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US president steps into DPRK in historic first



Marzouq Al-Ghanem

Assembly position on Palestine reflects Amir's: Speaker

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti parliament's principled and unwavering position on the Palestinian cause is part of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's stance, top legislator said yesterday. Speaking to reporters at the parliament, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said this parliament's stance is basically based on HH the Amir's long-standing and unshakable approach.

Speaking highly of HH the Amir's interest in Islamic and Arab issues, Ghanem appreciated the Palestinian people for organizing rallies recently in the West Bank in order to show gratitude to Kuwait for its attitude towards the Palestine cause. "I confirm to the Palestinian people in occupied territories and all Arab and Islamic countries that the position of the Kuwaiti people, represented by the parliament, on all Islamic causes, primarily the Palestinian one, is unwavering," he said.

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PANMUNJOM/SEOUL: US President Donald Trump became the first sitting US president to set foot in North Korea yesterday when he met its leader, Kim Jong Un, in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas and agreed to resume stalled nuclear talks. The meeting, initiated by a spur-of-the-moment tweet by Trump that Kim said took him by surprise, once again displayed the rapport between the two. But they are no closer to narrowing the gap between their countries, which are technically still at war. Trump, escorted by Kim, briefly crossed a military demarcation line into the North side of the Joint

Security Area (JSA), patrolled by soldiers from both Koreas.

Moments later, they returned to the southern side and joined South Korea's President Moon Jae-in for a brief chat, marking an unprecedented three-way gathering. Trump and Kim then held a closed-door meeting for nearly an hour. "We just had a very, very good meeting," Trump said after the talks. "We'll see what can happen." He said both sides would set up teams to push forward stalled talks aimed at getting North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons, adding "speed is not the thing". Trump also said he had invited the young leader to the White House "anytime he wants to do it".

Pope Francis, making his weekly address in St Peter's Square, praised the meeting. "I salute the protagonists, with a prayer that such a significant gesture will be a further step on the road to peace, not only on that peninsula,

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PANMUNJOM: North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un shakes hands with US President Donald Trump north of the Military Demarcation Line that divides North and South Korea in the Joint Security Area (JSA) in the Demilitarized zone (DMZ) yesterday. — AFP

Mass protests for civilian rule rock Sudan

KHARTOUM: Tens of thousands of protesters rallied across Sudan yesterday against the ruling generals as demonstrators marched on the presidential palace in Khartoum, in the biggest mass demonstration since a deadly crackdown on demonstrators. The "million-man" march is seen as a test for protest organizers whose push for civilian rule has been hit by the June 3 raid on a Khartoum sit-in and a subsequent internet blackout that has curbed their ability to mobilize support.

Dozens of demonstrators were killed and hundreds wounded when armed men in military fatigues stormed the sit-in outside army headquarters, shooting and beating protesters who had camped there since April 6. Yesterday, police fired several rounds of tear gas on crowds approaching the presidential palace after organizers called for a march on the building that houses offices of the ruling transitional military council, an AFP correspondent reported.

"We call on our revolutionary people in the capital to go to the republican palace... to seek justice for the martyrs and for an unconditional transfer of power to civilians," the Sudanese Professionals Association that first launched protests against now ousted ruler Omar Al-Bashir said on Twitter.

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KHARTOUM: Sudanese protesters chant "civilian rule" during a mass demonstration against Sudan's ruling generals in the capital's Bari district yesterday. — AFP

US envoys on hand as Israel digs down in east Jerusalem

JERUSALEM: US envoys attended the inauguration of a Jewish heritage site in East Jerusalem yesterday, signaling support for Israel's hold over parts of the city that Palestinians want for a future state. Palestinians - who view the heritage project and settlement activities in the Silwan district as moves by Israel to further cement control over areas it captured in the 1967 Middle East war - called the US presence at the event a hostile act.

Two of Trump's top Middle East advisers - peace envoy Jason Greenblatt and Ambassador to Israel David Friedman - came to the opening of an excavated road that Israeli archaeologists say was used by Jewish pilgrims to Jerusalem two millennia ago. The "Pilgrims' Road" site is part of the City of David, an open-air Jewish archaeological attraction open to the public and



JERUSALEM: (From left) US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, White House Middle East envoy Jason Greenblatt and US Senator Lindsey Graham attend the opening of an ancient road in the Palestinian neighborhood of Silwan in east Jerusalem yesterday. — AFP

built within the East Jerusalem district of Silwan through purchases of Palestinian-owned property that have at times been contested in court.

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Sheikh Fahd Nasser Sabah Al-Sabah

Kuwait's Olympic committee elects new chief, board

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti sports entered a new era late yesterday after the Kuwait Olympic Committee's general assembly elected its new board, culminating a "roadmap" that was designated to resolve Kuwait's sporting crisis. The assembly elected Sheikh Fahd Nasser Al-Sabah as Chairman; Mohammad Jaafar as Vice-Chairman; Hussein Al-Musallam as General Secretary; and Mubarak Faisal Al-Nawaf, Jaber Thamer Al-Ahmad, Ali Al-Merri, Nael Al-Awadhi, Musaed Al-Ajeel, and Saud Al-Harbi as members. They were unanimously elected as all 16 sports associations voted for the list of Sheikh Fahd.

Sheikh Fahd said Kuwaiti sport needs collective work without special considerations. He said the board seeks cooperation with PAS to establish Olympic academies in all the state's governorates, including one for treating athletes.

The International Olympic Committee is expected to issue a decision very soon to permanently lift its ban on Kuwait. A representative of the IOC attended the KOC general assembly meeting, in addition to the six-member committee that worked on resolving the sports crisis in Kuwait.

Tunisia player shining a path for Arab girls

LONDON: When Ons Jabeur takes on twice Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova in the Wimbledon first round next week she will not just be playing for herself, she will fly the flag for Africa. The 24-year-old Tunisian is the only player from the continent in the women's draw and only the second Arabic woman ever to crack the top 100 in the WTA rankings. She does have some company with fellow Tunis resident Malek Jaziri having scraped into the men's draw while South African

Kevin Anderson, last year's runner-up, is the fourth seed.

The WTA has grown its presence rapidly in Asia, a once under-represented region for a sport dominated by Europe and north America, but Africa has largely been left behind. Jabeur reached a career-high 56 in January, surpassing the 75th spot the previous highest-ranked Arab woman Selima Sfar achieved in 2001, but it would not have made many headlines in the north African country where soccer rules.

"I'm trying to give the example for Arabic girls and African girls. It's kind of tough because we don't have much experience in playing tennis," Jabeur told Reuters in an interview. "For me I'm happy to be an example for the young kids."

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Ons Jabeur

News in brief

Saudi intercepts Houthi drones

RIYADH: Two Yemeni rebel drones targeting southern Saudi Arabia were intercepted on Saturday, a Riyadh-led military coalition said, the latest in a series of assaults on the kingdom. The first drone targeted the province of Jizan and the second was aimed at a residential area in Asir province, the coalition said in a statement released by the official Saudi Press Agency. The rebels earlier claimed drone attacks on the airports in Jizan and Abha, the capital of Asir, according to the group's Al-Masirah TV. — AFP

Bahrain to restore citizenships

DUBAI: A Bahraini appeals court overturned a decision to strip the citizenship of 92 Shiites jailed for plotting to form an Iran-linked "terror" group, a judicial source said yesterday. "The appeals court overturned the decision to strip the 92 people of their citizenship," a judicial source told AFP. "But their prison terms remain the same," the source added. Also yesterday, Bahrain's government announced in a statement that it had amended its citizenship law for a second time in recent years. It said the amended law allows authorities to strip the citizenship of individuals who engage in any act of "terror". — AFP

Palestinian businessman freed

HEBRON: The Palestinian Authority has released from custody a businessman from the city of Hebron in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, who was arrested for attending a US-led conference in Bahrain aimed at starting a Middle East peace effort, a family source said yesterday. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Salah Abu Mayala, whose "sole crime was taking part in an economic conference aimed at advancing the Palestinian economy," was released "due to American pressure". Trump advisor Jason Greenblatt said yesterday the White House was "pleased" with Abu Mayala's release. — AFP