

Local

Top Kuwait lawmaker urges backing for private sector

Private sector workers should not be left out in the cold: Ghanem

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said yesterday it is essential to adopt legislation aiming at supporting the private sector amid efforts to curb the novel coronavirus. Ghanem made the call during a parliamentary committee meeting attended by owners of small, medium and large enterprises to look into the fallout of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. He underlined that it is unacceptable to leave enterprise owners in the lurch under these extraordinary circumstances, saying that some action should be taken in order to mitigate relevant negative reflections. The speaker called on ministers and members of parliament to live up to their due responsibilities by doing something to ease out the losses of the private sector. He also emphasized that the workers of private companies should not be left out in the cold amid the fight

against the global pandemic, voicing confidence that MPs are overwhelmingly interested in taking action to serve the interests of the private sector and its staff. The top lawmaker urged the government not to give in to pressure from anybody, but to take the right decision in this regard. Several ministers and MPs attended the parliamentary committee's meeting on efforts to alleviate the aftershocks of the COVID-19.

Laws proposed to protect enterprises



Protecting enterprises
Meanwhile, Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan yesterday emphasized the necessity of enacting a package of legislations to tackle fallouts of the pandemic on the business sector in particular. The minister, addressing a session of the parliamentary financial committee, singled out the aspired "settlement protection law" that could protect small, medium and large

enterprises and workers in the private sector. The meeting was sponsored by Speaker Ghanem and attended by entrepreneurs and private sector personnel, discussing repercussions of the novel coronavirus. Minister Roudhan noted his keenness on listening to proposals by the entrepreneurs for sake of stimulating the economy and resolving their problems.

No profit

In the meantime, the Kuwait Banking Association announced yesterday there would be no distribution of cash profits to banks' shareholders for 2020. The association said in a statement that the decision was taken to enable the banking sector play the financial brokerage role, ensure liquidity flow and operations in various economic sectors until current extraordinary circumstances created by the coronavirus pandemic cease to exist. The declaration was publicized on the heels of regular meetings that had been held with the Central Bank of Kuwait, following up on the sector condition in shadow of the pandemic and its fall-



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem

Kuwait FM, UN envoy discuss Yemeni crisis



Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Mohammad Al-Sabah

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Mohammad Al-Sabah received on Tuesday a phone call from the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for Yemen Martin Griffiths. During the phone call, the minister briefed Griffiths on the latest developments in the Yemeni crisis and Kuwait's contribution, politically and humanitarianly, to bring security and stability to the Yemen. — KUNA

outs. The announcement is in harmony with criterion of the Basel committee for overseeing banking sector, adopted by the CBK as part of the measures to cope with the coronavirus repercussions. Such an approach is intended to bolster rating of the sector and its credit status in tandem with identical measures adopted globally. — KUNA



Abdullah Al-Henayyan

Kuwaiti movie nominated for int'l film festival

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti movie ALGA'AILA, for young Kuwaiti director Abdullah Al-Henayyan, was recently nominated to take part in the Around International Film Festival (ARFF) in Amsterdam, which is scheduled for September 2020. This is the film's second nomination for an international festival after being nominated for the European Short Film Festival due to be held in May 2021.

Expressing his joy with the nominations, Henayyan stressed that such achievement could not have been made without LOYAC's support for the youth and LAPA's cinema workshops. Henayyan added that his relation with the cinema started through LAPA workshops after which he started writing scripts and directing them. "We produced four films through the workshop and then my film won the award of the FAD festival organized by LAPA last December," he underlined, adding that he is currently working on a new short film written by a colleague who had also been trained in LOYAC. "I also plan to open my own production company," he concluded.

Meanwhile, LAPA's movie camp supervisor and media figure Nadia Ahmed expressed her joy with the movie, noting that ALGA'AILA is a valuable addition to the Kuwaiti film industry. "We have so far organ-



Nadia Ahmed

ized four editions of FAD festival and will keep supporting young film makers from Kuwait and the Arab world to develop their skills in writing, production, photography, direction and acting and encourage them to produce more short films, providing them with all the support they need," Ahmed added, noting that the success of ALGA'AILA is a motivation to develop the film camp activities and provide intensive training programs similar to those taught in the most



The nomination's invitation.

prestigious cinema colleges around the world. Notably, LOYAC Lebanon had recently organized the latest edition of the FAD festival where the workshops mainly focused on writing for cinema through a workshop given by Stephanie Khouri. Other workshops were made in direction and editing presented by Qnason and Dima Al-Ansari, Tareq Al-Askar and others.



The film's poster.

News in brief

Co-op staff test positive

KUWAIT: Qurtoba Co-op Society announced that nine employees tested positive for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) after 31 workers and volunteers were tested, which raises the number of total infections amongst the co-op staff and volunteers to 43. Meanwhile, 29 employees tested positive for coronavirus at Jaber Al-Ali Co-op

Curfew violators

KUWAIT: Police arrested 20 curfew violators on Tuesday, including 13 Kuwaitis and seven expatriates, the Interior Ministry announced. The arrests took place as follows: One in the Capital Governorate, three in Hawally, five in Mubarak Al-Kabeer, seven in Al-Ahmadi, and four in the 'home quarantine' category.

32 flights

KUWAIT: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation announced that 32 flights departed Kuwait International Airport yesterday, carrying a total of 6,180 passengers. They included 21 flights to Egypt, eight flights to India, two flights to Qatar, and one flight to Jordan.

Oil price down

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti oil fell by 2.19 to \$35.33 per barrel (pb) on Tuesday, compared with \$37.52 a day earlier, the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said yesterday. Globally, the price of Brent crude on Tuesday closed up by 38 cents or 0.9 percent to \$41.18 pb, and the West Texas Intermediate went up by 75 cents or two percent to \$38.94 pb.

Stay safe. Stay home. Stay informed

