

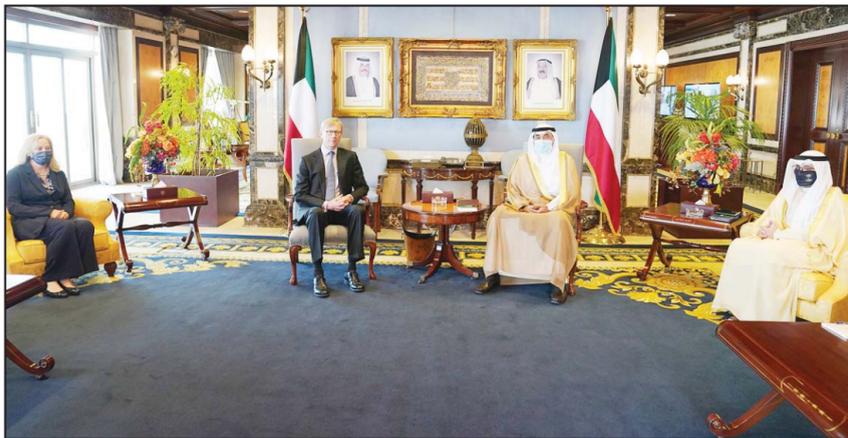


An evening view of Kuwait City.

Photo by Bassam Abu Shanab

## Bureaucracy threatens repeat in flooding of Sabah Al-Ahmad City

'Need to find fundamental solution to sewage problem'



HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled receives the US special representative for Iran and his accompanying delegation. KUNA photo

### PM receives US representative for Iran

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah with the presence of Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad

Al-Sabah on Monday received the visiting U.S. Special Representative for Iran and Senior Policy Advisor to Secretary of State Brian Hook and his accompanying del-

egation.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Khaled Al-Jarallah and Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan. (KUNA)

### 'Form neutral technical panel to review report'

## KNIS calls to restructure oil sector, merge KNPC-linked cos into entity

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: The Kuwait National Integrity Society (KNIS) called for the formation of a neutral technical committee to review the report of the parliament's committee for investigation into the manipulations in appointments and promotions in the Kuwait National Petroleum Corporation (KNPC), reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a statement issued recently, the society called for expediting the restructuring of the oil sector as a whole, merging the companies affiliated with KNPC into a more efficient entity and a more agile administrative structure, and setting a time schedule for achieving the merger.

It explained that the committee's report contained a thicker presentation of the observations included in the reports of the State Audit Bureau.

Many of these observations are serious ones that need to be addressed if proven, and necessary legal measures must be taken concerning what is proven. The imbalance in systems must be studied, and necessary measures to enhance governance and integrity must be devised to ensure they are not repeated in the future.

The Kuwait National Integrity Society expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Kuwait Petroleum

Corporation and its companies in handling the observations included in the reports of the State Audit Bureau, revealing that the percentage of observations that have been settled reached 83 percent.

The society said it considers this ratio not to be the level of ambition, as it fears that the administrative inflation of the oil sector, multiplicity of its companies, and management of its departments constitute a major obstacle in the face of efficient performance.

It stressed that the division of departments and presence of a large number of officials make it difficult for carrying out tasks of internal and external controls, while they overlook the work of observers and auditors, in addition to providing an unfair structure to equal the salaries and rewards of officials, despite the large disparity in the sizes of oil companies and the magnitude of responsibilities.

Therefore, the Kuwait National Integrity Society, in view of its professional and technical view of the results of the report and statement issued by the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation in response to the report, recommends the following:

1. Form a neutral technical committee to review the results of the report issued by the parliament's investigation committee, evalu-

ate the procedures of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation to address them, and make recommendations for enhancing integrity and governance systems in the corporation to avoid such observations in the future.

2. Accelerate restructuring of the oil sector as a whole and merging of the companies affiliated with the corporation into a more efficient entity, ensure a more agile administrative structure and set a time schedule for achieving the merger.

3. Form a neutral technical body responsible for overseeing the consultative project by restructuring the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and its companies in complete isolation from the impact of the corporation's executive management on the sensitivity of the project and its direct link to the conditions of the officials of the institution.

In conclusion, the Kuwait National Integrity Society expressed its full readiness to cooperate with the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, Ministry of Oil and the National Assembly for developing systems and procedures to ensure a better realization of governance, justice and transparency standards in a manner that preserves the Kuwaiti oil industry.

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: Although three years have gone by since the sewage problem in Sabah Al-Ahmad City occurred and two years since the infamous rain incident caused flooding in the same city, solutions that were developed to confront the problem are still radically far from being implemented to prevent a recurrent crisis, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The daily quoting informed sources said a difference of viewpoints arose in the last period between the Ministry of Public Works and Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport, confusing the practice of extending sewage lines to withdraw water from lakes and swamps formed near the city. They described what happened as "a kind of confusion resulting in adjustments to the conditions of participating in the practice without setting rules to ensure the selection of qualified companies with expertise in infrastructure and the lowest prices".

### Recommended

For his part, Chairman of the Sabah Al-Ahmad City Residents Committee, Turki Al-Osaimi said the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport had previously recommended in its technical study to award the practice to one of the companies at a cost of about 7 million dinars, but the Monitoring and Audit Sector of the Ministry of Public Works saw the selection of another company at a lower cost.

He explained the recommendation had been submitted to the regulatory authorities that requested many inquiries about the company to know its previous experience in the field and its ability to implement the project within the specified time. However, no response has been received so far.

He indicated the practice includes extending pipes to a distance of 10 km away from the city to withdraw or pump water from the industrial lakes, then extend other tubes from the lakes to the tanks of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resource, while providing tankers to draw water from the city's sewers.

He stated that residents pay dearly for all this delay, as they are frightened by the recurrence of floods, which the city witnessed as a result of winter rains in the past, amid their continued suffering from sewage rash and the spread of insects and mosquitoes. It is necessary to find a fundamental solution to the sewage problem in the city until the end of Umm Al-Hayman station expansion project to which wastewater will be transported from the city for treatment.



Photos by Mahmoud Jadeed

Top and above: Some photos of the beaches which are reopened for the public.

### 'Violators to face legal action'

## People allowed to visit beaches, violations removed — Al-Mutairi

KUWAIT CITY, July 28: The head of the Violations Removal Department in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Municipality, Majed Al-Mutairi, said the public are allowed to visit the beaches and stressed in the event if violations are committed the concerned persons will be referred to the Ministry of Interior for necessary action, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



Al-Mutairi

Speaking to the daily, Al-Mutairi said the Municipality has worked tirelessly under the guidance of Minister of Municipal Affairs Engr Walid Al-Jasem and Director-General of the Kuwait Municipality, Engr Ahmed Al-Manfuihi, to facilitate the return of the citizens and expatriates to the beaches

and stressed the violations will not be tolerated.

These violations were committed during the curfew period and all these violations have been removed to allow the public to go to the sea. After combing the coastal strip of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate, a technical report on the existing violations has been submitted to the concerned authority to know and determine the extent of the violations.

Speaking of the nature of the, Al-Mutairi said, some obstacles prevented access to the sea in the form of small barriers, a wall, a neglected car or what he called dirt pits. All of them have been removed and no new complaints have been received.

He added, the Municipality inspectors will conduct daily field trips to monitor new violations and the guilty will be referred to the Ministry of Interior for necessary action.

### News in Brief

**Congratulations sent:** His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable on Monday to President of the Maldives Ibrahim Solih, where he conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on his country's national day.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent a similar cable to President Solih.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince congratulated in a cable, on Monday, Liberian President

George Weah on the advent of his country's national day. (KUNA)

**Gas pipeline activated:** Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC) announced Tuesday completion of the vital stage of the Al-Zour refinery by introducing hydrocarbon to run its gas pipeline.

This achievement came by efforts of Kuwaiti workers and various groups in KIPIC as well as advisers and contractors of the project, said Deputy CEO of Al-Zour Refinery Khalid Al-Awadhi in a statement. (KUNA)