

Local

# Kuwait Democratic Forum hopes for efforts to end political stalemate

Group meets heads of executive, legislative branches to push for reconciliation



KUWAIT: Members of the Kuwait Democratic Forum meet with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem.

KUWAIT: Members of the liberal Kuwait Democratic Forum met with heads of the government and parliament yesterday to present an initiative that they hope would resolve a political stalemate that has gripped the country's political scene for years.

The initiative includes several items that the group says the government and parliament need to address in order to reach a successful resolution. The initiative calls for the government to withdraw its request for parliament to postpone future interpellations to the head of government, while ministers should comply with answering parliamentary questions to enable members of parliament to exercise their supervisory role within a constitutional framework. Moreover, it calls on the government to bring forward a suite of agreed upon legislative proposals to be approved by parliament which support social justice within its national and democratic context.

Meanwhile, the initiative calls upon the legislative authority to return to operating parliamentary sessions, ensuring positive government participation and parliament's supervision, in addition to cooperation with the government to adopt important and necessary legislation. In addition, the initiative calls for consensus between both branches to put forward a legislative agenda that tackles main issues with a defined timeline.

Also, the initiative outlines a series of issues that require cooperation between both branches, such as amnesty for all political activists and opinion leaders, abolition of all freedom repressing laws and legislation, amending Kuwait's one-man-one-vote electoral law, ensuring political and parliamentary equity, and tackling the economic situation without compromising the middle and lower class's income and wealth.

"Furthermore, there are other issues such as education, health, employment, housing, amending the population structure and issues related to youth such as culture and sports, that require expansive attention," KFD said in a statement yesterday. "This initiative, we hope will create an environment of cooperation to achieve with the help of society's backing whether from political organizations, public figures or civil society."

### Crippling stalemate

"Since the last election held on December 5, 2020 and what preceded and followed it, the Kuwaiti Democratic Forum observed the recent political developments in the public sphere, and what it ensued of intentional and unintentional crippling of parliamentary performance built on oversight and legislation, in addition to the executive branch's ability to apply its programs and plans, what called for the national movement to return to political life in its constitutional framework," the KFD statement reads.

"The KFD's moves come from the feeling of the importance of getting in between warring parties to find a unique initiative which all stakeholders can back, starting from holding a series of talks with public figures and political organizations, in addition to members of parliament and ministers, and most importantly both the heads of the legislative and executive branches," KFD said. "These talks had a positive response from their respective parties that stress the importance of providing a positive political climate to work for the public good."

According to KFD, the initiative, entitled "A Democratic and Safe Homeland," emphasizes the paramount importance of operating within the constitution that organizes the relationship between the National Assembly and the Government to achieve the society's hopes of progress and prosperity and fix issues that are stalled for years.

"To comply with our national and democratic role as a political organization, and away from any arrangements that could be viewed as lopsided, a Democratic Forum delegation met on Monday with both Marzouq Al-Ghanem, Speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly, and His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, the Prime Minister, to deliver a copy of this initiative that holds the results of our talks, hoping that each party shoulders their national and political responsibility to ensure the application of this initiative for parliamentary and government life gets back to normality," the statement notes.



Members of the Kuwait Democratic Forum meet with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah.

## Kuwait, UN discuss investment in climate change

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Khalifa Hamada discussed yesterday with the 26th session representative of the UN Conference on Climate Change Janet Rogan investment opportunities in climate change, clean and environmentally friendly industries and technology. In a statement, the Ministry of State for

Economic Affairs said that the meeting was also attended by British Ambassador to Kuwait Belinda Lewis. During the meeting, they touched light on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) conference, which will take place in Glasgow in November 2021, the statement added.

In other news, Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Majdi Al-Dhafeeri received UK Ambassador Lewis yesterday, as they discussed the outcome of the 17th session of the Kuwaiti-British Joint Steering Committee meetings held recently in London, in addition to the latest regional and international developments. Ambassador Ayham Abdullatif Al-Omar, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Deputy Minister's Office, attended the meeting. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Khalifa Hamada meets the 26th session representative of the UN Conference on Climate Change Janet Rogan. —KUNA



Terminal 2 of Kuwait International Airport.

## Limited tender to operate Terminal 2

KUWAIT: An informed source at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation spoke about taking steps towards operating Terminal 2 (T2) of Kuwait International Airport by an international operator, through preparing a limited tender. DGCA prepared the required specifications in the tender book, which include previous experience by the operator, most important of which is having operated similar airports, which made the tender be limited to around 10 operators, said the source in comments published by Al-Rai Arabic newspaper yesterday.

The source said among the most notable conditions is that the winning operator be available two years before operating the airport to train a large number of aviation employees on operating airports with the most modern means. He said the operator will be asked to review all service presenters and contracts at the airport - ground services, passenger terminals and aviation operators - and have a plan so that all terminals operate as one system and one airport with connected facilities.

For instance, a passenger can arrive at the Jazeera Airways terminal and continue their travel to the Kuwait Airways terminal by train or bus.

The source said what was applied in selecting Incheon as an operator of Terminal 4 (T4) - according to the lowest bid for the required specifications - will be applied in the new tender, but "this time our experiences in civil aviation are now different as well as our conditions, as the operation of T4 and the obstacles it faced are now overcome and gave us a different vision".

With regards to whether Incheon could also be handed with the duty of operating the new terminal, the source said the operator of T4 expressed the desire to be part of the new tender, but was informed they will be treated the same as other companies without discrimination and can enter the bidding if they meet the conditions.

The source said those who were trained in T4 will be sought to help in operating the new airport, as 125 employees were trained each year as part of the Incheon contract. There are Kuwaitis working in the international operator who have reached the level of being candidates for managerial positions in operational specialties, and not administration. There are now around 70 Kuwaiti employees - an increase of 21 workers - as the contract with Incheon stipulates having 10 percent Kuwaiti employees, which is 49 out of 490.

ment projects in Egypt, the premiership said in a statement. He noted that KFAED financed some \$3.6 billion-worth of 54 projects in the health, transportation, agriculture, electricity, oil and water sectors. Madbouli said he was looking forward to "deepening partnership" with KFAED to finance "new development projects" including in Sinai peninsula, which would help improve the living conditions in the region.

Ghanem meanwhile said he was happy to be in Egypt to participate in the launch of development projects, and added that KFAED was keen on contributing to development in Egypt. Ghanem is set to attend inauguration of Bahr Al-Baqar water treatment station. The station, in Port Said Governorate, will be inaugurated by President Abdelafatah Al-Sisi. The station will treat 5.6 million cubic feet of water per day and the water will be used to irrigate farm lands in northern Sinai. —KUNA

## Kuwait Fund 'major partner' for Egypt

CAIRO: Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Madbouli commended yesterday the "deep-rooted" relations with State of Kuwait, and said his government sought to further develop cooperation with the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development which he considered "one of Egypt's major partners in development."

Madbouli, in remarks while meeting KFAED Director General Marwan Al-Ghanem and his delegation, thanked the Kuwaiti fund for supporting develop-

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