

Local

Deputy Amir receives Speaker, Prime Minister, Deputy Premier



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem. — KUNA photos



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Integrity Enhancement Abdullah Yusef Al-Roumi. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Amir and Crown Prince His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at

Seif palace National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem. His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince also received

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Moreover, he received Deputy Prime

Minister, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Integrity Enhancement Abdullah Yusef Al-Roumi. — KUNA

Zain Drone assigned to acquire precise industrial data

KUWAIT: Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator in seven markets across the Middle East and Africa, announces that its subsidiary Zain Drone has been awarded a contract to perform a precise data acquisition assignment for Kuwait's Public Authority of Industry. The project will entail conducting an aerial topographical survey using Zain Drone state-of-the-art technology.

Aerial surveys will be performed using autonomous unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) capable of capturing

corrected georeferenced imagery that will be handed over to the Public Authority of Industry for further data processing.

Zain Drone recently signed a contract with Openware for Zain Drone's UAV services to be utilized to monitor industrial areas in Kuwait on behalf of the Public Authority of Industry and detect and report on any changes to business activity. The Authority's aim is to develop, promote and supervise industrial activity in Kuwait as well as the development of the industrial base as it works to achieve national economic goals.

Zain Drone CEO, AbdulAziz Jawad commented, "The Public Authority of Industry has an important mission to supervise economic activity in industrial areas in Kuwait. We believe our services and technology are amongst the most precise and sophisticated available anywhere in the region, allowing our indus-



trial and commercial clients to undertake tasks with greater efficiency and lower cost than when utilizing traditional methods."

Zain Drone became operational in Kuwait in October 2018 to focus on the delivery of drone-powered solutions. This development built on Zain Group's leading position in digital innovation across the markets in which it operates.

Since that time, Zain Drone has managed to offer a diversified fleet of world-class drones and applications, provide bespoke solutions and educate the market on the magnitude of benefits the usage of drones can drive, particularly with respect to asset digitization, operational efficiency, inspection, maintenance, data accuracy and cost cutting while using advanced analytics to help governments and private businesses.



KUWAIT: Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah met separately with Vietnamese Ambassador to Kuwait Ngo Toan Thang (left) and Greek Ambassador to Kuwait Konstantinos Piperigos in his office at Seif palace yesterday. — Amiri Diwan photos

Large asteroid (safely) zips...

Continued from Page 1

Amateur astronomers in some parts of the globe should be able to conduct their own observations. The asteroid will be brightest while it moves through southern skies, Chodas said.

"Amateur astronomers in the southern hemisphere and at low northern latitudes should be

able to see this asteroid using moderate-size telescopes with apertures of at least eight inches in the nights leading up to closest approach, but they will probably need star charts to find it," he added.

NASA said more than 95 percent of near-Earth asteroids the size of 2001 FO32 or larger have been catalogued and none of them has any chance of impacting our planet over the next century. NASA says the next time 2001 FO32 will be close to Earth will be 2052. Sixty-six million years ago an asteroid roughly twice the diameter as Paris crashed into Earth and wiped out 75 percent of life on the planet. — AFP

Lebanon moms march against...

Continued from Page 1

port explosion, but endless haggling between the main ruling parties has delayed the process of forming

a new cabinet.

"They are all war criminals, warlords," protester Nada Agha told AFP, referring to the fact that several politicians were militia leaders during the civil war. "They have been dividing up the pie among themselves (for 30 years)... and have blown us up and stolen our money. We want them to leave!" she said. Another demonstrator, Petra Saliba, in her fifties, said "no solution is possible while they are in power". "We want to destroy them as they have destroyed us." — AFP

Women's rights icon, author...

Continued from Page 1

also condemned by Al-Azhar, the highest Sunni Muslim authority in Egypt. Saadawi's outspoken brand of feminism - including campaigning against women wearing the veil, inequality in Muslim inheritance rights between men and women, polygamy and female circumcision - gained her as many critics as admirers in the Middle East.

In 1993, after constant deaths threats from fire-brand Islamist preachers, Saadawi moved to Duke University in the US state of North Carolina, where she was a writer-in-residence at the Asian and African languages department for three years. She returned to Egypt and in 2005 ran for president but abandoned her bid after accusing security forces of not allowing her to hold rallies.

She fell out of favor with many secular progressives later in life for her wholehearted embrace of general-turned-president Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi's military overthrow of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in 2013. Her path-breaking, critical books published in dozens of languages also took aim at Western feminists including her friend Gloria Steinem and policies espoused by heads of state such as former US president George W Bush's invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan. Saadawi's death coincides with Mother's Day celebrations in Egypt and across the Arab world. She divorced three times and had two children.

"I don't care about academic critics, or people who write critical reviews. I was never much recognized by them or by the government," the radical feminist told AFP in 2015. "Young men and women across Egypt and outside have showered immense love and recognition on me," said Saadawi, whose books were translated into more than 30 languages. Saadawi, a trained physician, was renowned for her fiery denunciation of FGM, which she was subjected to when only six years old. — AFP

MPs call on government...

Continued from Page 1

Islamist MPs have tried repeatedly in the past to amend the constitution to make all laws Islamic, but failed. Constitutional amendments in Kuwait are extremely difficult to pass because they require the approval of two-thirds of the Assembly and HH the

Amir. The leftist Kuwait Progressive Movement immediately criticized the move, saying this will transfer Kuwait from a civil state into a religious state.

Five opposition lawmakers yesterday submitted a draft law to amend the election law in such a way to exactly define crimes that deprive people from voting and contesting elections. In their bill, the lawmakers said any conviction should stipulate at least three years in jail for crimes such as issuing a dud check, cheating, rape, abduction and bribery among others. Currently, such crimes are not defined as those which result in barring people from voting or running for public office, unlike political offenses.

Morocco oasis farmers mourn...

Continued from Page 1

The Figuig oasis, sitting on a caravan route on the edge of the Atlas Mountains and the Sahara desert, was settled in ancient times. Trade began to decline after the border was drawn in 1845, and diplomatic disputes between Algiers and Rabat soon turned Figuig into a dead end. Before the border was drawn, the tight-knit Berber community had moved freely in the area. Now, to reach relatives just a short distance over the sealed border, residents say they have to first take a plane to Algiers.

Algeria has justified the latest move by claiming farmers have failed to comply with regulations and that drug-trafficking gangs were operating in the area. Figuig residents have strongly rejected those allegations. "The expulsions are a political decision," said Mohamed El-Jilali, head of a local association.

The expulsions coincide with a rise in tensions between the two countries in recent months over the disputed Western Sahara. Rabat considers the territory to its south a sovereign part of the kingdom - a position given Washington's seal of approval in the final days of the Trump administration. Algeria has backed the Polisario Front which seeks independence for the territory.

Hundreds of kilometers away in Figuig, residents have more immediate concerns: Their livelihoods. The oasis, a three-hour drive to the nearest towns of Oujda and Errachidia, struggles to attract tourists. That is despite its beautiful architecture and landscapes, which residents hope will eventually earn it a UNESCO World

Heritage listing.

That leaves many residents reliant on date palms for a living. Over the years, farmers have planted dates in areas beyond the wadi, or valley, that marks the border, taking advantage of the area's groundwater. The more recently planted areas produce a better harvest than traditional gardens surrounded by adobe walls and irrigated by a complex network of hand-built canals, farmers say. The area evacuated this week covers around 1,500 hectares and includes sought-after Aziza date palms.

Abdelmalik Boubekri, a Figuig farmer with chiseled features, said his date orchard had been his family's livelihood for three generations. "Algeria and Morocco have let us farm with no problems and now we don't know who to turn to," the 71-year-old said. He said he'd had to abandon 30,000 trees, some planted by his grandfather.

The years of work represented more than five million dirhams in value - more than half a million dollars - he said, with dates that sell for up to 150 dirhams a kilogram. Like others expelled from the Arja area, he claims a "historic right" to his land, brandishing a copy of a document dating to 1939. Farmers from Figuig had already been forced to leave lands on the other side of the wadi.

The latest evictions by the Algerian authorities took place in 1975, coinciding with the so-called Green March that saw thousands of Moroccans cross into Western Sahara to lay claim to the mineral-rich former Spanish colony. Since then, Figuig has seen a wave of migration towards larger cities or Europe, emptying the oasis of half its inhabitants, their houses and gardens left empty and crumbling. Farmer Abdelmajid Boudi, 62, is mourning the latest loss. "Lots of palm trees have been abandoned and become too tall to harvest dates from," he said. — AFP