



## Second session of 16th legislative term opens

# PM CALLS FOR REFORM OF NATIONAL ECONOMY

# Cooperate to benefit people, says Amir

Speaker hails call for dialogue



A bird-eye view of the opening of the second session of the 16th legislative term of the National Assembly with the attendance of HH Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Photo by Samer Shaqair

### Opinion

## Resounding Iran defeat from Baghdad to Beirut

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

THE UN Security Council's endorsement of the results of the recent Iraqi elections came as a fatal blow to the camp of the militias affiliated with Iran. Therefore, the demands of this camp for manual counting, or the rerun of the elections on the original date in 2022 are no longer valid. Today, they are trying to prove their ability to destabilize civil peace under the slogan "Either we are in power, or no country".

The pressures exerted by these gangs will not change the reality in which the Iraqis have proven that they are fed up with corruption, the wear and tear of institutions, and the political class's subservience to Iran. Meanwhile, the sectarian slogans, which used to be a force of attraction, fell with the October uprising in 2019, and this was translated into the ballot boxes on October 10.

Irrespective of the declared positions of these forces, and those who follow them on the street, the result is still the affirmation that change will not stop at the borders of Baghdad, and that the lie about Tehran's control over four Arab capitals has been exposed.

The extent of the weakness of this axis, which suffers political losses daily with the military, after the Iraqis closed the doors to Iran, represents the cutting off of oxygen from the rest of the axis members who are also trying to cling to the stage of hegemony, even if it is by force in the countries where they have lost ground.

The Iranian defeat in Iraq made the Lebanese Hezbollah crazy, due to which they proceeded with premeditation to raise the ceiling of obstructing the investigation into the explosion at the Beirut Port to its fullest. On a parallel line, they proceeded to fabricate the bloody events in Tayouneh area, which represent a sensitive incident in the memories of the Lebanese, as it reminds them of the painful effect of the civil war. This is an attempt by them to delude the other parties that this gang is capable of taking the country into civil war if it does not get what it wants.

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### NewsWatch

**WASHINGTON:** The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) downgraded on Monday Kuwait to "Level 1: COVID-19 Low."

"Make sure you are fully vaccinated before traveling to Kuwait," the CDC said on its COVID-19 travel recommendations.

It added "travelers should follow recommendations or requirements in Kuwait, including wearing a mask and staying six feet apart from others."

Meanwhile, the CDC said in its travel guidance "do not travel internationally until you are fully vaccinated". (KUNA)

**ROME:** Italy will allow fully vaccinated travelers from Kuwait to arrive without having to self-isolate after the country was re-classified as "low-risk", health ministry data showed.

Under travel rules for low-risk countries, arrivals from there will no longer have to quarantine provided they submit a vaccination certificate or a negative PCR test at least 72 hours before entry, the health ministry said on its website. (KUNA)

**DOHA:** Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani opened the first ordinary meeting of the first legislative term corresponding to the Shura Council's 50th annual session on Tuesday.

In the opening speech, the Amir stressed the significance of the political situation the country is witnessing by establishing an elected legislative authority, along with the executive and judicial authority. (KUNA)

**CAIRO:** Egypt's president has said he will not extend the state of emergency that had been imposed across the country for more than four years.

President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi announced his decision in a Facebook post. He said the move came because "Egypt has become an oasis of security and stability in the region."

Egypt imposed a state of emergency in April 2017, following deadly church bombings and attacks on Coptic Christians that have killed more than 100 people and wounded scores. (AP)



HH the Amir reading the Amiri Decree on the opening of the second round of the 16th legislative term.

### Day by Day

SEVENTY years and the Bedoun issue continues to snowball. The issue has diverted from its course and taken different routes.

For example, if a Kuwaiti woman who was married to a Bedoun or a foreigner, after the death of her husband, wants to naturalize her children or rather acquire Kuwaiti nationality for them, she finds all kinds of obstacles in her path? Why this partisanship and intransigence? What identity do we defend? Do we belong to the Aryan era, or has Hitler come back to life again? Naturalize the children of Kuwaiti women and get rid of the Bedoun issue once for all because we have become a laughing stock before the whole world.

Yet, tomorrow is just another day.

Zahed Matar

## MPs congratulated on panel postings

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh  
Arab Times Staff and Agencies

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah opened on Tuesday the second session of the 16th legislative term of the National Assembly with calls for cooperation and serving the nation.

In his opening speech to parliament, His Highness the Amir reiterated the importance of efforts to reinforce reforms and benefit the people through legislative and executive authorities' cooperation.

His Highness the Prime Minister delivered the Amiri speech on behalf of His Highness the Amir. He praised the initiative of His Highness the Amir to hold the national dialogue in a bid to end the political dispute that marred the previous round. He highlighted the positive response to the Amiri directives as manifested in the proposal of the majority of MPs for his Highness the Amir to grant amnesty to a number of those convicted in political cases; thereby, paving way to a new Kuwait -- far from disputes.

He pointed out that HH the Amir remains committed to protecting the interests of citizens and strengthening national unity, as reflected in the decision to activate Article 75 of the Constitution which authorizes HH the Amir to grant amnesty. He expressed appreciation for the Amiri initiative on behalf of the citizens.

He said full cooperation shall mark the relationship of the executive and legislative authorities in the coming period, affirming this will be reflected in unprecedented achievements in the interest of the citizens.

Talking about the agenda of the government for this round, HH the Prime Minister disclosed the agenda was presented in the recently concluded meeting with the MPs. He said the government received some suggestions and proposals which will be highly considered, asserting the government welcomes all recommendations and ideas that will help in carrying out its tasks.

He added the government in general, and the Ministry of Health in particular, succeeded in taking the necessary steps for the country to triumph over the Covid-19 crisis. He cited as a case in point the vaccination of almost 82 percent of the targeted population through 103 centers allocated for this purpose.

He went on to confirm that the government did not neglect education, as learning continued while taking into consideration the quality of education and ensuring the safety of students. He said the government took decisions on the gradual resumption of normal life by following proper procedures. He pointed out that the implemented regulations mitigated the negative consequences of coronavirus, affirming the government is keen on

continuing its reform strategy to overcome the negative economic consequences of Covid-19; including the rationalization of expenditures, assessment of fees for public services, and regulating subsidies to ensure that they are given only to the rightful beneficiaries. He was quick to emphasize that the planned action will not affect citizens with limited income.

He added the government has been exerting tremendous efforts to diversify sources of national income. He revealed the government is keen on supporting the private sector, for the latter to participate in pushing the production wheels forward through the coordinated efforts of the executive and legislative authorities.

He said the government is also keen on addressing the housing issue, which is on top of its priorities, while spotlighting the efforts on providing security for the State and individuals. He disclosed the State is focusing on guaranteeing the safety of the borders and enhancing national autonomy by providing Kuwait Army with all the necessary equipment, and the most qualified and trained human resources.

On foreign policy, he confirmed the government remains committed to the implementation of the strategy laid down by the higher political leadership; asserting this strategy guarantees the security and stability of Kuwait, while maintaining the stability and prosperity of the citizens of neighboring countries and other parts of the world.

He emphasized that the government continues its fight against all forms of corruption and the development of Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha). He said the government protects the autonomy of the judicial authority, which is considered a safety valve for citizens; particularly in terms of helping them obtain their rights.

He concluded his speech by imploring Allah Almighty to protect the country, its leaders and its people from various types of evil.

The inaugural session started with the recitation of Holy Quran verses, while His Highness the Amir read the Amiri Decree on the opening of the second round of the 16th legislative term.

On behalf of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince and the MPs; National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim welcomed all those present at the session.

In his welcome address, Al-Ghanim pointed out the session hall represents the house of the people that witnessed one year ago the citizens' pledge of allegiance to HH the Amir as ruler and father of authorities and as part of the Sabah Dynasty which adopted the principles of justice, consultation and wisdom. He added HH the Crown Prince gained the trust of HH the Amir at the time.

Addressing His Highness the Amir, Al-Ghanim stated that no one can deny the level of dissatisfaction over the deadlock; which negatively affected political work and efforts to solve national issues. He said: "Hope appeared on the horizon when His Highness the Amir took the

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## Cabinet affirms support for ME Green Initiative

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26, (KUNA):** The Kuwaiti Cabinet affirmed support to the Green Middle East Initiative Summit, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and all efforts aiming to ensure sustainable environment.

During its weekly meeting, held at Al-Seif Palace on Monday under the chairman of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Cabinet reviewed the setup of the high-level delegation to the summit, led by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The delegation includes Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, the Minister of Oil, the

Minister of Higher Education and the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs as well as other senior officials from His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said Minister of Health, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr. Basil Al-Sabah.

The Cabinet said the State of Kuwait attaches great importance to all aspects of cooperation and integration with sisterly Saudi Arabia particularly in the areas of environment conservation, renewable energy, and combating desertification.

The Cabinet expressed hope that the partici-

pants in the Green Middle East Initiative Summit would reach the desired objectives that could contribute to the realization of the vision of sisterly Saudi Arabia for combating climate change in the region.

The Cabinet reviewed the latest developments of the dialogue between the legislative and executive authorities as conceived by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The Cabinet expressed gratitude for His Highness the Amir's kind initiative which reflects his keenness on improving the living conditions of the citizens and noble traditions of the Kuwaiti people.