

Local

Kuwait's Prime Minister receives call from Russian Foreign Minister

New Ethiopian Ambassador presents credentials

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received a call from Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov yesterday. Both praised the level of their solid bilateral relations, expressing their joint ambition to boost these ties across different spectrums.

Meanwhile, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah received yesterday morning a copy of credentials of Ambassador of Ethiopia to Kuwait Hassan Tago Legas, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the meeting, Sheikh Dr Ahmad wished the new ambassador success in his tenure and for relations between both sides to further progress and prosper. The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Majdi Al-Dhafiri, Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocols Ambassador Dhari Al-Ajran, Assistant Foreign Minister for the Ministers Office Ambassador Saleh Al-Loughani and Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Office Counselor Ahmad Al-Shuraim.

On Sunday, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf

Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah cabled Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi, expressing his sincere condolences on the deadly train accident which took place in the Nile Delta city of Qalioubiya. In his cable, His Highness the Amir prayed for souls of the deceased and wished the victims' families and loved ones patience and endurance over the tragic event. He also wished the injured people quick recovery. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent cables of identical sentiments of condolences to President Sisi, while National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim has sent cables to Speaker of the Egyptian House of Representatives Hanafy El-Gebali and President of the Egyptian Senate Abdel-Wahab Abdel-Razeq.

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir expressed his condolences over the death of Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow's father, in a letter sent to the leader yesterday. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister both sent similar messages. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah meets Ambassador of Ethiopia to Kuwait Hassan Tago Legas. — KUNA

Zain continues partnership with Give platform

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced the continuation of its strategic partnership with Give, the only online platform of its kind exclusively dedicated to charities in Kuwait, for the second year running. The non-profit platform aims at facilitating donations and encouraging giving by connecting donors with registered and certified charities in Kuwait.

Zain continues its fruitful partnership with Give - which started last year during the holy month of Ramadan - as part of its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy that seeks to contribute to the welfare of the society in several ways under the company's comprehensive social

campaign during the holy month. Zain prides itself on its long track of records and contributions it has put in philanthropic areas by collaborating with various non-profit organizations. The company strongly believes that such initiatives help infuse a sense of responsibility into members of the society, to help support those who are in need of help.

Give, the only online platform of its kind exclusively dedicated to charities in Kuwait, aims at facilitating donations and encouraging giving by connecting donors with registered and certified charities in Kuwait. The platform helps donors look for charity projects and opportunities in one place, as well as process their donations safely via a secure payment gateway.

All the charities listed under Give are certified and licensed by the official authorities in Kuwait, and there are currently 162 various charitable projects featured on the platform. The current list of certified charities includes: the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS), Direct Aid, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Society, Rahma



International Society, International Islamic Charity Organization, Rohamaa Baynahum Charity, Global Charity Association for Development, Al-Sidra Association for Psychological Care of Cancer Patients, Al-Najat Charity, and more.

Give includes many features that can benefit donors, including ease of access to charities and their projects through the website or smartphone app, using filters to look for certain projects, comparing projects between different charities, reading full details about each project to make an informed decision, view donation history and receive notifications about project updates or

reports, and more.

Zain has always been keen to launch charitable initiatives during Ramadan to support the various members of the Kuwaiti society, and the company is keen on reflecting Islamic and humanitarian values and principles to enrich giving and increase bonding between individuals.

Zain's Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility campaign during the holy month of Ramadan includes an array of humanitarian and cultural programs, with the aim of celebrating the true spirit the holy month brings and helping less fortunate people enjoy Ramadan happily.

The three parts...

Continued from Page 1

Abu Said Al-Khudri (RA) said, "Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) said Allah frees some people from hellfire every day and night - meaning of Ramadan - and every Muslim has an answered supplication every day and night [of Ramadan]. (Reported by Al-Bazar and authenticated by Sheikh Albaani in Saheeh Targheeb No. 1002). This is also the part of the month that Lailat-ul-Qadr falls in. The Quran describes this special night:

"Verily! We have sent it (this Quran) down in the night of Al-Qadr. And what will make you know what the night of Al-Qadr is? The night of Al-Qadr is better than a thousand months. Therein descend the angels and the Ruh (Gabriel) by Allah's Permission with all Decrees. Peace! until the appearance of dawn. (Quran 97:1-5)

It is sunnah to spend some time in seclusion (itikaf)

for a spiritual retreat in the mosque during the last third of Ramadan. 'Aishah (RA) narrated that "The Prophet (peace be upon him) used to do a retreat in the mosque during the last ten nights of Ramadan until he died. His wives continued to observe this practice after his death." (Al-Bukhari and Muslim).

While fasting for a whole month may seem like a lot, it becomes easier when it is divided into three parts, as above, or even into 30 separate days. If we fast one day at a time, or one third at a time until we complete the entire month, it will seem easier. The benefits of each third are so worthwhile, that nobody who is aware of them can purposefully forfeit them. Wishing all our readers the benefits of Ramadan - mercy, forgiveness, and release from Hellfire.

Courtesy of TIES: TIES is among the projects funded and managed by Kuwaiti Society for Cultural Dialogue. TIES aims at empowering Kuwait's expats through social and educational services that promote a positive and productive role in society, and to facilitate opportunities for intra- and interfaith interactions that promote social solidarity. For more information, please call 25231015/6 or 94079426 or e-mail: info@tiescenter.net.

sacking of coach Jose Mourinho-called it a "betrayal". "It's the death of football... Football is based on the concept of competitive balance, sporting competition and qualifying on merit," Tim Payton, head of the Arsenal Supporters' Trust, told AFP.

"What is the point of going to watch Arsenal play Everton this Friday if we know they've already qualified for a so-called Super League next year?"

FIFA's 'disapproval'

Under the plan, two groups of 10 will play each other home and away, with the top three qualifying for the quarter-finals. The fourth and fifth-placed teams would play off for the two remaining spots. Then the competition would adopt the same two-leg knockout format used in the Champions League before a single-leg final in May. World governing body FIFA expressed its "disapproval" and called on all parties "to engage in calm, constructive and balanced dialogue".

The Premier League, the richest in Europe, issued a furious statement to say "the concept of a European Super League would destroy" the dream that any team could "climb to the top and play against the best". The powerful European Club Association said it "strongly opposes" the plans after its own chairman, Juventus supremo Andrea Agnelli, stepped down.

Having been heavily involved in negotiations with UEFA over a new Champions League format, Agnelli came in for stinging criticism from Ceferin. "I've never seen a person that would lie so many times, so persistently as he did. It's unbelievable," Ceferin said.

Real Madrid chief Florentino Perez, who was announced as the first Super League president, said the breakaway reflected the "big clubs' wishes. "Football is the only global sport in the world with more than four billion fans and our responsibility as big clubs is to respond to their desires," he said.

Real are by far the most successful club in the history of the European Cup, which began in 1955 before expanding into the Champions League in 1992. Previously only open to the national champions of each country, it is now dominated by the leading clubs from the major European leagues, from England, Spain, Germany and Italy. The last club from outside these countries to win the Champions League was Portuguese club Porto in 2004. — AFP

Saudi, Iran hold talks...

Continued from Page 1

The two powers are also on opposite sides of several regional conflicts, from Syria to Yemen. Iran backs Yemen's Houthi rebels, who have launched several rocket and drone attacks against Saudi targets. Iraq, wedged between Iran to the east and Saudi Arabia to the south, is trying to serve as a mediator, to avoid becoming a battleground for the

bigger powers. The war-battered country hosts about 2,500 US troops, and Kadhem's government has come under intense pressure from Iran-backed paramilitary groups to send them home.

The Saudi-Iran talks also come during negotiations hosted in Vienna involving Tehran and a group of world powers, focused on reviving the tattered 2015 nuclear deal. The aim is to return the United States to the accord it withdrew from under Trump, while persuading Iran to implement nuclear commitments it suspended in response to US sanctions. Tehran has rejected Saudi calls for Riyadh to be involved in the nuclear negotiations, but repeatedly confirmed its readiness to conduct a regional dialogue. —AFP

Mars copter succeeds...

Continued from Page 1

"We've been talking so long about our Wright brothers' moment on Mars, and here it is," said lead engineer MiMi Aung to her team, as she doled out virtual hugs. The first powered flight on Earth was achieved by the Wright brothers in 1903 in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

Manila ban on domestic...

Continued from Page 1

will also begin on the same day. "We are very happy to resume real work again. It was a long and tedious work ban for domestic helpers, meetings after meetings and sleepless nights. Now we are busy doing our work and we hope to receive new domestic helpers from Manila very soon," said Mariam Macapudi, President of the Filipino Association of Secretaries of Employment Agencies in Kuwait (Fil-Aseak), a group comprising of 200 licensed recruitment agencies.

According to Macapudi, the ban was the longest imposed by the Philippine government. "It was long because of the coronavirus pandemic. If not for many uncontrolled events including the pandemic, talks on contracts and other provisions sought by the Philippine government would have been resolved," she said.

"We have been out of business for the last one year and a half. Since late 2019, the Philippine Embassy has suspended the deployment of domestic helpers, while 2020 was out of the question because of the pandemic. We are happy that everything is settled and we can start now," she added.

Besides Fil-Aseak, another group of agencies recognized by the embassy is the Filipino Clients Relations Officers (FILCRO), with 90 active agencies. The Philippines agreed to redeploy its workers provided that Kuwait agreed to a tripartite contract agreement drafted by the Philippines and Kuwait technical working group.

Provisions in the new tri-party contract include providing the housemaid with decent and appropriate housing equipped with all the necessities, providing suitable food and clothing, providing medical treatment in case of sickness pursuant to the healthcare insurance system of Kuwait, salary must be paid at the end of the month - not

A piece of fabric from that plane has been tucked inside Ingenuity in honor of that feat.

NASA had originally planned the flight for April 11 but postponed it over a software issue that was identified during a planned high-speed test of the aircraft's rotors. The issue was later resolved through the help of a software update and tweak in coding.

Ingenuity traveled to Mars attached to the underside of Perseverance, which touched down on the planet on February 18 on a mission to search for signs of extraterrestrial life. Ingenuity's goal, by contrast, is to demonstrate its technology works, and it won't contribute to Perseverance's science goals. —AFP

less than the designated amount signed by both parties (minimum of KD 120), compensating the housemaid in case of injury during work, employers must issue a valid residency for the duration of contract, handle all the expenses to bring the housemaid, and in case of death, the employer must also bear the expenses of the deceased body.

The new tripartite contract also mentions that the employer is not allowed to assign the worker outside Kuwait without an agreement from the worker. The housemaid is also allowed to use the phone outside working hours, provided that she maintains the privacy of the household and in a manner consistent with public morals. Working hours must be 12 hours daily and employers must allow the housemaid to rest for eight continuous hours.

They must have a fully-paid weekly day off, annual leave, end-of-service benefit or one full month for every year of service, plus a bonus equivalent to one month's salary annually. The employer is not allowed to keep the passport in their possession. The employer needs to provide an economy ticket to the worker at the end of her contract, and in case of conflict the case will be referred to the Public Authority for Manpower.

On Jan 3, 2020, the Philippines imposed the ban on sending domestic workers to Kuwait following the killing of a housemaid named Jeanelyn Padernal Villavende on Dec 28, 2019. The ban was lifted a month later after consultations with the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the filing of appropriate charges against the perpetrators and after Manila and Kuwait City agreed the full implementation of a harmonized employment contract for Filipino domestic workers.

On Dec 30, 2020, a death verdict by hanging was handed by the criminal court to a Kuwaiti woman who killed Villavende. The woman's husband was sentenced to four years in jail for covering up and not reporting the crime. As of June 2020, there were nearly 680,000 domestic workers in Kuwait - 325,000 from India and nearly 150,000 from the Philippines. Local and their international partner agencies are allowed to charge employers up to KD 990 for hiring new domestic helpers.

European football in crisis after...

Continued from Page 1

fuelled by greed". The Slovenian added that European member associations were "all united against this nonsensical project" and said players involved in the Super League would not be allowed to play for their national teams, effectively banning them from taking part in European Championships and World Cups. However, organizers of the Super League said they would file a motion "before the relevant courts" to stop players being banned and "ensure the seamless establishment and operation" of the competition, according to a letter seen by AFP and addressed to Ceferin as well as FIFA chief Gianni Infantino.

Global players union FIFPRO also said it would "vigorously oppose" any attempts to ban players from international competitions. The breakaway league is being backed by US investment bank JPMorgan, which confirmed to AFP that it was "financing the deal".

The founding clubs will share 3.5 billion euros for infrastructure investment and to offset pandemic costs, and are expected to receive a further 10 billion euros in "solidarity payments" over the life of the initial commitment-much more than in the current Champions League. The 15 eventual founders will be guaranteed to play each year in a competition intended to take place in midweek, allowing clubs in theory to continue participating in domestic leagues. Another five places will be available "based on achievements in the prior season".

'At least two French clubs'

The absence of French and German teams from the founding members is notable, despite Bayern Munich and Qatar-owned Paris Saint-Germain reaching last season's Champions League final. However, a source close to the 12 founding clubs told AFP that "at least two French clubs" are set to be involved every year.

The reaction from fans and pundits across Europe has been furious. The Tottenham Hotspur Supporters Trust-whose club yesterday separately announced the