depending on issues, from the previous 22. Nevertheless, the election of 30 candidates under the age of 45 sent out a promising signal to youth hoping for change and reform. "There is a big change in the composition of the new National Assembly," Kuwait analyst Ayed Al-Manaa said. "This an indication of the voters' anger over the performance of the previous parliament and of their desire for change in economic, health, education" and services, he said.

Cabinet discusses Gulf reconciliation talks, elections

KUWAIT: The Cabinet discussed different topics in a meeting chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday. In a statement after the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh hailed the recent positive developments regarding the talks on Gulf states' reconciliation. He noted that it was a result of the great efforts of His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Sabah

Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the current efforts of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, as well as the support of US President Donald Trump. The ministers also listened to a report on the National Assembly's elections, presented by minister Saleh and Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr Fahad Al-Afasi. Meanwhile, the Cabinet hailed the efforts of all ministries that took part in organizing the elections, and congratulated MPs who won by the choice of the people. Moreover, in accordance with article 57 of Kuwait's constitution, the Cabinet discussed the government's resignation letter, presented by His Highness the Prime Minister to His Highness the Amir. His Highness the Prime Minister thanked His Highness Sheikh Nawaf for his continuous support for all ministers during their term. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah (center) chairs the Cabinet's meeting. — KUNA