



3 Kuwait's mobile elderly care:
Above, beyond call of duty



5 Biden, Xi at loggerheads on
Taiwan in virtual summit



15 Revolution at the home of
Thai boxing after COVID KO



Crown Prince recalls late Amir's outstanding efforts

Amiri powers delegated to Sheikh Mishal detailed



KUWAIT: HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah delivers a speech while opening the 18th National Conference yesterday. — KUNA

KUWAIT: HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday highlighted efforts and contributions made by the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Kuwait, the Gulf states, Arabs and the whole world. This came in HH the Crown Prince's speech while opening the 18th National Conference. HH the Crown Prince said: "We recall today the late Amir's efforts and those who served our dear homeland. His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad was an outstanding dignitary in Kuwaiti, Arab and Gulf history". The late Amir was known as a wise Arab leader and a leader of diplomacy and humanity, Sheikh Mishal said.

"I was brought up by two late Amir brothers - Sheikh Jaber and Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, may Allah bless their souls," he noted. They were an ideal of mercy, humanity, tolerance and appreciation to women, he said, indicating, "we will continue going on their paths, under His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's leadership". "Mankind, especially Kuwait, will not forget the efforts of Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Sheikh Sabah made Kuwait, this small country, a center of humanity, diplomacy and moderation, and a pioneer of development," HH the Crown Prince noted.

Sheikh Mishal added that Sheikh Sabah put Kuwait on a roadmap towards a "New 2035 Kuwait" with an insightful vision. Sheikh Sabah preserved the

bases of democracy and adopted tolerance and forgiveness, in line with the state of law, as well as established the concept of "Kuwait for all", HH the Crown Prince made clear. "Sheikh Sabah was a safe haven in the turbulent events that erupted amongst brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council. He brought views closer together and harnessed Kuwait's potentials to achieve the cohesion of the Gulf home," Sheikh Mishal said.

Kuwait will enjoy appreciation and respect of the world, thanks to the diplomatic legacy, good international reputation, friendly relations, international and regional partnerships and alliances made by Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Sheikh Mishal said. Sheikh Sabah was a leader who dedicated himself to diplomacy, its concerns and issues, the Crown Prince stressed. Sheikh Mishal finally prayed to Allah the Almighty to bestow His mercy upon Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad and those who served the dear homeland of Kuwait.

According to an Amiri order published in the official gazette yesterday, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal has been entrusted temporarily with an array of HH the Amir's powers, including naming the prime minister, accepting ministers' resignations and issuing legislation. The Amiri order was issued on Monday to delegate some of the powers of HH the

Continued on Page 2

News in brief

Assad scraps grand mufti post

DAMASCUS: Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad has issued a decree eliminating the post of top Muslim cleric for the country and expanding the powers of a government ministry overseeing religious affairs. The new decree, which state media said came into effect on Monday, effectively forces Ahmed Badreddin Hassoun, appointed as grand mufti by Assad in 2004, into retirement. — AFP

Palestinian killed by Zionists

JERUSALEM: A Palestinian man was killed yesterday during dawn clashes with Zionist troops in the occupied West Bank. Saddam Bani Odeh, 26, died in hospital from a bullet wound to the lungs following the clashes on the road into the northern town of Tubas, the Palestinian health ministry said. — AFP

\$1,000 profit every second

WASHINGTON: Pfizer, BioNTech and Moderna are making combined profits of \$65,000 every minute from their highly successful COVID-19 vaccines while the world's poorest countries remain largely unvaccinated. The People's Vaccine Alliance estimates that the trio will make pre-tax profits of \$34 billion this year between them, which works out to over \$1,000 a second or \$93.5 million a day. — AFP (See Page 5)

Number of smokers shrinking

GENEVA: The number of smokers worldwide has dropped steadily in recent years, the World Health Organization said yesterday, urging countries to step up control measures further to kick deadly tobacco addiction. In 2020, some 1.30 billion people were using tobacco globally, down from 1.32 billion two years earlier, the WHO said in a fresh report. — AFP (See Page 5)

Libya strongman Haftar enters presidential race

BENGAZI: War-scarred Libya's eastern military chief Khalifa Haftar registered yesterday to run for president in a Dec 24 election also contested by a son of former dictator Muammar Gaddafi. "I declare my candidacy for the presidential election, not because I am chasing power but because I want to lead our people towards glory, progress and prosperity," Haftar said in a televised speech.

Russia destroys satellite with space strike

MOSCOW: Russia yesterday admitted to destroying one of its satellites during a missile test but rejected US accusations that it had endangered the International Space Station. US officials on Monday

Japan firm uses worms to sniff out cancer

TOKYO: A screening test using tiny worms to detect early signs of pancreatic cancer in urine has been developed by a Japanese biotech firm, which hopes it could help boost routine screening. Scientists have long known that the bodily fluids of cancer patients smell different to those of healthy people, with dogs trained to detect the disease in breath or urine samples.

But Hirotsu Bio Science has genetically modified a type of worm called

"C. elegans" - around one millimeter long, with an acute sense of smell - to react to the urine of people with pancreatic cancer, which is notoriously difficult to detect early. "This is a major technological advancement," CEO Takaaki Hirotsu, a former academic who studied the tiny worms known as nematodes, told AFP.

The Tokyo-based firm has already used the worms to detect cancer in screening tests, though without specifying which type. The new test is not meant to diagnose pancreatic cancer, but could help boost routine screening as urine samples can be collected at home without the need for a hospital visit, Hirotsu said at a press conference yesterday.

Continued on Page 2

Haftar's announcement came two days after Seif al-Islam Gaddafi declared his own candidacy, a decade on from his father's death in a 2011 NATO-backed rebellion. Both are deeply divisive figures. Gaddafi is wanted by the International Criminal Court for alleged war crimes, while many in western Libya despise Haftar after his year-long assault on Tripoli, accusing the military commander of seeking to establish a military dictatorship.

Yesterday, Haftar vowed to defend "Libya's unity, independence, sovereignty" and called for "reconciliation and peace, construction and stability". Haftar later officially submitted his bid at an electoral board office, where he told journalists: "The next stage will be difficult. I call on all Libyans to make the right choice, one they will not regret."

Continued on Page 2



BENGAZI: Libya's eastern military chief Khalifa Haftar gives a press conference in this eastern city yesterday. — AFP

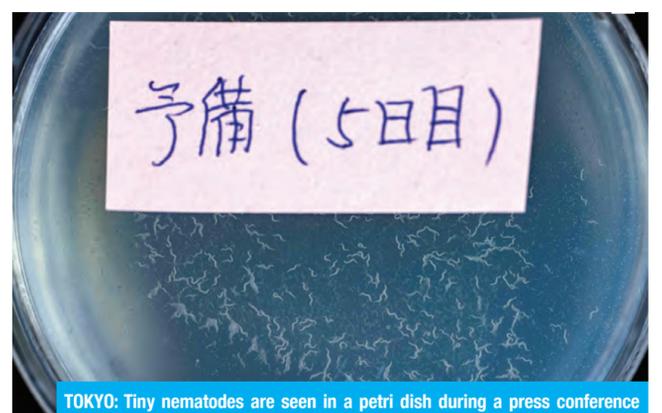
accused Russia of a "dangerous and irresponsible" strike on a satellite that had created a cloud of debris and forced the ISS crew to take evasive action.

The move reignited concerns about an escalating arms race in space, encompassing everything from laser weapons to satellites capable of shunting others out of orbit. "The Russian defense ministry successfully conducted a test, as a result of which the Russian spacecraft 'Tselina-D', which had been in orbit since 1982, was destroyed," the military said in a statement. Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu later said the launch used a "promising" system that

"accurately" struck its target. "The fragments that formed do not pose any threat to space activity," he added, as quoted by Russian news agencies. US officials said they were not informed in advance of the anti-satellite missile test - only the fourth ever to hit a spacecraft from the ground - which generated more than 1,500 pieces of trackable orbital debris.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Monday that the danger was far from over and the debris would continue to threaten satellites and activities on the ISS. NATO Secretary General Jens

Continued on Page 2



TOKYO: Tiny nematodes are seen in a petri dish during a press conference yesterday by Hirotsu Bio Science to introduce a cancer screening test. — AFP