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Amir delegates some of his powers to Crown Prince

Some Amiri constitutional rights temporarily assigned to Sheikh Mishal



HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah



HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday issued an Amiri order delegating "some of his constitutional powers" on a temporary basis to HH the Crown Prince

Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the minister of the Amiri Diwan announced. Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah said "an Amiri order has been issued assigning the Crown Prince some of the Amir's constitutional powers on a temporary basis".

UAE: World still needs to invest billions in oil, gas

ABU DHABI: The UAE, one of the world's top crude exporters, said a recent UN climate summit in Glasgow was a "success" but that the world needs to keep investing billions in oil and gas. Nearly 200 countries at the COP26 summit pledged Saturday to speed up the fight against rising temperatures, after two weeks of negotiations.

But they failed to secure a consensus to keep coal in the ground, and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has warned that "climate catastrophe" is still knocking at the door. The summit "was indeed a success", said Sultan Al-Jaber, the UAE's minister of industry and advanced technology. But he forecast that the oil and gas industry would have

to invest "over \$600 billion every year until 2030 just to keep up with the expected demand".

"While the world has agreed to accelerate the energy transition, it is still heavily reliant on oil and gas," he told the opening session of the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference. "As economies bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic at the fastest rate in 50 years, demand has outpaced supply."

Both the United Arab Emirates and neighboring Saudi Arabia, the world's number one oil exporter, have announced net zero carbon goals, despite plans to ramp up oil production. Net zero refers to emissions created within a country, not by products sold and consumed abroad. The UAE, Saudi Arabia and other major oil producers have defended their plans to continue investing in fossil fuels.

"The future is coming, but it is not here yet," said Jaber, whose country is set to host COP28. "We must make

progress with pragmatism. If we are to successfully transition to the energy system of tomorrow, we cannot simply unplug from the energy system of today." Also at the Abu Dhabi conference, Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman hit back at critics questioning Riyadh's net zero ambitions. "I can understand the skepticism, but I also would refer those sceptics to what we've agreed to just two days ago," he said, referring to the COP26 summit.

A visiting delegation of US politicians told AFP on Friday the UAE accepts that oil is not its future despite being one of the world's top exporters. The UAE's leaders "recognize that their future is not going to be in oil", Senator Ben Cardin said at the end of a trip that also included the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow. UAE officials "recognize reality", delegation member and House of Representatives Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said after talks with Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum. — AFP



KUWAIT: (From left) Former opposition MPs Mubarak Al-Waalan, Jamaan Al-Harbash and Salem Al-Namlan are welcomed by supporters after they arrived in Kuwait yesterday after being pardoned by HH the Amir. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

3 opposition figures return from Turkey

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Three former opposition MPs - Jamaan Al-Harbash, Mubarak Al-Waalan and Salem Al-Namlan - returned yesterday from Turkey, where they had been living in exile for the past three and a half years to escape multi-year jail terms passed against them for storming the National Assembly building in 2011. HH the Amir had issued a decree pardoning six former MPs and five activists living in exile. The remaining ex-MPs and activists are due to return to Kuwait in the coming few days.

India opens to tourists after 20 months

NEW DELHI: India yesterday opened to foreign tourists from countries with reciprocal agreements after a 20-month ban because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Tour operators said, however, that demand was extremely sluggish due to high ticket prices and remaining restrictions on travelers from Britain, China and elsewhere.

The country famous for the Taj Mahal, desert palaces and tiger reserves barred all foreign tourists in March 2020 as the pandemic intensified. But after a devastating spike in COVID-19 cases earlier this year, the number of known infections has fallen sharply and the government, under pressure from an industry that is an important pillar of the economy, last month announced a loosening.

Tourist visas were issued for fully vaccinated foreigners from countries with reciprocal arrangements arriving on charter flights from Oct 15. This was widened to include other flights yesterday.

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100 schools reopen in Philippines

MANILA: Thousands of children in the Philippines were allowed to return to classrooms yesterday for the first time since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, as a pilot reopening of schools got under way. While nearly every country in the world has already partially or fully re-opened their schools to

face-to-face learning, the Philippines has kept them closed since March 2020.

Kindergarten teacher Zyrex Damayo said he was "a bit nervous" as he greeted eight of his students at the Siocon Elementary School in Bogo city in the central island province of Cebu. "I was expecting some of them to cry... (but) it went smoothly and we did not have any problems," Damayo told AFP. "They were quiet - they're still a bit shy."

A hundred public schools out of more than 61,000 have been selected for the two-month trial, which is expected to be expanded in the coming

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BOGO, Philippines: Kindergarten students attend a face-to-face class at Siocon Elementary School in this town in Cebu province yesterday. — AFP

Over-pumping cuts Morocco river link to sea

SAIDIA, Morocco: Moroccan environmentalist Mohamed Benata stood taking photos of what should be the mouth of the Moulouya river - but after years of drought and over-pumping, it comes to a halt just short

of the sea. One of the longest rivers in the North African kingdom and a vital lifeline for farmers in the area near the Algerian border, the final few paces of the 500-km waterway are now separated from the Mediterranean by a sandbar.

"It's the first time ever that the Moulouya has stopped flowing into the sea," said Benata, a retired agronomist. "The flow has been weakened by over-pumping of the water. It's pretty dramatic."

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SAIDIA, Morocco: Farmers stand together by the Moulouya riverbank in northeastern Morocco on Nov 2, 2021. — AFP