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# COVID in 'unprecedented decline'



PM Diwan photo Sheikh Sabah Al Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs Monday's Cabinet meeting.

## CBK issues alarm over 'cyber fraud'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19, (KUNA): Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Governor Dr. Mohammad Al-Hashel warned Tuesday that banking awareness-bearing efforts need to continue amid the rapid developments in banking services and relevant risks, most notably, cyber fraud.

Al-Hashel made the warning in a speech addressing a ceremony held to honor distinguished Kuwaiti banks for their efforts in supporting the banking awareness campaign "Diraya" or "Be Aware".

He underscored that the CBK would spare no effort to disseminate financial and banking awareness and to protect the rights of banks' customers.

He highly commended the efforts of all Kuwaiti banks in ensuring the success of the campaign and the delivery of its messages to Kuwaiti banking sector's customers through their digital platforms and social networks.

The governor added that the campaign included activities that contributed to disseminating content to increase public awareness on a range of topics pertinent to financial and banking culture.

The "Diraya" banking awareness campaign was launched at the advent of the year with the participation of all Kuwaiti banks with a view to raising public financial awareness across a wider segment of society.

## Health awareness rises

## Vaccination demand high

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: In conjunction with the improvement in the COVID-19 epidemiological situation in the country, a health official revealed that there is a huge demand by the general public to register on the online platform designated for receiving winter vaccinations, which include vaccination against seasonal influenza and bacterial pneumonia (pneumococcal), especially after opening the registration door to the age group of 50 years and above, reports Al-Anba daily.

He indicated that this reflects the increase in health awareness among large segments of society, especially after the start of the COVID-19 crisis early last year.

The official explained that the campaign is currently being carried out in 58 health centers. It was launched on October 7 and will continue until the end of December. These vaccinations are aimed at reducing the rate of infectious diseases prevalent during winter, and the mortality rates and complications resulting from them, especially among the groups most vulnerable to infections and complications. They are also aimed at reducing the number of admissions to hospital wards due to seasonal influenza.

The huge turnout is expected and acceptable so far. Daily vaccination rate differs from one center to another, but seven centers in Ahmadi Health Zone receive about 100 visitors per day each to receive influenza and pneumonia vaccinations.

He affirmed that all vaccinations available in health centers are safe and effective, and have no significant side effects, adding that their efficacy has been proven for many years in all countries of the world.

The official highlighted that seasonal influenza vaccination does not prevent COVID-19 infection but reduces the possibility of influenza infection by a large percentage.

## Normalcy sought

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19, (Agencies): Kuwait's Health Minister Sheikh Dr. Basel Al-Sabah has said COVID-19 infection and death rates are at an "unprecedented decline," with intensive care unit occupancy levels at their "lowest" amid an increase in two-dose vaccination rates amongst nationals and residents.

This came as the minister briefed a Cabinet session on the "ongoing improvements" regarding the COVID-19 pandemic situation nationwide, according to a Cabinet statement.

In turn, ministers expressed "great satisfaction and reassurance" at the revelation, labelling the public vaccination campaign a "success", thanks to its contribution to raising societal immunity levels.

They went on to reiterate the need for both nationals and residents, who have not yet been inoculated, to receive one of the four approved vaccines to preserve public safety and ensure the defeat and full control over this pandemic.

The Ministry of Health has meanwhile intensified efforts to expedite the opening of primary healthcare centers in most areas; taking into consideration the declining number of Corona cases, continuous improvement of the epidemiological situation, resumption of various activities and opening of more facilities to pave way for the return to normal life, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting health officials.

## Opinion

# Iraq shouldn't lose last bastion to the Persians

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah  
Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE general elections in Iraq ended with the defeat of the Iranian project of hegemony through sectarian militias. It lasted for 18 years through joint US-Iranian control, which prompted the crowds of these gangs to threaten the return of civil war, reject the poor results obtained by their candidates, and avoid succumbing to the popular will.

On the other hand, Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhemi pledged more than once to proceed with reform, no matter how high the wave of rejection was. He stressed that he would not fear the right to be blamed and would satisfy the people's desire to comply with the results of the ballot boxes. He reiterated this when he met the editors-in-chief of Kuwaiti newspapers during his last visit to the country.

There is no doubt that Al-Kadhemi, who stood in the face of the tide of sabotage and corruption, is now stronger than he was at any stage before, backed by the great popular support represented by the Iraqis' rejection of Iran's agent groups.

Therefore, during his remaining tenure, he must proceed with the required steps to resolve matters so as not to lose the achievement he has gained so far, and to help the popular uprising that has been ongoing for two years to get these gangs out of power.

The whole world has heard the word of the Iraqi people, who this time did not pay attention to the heresies of some of the clerics affiliated with Iran, and thus failed to push for creedal and sectarian fervor to re-establish power according to Tehran's visions.

This means the Iraqis have restored some independence for political decisions for Haroun Al-Rashid's capital, which would be complete only by emancipating from the games of nations pushed by Tehran and Barack Obama's administration when they sought to solve the regional problem at the expense of the people of the region.

This biased solution was based on the partition project through the establishment of a sectarian state in southern Iraq that includes Kuwait and the eastern region of Saudi Arabia, which applies to the rest of the sectarian components in the region, that is, the realization of Obama's doctrine by fragmenting the Arab world into warring states.

This came in the revelations published by the former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in her memoirs, and the way she exerted great efforts to give the Muslim Brotherhood Group some countries as a prelude to creating areas of sectarian conflict that will last forever. This is what Khomeinist Iran has been working on since 1979.

Here, it may be useful to look at the Iranian expansionist project, which the Persian racist creed has not changed despite the historical change of circumstances. It used to start from two points - Iraq as the gateway to the Arab world, and Azerbaijan as the gateway to the Caucasus Sea countries. Any defeat of any of these two projects means defeat of the malicious scheme.

Today there are many challenges facing the Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhemi, as well as the government that will succeed his government, the most important of which is not to succumb to the street threat launched by groups loyal to Iran, and not to retreat from reforms so that Iraq does not lose its last remaining bastion in the face of the project of Persianism.

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## Day by Day

THE Kuwait Investment Authority is the Kuwait Gold Fund after oil, but it remains suspended because the Minister of Finance has resigned.

In all countries, the Investment Authority, or the Sovereign Fund, is an independent body that is managed by no one but by its own men and they deal directly with the head of state.

This is how the Investment Authority functioned before until one of the successive National Assemblies linked it to the Minister of Finance, so that deputies can have their share of positions inside the Authority - placing their relatives and those close to them in vital positions - in addition to their own share (to manage the money), irrespective whether the Authority succeeds or not and this is exactly what happened.

Will the Investment Authority return to its former position managed directly by 'men' under the supervision of the President of the State so that its activity does not stop if and when a minister resigns, or when the National Assembly is at war with the government and vice-versa? ... Yet, tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

## Newswatch

**ROME:** Titanus for cinematic production expressed Tuesday its desire to produce a cinematic documentary film revolving around Kuwait's history and its evolution, beginning with its establishment and ending with Kuwait Vision 2035.

Kuwait's embassy in Italy stated to KUNA that this came during a meeting between Ambassador **Sheikh Azzam Al-Sabah** with Titanus' CEO Stephano Bethlen who voiced the company's interest in producing the documentary.

Bethlen affirmed the company's intent on coordinating with specialized bodies to produce a creative project that also relies on the scientific method. (KUNA)

**KUWAIT CITY:** Kuwait's daily coronavirus cases rose by 32 to 412,403 while no deaths were reported with the total unchanged at 2,458, the health ministry said on Tuesday.

Another 63 people were cured of the virus, raising the total of those to have overcome the disease to 409,407, according to ministry spokesperson **Dr. Abdallah Al-Sanad** in a statement.

The number of people hospitalized with the virus at COVID-19 wards is 17, with seven of them at intensive care units, he added, revealing that another 538 are receiving regular treatment. (KUNA)

**MANAMA:** GCC Secretary General **Dr. Nayef Al-Hajraf** hailed Kuwait's

efforts in issuing laws and initiatives to boost Gulf economic cooperation.

His remarks came during his meeting with Kuwait's Minister of Commerce and Industry on the sidelines of the meeting of the Gulf commerce ministers and heads of commerce chambers councils, set to kick off later on Tuesday in Bahrain.

The two sides discussed enhancing joint work in economy and development between the GCC states. (KUNA)

**DOHA:** Qatar's Amir Sheikh **Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani**, on Monday, issued an Amiri decree, reshuffling the Cabinet.

Qatar News Agency said that the Amiri decree included an increase in the number of ministries from 16 to 21, adding that Sheikh Tamim ordered to establish a Civil Service and Governmental Development Bureau. (KUNA)

**BEIRUT:** Lebanon's Hezbollah leader declared for the first time on Monday that his powerful militant group has 100,000 trained fighters. His speech appeared to be meant as a deterrent to domestic foes following the nation's worst internal violence in years.

**Sayed Hassan Nasrallah** disclosed the size of the Shiite group's militant arm in his first speech since seven people were killed in gunbattles on the streets of Beirut on Thursday - the worst street violence the city has seen in years. (AP)

## EU seeks to strengthen presence in Gulf

BRUSSELS, Oct 19, (KUNA): The European Union Foreign Affairs Council, during their meeting in Luxembourg late Monday, held strategic discussions on the EU's approach to the GCC and how to strengthen the union's presence in the region.

Ministers acknowledged the key role that Gulf partners can play on foreign policy issues, such as the crisis in Afghanistan, an EU statement said.

They discussed the need to actively support and accompany the positive momentum in the region in areas that can help build confidence, while also contributing to the EU's global agenda including green transition, digital and trade.

The ministerial discussion would feed into preparations for a joint communication on a GCC partnership due in the first quarter of 2022. An EU-Gulf ministerial cooperation council will also take place early 2022.

Further, the ministers had a discussion on the deteriorating humanitarian and economic situation in Afghanistan. They concurred that an EU minimal presence in Kabul was necessary to support the Afghan people and ensure safe passage for Afghans at risk, but that this did not mean any EU recognition of the Taliban government.

Tunisia was also discussed in light of the latest developments. Ministers stressed the importance of preserving the democratic rule, respecting the separation of powers and re-summing institutional normalcy.

The recent appointment of a new government was considered a first positive step that the EU will keep monitoring closely.

Over lunch, the Council exchanged views on the situation in Ethiopia, in light of the latest developments in the country and in the Tigray region, one year after the beginning of the conflict.

## DG of KPA to be investigated

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr. Abdallah Al-Salman has issued a decision to refer the Director General of the Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA) Sheikh Yusef Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah for investigations over a number of violations related to public funds, reports Al-Seyassah daily quoting reliable sources.

They explained that Dr. Al-Salman formed a new tripartite investigation committee which includes senior advisors of the Fatwa and Legislation Department. This committee is planning to begin its work by summoning Sheikh Yusef Al-Abdullah next week.

It is noteworthy that Sheikh Yusef Al-Abdullah was previously referred to a previous investigation committee, which convicted him and referred him to the Civil Service Council for the violations attributed to him. The committee recommended that he be suspended from work in the interest of the public.