

Local

Kuwait Amir receives Chairman of Supreme Judicial Council

Foreign Minister receives call from US counterpart

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace yesterday the Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council and the Court of Cassation Justice Ahmad Al-Ajeel. Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir yesterday sent a condolence cable to Lebanese President Michel Aoun, over the demise of the Supreme Shite Islamic Council's head Sheikh Abdulameer Qablan. In the cable, His Highness the Amir prayed to Allah Almighty to bestow mercy upon his soul. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent the Lebanese president similar cables.

In other news, Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah yesterday received a call from US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. During the phone conversation, the US Secretary of State renewed his country's thanks and appreciation for all efforts exerted to facilitate the evacuation of the citizens of the US and other countries from Afghanistan. Blinken also appreciated the level of distinguished coop-

eration between the US and Kuwait, which has led to the success of all operations.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister restated that the State of Kuwait is proud of its historical strong and firm relations with the US, and of working together to save people's lives and ensure the safe transit of Afghans to their final destinations. Both officials discussed ways of bolstering bilateral relations in all fields, in addition to the latest regional and international developments.

Separately, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah received yesterday Director of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) Office in Kuwait Dr Samer Haddadin at the Ministry's headquarter on the occasion of the end of his

tenure. During the meeting, Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Al-Sabah praised Dr Haddadin's efforts during his stay in Kuwait and his contribution in coordinating and enhancing the relations between Kuwait and the (UNHCR), wishing him success in his next mission.

Dr Haddadin meanwhile said he was pleased with the attention and care he received from the



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council and the Court of Cassation Justice Ahmad Al-Ajeel. — Amiri Diwan photo

State of Kuwait and the Office of the High Commissioner for the success of his work. He expressed his deep thanks and appreciation to the

State of Kuwait for supporting the efforts of the High Commissioner and its humanitarian projects around the world. — KUNA



Minister receives UNHCR office director

Zain recognized by UNHCR for successful strategic partnership

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, was recognized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for its long list of initiatives and programs launched as part of their strategic partnership throughout the past years. Zain's efforts came as a reflection of the private sector's role in supporting humanitarian causes.

Head of the UNHCR Office to Kuwait, Dr Samer Haddadin, recognized Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Communications and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti during the gala dinner held at the headquarters of the Arab Media Forum. The event was held on the occasion of Dr Haddadin's departure and to welcome the new Head of the UNHCR Office to Kuwait, Nisreen Rubyaan. Dr Haddadin expressed the UNHCR's gratitude to Zain's continuous efforts to shoulder the various humanitarian initiatives and support refugee causes in the region.

Zain is proud to be one of Kuwait's first private sector companies to form a strategic partnership with the UNHCR by signing a MoU back in 2016. The MoU aimed at finding the best ways for Zain to contribute to the improvement of the living and social conditions of refugees and any other individuals whom the UNHCR provides assistance to. Both parties agreed to regularly consult with one another in order to contribute to the improvement of the wellbeing of refugees.

Zain believes the private sector has a vital and active role in supporting the public sector and global agencies like the United Nations and the UNHCR to uplift the plight of refugees around the world. For this, the company has embraced and launched many programs and initiatives throughout the past years in line with the UNHCR's needs and goals.

Zain has a number of prominent humanitarian contributions in partnership with

the UNHCR, including the #ZainWithRefugees campaign, field trips to refugee camps, online donation campaigns, strategic partnerships with local and global humanitarian entities, and more.

In 2017, Zain launched its humanitarian campaign #ZainWithRefugees in collaboration with the UNHCR. The campaign aimed at improving the living conditions of thousands of refugees in the region who suffer from the lack of essential supplies during the harsh winter season. Donations were utilized to provide families with financial support, winter clothing, thermal blankets, heaters, and more.

Zain prides itself in its long list of joint collaborations with the UNHCR, including the extension of mobile telecommunications coverage to reconnect displaced families in the Middle East, offering telecom services in deprived areas, as well as awareness campaigns through SMS services and social media channels.

In relevance to the international refugee situation, Zain partnered with Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) to organize a humanitarian trip that saw 12 of its volunteered employees visiting



KUWAIT: Head of the UNHCR Office to Kuwait Dr Samer Haddadin honors Zain Kuwait's Chief Corporate Communications and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti during event.

and supporting Syrian refugees in Lebanon to distribute food, clothes, blankets and cater to a number of KRCS-supported projects. Zain also continued its annual Clothes Donation

Campaign and extended it this year to Kuwait University, where over 10.5 tons of clothes were donated and sent by Kuwait Society for Relief to displaced Syrian families.

Taleban claim full control of...

Continued from Page 1

regime's ranks. "With this victory, our country is completely taken out of the quagmire of war," chief spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said. "Anyone who tries to start an insurgency will be hit hard. We will not allow another," he later added at press conference in Kabul.

The Taleban published a video of their flag being raised over the governor's house in Panjshir - underscoring a historic win that has seen the anti-Taleban bastion defeated for the first time during 40 years of conflict. It remained in the hands of resistance fighters during Soviet rule, a subsequent civil war and the Taleban's first regime of the late 1990s. The National Resistance Front (NRF) in Panjshir - made up of anti-Taleban militia and former Afghan security forces - on Sunday acknowledged suffering major battlefield losses and called for a ceasefire. But yesterday, the group said in a tweet that its fighters were still present in "strategic positions" in the valley.

The NRF includes local fighters loyal to Ahmad Massoud - the son of the famous anti-Soviet and anti-Taleban commander Ahmad Shah Massoud - as well as remnants of the Afghan military that retreated to the Panjshir Valley. As Taleban fighters amassed in the valley, Massoud yesterday called on Afghans in and out of the country to "rise up in resistance".

The Taleban are yet to finalize their new regime after rolling into the capital Kabul three weeks ago at a

speed that analysts say likely surprised even the hard-line Islamists themselves. As they undertake a mammoth transition into overseeing key institutions and cities of hundreds of thousands of people, Mujahid said an interim government would first be announced, allowing for later changes. "Final decisions have been taken, we are now working on the technical issues," he said at a press conference.

Afghanistan's new rulers have pledged to be more "inclusive" than during their first stint in power, with a government that represents Afghanistan's complex ethnic makeup - though women are unlikely to be included at the top levels. Women's freedoms in Afghanistan were sharply curtailed under the Taleban's 1996-2001 rule.

This time, women will be allowed to attend university as long as classes are segregated by sex or at least divided by a curtain, the Taleban's education authority said in a lengthy document issued on Sunday. But female students must wear an abaya (robe) and niqab (face-veil), as opposed to the even more conservative burqa mandatory under the previous Taleban regime. However, some universities in Kabul remained closed yesterday and those that did open saw a drastic fall in the number of students - some who complied with the new rules, and others who resisted.

Afghans are also facing a host of other challenges, including looming financial and humanitarian crises. "The authorities pledged that the safety and security of humanitarian staff, and humanitarian access to people in need, will be guaranteed and that humanitarian workers - both men and women - will be guaranteed freedom of movement," a statement from UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. The Taleban spokesman said the group had assured a visiting UN team of cooperation. — AFP

Meanwhile, Ghanem yesterday denied a press report that he made contacts with former prominent opposition MP Musallam Al-Barrak, who has been living in exile for the past three years. Ghanem said on Twitter that he categorically denies the report. Barrak's group, the Popular Action Movement, also denied the report in a statement.

Barrak and about a dozen former opposition MPs and activists have been living in self-exile in Turkey since the summer of 2018 to escape jail terms passed by Kuwait's top court for taking part in storming the National Assembly building in late 2011 following an anti-corruption protest. Opposition MPs have been campaigning to secure the return of the exiles, but their efforts have been unsuccessful so far.

Gaddafi son Saadi freed...

Continued from Page 1

extradited to Libya in 2014. He was held in a Tripoli prison, accused of crimes committed against protesters and of the 2005 killing of Libyan football coach Bashir Al-Rayani. In April 2018, the court of appeal acquitted him of Rayani's murder.

Since the 2011 uprising, Libya has sunk into chaos, with an array of rulers and militias vying for power. A 2020 ceasefire ended the factional fighting and paved the way for peace talks and the formation of a transitional government this March, ahead of elections set for December. But preparations are marred by disputes over when to hold elections, what elections to hold and on what constitutional grounds.

Saadi was the third son of the flamboyant colonel

6 Palestinians escape from...

Continued from Page 1

escape tunnels have been dug beneath the facility. Hours before much of the Zionist entity was set to shut down for Jewish New Year celebrations that begin at sundown yesterday, police, the army and agents from the Zionist Shin Bet internal security agency were conducting a manhunt, a police statement said. The search included aerial surveillance vehicles, sniffer dogs, roadblocks and checkpoints.

In Jenin governorate, where some Palestinians fired into the air to celebrate the escapees, Zionist forces were deployed heavily, an AFP reporter said. Jenin governor Akram Rajoub told AFP: "For the moment the situation is calm, but the surveillance is unprecedented." With rumors about the escapees' whereabouts spreading rapidly online, Jenin has become an area of focus, partly given Zubeidi's ties there.

The Jenin refugee camp, which adjoins Jenin city, is used to Zionist incursions despite being in a West Bank area officially under Palestinian control, said Hassan Al-Amouri, a community leader. "Anything is possible" in a camp where many residents are armed, he told AFP. Unrest has spiked in Jenin in recent weeks. A gun battle broke out last month as

who took power after a bloodless coup in 1969. For 42 years, the self-styled "Leader of the Revolution" ruled his "Jamahiriya", or "state of the masses" with an iron grip, though not necessarily a coherent direction. The economy was hamstrung by the capricious leader's whims - and he was accused of using the country's oil wealth to fund and arm rebel groups across Africa and beyond.

As he concentrated power in an ever-smaller, more nepotistic circle, he destroyed any institutions - military or political - that might challenge him. Meanwhile, his family lived a life of opulence, with private jets, luxury sports cars and a supervacht. On Oct 20, 2011, rebels stormed Muammar Gaddafi's Mediterranean hometown of Sirte, where he and his son Mutassim were killed.

Another son, Seif al-Arab, had perished in a NATO air raid in April 2011, and his brother Khamis died in combat four months later. But other members of the Gaddafi clan survived, including his wife Safiya, eldest son Mohammed, daughter Aisha, heir apparent Seif al-Islam, high-roller Hannibal and playboy Saadi. — AFP

Zionist forces came under fire while looking for suspects, leaving four Palestinians dead.

Zionist Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, an observant and religious Jew, held consultations with defense and prison chiefs in the final hours before New Year, or Rosh Hashanah, begins. He called the escape "a serious event that required a comprehensive effort by all of the security services". All six who escaped were accused of planning or carrying out attacks on Zionists.

Zubeidi was the former head of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades and a well-known figure among Palestinians and Zionists. He was arrested over "terror allegations" in 2019 in a West Bank village near Ramallah. He had previously faced charges from the Palestinian Authority for taking part in deadly a shooting attack on the residence of Jenin governor Qaddura Musa in 2002.

Zubeidi in 2007 agreed to lay down his arms and went on to help found Jenin's Freedom Theatre. In 2011, the theatre's well-known director Juliano Mer-Khamis was gunned down in Jenin's refugee camp, in an attack that remains unsolved. Another of the escapees is Mahmud Abdullah Ardah, a prominent member of the Islamic Jihad militant group who had been serving a life sentence since 1996.

Islamic Jihad supporters in Gaza were distributing goods across the Zionist-blockaded enclave yesterday - gifts to celebrate the jailbreak, AFP reporters said. Hamas, the Islamist group that controls Gaza, called the escape "a heroic act and a victory for the will and determination of our heroic detainees". — AFP

Opposition MPs say exit of PM...

Continued from Page 1

MP Mohammad Al-Mutair said the announcements from Ghanem are not new, charging him of standing against the people and the constitution. He said the prime minister should know there will be understanding only with those who respect the constitution. Leading opposition MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri accused Ghanem of "destroying the country and the constitution" and of creating crises and problems, calling for his resignation.