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Amir accepts govt resignation as pardon decrees published

Opposition exiles to start returning today • 6 'Abdaly cell' abettors freed



KUWAIT: Inmates imprisoned in the Abdaly cell case are welcomed after they were freed yesterday under the Amiri pardon. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday accepted the resignation of the government, tendered last week, and asked HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and his ministers to remain as a caretaker Cabinet until a new government is formed. The next step will be for HH the Amir to ask the outgoing prime minister to form the next Cabinet, which is the most likely scenario, or name a new premier to form the government.

Sheikh Sabah tendered the resignation of his Cabinet after approving two Amiri decrees to pardon 11 former opposition MPs and activists who have been living in exile in Turkey for over three years to escape jail terms for taking part in storming the National Assembly building following a protest in 2011. It also came after a national dialogue between the government and opposition lawmakers that resulted in recommending to HH the Amir to pardon opposition convicts and prisoners, which the Amir ordered.

Meanwhile, the two pardon decrees became effective yesterday when they were published in the official gazette. The first decree pardoned members of the opposition, who have been living in exile for years. They include prominent former opposition lawmakers Musallam Al-Barrak, Faisal Al-Mislem, Mubarak Al-Waalan, Jamaan Al-Harbash, Salem Al-

Namlan and Khaled Al-Tahous, in addition to five opposition activists.

All the 11 were sentenced to several years in jail by the court of cassation in the summer of 2018 for storming the Assembly building. The first group of the pardoned politicians is scheduled to return to the country today, while the rest are expected to return in a few days. In his first interview since the sentence, Barrak told Sarmad online news service that he will continue to be the secretary general of the Popular Action Front opposition group. He thanked HH the Amir for pardoning them and all those who worked towards the pardon.

The second decree pardoned 24 Shiite prisoners who were jailed for giving shelter to members of a pro-Iran group convicted of plotting attacks on Kuwait, known as the Abdaly cell. Six of the prisoners were pardoned from serving the rest of their sentences.

They included Shiite cleric Hussein Al-Maatouq. They were released from the Central Jail yesterday. The sentences of the remaining 18 prisoners were reduced by half.

MP Bader Al-Humaidi said the new Cabinet must reflect the new developments in the country as a result of the national dialogue and should cooperate with the Assembly. But two opposition MPs expressed their opposition to the reappointment of the prime minister to form the new Cabinet.

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Gaddafi son files to run for president



SEBHA, Libya: Seif al-Islam Gaddafi, son of slain Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi, registers to run in the country's presidential polls in this southern city yesterday. — AFP

TRIPOLI: Wanted Libyan war crimes suspect Seif al-Islam Gaddafi, son of slain dictator Muammar Gaddafi and once seen as his heir apparent, registered to run yesterday for next month's presidential election. Libya's first ever direct presidential poll, with a first round on Dec 24, would mark the climax of a process launched last year by the United Nations to try to draw a line under years of violence since the revolt that toppled Gaddafi in 2011.

Wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for crimes against humanity allegedly committed during the NATO-backed uprising, Seif al-Islam completed "all the required legal conditions", the election commission said. "Seif al-Islam Gaddafi submitted... his candidacy for the presidential election to the High National Electoral Commission office in the city of Sebha," it said in a statement.

The 49-year-old, sporting a salt-and-pepper beard, recited a verse from the Holy Quran and

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PACI adds new features to Kuwait Mobile ID app

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) yesterday launched a new update of the Kuwait Mobile ID application to include many important mod-

After COP26, world needs urgent action

GLASGOW: The world must act quickly to cut greenhouse gas emissions and avoid "catastrophic" global warming, scientists and politicians warned after nearly 200 countries reached a last-minute agreement in Glasgow on Saturday. After two weeks of non-stop negotiations, almost all the world's nations have agreed on a compromise to speed up

Drought forces Iraq farmers to leave their land

MOSUL: Iraqi wheat farmer Khamis Ahmad Abbas lost it all when his battle with drought forced him to abandon his land, pushing him into unemployment. Experts have warned that record low rainfall, compounded by climate change, are threatening social and economic disaster in war-scarred

ifications and services. In a statement, PACI Director General Musaed Al-Asousi said several features have been added to the 1.9.0 version of the application, namely an integrated e-wallet for various government identities and documents, driving license and birth certificate in the first stage.

The e-wallet allows adding any identity or government document in an easy way and linking it with various government agencies that issue these documents, such as the ministries of interior, health and others, Asousi said. The wallet also provides an interactive way to verify the validity of the document through a

the fight against rising temperatures.

But the deals stuck under the "Glasgow Pact" will not result in limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, the most ambitious objective of the 2015 Paris Agreement. "Climate catastrophe is still knocking on the door," warned UN boss Antonio Guterres. "We have kept 1.5 within reach, but the pulse is weak," said Alok Sharma, Britain's COP26 president who has been overseeing the conference in the country's role as host.

COP27 is to be held in Egypt next November. Joeri Rogelj, director of research at the Grantham Institute, Imperial College London, said: "We

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Iraq, "Growing wheat and barley is a gamble. It all depends on the rain," said the 42-year-old father of nine.

Unable to make ends meet, Abbas quit his land in the Plains of Nineveh, northeast of Mosul, part of the so-called Fertile Crescent where agriculture was born 12,000 years ago. With temperatures soaring above 50 degrees Celsius and little rain, Abbas's fields quickly dried up. Three months ago, he packed up his family - two wives and nine children - and moved to Mosul. "Now I am unemployed," he told AFP, as he whiled away the time

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QR code, in addition to a liveness detection feature for the registration process, which increases security and privacy during registration, he added.

The 'forgot password' feature has also been added to the application, which allows resetting the password through the liveness detection feature, in addition to the third COVID-19 vaccine dose data, Asousi said. This update is a reflection of cooperation of the ministries of interior and health, in line with directives of HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to promote digital transformation. — KUNA



GLASGOW: Britain's President for COP26 Alok Sharma reacts as he makes his concluding remarks during the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference on Saturday. — AFP



TEL KAIF, Iraq: A farmer works on agricultural land on the outskirts of this town north of Mosul on Oct 26, 2021. — AFP