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New Ethiopian Airlines Boeing crashes after takeoff, 157 killed

Passengers from more than 30 countries were on board • Amir sends condolences

New iqama process begins; names on passport and civil ID should match

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Residency Affairs Maj Gen Talal Maarafi yesterday announced the start of the implementation of ministerial decision 135/2019, which calls for stopping the use of the residency sticker and substituting it with the civil ID. He said the first stage of the decision is being implemented for article 20 visa holders (domestic helpers).

Maarafi said this move is based on the instructions of Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah to employ the latest technologies, improve the level of services and enable citizens and expats to process transactions online. The undersecretary said any expat with a regular residency permit will not be allowed to enter

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BISHOFTU, Ethiopia: A Nairobi-bound Boeing 737 crashed minutes after an early-morning takeoff from Addis Ababa yesterday, killing all eight crew and 149 passengers on board, including tourists, business travellers, and at least one delegate to a UN meeting. Amid a global stream of condolences, many gathered in tears at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), as the victims' identities started to emerge.

HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah expressed his deepest sympathies yesterday over the crash. The Amir extended his condolences in a cable he sent to Ethiopian President Sahle-Work Zewde, saying he was distraught over the terrible tragedy. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar messages to the Ethiopian leader.

"It is with deep sorrow that I announce that my dear wife, Blanka, son Martin and daughter Michala, died in the air disaster in Addis Ababa this morning," Slovak MP Anton Hrnko wrote on Facebook. People from 35 countries and one UN passport-holder were on board flight ET 302 when it ploughed into a field 60 km southeast of Addis Ababa on what the airline's CEO Tewelde GebreMariam labeled a "very sad and tragic day".

An eyewitness told AFP the plane came down in flames. "The plane was already on fire when it crashed to the ground. The crash caused a big explosion," Tegegn Dechasa recounted at the site, littered

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BISHOFTU, Ethiopia: Rescue workers carry bodies in bags at the crash site of an Ethiopian Airlines plane near this town some 60 km southeast of Addis Ababa yesterday. — AFP

MP threatens action over ports fund

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Opposition MP Riyadh Al-Adasani yesterday threatened to grill two ministers and the prime minister if he does not get proper answers over alleged violations in the ports fund, in which the government holds a majority stake. Adasani said he sent questions over the issue to the minister of commerce, who supervises the fund, and the finance minister about the

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Dasman Diabetes Institute holds French Diabetes Days conference



KUWAIT: Country Chair and General Manager for Sanofi in the Gulf Jean Paul Scheuer is seen with CEO of Central Circle Co Dr Ziad Al-Alyan at the French Diabetes Days conference.

KUWAIT: Dasman Diabetes Institute, founded by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, recently organized the French Diabetes Days conference in collaboration with the French Embassy in Kuwait, Sanofi, URGO Medical and Universite Cote d'Azur. The conference was held at the Institute on March 10 and 11, 2019. The conference offered participants a platform to discuss the latest issues and findings on diabetes and its complications and opportunities for networking and forming new partnerships. Many international guest speakers from Imperial College, Weill Cornell and Nice University made presentations at the conference, in addition to chairpersons and speakers from the Institute, Kuwait University and the ministry of health.

The conference was launched with an opening ceremony speech delivered by Dr Qais Al Duwairi, Director General, Dasman Diabetes Institute. It was followed by speeches delivered by Marie Masdupuy, the Ambassador of France to Kuwait, Jean Paul Scheuer, Country Chair & General Manager for Sanofi in Gulf



Ambassador of France to Kuwait Marie Masdupuy addresses the conference.

Countries, Francois Regis Jan, CEEMEA Director, URGO Medical and Charles Guepratte, Chief Executive Officer, Nice University Centre, France. (See Page 3)

News in brief

2,200 deportations in 2019

KUWAIT: Security sources said around 2,200 Arab and Asian expats were deported in January and February 2019. Expats are usually deported for violating residency or labor laws or involvement in criminal cases including traffic violations, felonies and crimes. The sources said that some sponsors cooperate with the authorities and purchase tickets for their workers from travel agencies at the deportation prison, which has helped accelerate the process to three days to a maximum of one week before the detainees are deported. — A Saleh

Tunisia health minister quits

TUNIS: Tunisia's health minister has resigned after the sudden deaths of 11 newborn babies at a state maternity hospital sparked an outcry in the country, the government said. Prime Minister Youssef Chahed accepted Abderraouf Cherif's resignation, the premier's office said on Facebook late on Saturday. Leading newspaper Essafa yesterday cried foul and compared the deaths of the babies to a "state crime". A medical association said the sudden deaths could have been caused by a food product that had gone bad. — AFP

General named Egypt transport minister

CAIRO: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi said yesterday he would appoint a senior military officer as transport minister after a recent train crash at Cairo's central station killed 22 people. Major General Kamel Al-Wazir's selection comes after a backlash from a Feb 27 crash at Ramses central station, which forced former transport minister Hisham Arafat to resign. "I'm handing over this (transport) portfolio to one of the best army officers," said Sisi. Wazir has been the head of the Egyptian military's engineering authority since 2015. — AFP

India to hold mega-election from April 11

NEW DELHI: India will hold a general election in seven stages starting on April 11, the election commission said yesterday, in what will be the world's biggest democratic exercise with Prime Minister Narendra Modi likely to benefit from tensions with Pakistan. About 900 million citizens will be eligible to vote, 15

million of them aged between 18 and 19, in a mammoth exercise lasting more than a month. Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora said at a press briefing in the capital New Delhi yesterday.

Until a few weeks ago, a shortage of jobs and weak farm prices were seen denting Modi's popularity. But pollsters say his ruling Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) now has a clear advantage after India's armed forces clashed with those of archrival Pakistan last month, triggering a wave of patriotic fervor across the country of 1.3 billion.

Of the 543 parliamentary seats up

for grabs, 241 could go to Modi's ruling alliance, compared with 141 to the Congress party-led opposition alliance, according to a nationwide survey of 50,000 people by the CVoter polling agency conducted over the past four weeks. "The Hindi heartland - barring Uttar Pradesh - has charged up due to the Pakistan issue," said Yashwant Deshmukh, founder of CVoter, referring to the northern state of Uttar Pradesh that sends the largest number of lawmakers to India's lower house of parliament and is a key battleground for the election.

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Narendra Modi

Netanyahu says Israel 'not a state of all its citizens'

JERUSALEM: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in full campaign mode ahead of April 9 polls, yesterday said Israel "was not a state of all its citizens" in a reference to the country's Arab population. The prime minister, in comments on Instagram, went on to say all citizens, including Arabs, had equal rights, but referred to a deeply controversial law passed last year declaring Israel the nation-state of the Jewish people. "Israel is not a state of all its citizens," Netanyahu wrote in response to comments

from an Israeli actress. "According to the basic nationality law we passed, Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish people - and only it. As you wrote, there is no problem with the Arab citizens of Israel. They have equal rights like all of us and the Likud government has invested more in the Arab sector than any other government," he said of his rightwing party.

As the comments caused waves in Israel, Netanyahu again spoke of the issue at the start of a cabinet meeting, making similar comments. He called Israel a "Jewish, democratic state" with equal rights, but "the nation-state not of all its citizens, but only of the Jewish people". Netanyahu has been accused of demonizing Israeli Arabs, who make up some 17.5 percent of the population, ahead of April polls in a bid to boost rightwing turnout. He has continually

warned that his opponents will receive the support of Arab parties and that they will make significant concessions to the Palestinians.

Netanyahu, under threat of indictment for corruption, is facing a tough challenge from a centrist political alliance led by former military chief of staff Benny Gantz and ex-finance minister Yair Lapid. The alliance's centrist positions and its security credentials - it includes three former military chiefs of staff - have helped it beat back Netanyahu's claims that its leaders are "weak" leftists.

Arab parties would be extremely unlikely to be part of any coalition government after elections. Arab Israelis are Palestinians who remained on their land after the 1948 creation of Israel and are largely supportive of the Palestinian cause. — AFP



Benjamin Netanyahu