

# Union chief calls for 'payment' of allowance to PAAET teaching staff

'Teachers still waiting for this decision to be sanctioned by CSC'



KUNA photo  
His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace, Wednesday, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim (above). His Highness the Crown Prince also received at Bayan Palace, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah.

## Mahboula ... 'a forgotten, abandoned city'

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 20: Mahboula is a forgotten city. As soon as it came out of the COVID-19 pandemic during which it became a virtual prison and suffered from neglect and isolation for long periods, it became a swamp of neglect, deterioration of services and deteriorating infrastructure, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The general view of many streets and surroundings in Mahboula takes a passerby by surprise, because the atmosphere is depressing and continues to cast a shadow over the people living in the region in light of the continuous repercussions pandemic and the loss of livelihood by many residents.



Above: some of the areas where garbage and other used things are dumped.



Photos by Bassam Abu Shanab

A number of Mahboula residents told the Al-Seyassah daily they are dissatisfied with the severe neglect they suffer from in terms of services, the spread and accumulation of waste,

and the presence of potholes, the damaged asphalt and sidewalks, while the remnants of the gloomy picture of isolation period serves as a reminder of the days gone by.

## Kuwait lists 442 new COVID-19 cases, one virus-related death

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 20, (KUNA): Kuwait listed 442 new coronavirus infections and one virus-related death on Wednesday taking the total to 159,264 and 951 respectively, the health ministry said.

The number of people hospitalized with the virus currently stands at 5,893, with 54 of them in inten-

sive care units, according to ministry spokesman Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanad, who revealed that some 10,283 swab tests were conducted over the last day out of a total of 1,425,480.

The ministry had earlier reported that some 484 more people had been cured of the virus over the

past day, raising the total of those to have overcome the disease to 152,420.

He went on to urge nationals and expatriates alike that abiding by health precautions, mainly, following social distancing rules, is the only way to halt the spread of the virus.

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 20: Head of the teaching staff union in the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Engr Wael Youssef Al-Mutawa has requested the chairman and members of the educational committee, and the Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Ali Al-Mudhaf to adopt a decision for the payment of an allowance of KD 200 to holders of masters degree, and KD 400 to holders of doctorate degree in PAAET, tantamount to the teachers who hold higher degrees in the Ministry of Education, reports Aljarida daily.

In a press statement, Engr Al-Mutawa explained that, despite the approval of the Board of Directors of the PAAET since 2014, the teachers are still waiting for this decision to be sanctioned by the Civil Service Commission (CSC). The union was very pleased with the appointment of Dr Ali-Mudhaf as the Minister of Education and Higher Education due to his complete awareness of the existing issues, his long experience with the PAAET, and his knowledge of the importance of teachers' work in the faculties of the PAAET.

### Demand

He said, "This demand is just to conform with the principle of justice and equality. The members of the training body deserve stability so that they can perform their training tasks, graduate new generations with the highest level of skill and training, and encourage new teachers to seek to obtain higher degrees and develop themselves.

The union is waiting for the cooperation of the minister and the educational committee to approve this allowance and resolve the outstanding issues for years, as well as to benefit from the members of the training staff who hold higher qualifications. The authority must give them the opportunity to transfer to the cadre of faculty members before appointing any doctor according to the authority's latest announcement.

The trainers are the first to teach, and CSC allows the authority to have the freedom to transfer its members from cadre to cadre.

There is no justification for the body to publish an announcement of appointment before filling the need of the trainers based on the principle of preserving the quality of education and in order to achieve the principle of justice and equality, as well as to give Kuwaiti competencies the opportunity to meet the needs of the faculty."



Wael Al-Mutawa



HH the Amir with HH the Crown Prince.

KUNA photo

## Audiences of His Highness the Amir

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, received at Bayan Palace on Wednesday, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Amir, also received Speaker of the National Assembly,

Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim. His Highness later also received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Khaled Al-Saleh. (KUNA)

## New term in top office

# HH Amir congratulates Central Africa president on re-election

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 20, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Wednesday sent a cable of congratulations to the President of Central Africa Faustin-Archange Touadera on his re-election for a new term in the top office.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir

wished President Touadera good health and further promotion for the good ties between the two friendly countries.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Sabah sent similar cables.



NCCAL's Sec-Gen Kamel Al-Jalil visits one of the shops.

NCCAL photo

## 'Now they look like ... were in the past'

# NCCAL completes restoration of Mubarakia heritage shops

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 20: The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) has completed the restoration, renovation and furnishing of the heritage shops in the Dates Market and Clover Market in Mubarakia such that they now look like they were in the past - old Kuwaiti architectural style, reports Al-Rai daily quoting Secretary General of NCCAL Kamel Al-Abd Al-Jalil.

After visiting Mubarakia Heritage Market to inspect the new phase along with other NCCAL officials, Al-Jalil confirmed the completion of restoration and renovation works in 23 stores. He said these stores are now open and ready to engage in the old commercial activities licensed by Kuwait Municipality, which has done everything in its power to facilitate the completion of this task. He revealed the commercial activities are related to certain professions, crafts and heritage goods; in addition to the shops that sell popular meals, heritage clothes and some items found in the old Kuwaiti markets.

He went on to say that 15 new stores will be auctioned soon and these stores will be engaged in activities according to the special conditions set by NCCAL. He affirmed these stores will be available to all citizens, especially the small business owners among the Kuwaiti youths. He disclosed these stores evoke beautiful memories of Kuwait's history in Mubarakia Market.

He said NCCAL has 75 stores in Mubarakia Market distributed between the Dates Market and Jet Market; indicating

these stores are fully operational except 15 stores which will be auctioned soon to use them as per the regulations of the council, Municipality and Ministry of Finance. He added the auction will be announced in the Official Gazette and official platforms of NCCAL.

He explained, "Our responsibility at NCCAL is to preserve the historical and heritage buildings. We have determination, passion and ability to restore many buildings to their original Kuwaiti specifications in order to preserve the architectural and heritage identity of the country."

He pointed out the structures in Mubarakia Heritage Market are important as they are located in the heart of the capital, next to the Sheikh Mubarak Museum. He asserted all features of the place reflect the authentic identity of Kuwait and its significant aspect in the history of the nation. "This is the duty of officials in the council, particularly the Antiquities, Museums and Engineering Affairs Sector," he concluded.

On the other hand, Assistant Undersecretary for the Antiquities and Museums Sector Dr Badr Al-Duwaihi said the Dates Market is one of the historical landmarks in the country; taking into consideration its symbolism not only for Kuwait but also the visitors from other countries.

He affirmed that NCCAL is keen on unifying the architectural pattern and general shape of the heritage shops, which carry a very important message in the hearts of everyone who visits Mubarakia Market.

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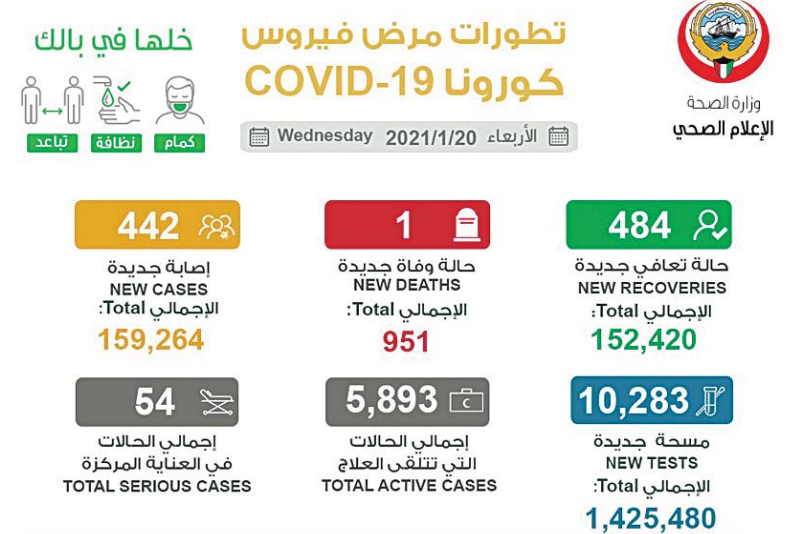
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