

Local

Deputy Amir receives cable from Bhutan's King, call from Iraqi official

Sheikh Nawaf receives commendable letters for his speech

KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday a cable from King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, who inquired about the health of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and wishing him life-long good health and wellbeing. His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince expressed gratitude on sincere gesture and wished him health and welfare.

His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince

also received on Monday a telephone call from Ammar Abdulaziz Al-Hakim, the head of the Iraqi National Al-Hekmah Trend, who inquired about His Highness the Amir's health, and expressed good wishes. His Highness the Deputy Amir expressed heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the sincere sentiments.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince received messages from National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, Deputy Chief of Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Meshal Al-

Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, in which they commended his speech delivered on Sunday.

In his speech, His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince spread confidence among citizens that Kuwait is a state of institutions and law, with the cohesion and cooperation of its people and is

able to overcome all obstacles, they said in their letters, asking Allah Almighty to bless His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Deputy Amir sent letters of gratitude in response, confirming his confidence in the cohesion of the noble Kuwaitis and their keenness on their national unity, which enables them to face any repercussions that hinder the benevolent path of the country, hoping for a rapid recovery to His Highness the Amir and to sustain the security, safety and prosperity countrywide. — KUNA

Foreign Minister meets assistants to discuss COVID-19

KUWAIT: Foreign Minister and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met yesterday with Foreign Minister Assistants to discuss efforts taken by diplomatic missions abroad to confront the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), as well as regional and international developments.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Dr Ahmad received Belgium's new Ambassador to Kuwait Leo Peeters and Iraq's new Ambassador to Kuwait Al-Manhal Hussain Al-Safi, who presented a copy of their credentials. Sheikh Dr Ahmad wished them best of luck in their new mandates, and that bilateral relations witness further progress. The meetings were attended by Jarallah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocols Dhari Al-Ajran and Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for the Minister's Office Ahmad Al-Shuraim. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Iraq's new Ambassador to Kuwait Al-Manhal Hussain Al-Safi presents a copy of his credentials to Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Mohammad Al-Sabah. — KUNA photos



KUWAIT: Belgium's new Ambassador to Kuwait Leo Peeters presents a copy of his credentials to Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Mohammad Al-Sabah. — KUNA photos

Ambreen Mustafa takes over IWG Presidency



KUWAIT: The International Women's Group (IWG) held a board meeting for the board members of IWG and in the presence of Honorary President Shaikha Hanouf Al-Sabah. Former President Anita de Vogel, wife of the Ambassador of the Netherlands to Kuwait, handed over the presidency to Ambreen Mustafa, spouse of the Ambassador of Pakistan to Kuwait.

In her outgoing message, Vogel said, "My presidency for the season

2019-2020 has turned out to be completely different than I had expected. So many plans for events and excursions that the board and I had prepared suddenly had to be cancelled in March due to COVID-19."

"Not only my term as president has ended, but also my stay in Kuwait will soon come to an end," she added. "After five years, I will leave this amazing country with my heart filled with many memories of the good times that we shared."

US city burns over shooting...

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that "we are scared as Black people in America... We are terrified." "Why does it always have to get to a point where we see the guns firing," said James, adding he believed police had ample opportunity to subdue Blake.

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden called for a transparent probe into the shooting. "Yesterday, Jacob Blake was shot seven times in the back by police. His kids watched from the car. Today, we woke to grieve yet again. We need a full and transparent investigation," he said.

Wisconsin's Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes said the shooting of Blake reflected a pattern of police violence nationwide against African Americans. Kenosha police pushed back at criticism,

and urged the public to wait for the results of an investigation by the Wisconsin Department of Justice.

Civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump, who represents the families of Floyd and other black victims of police violence, said Blake had been trying to break up a fight between two women. "We will seek justice for Jacob Blake and for his family as we demand answers from the Kenosha Police Department," Crump said in a statement.

Black Lives Matter activists are demanding the immediate firing or arrest of the Kenosha officers, who have been placed on administrative leave. Hours into the curfew, the mostly peaceful demonstration turned violent with some protesters setting off fireworks in front of police. Commercial and government buildings were set ablaze, along with vehicles in car dealership lots. Local police who had support from National Guard troops fired tear gas, rubber bullets and smoke bombs to disperse the crowd, which grew to several hundred, according to protester Porche Bennett, 31, of Kenosha. — AFP

LAPA concludes 'Al-Jawhaer' program



KUWAIT: Lebanese media figure Rania Barghout recently concluded a workshop she presented with the 'Al-Jawhaer' program organized by the LOYAC Academy for Performance Arts (LAPA). Commenting on the workshop, Barghout said that it focused on developing TV interviewing

skills as well as some training to help TV presenters develop their own characters. "We managed to understand body language, voice significance, asking questions, introducing guests and the steps followed to produce a good TV show," Barghout explained, noting that due to COVID-19,

the workshop was presented through the Zoom application, though she wished it had been done face to face. Barghout also hailed the youth taking part in the workshop as well as the programs Al-Jawhaer offers, including workshops supervised by media stars in the Arab world.

Indian rescuers pull child from...

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Officials said many residents of the 47 flats inside the building were spared because they had already fled the town to escape the coronavirus pandemic. The cause of the accident was not immediately clear but building collapses are common during India's June-September monsoon, with old and rickety structures buckling after days of non-stop rain.

National Disaster Response Force spokesman Sachidanand Gawde told

reporters that locals and emergency workers had retrieved the bodies of 11 victims in addition to the little boy who survived the collapse. Video of the rescue effort showed onlookers applauding and cheering as the child was plucked out of the wreckage and hauled up on a stretcher.

Estimates of the number trapped ranged from 20 to 70 yesterday morning after dozens managed to flee when the building began to shake. "No one knows how many people are actually stuck inside," a Mahad police official told AFP on condition of anonymity, adding that authorities had initially feared much worse, with early estimates as high as 200.

Mahad legislator Bharat Gogawale told AFP that many of the building's occupants appeared to have been out shopping when the accident occurred around 7:00 pm.

Others had left the town altogether, preferring to wait out the pandemic in their home villages. "Many families were not residing in the building as they went to their native places due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown," district official Nidhi Choudhari told the Press Trust of India.

As emergency workers made their way through the wreckage, looking for survivors, distressed relatives watched, desperate for news of their loved ones. "Three people from my family are stuck under the rubble - my mother, my sister and my nephew," said Gazala, a doctor who preferred to give only her first name to AFP.

Mustafa Chafekar, a resident who had been in home quarantine after testing positive for the virus, told the Mumbai Mirror that he and his family of five initially thought they were experiencing an earthquake. — AFP

Trump gets nod, claims...

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Polls show Trump losing to Democratic candidate Joe Biden, who had his Democratic convention last week, as Americans turn on his handling of the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent economic chaos.

Trump hopes the convention, which concludes tomorrow with his formal acceptance of the nomination, will shift voters' attention from the coronavirus to what he says is the "super-V" shaped economic recovery. As a veteran of reality TV, Trump is convinced that the more he gets on stage the better for

changing the narrative in his favor.

So while incumbents usually keep away from their party conventions until the final night, Trump immediately took over the event in Charlotte, which had been drastically scaled back due to COVID-19 precautions. He then flew to the North Carolina town of Mills River with his daughter Ivanka to give another speech, declaring "the great American comeback is underway".

Trump is expected to make more live television appearances on each of the four days of the convention ahead of his acceptance speech at the White House. His children, including Ivanka and right-wing firebrand son Don Jr, will also be giving convention speeches. First Lady Melania Trump was to address the nation from the White House's Rose Garden yesterday.

In addition to suffering from broad unpop-

ularity, Trump is weighed down by ever-growing turmoil and scandal around his administration. Former chief strategist Steve Bannon was arrested last week on fraud charges and a current top advisor, Kellyanne Conway, announced late Sunday that she is stepping down shortly to spend time with her family.

The Republican insists, however, that he can replicate his surprise 2016 win - and hopes the convention will put the wind in his sails. "This week we will take our case to the American people," Vice President Mike Pence told delegates ahead of Trump's arrival, promising to "make America great again - again." Trump's use of the White House as a setting for the acceptance speech will be a dramatic show of political muscle, but it tramples over the custom of separating political campaigns from the office of president. — AFP