

Local

Amir meets Turkish Foreign Minister, receives letter from Qatar's Amir

Sheikh Tamim thanks Kuwait for efforts to resolve Gulf rift



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu. — Amiri Diwan photos

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem at Bayan Palace yesterday. His Highness the Amir also received the Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and the Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu on his official visit to the country. The two meetings were attended by Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah, Chief of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Saud Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Undersecretary of the Amiri Diwan and Director of the Office of His Highness the Amir Ahmad Al-Fahad. His Highness the Amir also received a letter from Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, expressing his gratitude for His Highness' efforts in the success of the 41st Gulf

Cooperation Council Summit. In turn, His Highness the Amir thanked the Qatari Amir for his sincere sentiments, praising the historical ties between Kuwait and Qatar. Ambassador of Qatar to Kuwait Bandar bin Mohammad Al-Attiya delivered the letter to His Highness the Amir. His Highness Sheikh Nawaf also received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Speaker Ghanem and His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad at Bayan Palace yesterday. He later received Sheikh Dr Ahmad alongside the visiting Turkish Foreign Minister. Furthermore, His Highness the Crown Prince received Qatar's Ambassador to Kuwait as he handed His Highness a hand-written letter from Qatar's Amir, in which he expressed his appreciation to the efforts of His



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives a letter from Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, delivered by Ambassador of Qatar to Kuwait Bandar bin Mohammad Al-Attiya.

Highness the Crown Prince in resolving the Gulf conflict in the 41st GCC summit held in Al-Ula governorate in Saudi Arabia. His Highness the Crown Prince replied with his sincere appreciation to the brotherly message from Qatar's Amir, and embraced the deep relations between the two countries. Director of His Highness the Crown Prince's office Jamal Al-Theyab and His Highness the Crown Prince's office undersecretary of foreign affairs Mazin Al-Essa attended the meeting.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah also received Ambassador Attiya, who delivered a written message from the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of Qatar Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa Al-Thani. In the meantime, His Highness the Prime Minister received the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad and Foreign

Minister Assistant for Europe Affairs Ambassador Waleed Al-Khubaizi attended the meeting held at Seif Palace.

Moreover, Speaker Ghanem received Minister Cavusoglu, and the two sides explored relations between the two countries and means of boosting cooperation between the two countries in various sectors. They have also exchanged views on a number of top regional and international topics. Turkish Ambassador to the State of Kuwait Aisha Kuytak attended the meeting. Separately, Kuwait's Foreign Minister received his Turkish counterpart and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, the two sides displayed the deep brotherly bonds between the two countries, and also discussed ways of boosting bilateral ties in all fields, in addition to discussing latest regional developments. Several senior officials attended the meeting. — KUNA

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UAE probe enters Mars orbit in first...

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The probe, named "Al-Amal", Arabic for "Hope" rotated and fired all six of its powerful thrusters to dramatically slow its average cruising speed of 121,000 km per hour to about 18,000 kph. And as the clock ticked down, Dubai's needle-shaped Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest tower, lit up in red with blue laser lights, to the backdrop of dramatic music.

Landmarks across the Gulf state have been lit up in red at night and government accounts and police patrol cars emblazoned with the #ArabstoMars hashtag. While the probe is designed to provide a comprehen-

sive image of the planet's weather dynamics, it is also a step towards a much more ambitious goal - building a human settlement on Mars within 100 years.

Apart from cementing its status as a key regional player, the UAE also wants to engage youth in a region too often wracked by sectarian conflicts and economic crises. "This project means a lot for the nation, for the whole region, and for the global scientific and space community," Sharaf told AFP before the launch. "It's not about reaching Mars: it's a tool for a much bigger objective. The government wanted to see a big shift in the mindset of Emirati youth... to expedite the creation of an advanced science and technology sector in the UAE."

To mark the historic moment, the UAE this week projected onto the Dubai night sky images of Mars' two moons - Phobos and Deimos - to allow residents "to see what the probe sees". — AFP

Women in Kuwait launch their own...

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of an impact. Radio and TV shows have hosted activists, lawyers and academics to discuss the issue of harassment, and the US embassy in Kuwait also threw its weight behind the women. "A campaign worth supporting. We can all do more to prevent harassment against women, whether in the US or in Kuwait. #Lan_asket," it said in a tweet last week.

The embassy also tweeted a striking graphic that illustrates the campaign - images of three women, one unveiled, one with a headscarf, and another with her face covered - and bearing the slogan "Don't harass her". Activists have also emphasized that foreign women who make up a large portion of the Kuwaiti population, many in menial roles, are among the most vulnerable to assault and abuse.

Shayma Shamo, a 27-year-old doctor who studied abroad and moved back to Kuwait last year, launched the "Lan Asket" platform after seeing Faraj's video. "As soon as I opened the account, the messages started to pour in... from women and girls that have experienced verbal, physical and sexual harassment," she told AFP.

Faraj said in another video uploaded later that week that she had also received "intense stories" by Indian, Pakistani and Filipino women working in Kuwait. "The expat community here is incredibly vulnerable and are sometimes harassed at a level that Kuwaiti women will

never understand," she said.

While there has been tremendous support online, the movement has also faced a backlash from conservative voices who say women should simply dress conservatively to avoid harassment. "Silence is no longer an option. We must speak up, unite and defend each other because what is happening is unacceptable," Shamo told AFP.

Rolhna Begum, a senior researcher at Human Rights Watch, said women were taking the fore in a society where, like many in the Middle East, police often do not take such abuses seriously, and the fear of bringing shame to families silences many. "These accounts being published are incredibly important to give Kuwaitis a sense of what harassment actually looks like and the terrible harm it causes," she told AFP.

The Arabic word "ayb", or shame in English, is a term that most girls growing up in the region learn at a very early age. "Going to the police station is 'ayb' and talking about harassment is 'ayb'," said Shamo. "As soon as a woman starts to speak about being harassed, the questions from family members start: What were you wearing? Who were you with? What time was it?"

But Kuwaiti women are pushing the boundaries of their society, considered one of the most open in the Gulf region, and where a law against harassment exists on the books, but where discussions about gender-based violence remain taboo. Lulu Al-Aslawi, a Kuwait media personality whose Instagram feed features her in glossy fashion shoots, said she has been bullied online for the way she dresses. "Girls don't speak up over fears of being stigmatized, but we will not stop until we overcome this cancer in society," she said. —AFP

Kuwait reports 1,002 new...

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The sources added that the continued increase in cases may have adverse health and social repercussions. "Reverting to the third or second phase of restrictions is in the hands of citizens and expats and their commitment to health protocols," the sources warned. They said the return of a partial curfew is being discussed by the ministry to avoid

escalation of the health situation in the country.

"Some people not only attend social events, but also do not observe social distancing, especially since they stay there for hours, which allows for the transmission of the virus in case any of them is infected, even if they show no symptoms," said the sources.

They argued that holding of events such as weddings, funerals, parties and others were behind the strict health measures taken lately, which negatively reflected on the recovery rates compared to the number of infections registered daily. The sources said the recovery rate from COVID-19 dropped to 94.5 percent after reaching 97.3 percent at the beginning of the year. — Agencies