

## Local

## Kuwaiti police martyr laid to rest



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh consoles with the martyr's family.



The martyr is carried to his final resting place.



Undersecretary of the Interior Ministry Lt Gen Essam Al-Nahham consoles with the martyr's family.

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior held a funeral service at Sabhan cemetery for Warrant Officer Raden Al-Khaledi, from the General Directorate of Traffic, who was martyred due to

a tragic accident while on duty. Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh, Undersecretary of the Interior Ministry Lt Gen

Essam Al-Nahham and Assistant Undersecretary Maj Gen Jamal Al-Sayegh as well as other senior police officers attended the funeral. Saleh prayed for Allah Almighty to bless the martyr's soul in

Paradise and expressed sincere condolences for his family, according to a statement from the General Directorate of Security Relations and Media. — KUNA

## Kuwait affirms necessity of boosting UN relief aid

NEW YORK: The State of Kuwait has reaffirmed necessity of UN-provided humanitarian aid's rapid coordination in catastrophe-afflicted regions to save as many lives as possible. Relief assistance has become much more significant in view of mounting conflicts and catastrophes throughout the world, thus international partnerships at this level has turned very much warranted, said Counselor Tahani Al-Nasser. Counselor Al-Nasser was addressing the State of Kuwait statement in front of the United Nations General Assembly session, tackling means of boosting coordina-

tion of humanitarian and relief help given by the UN worldwide. Passion for philanthropic action has characterized Kuwait since its establishment and has turned into a feature of its foreign policy, known as "the humanitarian diplomacy." Counselor Nasser affirmed, noting that the UN designation of the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as Leader of Humanitarian Action deeply underscored necessity of Kuwait's humanitarian aid for more than half a century.

Kuwait has shouldered its regional-international responsibility as Center of Humanitarian Action (also designated by the UN), with continuous support for diverse humanitarian cases across the globe, staying abreast of events, crises and disasters. Proportion of the humanitarian aid provided by Kuwait doubled as compared to the internationally agreed quotas, she said, affirming keenness in this respect on bolstering Kuwait's humanitarian and development approach at the official and grass-root levels, ultimately to deliver Kuwait's aloft

humanitarian message that depicts genuine values and principles of the Kuwaiti people. The Counselor has continued, saying that Kuwait since 2008, has addressed 10 percent of the whole allotted aid through UN agencies to the UN emergency response fund, with \$1 million. Its voluntary contribution for next year amounted to \$1 million, intended for the Higher Commission for Refugees and \$2 million for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA.

Regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), Counselor Nasser said Kuwait had hurriedly contributed with \$290 million to ensure continuity of the fight against the contagion, backing stricken nations and the World Health Organization (WHO). Moreover, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) has given assistance to sisterly and friendly countries, supported establishment of an epidemic treatment center in Africa and delayed due payments for the fund from May 1 to December 31. In total, Kuwait's contributions at this level have



NEW YORK: Counselor Tahani Al-Nasser addresses the UN General Assembly session. — KUNA

## US executes another death...

Continued from Page 1

Trump however restarted federal executions in July - even though states still using capital punishment have delayed theirs due to the dangers posed to prison staff and witnesses by the COVID-19 pandemic. Seven federal executions occurred before the Nov 3 election that Trump lost to Democrat Joe Biden, who is due to be sworn in on Jan 20 despite the outgoing president's refusal to concede. Biden has pledged to work with Congress to bring an end to federal executions.

For 131 years, outgoing presidents traditionally suspended federal executions during the transition

period. But the Trump administration had announced six executions between November and January, including Bourgeois. His lawyers had asked the US Supreme Court to intervene, saying he suffers from a mental disability.

"The jury that sentenced Mr Bourgeois to death never learned that he was a person with intellectual disability because his trial lawyers did not present the evidence that was available to them," said his new lawyer Victor Abreu. After the execution, his legal team issued a statement saying that "tonight, the United States killed a man with intellectual disability in spite of clear directives from the US Supreme Court and federal laws that prohibited it".

Bourgeois was the 17th person executed in the United States in 2020, a historic low linked to the suspensions at the state level. He was the 10th executed at the federal level, the highest in more than a century. — AFP

Goals, the world's blueprint for a better future. It is time to put a price on carbon: end fossil fuel subsidies and finance; stop building new coal power plants; shift the tax burden from income to carbon, from taxpayers to polluters; make climate-related financial risk disclosures mandatory; and integrate the goal of carbon neutrality into all economic and fiscal decision-making. Banks must align their lending with the net zero objective, and asset owners and managers must decarbonize their portfolios.

Third, we must secure a breakthrough on adaptation and resilience to help those already facing dire impacts of climate change. That's not happening enough today: adaptation represents only 20 per cent of climate finance. This hinders our efforts to reduce disaster risk. It also isn't smart: every \$1 invested in adaptation measures could yield almost \$4 in benefits. Adaptation and resilience are especially urgent for small island developing states, for which climate change is an existential threat.

Next year gives us a wealth of opportunities to address our planetary emergencies, through major United Nations conferences and other efforts on biodiversity, oceans, transport, energy, cities and food systems. One of our best allies is nature itself: Nature-based solutions could provide one-third of the net reductions in greenhouse gas emissions required to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. Indigenous knowledge can help to point the way. And as humankind devises strategies for preserving the environment and building a green economy, we need more women decision-makers at the table.

COVID and climate have brought us to a threshold. We cannot go back to the old normal of inequality and fragility; instead we must step towards a safer, more sustainable path. This is a complex policy test and an urgent moral test. With decisions today setting our course for decades to come, we must make pandemic recovery and climate action two sides of the same coin.

90 percent of MPs are supporting one candidate for the speaker's post.

A number of MPs stressed they will push for resolution of several issues, topped by the plight of tens of thousands of bedoons or stateless people, and issuing legislation to offer a general amnesty for a number of activists, some of whom are living in exile. Others said they will stress on the need to change the voting system and to press the government to forgive hundreds of millions of dinars in consumer loans for citizens. The new Assembly holds its first meeting on Tuesday.

## Morocco savors Western Sahara breakthrough

RABAT: Morocco basked in US recognition of its sovereignty over Western Sahara after outgoing President Donald Trump changed policy on the decades-old dispute in return for Rabat agreeing to normalize relations with Israel. For the Polisario Front, which has campaigned for independence for the former Spanish colony since the 1970s, Trump's announcement marked a major setback and drew a promise to fight on until Moroccan forces withdraw.

Meanwhile, Algeria's prime minister yesterday criticized "foreign maneuvers" he said were aimed to destabilize it. Algeria, Morocco's neighbor and regional rival, is the key foreign backer of the Polisario Front. "There are foreign maneuvers which aim to destabilize Algeria," Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad said, in Algeria's first reaction to the US decision. "There is now a desire by the Zionist entity to come closer to our borders", he added, in reference to Israel. "We are seeing today at our borders... wars and instability around Algeria," Djerad said, in a speech to mark the anniversary of demonstrations against French colonial rule.

Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita hailed US recognition of Western Sahara's "Moroccan identity" as a "historic diplomatic breakthrough". "Several years of work" had been "crowned with the recognition of the United States, the major power on the (United Nations) Security Council," he told AFP in an interview. Fellow permanent UNSC member Russia,

historically close with Algeria, denounced the US move on Friday. Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov called the decision "unilateral" and "a violation of international law".

The US move sparked fears in Algeria that Morocco's deal will allow Israeli forces to operate along its frontier. "The Israeli army is at our borders," Algerian journalist and analyst Abed Charef wrote. "The rapprochement between Morocco and Israel opens the way, if it has not already happened, for Israeli aid to support Morocco's army". Algeria's military magazine, El-Djeich, called in its December editorial for Algerians to "stand ready to face" imminent threats. It warned of a "deterioration of the regional situation along our border and the threat that certain enemy parties pose".

Algerian political scientist Mansour Kedidir warned that if Israel does establish a presence along the frontier it would be a "provocation". But he added that US recognition did not necessarily change the situation on the ground in Western Sahara, which was in the hands of the United Nations. The UN - which has its MINURSO mission in Western Sahara - said its position on the territory was "unchanged". UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres believed "the solution to the question can still be found based on Security Council resolutions," his spokesman said.

Morocco's official MAP news agency published commentaries from an array of Moroccan and foreign analysts trumpeting the US announcement as "vindication of the Moroccan cause" and the "beginning of the end for the Polisario gang". Prince Moulay Lhicham Alaoui, a cousin of King Mohammed VI, tweeted his appreciation of the "courageous" decision by Trump. Support for the Palestinian cause runs deep in Morocco, but criticism of the monarch remains a red line even after a decade of reforms. — AFP

## Carbon neutrality by 2050: World's...

Continued from Page 1

economies and re-imagine our future. Here is what we must do: First, we need build a truly global coalition for carbon neutrality by 2050. The European Union has committed to do so. The United Kingdom, Japan, the Republic of Korea and more than 110 countries have done the same. So, too, has the incoming United States administration. China has pledged to get there before 2060.

Every country, city, financial institution and company should adopt plans for net zero - and act now to get on the right path to that goal, which means cutting global emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 compared with 2010 levels. In advance of next November's UN Climate Conference in Glasgow, governments are obligated by the Paris Agreement to be ever more ambitious every five years and submit strengthened commitments known as Nationally Determined Contributions, and these NDCs must show true ambition for carbon neutrality.

Technology is on our side. It costs more to simply run most of today's coal plants than it does to build new renewable plants from scratch. Economic analysis confirms the wisdom of this path. According to the International Labor Organization, despite inevitable job losses, the clean energy transition will create 18 million net new jobs by 2030. But we must recognize the human costs of decarbonization, and support workers with social protection, re-skilling and up-skilling so that the transition is just.

Second, we need to align global finance with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development

## 40 MPs reiterate support for...

Continued from Page 1

MP Osama Al-Munawer said the meeting reaffirmed the lawmakers' support for Humaidi and discussed options for voting during the session. Munawer said the meeting is sending a message to the political leadership that around

## Iran opposition figure...

Continued from Page 1

At least 25 people were killed during the unrest in Dec 2017 and Jan 2018 that was sparked by economic hardship. Zam, who was granted political asylum in France and reportedly lived in Paris, ran a channel on the Telegram messaging app called Amadnews. Telegram shut down the channel after Iran demanded it remove the account for inciting an "armed uprising".

Zam was charged with "corruption on earth" - one of the most serious offences under Iranian law - and sentenced to death in June. As his trial started, state television broadcast a "documentary" about Zam's "relations" with the Islamic republic's foes. The broadcaster also aired an "interview" with him in July, in which he is seen saying he believed in reformism until he was detained in 2009 during protests against the disputed re-election of ultra-conservative president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. He also denied having instigated violence through his Telegram channel.

Amnesty has repeatedly called on Iran to stop broadcasting videos of "confessions" by suspects, saying they "violate the defendants' rights". Yesterday, the rights group called his execution a "deadly blow" to freedom of expression. Diana

Eltahawy, Amnesty's deputy director for the Middle East, said she was "shocked and horrified" at his death, adding that the organization believed it was "a reprehensible bid to avoid an international campaign to save his life".

Zam had lived in exile in France for several years before being arrested by Iran's Revolutionary Guards under unclear circumstances. Paris-based press rights group Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said yesterday it was "outraged" by the execution. RSF had previously claimed that Zam had disappeared on a trip to Baghdad in Oct 2019, and accused Iran of abducting him in Iraq to face trial back home.

Zam is one of several people to have been sentenced to death over participation or links to protests that rocked Iran between 2017 and 2019. Navid Afkari, a 27-year-old wrestler, was executed at a prison in the southern city of Shiraz in September. The judiciary said he had been found guilty of "voluntary homicide" for stabbing to death a government employee in August 2018. Shiraz and other urban centers had been the scene of anti-government protests at the time.

Three young men were also sentenced to death over links to deadly 2019 protests, but Iran's supreme court said last week that it would retry them at the request of their defense teams. Their sentences were initially upheld, with the judiciary saying evidence had been found on their phones of them setting alight banks, buses and public buildings. Amnesty International said Iran executed at least 251 people last year, the world's second highest total after China. — AFP