

Local

Kuwait Amir congratulates Saudi King on 7th anniversary of assuming office

Crown Prince receives senior state officials



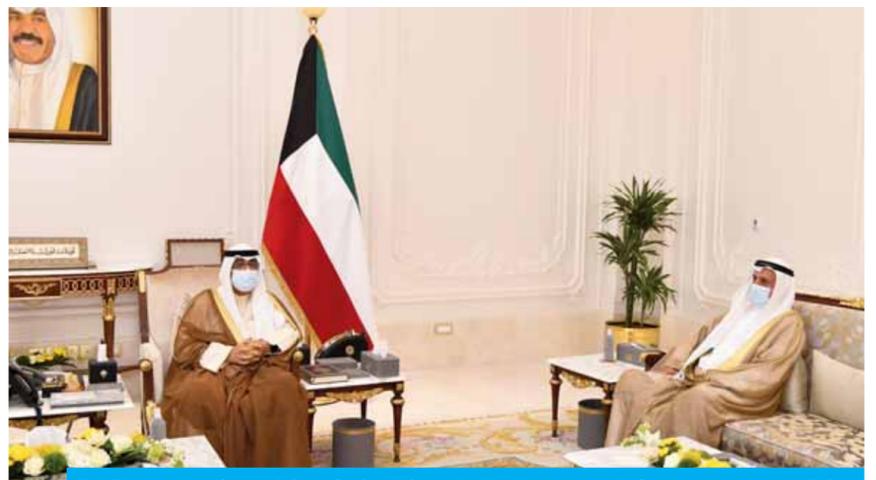
KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem. — KUNA photos



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 Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Minister of Interior Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah and Minister of Foreign Affairs and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Deputy Prime Minister, Justice Minister and Minister of State for Nazaha Enhancement Abdullah Al-Roumi.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, congratulating him on the 7th anniversary of assuming office. His Highness the Amir praised the brotherly relations that the two countries share and commended all the accomplishments the Kingdom

has achieved, wishing the King good health and the kingdom further development and prosperity under his reign. 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 congratulatory cables.

In other news, His Highness the Crown Prince

Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem at Bayan Palace. His Highness the Crown Prince also met His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Furthermore, His Highness the Crown Prince received Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali

Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and Minister of Interior Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince also welcomed Deputy Prime Minister, Justice Minister and Minister of State for Nazaha Enhancement Abdullah Al-Roumi. — KUNA

Foreign Minister receives credentials of Canada's envoy

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah received yesterday at the Ministry the credentials of Canada's Ambassador to Kuwait Aliya Mawani. The Minister wished the new appointed ambassador all success in her mission, and further prosperity to the bilateral ties between both countries.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Dr Ahmad received the Ambassador of Chad Al-Batool Zakaria, on the occasion of the end of her tenure in the country. The Foreign Minister hailed the diplomat's efforts and distinguished contributions to enhancing and boosting the bilateral ties between both nations, during a meeting held at the Foreign Ministry yesterday. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah meets Canada's Ambassador to Kuwait Aliya Mawani. — KUNA photos



Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah meets the Ambassador of Chad Al-Batool Zakaria.

Iraqi PM urges restraint after...

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"This apparent act of terrorism, which we strongly condemn, was directed at the heart of the Iraqi state," State Department spokesman Ned Price said. Iran condemned the attack and urged "vigilance to foil plots aimed at the security and development" of Iraq.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Said Khatibzadeh directed blame at the United States, which led the 2003 invasion of Iraq that toppled dictator Saddam Hussein and kicked off years of sectarian conflict. "Such incidents are in the interest of those who have violated the stability, security, independence and territorial integrity of Iraq over the past 18 years," said Khatibzadeh. "They have sought to achieve their sinister regional goals by creating terrorist groups that seek to cause sedition."

President Saleh said Iraq must not "be dragged into chaos and a coup against the constitutional system". The attack was also condemned by the Arab League, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria and United Arab Emirates as well as the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq. Moqtada

Sadr, an influential Shiite Muslim preacher whose political movement was the big election winner, condemned the drone attack as "against Iraq and the Iraqi people".

The strike came amid soaring tensions over the elections, the fifth such vote since the 2003 US-led invasion. Hundreds of Hashed supporters clashed with police on Friday while protesting near the Green Zone to vent their fury over the preliminary result. One protester died of injuries in hospital, according to a security source, while a Hashed source said two demonstrators were killed.

Several hundred supporters of pro-Iranian groups returned to the edge of the Green Zone on Saturday to protest, and some burned a portrait of the prime minister, whom they called a "criminal". Final election results are only expected in a few weeks. Kadhem brought forward the ballot, originally planned for next year, in a concession to anti-government protests over endemic corruption, unemployment, failing public services and the influence of Iran.

Activists accuse the Hashed's armed forces - whose 160,000 fighters are now integrated into Iraq's state security forces - of being beholden to Iran and acting as an instrument of oppression against critics. Other drone attacks in Iraq have occurred over the last few months, particularly against American interests. — AFP

US reopening borders after...

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require them to present negative COVID-19 tests. The United States, from today, will require air passengers to be fully vaccinated and be tested within three days before travel. Airlines will be required to put in place a contact tracing system.

The land border opening will happen in two phases. Starting today, vaccines will be required for "non-essential" trips - such as family visits or tourism - although unvaccinated travelers will still be allowed into the country for "essential" trips, as they have been for the last year and a half. A second phase beginning in early January will require all visitors to be fully vaccinated to enter the United States by land, no matter the reason for their trip.

US health authorities have said all vaccines approved by the US Food and Drug Administration and the World Health Organization would be accepted for entry by air. At the moment, this includes the AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, Pfizer/BioNTech, Covaxin, Sinopharm and Sinovac vaccines. The United States has not yet commented on the increase in COVID-19 cases in Europe.

But speaking for the US, Surgeon General Vivek Murthy said yesterday on ABC that "I'm cautiously optimistic about where we are," while adding: "We can't take our foot off the accelerator until we're at the finish line." The WHO, for its part, expressed "grave concern" over the rising pace of coronavirus infections in Europe, warning that according to "one reliable projection" the current trajectory would mean "another half a million COVID-19 deaths" by February. — AFP

Sudan forces fire tear gas at protesters

KHARTOUM: Sudanese security forces yesterday fired tear gas at multiple anti-coup rallies, with protesters in several cities joining a call for two-days of civil disobedience against last month's military takeover. Hundreds of anti-coup protesters rallied in the capital Khartoum, as well as in its twin city of Omdurman, Wad Madni to the south, and the northern city of Atbara.

"The authority belongs to the people," they chanted and "no, no to military rule" as they demanded a "civilian government". Nationwide anti-coup protests have occurred since the Oct 25 power grab by the army, but have been met by a deadly crackdown.

At least 14 demonstrators have been killed and about 300 wounded, according to the independent Central Committee of Sudan's Doctors. "Protesters barricaded the streets, set car tyres ablaze, called out against the military rule, and chanted that civilian government is the people's choice," said Hoda Othman, who witnessed protests in Omdurman.

Almost two weeks ago Sudan's top general Abdel Fattah al-Burhan dissolved the government, as well as the ruling joint military-civilian Sovereign Council that was supposed to lead the country toward full civilian rule. Burhan also declared a state of emergency and detained Sudan's civilian leadership. Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok was briefly detained, but later placed under effective house arrest.

Yesterday's rallies followed calls for two-days of civil disobedience made by the Sudanese Professionals Association (SPA), an umbrella of unions which were also instrumental in the protests which led to the ouster of longtime strongman Omar Al-Bashir in April 2019. "The Sudanese people have rejected the military coup," the SPA said, vowing "no negotiation, no partnership". — AFP