

Local

Kuwait's Amir receives Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak

Sheikh Nawaf condoles with Saudi King on Princess Nora's demise



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



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace yesterday His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also received His Highness

Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak at Seif Palace. Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah expressed heartfelt condolences to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on the demise of Princess Nora bint

Fahad bin Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al-Saud. His Highness the Amir, in a cable to King Salman, prayed to Allah the Almighty to bestow blessing upon the deceased and solace to the ruling family. 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 cables of condolences to King Salman bin Abdulaziz on passing away of Princess Nora, praying to Allah the Almighty to bestow blessing upon the deceased.— KUNA



KUWAIT: United States Ambassador to Kuwait Alina L. Romanowski visited Kuwait Times and met with Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan. The two sides discussed issues of mutual interest and the latest developments in the local, regional and international fields. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Iraq president keen to develop ties with GCC

BAGHDAD: Iraq's President Barham Salih yesterday expressed his country's keenness to develop relations with the Gulf states in all fields of common interests and enhances opportunities for progress and construction. A statement by the

Iraqi presidency quoted Salih saying that during his meeting with the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Nayef Al-Hajraf that challenges in the region, especially terrorism and economic problems, constitute common challenges that require coordination of efforts to address them. He called for confronting economic crises by enhancing development opportunities and economic prosperity, pointing out that Iraq is a pillar in promoting security, stability and development in the region.

Salih praised the action taken between Iraq and the GCC in signing a memorandum of understand-

Kuwait Deputy Foreign Minister's resignation accepted

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah chaired yesterday a meeting of the Diplomatic Council and Consular Corps. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nasser informed the Council of the acceptance of Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah's resignation, starting from January 28, 2021, praising Jarallah's attributes, dedication and sincerity during his career and wished him all success in his life. He affirmed that the Ministry continues to carry out its duties in implementing the state's foreign policy and serving its interests in accordance with the directions of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nasser also informed the Council of assigning Ambassador



Khaled Al-Jarallah

Jamal Al-Ghanem to carry out the work of Acting Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. Ghanem praised what Jarallah provided in serving the foreign policy, his interaction with all the Ministry's employees for guidance and support, wishing him all success.— KUNA

ing and agreements in economy. He also praised the success of the recent Gulf summit meeting and the achievement of Gulf reconciliation, noting that this would strengthen the Gulf states' relation. Meanwhile, Hajraf stressed GCC's commitment to support Iraq's security and safety and its full support to confront terrorism, pointing to the aspiration of the GCC countries to strengthen relations with Iraq in all fields.

Hajraf had earlier confirmed that the GCC countries fully support Iraq in its war against terrorism. In a joint press conference held with the Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussain, Hajraf stressed the

importance of the stability of Iraq to the Arab Gulf States, and how keen are the Gulf countries to consolidate bilateral relation with Iraq. He revealed that a meeting of Iraqi and Gulf businessmen and investors to enhance the economic cooperation between the two sides will be held soon. During the meeting, both sides discussed many issues including the electricity connection file between the six GCC countries and Iraq. The Iraqi Foreign Minister said that the talks focused on fighting terrorism and extremism, emphasizing at the same time the Gulf states' support to the stability of Iraq.— KUNA

Dubai creates 'space court'...

Continued from Page 1

way," Zaki Azmi, Chief Justice at DIFC Courts, said in a statement. "The Courts of Space is a global initiative that will operate in parallel, helping to build a new judicial support network to serve the stringent commercial demands of international space exploration in the 21st century."

Established in 2004, the DIFC Courts already draw many foreign companies to arbitrate their commercial disputes, but did not yet have courts specialized in the space activities of private companies. Azmi said that as space commerce becomes more global, the complex commercial agreements that govern them "will also require an equally innovative judicial system to keep pace".

The UAE, which takes in seven emirates including

Dubai, has invested heavily in the space sector in recent years. After sending its first astronaut into space in 2019, the country last year launched a probe named "Hope" towards Mars. It is due to reach its destination next week.

"That was for us an eye opener that we need to provide the UAE with the right infrastructure (in case of disputes)," Amna Al-Owais, Chief Registrar at DIFC Courts, told AFP. "We want to set the scene in terms of what courts can do. We believe that there will be a huge appetite for it," she said, citing as examples disagreements over satellite purchases or collisions between devices in space.

Companies and institutions based both in the UAE and abroad will now have the option of agreeing to take grievances to the tribunal, with new contracts potentially specifying the new "space court" as the forum for resolving disputes. The oil-rich nation, whose colossal skyscrapers and mega-projects put it on the world map, hopes otherworldly new industries could be a boost to its economic future. It is also looking at other new frontiers - space tourism and mining - and has made plans to also help regulate those fledgling industries. — AFP

support from 2015.

But the military has for weeks complained the polls were riddled with irregularities, and claimed to have uncovered more than 10 million instances of voter fraud. Myanmar has seen two previous coups since independence from Britain in 1948 - in 1962 and 1988.

Suu Kyi, 75, is an immensely popular figure in Myanmar for her opposition to the military - which earned her the Nobel peace prize - having spent the best part of two decades under house arrest during the previous dictatorship. But her international image was shredded during her time in power as she defended the military-backed crackdown in 2017 against the country's Muslim Rohingya community.

About 750,000 Rohingya were forced to flee into neighboring Bangladesh during the campaign, which UN investigators said amounted to genocide. Suu Kyi was only ever de facto leader of Myanmar as the military had inserted a clause in the constitution that barred her from being president.

The 2008 constitution also ensured the military would remain a significant force in government by retaining control of the interior, border and defense ministries. But to circumvent the clause preventing her from being president, Suu Kyi assumed leadership of the country via a new role of "state counselor". "From (the military's) perspective, it has lost significant control over the political process," political analyst Soe Myint Aung said. — AFP

Kosovo to open embassy...

Continued from Page 1

marked "the first time in history that diplomatic relationship are being established over Zoom". He added he had approved Kosovo's "formal request to open an embassy in Jerusalem".

Kosovo's top diplomat, Meliza Haradinaj-Stublla, thanked Israel for becoming the 117th country to recognize its independence, joining much of the Western world. China, Russia and five European Union members have not granted recognition to Kosovo. "Kosovo has waited for a very long time to establish diplomatic relations with Israel," Haradinaj-Stublla said. "We mark a new chapter in the historical bond between our two countries who have witnessed a long and challenging path to existing as a people and to becoming states," she added.

Haradinaj-Stublla also thanked Trump, who announced in Dec 2017 that Washington would move its Israeli embassy to Jerusalem. Trump's successor, President Joe Biden, has said he does not intend to reverse the move. But Biden's presidential campaign indicated his administration would seek to reopen a mission in east Jerusalem to engage the Palestinians, who consider the eastern part of the city as the capital of their future state.

In September, Trump announced at a summit originally organized to strike a deal between Kosovo and Serbia that Kosovo and the Jewish state would establish diplomatic ties. But the most

standout part of the summit was an announcement by Kosovo that it would mutually recognize Israel, and Serbia saying it would follow Washington's lead in moving its embassy to Jerusalem.

So far, however, Serbia has failed to honor its pledge, with some officials claiming the deal was non-binding. Ashkenazi said Israel was committed to working towards a "stable Balkans", but yesterday's ceremony could have diplomatic consequences. Briefing journalists this week, the head of the Balkans division at Israel's foreign ministry, Dan Oryan, said recognition of Kosovo causes the Serbs significant "pain".

In one of Europe's most intractable disputes, Serbia has refused to recognize Kosovo's declaration of independence since the province broke away in the bloody 1998-99 war that was ended only by a NATO bombing campaign against Serb troops. More than 13,000 people died in the war, mostly Kosovo Albanians, who form a majority in the former province. The two sides have been in EU-led talks for a decade to normalize their relationship, but little progress has been made.

Haradinaj-Stublla said she had spoken in recent days with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who she said voiced President Joe Biden's support for Kosovo's new relations with Israel and economic agreement with Serbia. Ashkenazi said the new ties were "historic" and "reflect a change in the region, and in the Arab (and) Muslim world's relationship with Israel". The ceremony included the unveiling of a commemorative plaque that will be placed at the entrance to Kosovo's embassy in Jerusalem upon opening. Israel's foreign ministry said. Only two countries - the United States and Guatemala - have embassies in Jerusalem. Others, including Malawi and Honduras, have pledged to make the move. — AFP

Myanmar military seizes power...

Continued from Page 1

People rushed to their neighborhood grocery stores to stock up on rice, oil and instant noodles. Banks were temporarily closed by the communications freeze, but some were expected to reopen today. Elsewhere, the chief minister of Karen state and several other regional ministers were also held, party sources told AFP.

Washington was swift to react to the news. "The United States opposes any attempt to alter the outcome of recent elections or impede Myanmar's democratic transition, and will take action against those responsible if these steps are not reversed," White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki said in a statement.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the European Union, Britain and Australia were among others to condemn the coup. China declined to criticize anyone, instead calling for all sides to "resolve differences". Myanmar's November polls were only the second democratic elections the country had seen since it emerged from the 49-year grip of military rule in 2011. The NLD won more than 80 percent of the vote - increasing its

N Korean envoy told daughter to...

Continued from Page 1

The isolated regime is known to punish relatives of privileged defectors as a warning to others contemplating similar decisions. "I think that North Korea having such feudal collective familial punishment in the 21st century is appalling," said the former diplomat, who teared up while talking about his relatives, including his 83-year-old mother. "Any

thought of them being punished for what I've done just hurts my heart."

According to reports, Ryu is the son-in-law of Jon Il Chun, the former head of Office 39, which manages the secret funds of the North Korean leadership. He became temporary acting ambassador in Sept 2017 after Kuwait expelled envoy So Chang Sik following the nation's adoption of a UN resolution over Pyongyang's weapons programs.

As a former insider, he said international sanctions against the regime were having an impact on the cash-strapped state. "The current sanctions on North Korea are unprecedented and strong... I think sanctions against North Korea should continue." — AFP