

Local

Amir congratulates Municipality Director on winning Arab Award

Sheikh Nawaf meets state officials at Bayan Palace



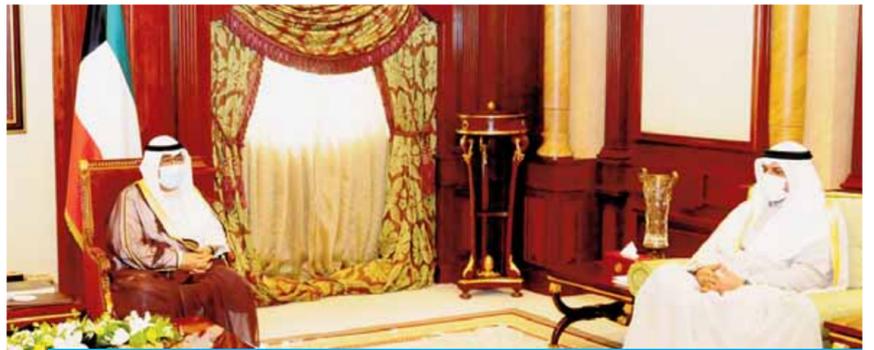
KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah congratulated in a cable yesterday Director General of Kuwait Municipality Ahmad Al-Manfouhi on winning the Arab Government Excellence Award granted by the UAE's Ministry of Climate Change and Environment. His Highness the Amir commended Manfouhi on

winning the best municipality director in the Arab region, wishing the official the best in his future endeavors. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh

Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. Furthermore, His Highness the Amir received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-

Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Moreover, His Highness hosted Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. In the meantime, His Highness the Crown Prince received Speaker Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled and Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour at Bayan Palace. — KUNA

Kuwait condoles with Mauritania over ex-president's death

KUWAIT: Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah yesterday visited the Mauritanian embassy to express condolences over the demise of former Mauritanian President Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdallahi. Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah conveyed condolences from His

Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the government and the Kuwaiti people during the visit. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah offers condolences over the demise of former Mauritanian President Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdallahi. — Amiri Diwan photo

Kuwait showed progress in combating discrimination against women: Official

KUWAIT: Representative of the UN General Secretary, Resident Coordinator to Kuwait Dr Tareq El-Sheikh affirmed yesterday that Kuwait has achieved a significant progress in combating violence and discrimination against women. This statement came on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and the launch of the 16-days campaign entitled 'United for Women.' In a press statement, Sheikh mentioned to the new law approved by Kuwaiti National Assembly on August 19 for the protection of women from domestic violence, which came into effect on September 20, 2020. The new law allowed the establishment of a national committee of representatives from ministries and civil community organizations to issue policies to defend women from domestic violence, he added. "We, at the United Nations, appreciate this progress in Kuwait that will guarantee the suitable legal, medical and psychological services for women and girls, and monitoring complaints to protect the documented and undocumented acts of violence against women," he added. He praised the cooperation between the Kuwaiti government and the United Nations to conduct researches and collect data all forms of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, statistics on complaints, prosecutions and judgments.

Meanwhile, Head of the European Union missions to Kuwait and Qatar Ambassador Cristian Tudor stressed that the European Union is "Committed to continue work with our International partners to solve the deep causes for violence

against women and girls and guarantee of legal supporting of victims "Equality between men and women and the empowerment of women is an important part of the European Union's foreign policy, we support Kuwait in its efforts to encourage the political participation of woman and the advancement of gender equality," Tudor noted. In the same context, Regional Director of UN Population Fund in the Arab Region Dr Luay Shabaneh stated, "It is time to stand firm and work to fulfill the promise and ensure zero tolerance for all forms of gender-based violence. We at the Fund, pledge to continue our efforts to prevent and respond to millions of women and girls in our region who are victims of domestic violence."

Meanwhile, the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Hideko Hadzialic, stated that the Protection against Domestic Violence Act for the year 2020 is a major milestone for the State of Kuwait. UNDP is working closely with government agencies and the Center for Women's Studies and Research of Kuwait University to design training to support law enforcement, she said. In turn, the UN Regional Director for Women's Affairs Susanne Mikhail, expressed UN's pride in partnering with the other UN and Kuwaiti local organizations to achieve its national development goals in accordance with the Kuwait National Vision 2035. The international campaign '16 days of struggle against gender-based violence' is held annually since 2008; it begins on November 25 and ends of December 10th. — KUNA

Biden presents policy...

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to overturn the results of the election with unsubstantiated claims of fraud. Pennsylvania and Nevada certified the November 3 election results Tuesday, a day after the state of Michigan did so, a move which triggered the General Services Administration (GSA) to launch the transition process.

As more members of his Republican Party came out demanding an end to the impasse, Trump signed off on the GSA move, effectively admitting defeat. But the president on Tuesday tweeted a picture of himself in the Oval Office with the caption "I concede NOTHING!!!!!!" The 74-year-old Trump later attended a traditional Thanksgiving turkey-pardoning event at the White House. He appeared to indirectly address the election, saying: "I say America First - shouldn't go away from that."

The GSA determination gives Biden access to classified information and will allow his aides to coordinate with officials on addressing the worsening coronavirus pandemic. "We're already working out meeting with the Covid team in the White House... The outreach has been sincere," Biden told NBC in his first TV interview since winning the presidency. Biden said that in his first 100 days in office he would tackle the COVID crisis, scrap Trump policies "damaging" the environment and

push legislation offering millions of undocumented residents a route to citizenship.

And he said he wanted to get all students back in classrooms, despite the huge cost of adapting schools to be COVID-safe. The slate that Biden unveiled included veterans of the Barack Obama administration and signaled a return to traditional US diplomacy and multilateralism. Biden said that "America's going to reassert its role in the world and be a coalition builder," but he denied it would be like a third term of Obama - whom he served as vice president. "We face a totally different world," the president-elect said. "President Trump has changed the landscape. It's become America First, which meant America alone."

Antony Blinken, Biden's choice for secretary of state, said the United States cannot solve global problems on its own. "We need to be working with other countries," the former State Department official said. However, outgoing Secretary of State Mike Pompeo denounced Biden's call for greater international cooperation, saying that Trump had been focused on "real results" and "the reality on the ground". "More multilateralism for the sake of hanging out with their buddies at a cocktail party? That's not in the best interest of the United States," Pompeo told Fox News.

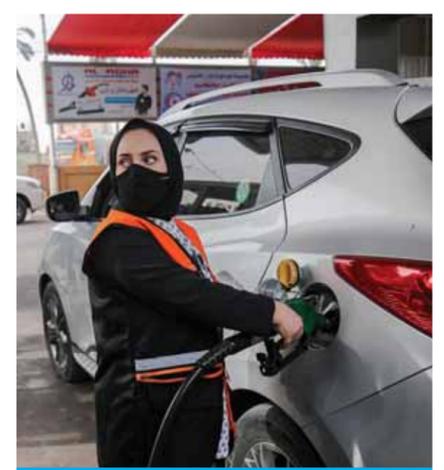
Pompeo said he had not spoken to Blinken but would "do everything that's required by law" as part of the transition. Former secretary of state John Kerry, who Biden chose as his special envoy on climate change, confirmed that the United States will rejoin the Paris climate accord which, under Trump, it formally withdrew from earlier this month. — AFP

Gaza female gas station attendant defies 'traditions'

KHAN YUNIS: Salma Al-Najjar, a petrol station attendant in the Gaza Strip, sees her part-time job in larger terms than the traditional act of filling a customer's tank. The 15-year-old trailblazer is the first female to work at a gas station in the Palestinian territory, which has been controlled by the Islamist group Hamas since 2007. Sporting an orange and black vest and poised for her next vehicle, Najjar said she wanted to "support Palestinian women and show they can do whatever they want, despite the criticism they face".

Gaza, under an Israeli blockade since 2007, had unemployment and poverty rates of roughly 50 percent before the Covid-19 pandemic further devastated the enclave's economy. While the job of pump attendant may be facing extinction in much of the world, Palestinians still prefer to have a paid professional fill their tanks. When the boss of a petrol station in Khan Yunis in southern Gaza informed her she had been hired, Najjar said she was both surprised and happy.

"Why not become the first woman to do this job and challenge traditions in our conservative society," she said, adding that she was encouraged by her family. Boss Mohammed Al-Agha said he was more than willing to hire a female. "I am a businessman and I support all girls and women who want to



GAZA: Salma Al-Najjar works at a petrol station in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip on Tuesday. — AFP

achieve their dreams," Agha said. In addition to being a pioneer for women in Gaza, Najjar said she is also representing young people. "I'm young but not a child," she said. "I want to prove that it's not age that matters, it's skills."

Palestinian law allows people to begin work at age 18. In 2018 report, the UN's International Labour Organization said 4.5 percent children in Gaza and the occupied West Bank are part of the workforce, calling that a "worrying" figure. — AFP