

Local



KUWAIT: HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al- Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets editors-in-chief of local newspapers at Seif Palace on Wednesday. — KUNA

Premier discusses major issues with chief editors

Govt to pursue corrupt individuals regardless of their status

KUWAIT: HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al- Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, accompanied by Minister of Information and Minister of Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri and Chairman and Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Duaij Al-Sabah, hosted a meeting on Wednesday with editors-in-chief of local newspapers at Seif Palace.

Health situation

The prime minister asserted that the health situation in the country is stable and reassuring, provided that people continue to abide by guidelines. He said “a vaccine for the coronavirus is not yet available, and therefore this disease will continue, but for how long, or how widespread are all subject to speculations “. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled explained: “We must adhere to health guidelines and provide all what they need to face the pandemic - those who work in hospitals and intensive care units: Respiratory equipment and protective clothing for medical staff and all those facing danger in all our institutions.”

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled stated that the challenge is great and enormous, and the determination of the Kuwaiti people is also great, which gives us hope that the continuation of this patriotic spirit, which was manifested in difficult circumstances, will help to overcome this epidemic with the least possible damage. He pointed out the importance of the meeting today, which coincides with the entry of the first phase to return to normal life since the coronavirus crisis started four months ago, adding that we entered the fourth day of the plan to gradually return to life, which will be completed in five stages.

The premier stated that Kuwait, through its financial soundness, ability and network of relationships, has been able to provide all the needs for the country, and to provide the adequate health, pharmaceutical and preventive stocks needed for everyone.

“We must provide everything that citizens and residents need,” Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said, pointing out that implementing health guidelines in collaboration with other authorities was a difficult equation, but necessary to work on achieving the result needed. He added that this health crisis placed the whole world in chaos during the past three months and its effects and repercussions extended to all sectors in the world.

On his meeting with the chief editors of local newspapers, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled expressed his happiness at this meeting,



pointing out that it was planned, according to his first press meeting as prime minister in the beginning of December, that the frequency of these meetings would be regular, but the current circumstances prevented him from doing what was planned,

“Ideal population structure is to have Kuwaitis being 70% and non-Kuwaitis 30%”

stressing that this will be compensated in the future.

He reiterated his thanks and appreciation to all those who contributed and volunteered to work, challenging the risks during the past months. Kuwaiti individuals and institutions put their capabilities at the disposal of the government to manage the crisis, which helped us to have multiple options, he said.

The government, at the beginning of the crisis, activated the emergency plan, as 120 beds were allocated for intensive care, and it worked during the last period to increase the capacity of intensive care to 600 beds, “which is five times more than what we had, in addition to equipping hospitals and expanding their wards to receive those infected”.

The premier praised efforts of government agencies, including the oil sector, the Kuwaiti army, the National Guard, and all those who helped build and organize the establishment of field hospitals, expressing at the same time his sincere thanks and appreciation to all government agencies, civil society institutions and the private sector who participated and supported the government in facing the repercussions of this epidemic.

Sheikh Sabah also praised the efforts exerted by employees of the ministry of interior, men and women, for their efforts and hard work during the past three months, in addition to the services provided by the fire department to support various sectors.

Corrupt individuals

The government is determined to crack down on every individual with relation to corruption cases regarding public funds, money laundering and human trafficking, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled affirmed. “We will not stay silent nor keep our hands crossed regarding human trafficking and money laundering, and we will not accept these issues be associated with the State of Kuwait, no matter how influential this person is,” the prime minister underscored.

“No one is immune from prosecution and punishment as long as there is an assault on public funds,” he said. The prime minister said HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah instructed him, soon after he took oath as prime minister, to protect and preserve public funds and fight corrupt people. He said he considered these instructions a pathway he was pursuing. “Kuwait deserves a good reputation and deserves the title of His Highness the Amir as a ‘humanitarian leader’ and Kuwait as a ‘humanitarian