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# Amir receives Crown Prince; Cabinet consultations start

## Former MP Al-Muslim thanks Amir for 'erasing the penalty'



KUWAIT: 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 at Dar Al-Yamama yesterday. — Amiri Diwan photo

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah less than a week after delegating part of his powers to him. In the meantime, HH Sheikh Mishal yesterday began official consultations to name a prime minister to form the next Cabinet after HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah submitted his resignation of the Cabinet about two weeks ago.

The Crown Prince held talks with Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, the former Prime Minister HH Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and also received former National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun. Routine consultations to elect a Prime Minister were carried out in accordance with the Kuwaiti constitution. The Crown Prince was delegated part of the Amir's constitutional powers including consultations to form a new Cabinet.

HH Sheikh Mishal can either name a new Prime Minister or ask HH Sheikh Sabah to form the next Cabinet. There is no timeframe for forming the Cabinet. HH Sheikh Sabah submitted his resignation following an Amiri order to pardon a number of opposition activists and former lawmakers who left Kuwait and lived in Turkey for three and a half years to escape jail terms. Nine of the 11 ex-MPs and activists have already returned to the country including prominent opposition figure Mussallam Al-Barrak and were greeted to a resounding reception.

Only former opposition MP Faisal Al-Muslim and activist Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah have not yet returned. Muslim has decided to come back next week. On Saturday, he greeted those who returned and their families. He also thanked the Amir and wished him good health for "erasing the penalty", adding that "our duty in facing corruption and its figures will continue". He said on Twitter that he will explain his position this week.

## Saudi girls 'dream' big with launch of soccer league



RIYADH: A player of the first Saudi Women's National Football Team, managed by veteran German Monika Staab, attends a training and shows off her skills at Prince Faisal bin Fahad bin Abdulaziz stadium in Riyadh. — AFP

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's launch of its first women's football league yesterday will clear the way for girls who dream of turning professional - and maybe even playing in a World Cup. Long condemned for harsh restrictions on women, Saudi Arabia lifted a decades-old ban on female footballers only a few years ago, and it is now aiming to develop a national team strong enough to contest major tournaments.

The ultra-conservative Muslim nation has faced criticism of using sports events to gloss over its poor human rights record and the jailing of women activists. Its latest step in the reform drive came this month when the Saudi football federation announced the formation of a women's soccer league in which 16 teams will take part with games in Riyadh, Jeddah and Dammam.

Among those excited by the move was Farah Jafri, who said she hoped to turn pro and play in England's top division as well as represent her country on the biggest stage at the World Cup. "In the beginning of my football journey, I faced some difficulties in that not all people accepted it," she told yesterday. "But my family and friends used to encourage me a lot," said the ponytailed 18-year-old dressed in a jersey.

Like many other girls who were passionate about football but unable to participate in competitions, Jafri played on the street with her relatives or at school with friends. — AFP (See Page 13)

## Kuwait holds broad funeral for martyrs

KUWAIT: Kuwait yesterday held a broad funeral with military protocols for 19 of the faithful martyrs who sacrificed their lives during the flagrant 1990-1991 aggression and occupation of the country. The somber procession and gathering of mourners were led at Al-Sulaibikhat cemetery by Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Minister of Education Dr Ali Al-Mudhaf, Minister of Oil and Higher Education Dr Mohammad Al-Fares, Kuwait Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Khaled Saleh Al-Sabah.

Others include; Interior Undersecretary Major General Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Guard Undersecretary Lieut Gen Hashem Al-Rifai, Chairman of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation Sheikh Abdullah Ali

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KUWAIT: Mourners carry the coffins of 19 Kuwaiti prisoners of war (POWs) whose remains were recently found in a mass grave in Iraq. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Sudanese PM to return to government

KHARTOUM: Sudan's top military leader and the prime minister he ousted almost a month ago have reached a deal for the premier's return to government and the release of civilian leaders, mediators said yesterday. But while Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok was liberated from weeks of effective house arrest, thousands of protesters again rallied in several cities as security forces in the capital fired teargas at demonstrators.

General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan on October 25 declared a state of emergency and ousted the government in a move that upended a two-year transition to civilian rule and sparked international condemnation. The power grab triggered a wave of mass street protests in which 40 demonstrators have been killed, according to medical sources. But after weeks of intense internal and international pressure, mediators yesterday announced that the military had reached an agreement to reinstate Hamdok as premier.

"A political agreement has been reached between General Burhan, Abdalla Hamdok, political



Sudan's Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok

forces and civil society organizations for Hamdok's return to his position, and the release of political detainees," senior Sudanese mediator Fadlallah Burma, acting head of the Umma party said. The developments have raised hopes the strife-torn northeast African country will be able to return to its fragile transition process toward full democracy that started after the 2019 ouster of veteran autocrat president Omar Al-Bashir.

An official from the premier's office confirmed that Hamdok's "house arrest ... has been lifted and the forces guarding his house have withdrawn". Hamdok later arrived at the presidential palace in Khartoum, the seat of government, state TV announced.

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## Indian man found alive after a night in morgue freezer

NEW DELHI: An Indian man declared dead after a road accident shocked his relatives when they found him still breathing despite a night in the freezer of a hospital morgue. Srikesh Kumar was rushed to a clinic in a critical condition after he was hit by a motor-bike in Moradabad, east of the capital New Delhi.

He was transported to a private medical facility where he was declared dead on arrival by the doctor, and then transported to a government hospital for post-mortem on Friday. "The emergency medical officer examined him. He did not find any signs of life and hence declared him dead," Rajendra Kumar, the hospital's medical superintendent, said yesterday.

The doctor said police were informed and the body was placed in the morgue freezer until his family arrived six hours later. "When a police team and his family came over to initiate the paperwork for the autopsy, he was found alive," he added. Rajendra Kumar said the 45-year-old was undergoing further treatment but was still in a coma. "This is nothing short of a miracle," he added. — AFP