

Local

Kuwait reiterates backing for Libya's unity, stability

Kuwait's Foreign Minister discusses Libyan updates with UN official

TRIPOLI: Kuwait's foreign minister reaffirmed his country's unwavering and principled position based on backing Libya's national unity authority, supporting Libya's security and stability and fulfilling the Libyan people's expectations.

Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah made this statement during an international meeting held in Tripoli on Thursday to support Libya's stability. Sheikh Dr Ahmad, who chairs the 156th session of the Arab ministerial council, co-chaired the meeting with Libyan Foreign Minister Najla Al-Manqoush and UN Under-Secretary for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs Rosemary DiCarlo.

Addressing the event, Sheikh Dr Ahmad called on Libyans to give top priority to the country's supreme interests, find peaceful solutions, decry all forms of violence, abide by relevant UN Security Council resolutions and support the action plan of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission, which was adopted in Geneva and called for pulling all mercenaries and foreign fighters and forces out of Libyan territories in a gradual and balanced way that ensures proper preparations for parliamentary and presidential elections as sched-

uled on December 24, 2021.

The Kuwaiti minister also reiterated that Arab countries are keen on Libya's security and stability and that the Arab League's Council, during its 156th ordinary session in September, approved Resolution 8675 that was adopted on September 9, 2021, at the ministerial level. He elaborated that the resolution stressed commitment to Libya's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity, objection to all types of foreign interference, and total support for the new authority, including the presidential council and national unity government, in its tasks enshrined in the roadmap, leading up to parliamentary and presidential elections on December 24, 2021, backing Libya's stability initiative and implementing UNSC Resolutions 2510, 2670 and 2571 and the outcomes of Berlin conferences.

Earlier, Sheikh Dr Ahmad held a meeting with DiCarlo in which they discussed updates on the Libyan front as well as means to support Government of National Unity so that it could ensure security and stability in Libya, and accomplish aspirations of holding the elections coming December. UN's envoy to Libya Jan Kubis attended the meeting. — KUNA



TRIPOLI: Kuwait's foreign minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah (left) speaks during a joint press conference with Libyan Foreign Minister Najla Al-Manqoush (right) following the opening session of an international conference aimed at supporting stability in Libya at a hotel in the capital Tripoli on Thursday. — AFP

Tunisian President meets Kuwait's Foreign Minister



TUNIS: Tunisian President Kais Saied meets Kuwaiti Foreign Minister and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah in Tunis, Tunisia. — KUNA

TUNIS: Tunisian President Kais Saied met with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah on

Friday. During the meeting held in Tunis, both sides discussed the deep ties between the two countries, and ways of enhancing them in all fields. — KUNA

NBK extends cybercrime awareness campaign

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has extended its partnership with the Ministry of Interior (MoI), to raise awareness on social media for combating cybercrimes and protecting the society from the related challenges. The partnership ran a successful cybercrime awareness campaign, which has achieved high engagement rates on the bank's social channels.

On this occasion, NBK GCEO, Isam Al-Sager honored the Technical Support Section in the Cybercrime Department who took part in the campaign, in appreciation for their efforts to raise social awareness against cybercrime. The awarding ceremony was attended by NBK officials.

As part of this campaign, NBK and MoI social media platforms will be posting awareness messages aiming to raise social awareness of the basics of cybersecurity, including videos by a group of experts and specialists from the Cybercrime Department of the MoI. This sponsorship comes in support of



anti-cybercrime efforts and the Central Bank of Kuwait's "Let's Be Aware" campaign. Awareness messages cover key topics in this area including protection from fraudulent banking messages, hacking of banking applications and other topics directly related to the security of customers and their accounts.

As part of its efforts to support the anti-cybercrime in Kuwait, NBK saves no effort in educating the community about

the risks of these crimes and supporting the efforts of governmental institutions in Kuwait in this regard.

NBK frequently organizes various activities that contribute to raising awareness about all topics related to the banking sector. It also organizes a wide range of training courses in the areas of combating fraud and financial crime, and frequently posts related awareness material on its social platforms.

Saudi Arabia targets zero...

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Saudi Arabia is estimated to emit about 600 million tons of carbon dioxide per year - more than France and slightly less than Germany. The year 2050 has become a focus for carbon neutrality, defined as achieving a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere. As COP26 approaches, a string of countries have pledged to aim for net zero emissions by 2050, and global airlines and banks are also targeting the mid-century goal.

UN chief Antonio Guterres said Friday the current climate situation was "a one-way ticket for disaster", stressing the need to "avoid a failure" at COP26 in Glasgow. Held between Oct 31 and Nov 12, the gathering is seen as a crucial step in setting worldwide emission targets to slow global warming.

In March, Saudi Arabia unveiled a campaign to tackle climate change and reduce carbon emissions,

including a plan to plant billions of trees in the coming decades. The OPEC kingpin aims to reduce emissions by generating half of its energy from renewables by 2030. Prince Mohammed said at the time. The prince announced yesterday that the first phase would include planting more than 450 million trees and the rehabilitation of eight million hectares (nearly 20 million acres) of degraded land.

Saudi Arabia also said it would designate new "protected areas". The move brings "the total protected areas in the kingdom to more than 30 percent of its total area", Prince Mohammed said, adding the first set of green initiatives would cost more than 700 billion riyals (\$186.6 billion).

Princess Reema bint Bandar Al-Saud, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the United States, said the land conservation move was critical. "We want to diversify our economy. Hospitality and tourism are key to that, but so is preserving our environment," she said at the forum. Saudi Arabia currently draws on oil and natural gas to both meet its own fast-growing power demand and desalinate its water - which consumes huge quantities of oil. The initiatives come as energy giant Saudi Aramco, the kingdom's cash cow, faces scrutiny from investors over its emissions. — Agencies

Faced with the mounting criticism, Facebook on Friday detailed anew steps it has taken to protect the election and keep the social network safe. "Our comprehensive strategy to protect the US 2020 elections began years before the election cycle even began and was designed to last through the inauguration," Facebook vice president of integrity Guy Rosen said in a blog post. "Responsibility for the insurrection itself falls squarely on the insurrectionists who broke the law and those who incited them."

Facebook's tenacious efforts to fend off critics is not likely to appease elected officials openly calling for action against the tech giant. More revelations from leaked documents appear in store, and a former member of Facebook's integrity team emerged Friday as another whistleblower. The former employee reportedly told US regulators that Facebook dismissed controversy over Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election as a "flash in the pan" and that managers undermined efforts to fight disinformation for fear of angering Trump or his fans.

The unnamed new whistleblower filed a complaint with US financial regulator Securities and Exchange Commission that could add to the company's woes, said a Washington Post report. "It will be a flash in the pan. Some legislators will get pissed. And then in a few weeks they will move onto something else. Meanwhile we are printing money in the basement, and we are fine," Tucker Bounds, a member of Facebook's communications team, was quoted in the complaint as saying. The Washington Post reported. The second whistleblower signed the complaint on Oct 13, a week after Haugen's scathing testimony before a Senate panel, according to the report. — AFP

Baldwin shooting inquiry focuses...

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"We've had two people accidentally shot by a prop gun; we need help immediately," the caller tells a police dispatcher. "Was it loaded with a real bullet?" the dispatcher asks. "I don't - I can't tell you that," the caller replies. "And this (expletive) AD that yelled at me at lunch ... this mother (expletive) - he's supposed to check the guns, he's responsible for what happens on the set."

Baldwin has said he was heartbroken and was cooperating fully with the inquiry into "how this tragedy occurred". He retweeted a story from trade journal Variety headlined "Alec Baldwin Was Told Prop Gun Was Safe Before Fatal Shooting, Affidavit Says". "There are no words to convey my shock and sadness regarding the tragic accident that took the life of Halyna Hutchins, a wife, mother and deeply admired colleague of ours," Baldwin tweeted on Friday. The actor and producer said he was "fully cooperating" with a police investigation, as law enforcement officials carried out a search warrant, and reports emerged of allegedly danger-

ous working conditions on the set.

Performing a rehearsal scene, Baldwin fired the gun, striking Hutchins in the chest, and Souza in the shoulder. Hutchins was transported to hospital by helicopter but died of her wounds. "My heart is broken for her husband, their son, and all who knew and loved Halyna," wrote Baldwin. The gun used, and two others, were provided by the film's weapons master, or armorer, who has been identified as 24-year-old Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, the daughter of longtime film-industry armorer Thell Reed.

In a September podcast, the young Gutierrez-Reed said she had some trepidation about taking on the role of lead armorer for the first time for the previous movie she worked on, "The Old Way". "I was really nervous about it at first and I almost didn't take the job 'cause I wasn't sure if I was ready," she said on the "Voices of the West" podcast, before adding, "But doing it, like, it went really smoothly."

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Times reported that around six crewmembers had walked off set before the shooting to protest working conditions, including long hours. It said Hutchins was among those who had called for safer working conditions. There had been at least three prop gun misfires prior to the fatal accident, the LA Times report said, citing anonymous crewmembers who were on set. — AFP

Rising tide of new leaks threatens to...

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The information was reportedly found in the thousands of internal documents Haugen provided to regulators at the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

Haugen told US lawmakers early this month that the social media giant fuels division, harms children and urgently needs to be regulated, drawing pledges Congress would take up long-delayed action. The testimony by Haugen has fueled one of Facebook's most serious crises yet, and prompted a denial from CEO Mark Zuckerberg, who said in a post on his account that he claim the company prioritizes profit over safety was "just not true".

A common theme in revelations is that Facebook knew about problems hurting users and society but chose, in large part, to ignore them. Articles Friday referred to a report compiled by Facebook's own internal researchers titled "Carol's Journey to QAnon". Facebook's security team in 2019 reportedly created a fake account for a "conservative mother from North Carolina" given the profile name Carol Smith. The social network software quickly offered Smith a "barrage of extreme, conspiratorial and graphic content" including from the QAnon movement known for unfounded conspiracy theories, according to the researchers.

Activists set sights on...

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Lawyer and activist Firas Hamdan is one of many to say that the elections, set for next year, will be a new opportunity for people to raise their voices against the authorities. "We tried everything - protests in a single location and across regions, demonstrations outside the central bank and near the homes of officials, following lawmakers and officials into restaurants and coffee shops, and blocking roads - but all to no avail," he said.

Instead now "the parliamentary elections will be a pivotal moment in confronting the system - even if not the final battle," he added. Hamdan said the polls would allow people to choose between those who want to actually "build a state", and a tired ruling class "that only knows the language of arms, destruction and blood".

It will be a "face-off between thieves and murderers, and citizens who deserve a chance at state building", said the lawyer, who was hit in the heart by a lead pellet at a demonstration last year demanding justice over the port blast. The protest movement has given birth to a clutch of new political parties, as well

as attracting support from more traditional ones such as the Christian Kataeb party. Each has its own vision of how to achieve change, but all largely agree on the importance of the upcoming elections.

Zeina El-Helou, a member of new political party "Lana" (For Us), said it was time to "move on from the nostalgia of throngs of people in the streets chanting" for change. Activists needed instead to work on "managing frustrations and expectations" for the future, she said. The political battle would be tough, as it opposed two sides of "unequal means", she said, referring to her side's limited financing or access to the traditional media for campaigning, and to gerrymandering giving establishment parties the advantage.

The various opposition groups have yet to decide how they will take part in the upcoming polls, and some observers have criticized them for failing to coordinate their efforts effectively. Voters, meanwhile, are busy battling to get by on deeply diminished incomes, amid endless power cuts, price hikes and shortages of everything from medicine to petrol.

Maher Abu Chakra, from the new grouping "Li Haqqi" (For My Right), said the polls would likely not change a thing but it was "important to take part". "It's a first step on the path to lasting change." But he too acknowledged the challenges. "When people's priority becomes making sure they can provide basic needs, they're less ready for confrontation" in politics, he said. — AFP