

Local

MPs call for probe over suspected forgery in speaker election

Opposition MPs meet to draw up roadmap

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: A number of MPs yesterday called for a probe over suspected forgery in the election of the National Assembly Speaker in which Marzouq Al-Ghanem won although over 40 lawmakers pledged publicly to vote against him.

MP Musaed Al-Mutairi said he and a number of MPs submitted a motion calling to form an investigation committee into allowing supporters of a sports club into the opening session and also into a suspected forgery in the speaker election.

Mutairi described what happened as a "shame" when the sports club fans insulted MPs and acted in a chaotic way, charging that the

way the fans were issued invitations is highly suspicious and their actions were deliberate. Islamist MP Osama Al-Shaheen said in a statement that an investigation is needed in the possibility of a suspected forgery in the speaker election during the new assembly's first session on Tuesday.

MP Abdulkarim Al-Kandari charged that the speaker post was taken by "deception and through an illegal way" and this issue will not end here. He however did not say if he plans to take any action. But he said that his dealings with the presidency of the assembly will be governed by the constitution and the internal charter.

MP Mubarak Al-Hajraf said on Wednesday

that he plans to submit a motion next week calling to probe the events during the inaugural session of the assembly amid accusations that many of Ghanem supporters were allowed into the assembly gallery.

Sheikha Al-Jassem, a female candidate who failed to win an assembly seat, yesterday filed a lawsuit urging the public prosecutor to investigate a suspected forgery into the election of the assembly speaker.

She said that a number of MPs posted images of their ballots in the speaker election and those ballots were not the same which raises the possibility of forgery. A number of MPs have already submitted amendments to the assembly internal charter to end secret

voting in the assembly election and make it public by calling names.

Over 20 opposition MPs met Wednesday night to discuss plans for advancing a number of key legislation. MP Mutairi, host of the meeting, said that at least seven other lawmakers have sent their apologies for being unable to attend for personal reasons.

He said that the meeting discussed ways to press for the passage of a draft law granting amnesty to citizens convicted in freedom of speech cases. MP Hisham Al-Saleh said he submitted a draft law calling to scrap jail terms for freedom of speech violations. The legislation also prohibits prosecutors from jailing defendants during investigation and trial.

Kuwait lists 221 new COVID-19 cases, no deaths

KUWAIT: Kuwait listed 221 new coronavirus infections yesterday to raise the total 147,192, but no victims were registered over the past 24 hours as the death toll remained unchanged at 913, the health ministry said. Meanwhile, the ministry announced 204 new recoveries, which increased total recoveries to 143,113. The number of people hospitalized with the virus stood yesterday at 3,166, with 54 of them in intensive care units, according to ministry spokesman Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad. He added that 5,804 swab tests were conducted over the same period, bringing the total up to 1,202,724. He went on to urge the public to abide by health precautions, mainly social distancing in order to help limit the spread of the virus. —KUNA

Shlonik App model for state bodies' cooperation: Official

KUWAIT: The Director of the Public Health Department and head of Shlonik application committee at the Ministry of Health Dr Fahad Al-Ghamlas said yesterday that the application is a model for the cooperation of various state bodies in the service of the public. In a statement to the press, Ghamlas expressed his pride on winning the Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics award for Shlonik application.

Ghamlas dedicated this achievement to the Minister of Health, Sheikh Dr Basil Al-Sabah and the workers of the ministry, thanking them for their constant support to the staff supervising the application. He also thanked all workers in the various sectors of the application at the same time. And the price of their constant encouragement to adopt modern electronic means for all measures related to combating COVID 19, which helped medical teams to limit the spread of disease in society and mitigate its complications. He explained that Shlonik is one of the living examples of cooperation of several bodies in the country to combat the pandemic and counter its spread with the help of Kuwaiti people and harnessing electronic solutions to serve public health, as the application was established in cooperation between the Ministry of Health, the Central Agency for Information Technology and Zain Telecommunications Company.

He stated that this application is an electronic platform that saves a lot of effort and time for the medical staff and allows to follow up people in quarantine or home isolation with precision and take the necessary measures, which contributed to providing care and remote follow-up for these people and ensuring their commitment to quarantine procedures. He stated that the application provides several medical services that facilitate the quarantine period, including reporting of any symptoms and obtaining medical advice for any disease, even if they are not related to (COVID-19), in addition to obtaining exit permits for health care. He pointed out that the Shlonik app has the highest levels of cybersecurity, which maintains the confidentiality of information, indicating that the total number of those who have downloaded the application on their phones is about 650,000, while the number of currently registered for health follow-up is about 40,000. —KUNA

Campaign promotes early prostate cancer detection

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Prostate cancer is the second most common type of cancer among old men after colon cancer, a health ministry official said. The disease can affect younger people, and affects one out of 2,500 at the age of 45, while the highest risk is at the age of 70, said Dr



Dr Khaled Al-Saleh

Hani Shukri from health ministry's awareness department. He made his statements during a seminar held yesterday in cooperation with the Cancer Awareness National Campaign (CAN), as part of CAN's prostate cancer awareness campaign.

This year's campaign aims to advise youth to encourage their fathers to take the PSA test for early detection, to increase recovery chances, CAN's Board Chairman Dr Khaled Al-Saleh said. He added that the campaign succeeded in increasing awareness by 30 percent in the past eight years, thus raising recovery levels.

