

## Local

# Appeals court allows ex-MP Dahoum to contest election

## Pollster expects Islamists to win 13 seats

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** The appeals court yesterday overturned a ruling by the lower court to allow former Islamist opposition MP Bader Al-Dahoum to contest next month's general polls, but the verdict was immediately challenged by the government. The court also confirmed rulings in favor of three other candidates who were allowed to run after an interior ministry commission had disqualified them on the grounds of previous court verdicts.

The court also confirmed the disqualification of five candidates, in addition to a sixth candidate Khaled Al-Mutairi, who was allowed by the lower court but barred by the appeals court. On Tuesday, the appeals court confirmed the disqualification of six candidates and allowed female candidate

Nadia Al-Othman to run in the polls.

The government and some candidates immediately challenged the rulings to the court of cassation, the country's highest court, whose rulings are final. The final verdicts must be issued before the end of next week ahead of the Dec 5 elections.

Meanwhile, Masarat, a local pollster and research center, projected that around 13 Islamist candidates will win seats in the 50-seat National Assembly, four seats more than they held in the outgoing Assembly. Masarat said its projections were based on surveys conducted with voters. It said that it expects Islamists to win two seats each in the first and second constituencies and three seats each in the third, fourth and fifth constituencies. The pollster did not count the supporters of Islamists, who are expected to win more seats.

Candidates urged in their virtual campaigns for a quick solution to the decades-old housing problem, saying Kuwaiti families have to wait for as long as 20 years to get a house. New candidate Hamad Al-Munawer said Kuwaiti couples pay between KD 50,000 and KD 70,000 in rent during this long waiting period, which greatly benefits real estate merchants.

Munawer said the government must build five new cities to accommodate the large number of couples on the waiting list, and raise housing allowance to KD 400 per month. The candidate said if the government accelerates its construction plan, Kuwaitis could get their houses within a year. New candidate Hamad Rouh Eldin charged that the housing problem is manipulated and the "government deliberately increases the size of the problem" to serve vested interests, pointing out that 90 percent of land in Kuwait is owned by the state.



Saleh Al-Ajairi

## Ajairi hospitalized with coronavirus

**KUWAIT:** Astronomer Saleh Mohammad Saleh Abdelaziz Al-Ajairi was admitted to Jaber Hospital after being infected with coronavirus. Ajairi, born on June 23, 1920, has made immense contribution to astronomy and added to scientific knowledge through his research and many books he authored. He also prepared an almanac named after him. Towards the end of the 1960s, Ajairi built an observatory at his own expense in Kuwait in Andalus, bringing its dome from the US in 1973. In 1980, he was honored by the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

## Shooters compete in Crown Prince tournament

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** The HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah annual shooting tournament will come to a close at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex tomorrow. Secretary General of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Obaid Munahi Al-Osaimi said HH the Crown Prince asked Capital Governor Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to represent him at the closing ceremony.

Osaimi said today and tomorrow will see competitions in the trap and skeet categories for men, along with the women's competition. Rifle and pistol competitions will run from 9:00 am till 1:00 pm today, along with the preliminaries of the 50m three position rifle for men, 25m rapid pistol and archery. Results of the first day of



**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti shooters Khaled Al-Majed (left) and Majed Al-Dhafiri compete during the Crown Prince's annual shooting tournament at the shooting club in Sulaibiya yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

competition were as follows:

Men's 10m air rifle: 1st: Abdullah Awad Al-Harby from the Military Sports Association; 2nd: Khalid Nasser Al-Fadhli from the National Guard; 3rd: Ali Farhan Al-Mutairi from the Shooting Club.

Men's 10m air pistol: 1st: Saad Mane Al-Ajmi - National Guard; 2nd: Hamad Abdullah Al-Namshan - National Guard; 3rd: Ali Saad Al-Mutairi - Shooting Club.



**CAIRO:** Egyptian President Abdelfattah Al-Sisi receives a letter from HH the Amir delivered by the Amir's envoy Sheikh Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah. — KUNA

## Sisi hails Kuwait's regional policies

**CAIRO:** Egypt's President Abdelfattah Al-Sisi praised yesterday Kuwait's "rational" policies in handling challenges facing Arab countries, likening the security of the Gulf region to Egypt's. This came as the president received a letter from HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, delivered to him by Kuwait's Foreign Minister and Acting Information Minister Sheikh Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, his spokesman Bassam Radi said in a statement.

HH the Amir's message affirmed his government and people's pride in the strong historical ties that bind both countries and their people

and Kuwait's keenness to boost cooperation with Egypt, particularly in line with efforts to maintain peace and security on a regional scale.

The Egyptian president requested to convey his greetings to HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf, stressing Egypt's keenness to develop close and distinguished bilateral cooperation. He also expressed keenness to exchange expertise in light of the two countries' sustainable development plans.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister praised Cairo's pivotal role in asserting security and stability in the region and its historical role with regards to Kuwait. He mentioned the "constructive influence" of the Egyptian community within the Kuwaiti society, who he said, "live side by side with their Kuwaiti brothers". Alongside bilateral relations, the talks also discussed developments in Iraq and Syria, according to the spokesman. —KUNA