

# Silver lining seen on Sabih's 20-year old proposal to solve housing crisis

Ex-minister's proposal based on adequate borrowing



A group photo in the presence of the Ambassador of Kuwait to Jordan Aziz Al-Dihani and officials of the King Hussein Cancer Center, the Kuwait Finance House and the Kuwait Red Crescent Society.

## KFH, KRCS sign deals on treating cancer patients in Jordan

Kuwait Finance House (KFH) signed two donation agreements worth USD 1.3 million in total with Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) and King Hussein Cancer Center (KHCC) to treat Syrian and Palestinian refugee cancer patients in Jordan.

The signing ceremony was held at KHCC headquarters in Amman on Tuesday, with the presence of Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan Aziz Al-Dihani, chairperson of the board of trustees of KHCC Ghaida Talal, KFH CEO Abdulwahab Al-Rushood, KRCS Secretary General Maha Al-Barjas, head of the legal administration at KRCS Dr Musaad

Al-Anezi and the center's Director General Nesreen Qatamish.

The high level of cooperation between Kuwaiti organizations and bodies with King Hussein center is due to the great reputation of the center in the Middle East, Ambassador Al-Dihani told KUNA in a statement.

He hailed the humanitarian initiative of Kuwait's private sector to fund the treatment of cancer patients of these refugees.

On her part, Princess Ghaida applauded the role of KRCS and KFH in giving hope of recovery to these patients.

Moreover, Al-Rushood said the

agreements are part of KFH's commitment to help those in need.

He expressed his appreciation of the level of services the center provides to cancer patients, noting that it is a pride for Jordan and the Arab World.

Meanwhile, Al-Barjas said KRCS and the center had been cooperating since 2016 to cover treatment fees for many of the patients.

Yesterday, KFH and KRCS signed a donation agreement worth about USD 1.6 million to execute humanitarian and medical projects for Syrian refugees in Jordan, in cooperation with Jordan Red Crescent. (KUNA)

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26: The proposal that was submitted by Dr Adel Al-Sabih when he was Minister of Electricity and Water and Minister of State for Housing Affairs 20 years ago has not lost its glitter although when the proposal was floated he did not find any support either the government or at popular level, reports Al-Rai daily.**

Backed by the state's saturated financial condition and high surpluses, the proposal of Al-Sabih which is based on adequate borrowing as an approach to solving the housing crisis with land made available at high rates who in turn will develop the land, build houses and apartments complete with full-service housing complexes and markets looks the best solution since the developers have the liberty of selling their products at pre-determined cost of development and an appropriate profit margin.

With the state recording the biggest deficit of 10.8 billion dinars last year, Al-Sabih's effective and sustainable solution both the citizen and the government can accept in terms of financial cost instead of continuing with a housing system that is unable to achieve the hopes and aspirations of citizens after housing requests have increased and multiplied and by May 2021, the number of applications was 95 thousand, in addition to 33,500 applicants who are given plots of land - which appear only on paper because they have not yet physically received them and there are 12,200 applicants who have received the plots, but no funding, while the number of applicants who need funding is about 14,700 thousand and this figure is increasing annually at the rate of 8 thousand applications annually.

In this regard, sources told the daily the officials of the four biggest banks recently met Al-Sabih in anticipation of the specialists and the Central Bank of Kuwait have to say on the perspective presented to the Council of Ministers to solve the housing crisis, as the open discussion in this regard as to what role the Kuwaiti banks can play to solve the housing file, taking into consideration the liquidity pressures faced by the General Reserve Fund that has affected government plans to finance housing requests.

### Finance

The sources stated that the meeting included a number of valid proposals and questions, most notably the question about who will finance the infrastructure of the real estate cities developed for housing, from internal main roads and others that lead to these cities, in addition to establishing cooperative societies, schools, clinics and other main service buildings.

From an accounting point of view, if the developer bears the cost of the infrastructure, the financing that the citizen will need to obtain his home will rise, according to this perspective, which contradicts the concept of the real estate developer followed in the developed markets with these ideas and increases the value of the loan and facilities required by the regulator.

It is suggested that the financing installment be adequate in terms of shortening the repayment period to between 20 to 30 years instead of 58 years, but the banks suggest that the maximum repayment period should be no more than 15 years, and in the case of low-income customers 20 years.

It is clear this point has yet to be worked on, which prompted the postponement of the discussion to future meetings, while it was reported that the banks will finance the cost of the property obtained by the citizen, with the state guarantee and here comes the banking proposal that corresponds to allowing the banks not to calculate these funds from the value of the general provisions that you are obliged to create annually in order to precaution, at the rate of 1% of the value of the total portfolio.

For example, if the current discount rate is measured at 1.5 percent, loans can be provided at a rate of 3 percent, and thus the interest rate of housing loans for those eligible will be 1.5 percent lower than the current rate of 4.5 percent.

## Austria congratulated on National Day

### His Highness Amir congratulates Uzbekistan leader on re-election

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 26, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable of congratulations to the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the occasion of his re-election for a second five-year term.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished him the best of luck and success on his new tenure.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf, sent a cable to President of Austria, Dr Alexander Van der Bellen, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled, sent similar congratulatory cables.

## Resounding Iran

Continued from Page 1

On the other hand, they are also working on another line to delay the parliamentary elections that will take place in March so as not to lose its hegemony over the constitutional institutions.

As for the third capital Sana'a, Iran suffered a series of defeats after the recent developments in the Ma'rib front, and the Houthis incurred more heavy losses. This is a confirmation of the failure of the plan to desecrate the Arabian Peninsula, and occupy the holy places in Mecca and Medina to be used in the imperial expansive project.

In Syria after the painful blows received by the Revolutionary Guards from Israel and their inability to respond to them, the Syrian popular resentment against them and the sectarian gangs affiliated with them is growing. Damascus is beginning to restore its relations with Arab capitals, and Moscow has given the green light to Tel Aviv to freely operate in the Syrian air, which represents a shift in the Russian position on the Iranian presence in Syria.

All of this has put Tehran on the brink of a regional strategic abyss. Also, the American and European position on its return to the Vienna negotiating table has been tough, which either accepts it as is, or it returns to facing harsher sanctions than before.

These regional and international developments are matched by continuous protests inside Iran, and a growing resentment against the regime, which has caused the greatest economic, living and health disaster for its people and led them to be isolated internationally. This would mean that the end of this expansionist sectarian nightmare that has worried the world for 42 years is imminent.

## Cooperate to

Continued from Page 1

initiative to call for a national dialogue between the executive and legislative authorities. The MPs responded promptly to such a generous invitation." He expressed gratitude to His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid, the ministers and advisors at the Amiri Diwan for their cooperation and positive response during the dialogue. He also thanked MP Obaid Al-Wasmi for his efforts in getting such results, while praising his decision to cut short his overseas treatment trip and setting aside political differences in order to take part in the dialogue. He prayed that Allah Almighty continues to bless efforts towards reconciliation in the interest of the citizens. He added that sophisticated dialogue, roundtable strategy, compromise and continuous brainstorming are the best ways to solve problems.

He stressed that political dispute, raising doubts, hurling accusation of betrayal or threats will never lead to fruitful solutions. He said all parties have committed mistakes since the beginning of the first round of the 16th legislative term, which witnessed actions and reactions. He then pointed out that achieving political stability does not mean ignoring interpellations. Opening a new page and returning to the constitutional course established by the founding fathers should be done together to achieve the desired results. Cooperation is necessary in solving vital issues like health, education, economy, housing and alternative sources of income, he added.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday congratulatory cables to MPs after elections of committees memberships.

His Highness the Amir wished them success in serving their fellow citizens and country.

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

In another development, MP Hamdan Al-Azmi asked the speaker why the grilling motions were excluded from the agenda of the inaugural session.

Al-Ghanim clarified that as per the Assembly Decree, he is authorized to decide on the items of the agenda. After consulting members of the Assembly Office, he decided to postpone deliberations on the grilling motions; which will be included in the agenda of the next ordinary session. He then adjourned the session until Nov 9, 2021.

Moreover, Al-Ghanim travelled to Qatar along with Assembly Secretary Farz Al-Daihani, Observer Osama Al-Shaheen as well as MPs Abdullah Al-Turajji, Nasser Al-Doussari, Mubarak Al-Ajmi and Salman Al-Azmi.

The visit will continue for a couple of days during which Al-Ghanim will meet HH the Amir of Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani to personally congratulate him on the success of the first election of the Qatari Shura Council members.

He is also scheduled to meet with Speaker of Qatari Shura Council Hassan bin Abdullah Al-Ghanim. They will discuss the Kuwaiti-Qatari parliamentary cooperation and positions in regional and global assemblies, particularly the general assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) which will be held in Madrid, Spain in November 2021.

Minister of State for National As-



KUNA photo National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim delivers his speech.

sembly Affairs Mubarak Al-Harees and Ambassador of Qatar to Kuwait Ali bin Abdullah bin Mahmoud were among those who sent off Al-Ghanim and his accompanying delegation at Kuwait International Airport.

### Committees

The National Assembly on Tuesday held the inaugural session for the second round of the 16th legislative term; during which MPs Farz Al-Daihani and Osama Al-Shaheen were elected as parliamentary Secretary and Observer respectively. On the other hand, MP Obaid Al-Wasmi was voted Undersecretary of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, MP Hamad Al-Matar as Secretary, Salman Al-Azmi as Treasurer along with Fayeze Al-Jomhour, Mubarak Al-Ardi, Khalid Al-Otaibi, Khalid Al-Anzi, Nasser Al-Doussari and Muhammad Al-Hewaila as representatives of Kuwait's National Assembly to the Arab Parliament.

The opening session also included the formation of permanent parliamentary committees and voting of members as follows:

### Permanent Committees

**Response to the Amiri Speech Committee**

1. Ahmed Al-Hamad; 2. Hamad Saif Al-Harshani; 3. Osama Al-Shaheen

**Complaints and Petitions Committee**

1. Thamer Al-Suwaiti; 2. Soud Bu Sleeb; 3. Al-Saifi Mubarak Al-Saifi; 4. Musaad Al-Ardi; 5. Mubarak Al-Hajraf

**Financial and Economic Affairs Committee**

1. Khalid Al-Anzi; 2. Ahmed Al-Hamad; 3. Yousef Al-Ghareeb; 4. Osama Al-Shaheen; 5. Bader Al-Mullah; 6. Shuaib Al-Muwaizri

**Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee**

1. Hamad Rouhaldeen; 2. Salman Al-Azmi; 3. Mubarak Al-Ajmi; 4. Muhammad Al-Sayer; 5. Obaid Al-Wasmi; 6. Hesham Al-Saleh; 7. Abdullah Al-Turajji

**Education, Culture and Guidance Affairs Committee**

1. Hamad Al-Matar; 2. Mehthal Al-Mudaf; 3. Saadoun Hamad; 4. Fayeze Al-Jomhour; 5. Muhammad Al-Hewaila

**Health, Social and Labor Affairs Committee**

1. Ahmed Mutei Al-Azmi; 2. Khalid Al-Saleh; 3. Saad Al-Khanfour; 4. Saleh Ziab Al-Mutairi; 5. Farz Al-Daihani

**Foreign Affairs Committee**

1. Fares Al-Otaibi; 2. Osama Al-Menawer; 3. Abdulkareem Al-Kandari; 4. Bader Al-Humaidi; 5. Abdullah Al-Mudaf

**Public Utilities Committee**

1. Al-Saifi Mubarak Al-Saifi; 2. Hamad Rouhaldeen; 3. Saleh Ziab Al-Mutairi; 4. Fares Al-Otaibi; 5. Homoud Membrek Al-Azmi; 6. Mubarak Al-Hajraf; 7. Musaad Al-Ardi

**Budgets and Final Accounts Committee**

1. Bader Al-Mullah; 2. Ali Al-Qattan; 3. Shuaib Al-Muwaizri; 4. Khalid Al-Otaibi; 5. Yousef Al-Ghareeb; 6. Mubarak Al-Arow; 7. Adnan Abdulsamad

**Public Funds Protection Committee**

1. Mubarak Al-Ajmi; 2. Abdulaziz Al-Saqabi; 3. Hassan Jawhar; 4. Abdullah Al-Turajji; 5. Mehthal Al-Mudaf; 6. Hesham Al-Saleh; 7. Abdulkareem Al-Kandari

**Parliamentary Priorities Committee**

1. Osama Al-Menawer; 2. Abdulaziz Al-Saqabi; 3. Khalid Al-Anzi; 4. Nasser Al-Doussari

### Temporary Committees

The Assembly decided to remove the following temporary committees: Illegal Residents (Bedouins) Affairs, Disabled Affairs, Oil Affairs and Improving Business Environment.

It then approved the formation of five temporary committees as follows:

**Housing and Real Estate Committee**

1. Khalid Al-Otaibi; 2. Saadoun Hamad; 3. Abdulaziz Al-Saqabi; 4. Ali Al-Qattan; 5. Fayeze Al-Jomhour

**Negative Phenomena Committee**

1. Saleh Ziab Al-Mutairi; 2. Khalid Al-Otaibi; 3. Muhammad Al-Mutair

**Women, Family and Children Committee**

1. Osama Al-Shaheen; 2. Osama Al-Menawer; 3. Khalid Al-Saleh

**Human Resources Development Committee**

1. Hesham Al-Saleh; 2. Muhammad Al-Hewaila; 3. Ahmed Mutei Al-Azmi

**Youth and Sports Committee**

1. Abdullah Al-Turajji; 2. Abdullah Al-Mudaf; 3. Muhammad Al-Ajmi

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