

Local

Kuwaiti ministries to limit public spending amid steps to address budget deficit

Cabinet forms sovereign credit rating governance committee

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Cabinet has instructed all state bodies to limit spending to at least 10 percent as part of plans to address the country's budget deficit, ministers agreed on Monday. The measures also call to limit spending on local and internationally-held functions and exhibitions, travel expenses pertaining to overseas training, foreign missions and medical treatment for nationals alongside a steps to ensure due debts to the state are collected. The move also includes the revision of incentives granted to leading officials employed at state bodies and rent prices for state-owned real estate and land, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah said after ministers held their weekly Cabinet meeting, held at Seif Palace under the chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Additionally, the Public Authority for Manpower was instructed to assess whether to halt providing financial incentives to privately-employed nationals, whose wages exceed KD 3,000 a month. Furthermore, the ministers discussed a Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) report and a briefing by the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, which both highlighted

steps to ensure improving the country's sovereign credit rating over the next four years. Both the minister of finance and state minister for economic affairs were instructed to form a sovereign credit rating governance committee, tasked with strengthening communication and the standardization of data with all rating agencies and state bodies in order to achieve this goal. The committee, led by the Ministry of Finance, will include the membership of CBK, the Kuwait Investment Authority and the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development.



COVID-19 recovery rate up to 97.7%

COVID-19 update

Separately, the Cabinet were briefed, by Minister of Health Sheikh Dr Basel Hmoud Al-Sabah, on the country's health situation amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The minister noted a continuing decline in coronavirus-related deaths, infections and hospitalizations, adding that the recovery rate has increased to 97.7 percent. He highlighted ministry efforts to speed up vaccination against the virus to reach social immunity. On this, the Cabinet said it appreciates the cooperation of nationals and expatriates in implementing health requirements, urging the public's continued adherence to COVID-19 measures.



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

In the meantime, the Cabinet reiterated its denouncement of the continued Houthi drone assaults on Saudi Arabia that aim to threaten the kingdom's security. The Cabinet said that the continuation of these hostile practices that target Saudi Arabia's stability and security constitutes a flagrant violation of the principles of international humanitarian law that requires a decisive and rapid move from the international community to deter these threats, Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah said after the meeting. It called for holding accountable all perpetrators, stressing Kuwait's full solidarity with the Kingdom in all measures it takes

to preserve its stability and security, he added.

Meanwhile, the ministers voiced Kuwait's sympathy with Lebanon's people over the fuel tank blast took place a few days ago, north of the country, that left dozens dead or wounded. They showed Kuwait's full solidarity with the brotherly Lebanese people in this painful incident, offering sincere condolences to the families of the victims, wishing those injured a rapid recovery. In addition, the Cabinet expressed Kuwait's support to the Republic of Haiti over the quake that led to gross material losses and deaths. It offered heartfelt condolences to Haiti's government, people and the families of the victims, wishing the wounded a speedy recovery. — KUNA

Kuwait Fire Force sends reinforcement teams to Algeria

KUWAIT: Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) announced yesterday that two Kuwaiti Air Force planes carrying two firefighting team with six machineries are heading to Algeria as reinforcements to help put out forest fires. The aid comes as per His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's instructions, said KFF's department of public relations and media in a statement. A chain of wildfires have recently raged out of control throughout several regions in Algeria. Ali Mahmoudi, the forests director general, said authorities counted 86 fire spots in 17 different provinces. —KUNA



No COVID patients in Jaber Hospital's pediatric wards

KUWAIT: Pediatrician consultant at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital Dr Danah Al-Haqan announced doctors have discharged the last child who was staying in the hospital after being infected with COVID-19, noting that the child is in good condition. "The pediatric wards were receiving cases daily at the start of the pandemic, but now the last child was discharged," Dr Haqan said in a statements published by Al-Anbaa Arabic daily. She called

upon the public to follow health protocols and be vaccinated to lower their chance of needing hospitalization in case they contract the virus, noting that an awareness campaign has been launched for people to vaccinate their children against COVID-19.

Meanwhile, Al-Qabas Arabic daily reported yesterday that around 110,000 children between 12 and 15 years of age have registered to receive their COVID-19 vaccines in Kuwait among an estimate total of 280,000 children eligible to receive the vaccine in Kuwait. In the meantime, around 90,000 of those registered have so far been vaccinated. Sources quoted in the report noted that the ministry is giving priority to children with hopes of finishing their vaccination before the start of the school year in October 3.

BSK celebrates festival of achievement and graduation 2021

KUWAIT: The British School of Kuwait (BSK) has celebrated the achievements of their Year 11-13 students with a glittering virtual graduation ceremony which premiered on social media recently. Following the national anthems of Kuwait and the United Kingdom, Year 13 student Abdelrahman Fares delivered a reading from the Holy Quran, and was followed by the first speech of the evening, offered by BSK Chairman Sadiq Al-Mutawa when he delivered his Welcome Address.

The school was also privileged to be able to include within the event program Guest of Honor speeches from Dr Abdulmohsen Al-Huwailah, Assistant Undersecretary for Private and Qualitative Education at the Ministry of Education, Dr Salman Al-lafi, General Manager of the Private Education Department and Belinda Lewis, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the State of Kuwait. All speakers spoke engagingly and in high praise of the students, recognizing their tremendous efforts and achievements and encouraging them to continue to demonstrate resilience, strive for excellence and to contribute to the betterment of society.

The roll of honor included the graduation tiers of over 160 recipients as well as details of the subject prize and commendations awards. For Year 11, this was read by Assistant Head Teacher Hannah Glendinning and Assistant Phase Coordinator Victoria Martin, with the Sixth Form rolls of honor being delivered by Assistant Head Teachers Simon Amura (Year 12) and Tom Campbell (Year 13). A delightful musical interlude was provided by Director of Performance Music, Emily Jeffcott, with her piano rendition of Hornpipe from The Water Music by GF Handel.

In delivering his address the Principal of BSK, Paul Shropshire, elaborated upon the innovations and adaptations that have taken place in order to ensure a quality online learning experience as well as commending the graduates for the hard work and positivity they have shown and reminding them of the many exciting opportunities that lie before them.

The special awards section provided an opportunity to recognize some outstanding individual achievements. Academic Excellence Awards were conferred upon the highest achieving students in each year group. In Year 11 these awards went to Adham Abouelella and Aditya Tiwari, whilst in Year 12 Omar Elfouly, Moheb Eskaross and Jamie Yzabel Santos were all recognized for their outstanding grades, as was Year 13 winner Cian Williams. The Student Leadership Award went to Year 12 student Ananya Das for her contributions, and the presti-



KUWAIT: The British School of Kuwait's graduation class of 2021.



Dr Abdulmohsen Al-Huwailah, Assistant Undersecretary for Private and Qualitative Education at the Ministry of Education.



Vera Al-Mutawa, Founder and Director of the British School of Kuwait.



Sadiq Al-Mutawa, Chairman of the British School of Kuwait.



Belinda Lewis, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the State of Kuwait.

In her address BSK Founder and Director Vera Al-Mutawa warmly congratulated all graduates on their achievements and reflected upon the character and determination they have shown in completing their studies to such a high standard, particularly during this time, as well as offering her thanks to the entire staff of The British School of Kuwait for their tremendous efforts and to parents and families for their continued support. Her speech was then followed by the awarding of the most coveted award of the evening, the Founder's Medal of Honor, which this year was bestowed upon Deputy Head Girl Aynour Abou Elkhair.

The penultimate item of the program was the much anticipated Head Students' Address, with Head Boy Antarip Kashyap and Head Girl Farah Badr offering their thanks and reflections on their time at BSK on behalf of the student body, as



Head Students Antarip Kashyap and Farah Badr.

well as their hopes. The rousing finale of the event was the presentation of the Class of 2020-21 by Head Teacher Miss Emma Bowie, a fitting end to mark the achievements of this exceptional graduating class.