

Local

Amir receives letter from Saudi King on historic ties

Sheikh Nawaf hosts state officials at Bayan Palace



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah reads a letter from King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia, during his meeting with Saudi State Minister and Cabinet Member Prince Turki bin Mohammad bin Fahad bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf 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 Saudi State Minister and Cabinet Member Prince Turki bin Mohammad bin Fahad bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday. His Highness the Amir also received Saudi Arabia's State Minister and Cabinet Member Prince Turki bin Mohammad bin Fahad bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, who handed him a letter from King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia. The letter maintained the significance of boosting brotherly and historic bilateral relations, as well as issues of mutual significance and recent developments on the regional and global spectrums. His Highness the Amir, in turn, extended his greetings to Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz.

His Highness the Amir also separately received Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah and Directorate General of Civil Aviation's former head Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also received Saudi Arabia's State Minister and Cabinet Member Prince Turki bin Mohammad bin Fahad bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, who echoed a message from King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia. The message underlined the significance of boosting brotherly and historic bilateral relations, as well as issues of mutual

significance and recent developments on the regional and global spectrums. His Highness the Crown Prince also separately received Speaker Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali and Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem.

Also yesterday, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Saudi Arabia's State Minister and Cabinet Member Prince Turki bin Mohammad bin Fahad bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud at Bayan Palace. The encounter was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad Al-Saud. — KUNA



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets Saudi State Minister and Cabinet Member Prince Turki bin Mohammad bin Fahad bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

WHO gives nod to China vaccines...

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Australia, largely free of COVID infections, still faces a huge challenge to get jabs into arms, especially since some countries have started blocking exports to what they regard as a low-risk region. So far, just 670,000 doses have been administered, well below initial plans to vaccinate four million people by the end of March.

Even further behind is war-torn Yemen, which accepted its first delivery of jabs yesterday. Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said it had seen a "dramatic influx" of critically ill COVID-19 patients in Aden and other parts of Yemen. With

the rest of the world scrambling to catch up with the US, the positive signals from the WHO on the Chinese jabs could be crucial. However, WHO experts pointed out that neither had yet received authorization by what the UN agency considered "a stringent regulatory authority".

Russia announced yesterday it had registered what it said was the world's first coronavirus vaccine for animals, describing the step as important to disrupting mutations. The agriculture oversight agency Rosselkhozadzor said the vaccine called Carnivak-Cov had been tested beginning October on dogs, cats, mink, foxes and other animals and was proven to be effective. "All test animals that were vaccinated developed antibodies to coronavirus in 100 percent of cases," said Konstantin Savenkov, deputy head of Rosselkhozadzor. "It is the world's first and only product for preventing COVID-19 in animals," he said. — AFP

trillion riyals will come from a new "national investment strategy", which will soon be announced, Prince Mohammed said.

The initiative will help boost economic growth, create hundreds of thousands of new jobs and strengthen the private sector, he added. The program is part of a mammoth 27 trillion-riyal (\$7 trillion) investment plan over the next decade, which will include huge government spending to spur the domestic economy, the prince said. It is designed to "promote the development and diversification of the national economy", the state-run SPA news agency said, adding that it will "strengthen cooperation between public and private sectors". — AFP

Qatar reported 780 new infections yesterday as well as two deaths, bringing the total COVID-19 death toll in the country to 291, while active cases reached 571 per 100,000. Nearly one in five of yesterday's new cases were among residents and citizens returning from abroad, official statistics showed.

And despite the accelerating vaccine drive, some officials have called for a renewed lockdown. "A full lockdown, like we had during last summer when roads were empty and people worked at home, is the best way to stem the virus' spread," Ahmed Al-Mohammed, chair of Qatar's intensive care service, told state television this week.

The number of coronavirus patients in intensive care has more than doubled since March, he added, with 338 people in ICU beds as well as a further 1,668 patients receiving acute care. — AFP

Biden picks first Muslim as...

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Among those chosen for federal district courts, two more were African Americans (one of them male), two were Asian Americans, one was of Hispanic origin and two were white women. The nominations as a whole "represent the broad diversity of background, experience, and perspective that makes our nation strong," Biden said in a statement.

Manousheh leaves tables...

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But nowadays, Abu Shadi turns down the heat in his oven once he has baked enough manaeesh (plural form of manousheh) to save on gas. Long gone are the days when he fired up the oven at 8:00 am, and did not turn it off till 3:00 pm. "The manousheh is both a father and mother to the Lebanese people. It's food for the rich and the poor," he said. "Sadly at the moment, the poor can no longer afford to eat it," he said.

Tens of thousands have lost their jobs or a huge part of their income in the financial crunch, which has caused the Lebanese currency to lose more than 85

The group is also diverse in its origins, including nominees with experience as public defenders, who provide free legal counsel to people who cannot afford it but face civil or criminal charges. Under the US Constitution, the president nominates people to serve on the Supreme Court and other federal courts for life, and the Senate votes on whether to confirm them.

Trump managed to win the appointment of more than 200 conservative judges during his term, working closely with then-Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell on an issue that has been dear to US conservatives for decades. This includes three Supreme Court justices named by Trump. — AFP

percent of its value. A manousheh "used to cost between 1,000 to 1,500 pounds (\$0.66 to \$1), but now it's 5,000." The new price is less than \$0.50 at the black market rate for a lucky few with access to dollars, but most Lebanese earn wages in the local currency - and see that as up to five times the normal price.

The baker says that for three decades, customers have streamed in at weekends, ordering up to seven or eight manaeesh to take away for a traditional family breakfast. But over the past few months, those customers have stopped coming altogether. "Manaeesh are now only for the well off," he said. "Whoever earns 30,000 or 40,000 pounds a day is not going to spend 5,000 on a thyme manousheh. They have other expenses." But Abu Shadi has been forced to raise his prices to cover the increasing cost of supplies, from flour and cheese to the paper he wraps the manousheh in. — AFP

sources, named the navy officer as Walter Biot, and said he worked in the military policy unit within the office of the Chief of the Defense Staff. That unit handled "all confidential and classified documents", including NATO dossiers, the Corriere della Sera newspaper said. It also reported that Biot received €5,000 (\$5,860) in cash from his Russian contact.

A NATO official referred queries to Italian authorities, saying: "We don't comment on intelligence issues." The navy captain took pictures of secret documents on his computer screen and passed the files onto a pen drive which police confiscated, according to the AGI news agency. In London, Britain's Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab expressed "solidarity" with Italy and condemned "Russia's malign and destabilizing activity that is designed to undermine our NATO ally".

Police said the suspected spy was discovered after long investigations led by Italy's domestic intelligence agency AISI, with support from the Chief of the Defence Staff. — AFP

Saudi plans fiscal overhaul with...

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He said the companies, many of them listed, had agreed to lower their dividends and redirect the money into the domestic economy in exchange for incentives such as subsidies. The Public Investment Fund (PIF), the kingdom's sovereign wealth fund, will provide three trillion riyals. And the remaining four

Qatar steps up vaccinations...

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drive-through clinic opened on Sunday for second doses. "Our capability is 5,000 at each site," he said. "This stage of the vaccine (program) is getting bigger and bigger."

Over 25,000 vaccine jabs were administered on Tuesday, bringing the total to 816,484 doses, according to official data. Qatar has a mostly expatriate population of 2.75 million. "We are expecting more people will come," Andaila said, as dozens of cars and trucks queued with the Al-Janoub World Cup stadium in the background.