

Local

Kuwait's Amir sends condolences cable to Algerian President

Sheikh Nawaf meets Crown Prince, Acting Prime Minister



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. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Acting National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Shohoumi.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Nazaha Enhancement Abdullah Al-Roumi.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Nazaha Enhancement Abdullah Al-Roumi.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent yesterday condolences cable to Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune on the death of former President Abdulaziz Bouteflika. In the cable, His Highness the Amir prayed to Allah the Almighty to bestow mercy

and forgiveness 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 similar cables.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf

Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Seif Palace yesterday. His Highness the Amir also received Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir then received Acting

National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Shohoumi, and Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Nazaha Enhancement Abdullah Al-Roumi. His Highness the Crown Prince also received Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali, Shohoumi and Roumi yesterday at Seif Palace. — KUNA

All Palestinian jailbreakers...

Continued from Page 1

re-arrests, vowing the Palestinian people "will not surrender" in response to Zionist "criminality and aggression". The pair were arrested in a joint army operation with counterterrorism forces in Jenin and were "currently being interrogated", the army statement said. Two other men who had allegedly helped the fugitives were also detained, it added.

Taleb Abo Jaafar, who owns the Jenin house in which the two fugitives were found, said he had been surprised to discover his home cordoned off in the middle of the night. "There was shooting around the house. I went out to see what happened. I opened the door and looked at the street, the forces were outside and they told me to go back inside," he told AFP.

In a call yesterday with Zionist security chiefs, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett branded the escape "a major mishap". "But you mobilized with joint forces until the mission was completed," he added, vowing in a separate statement that the security establishment would "correct what needs to be corrected".

All six fugitives were members of Palestinian militant groups who were convicted by Zionist courts of plotting or carrying out attacks against Zionists. Kamamji, originally from Kafr Dan near Jenin, was arrested in 2006 and jailed for life for the kidnap and murder of a young Zionist settler, Eliahu Asheri. Islamic Jihad said Kamamji

suffered abdominal and intestinal illness in jail and was subject to "medical negligence" by prison authorities. Infeiat, arrested last year, had been jailed multiple times previously for his role in the armed group, and was awaiting sentencing at the time of the escape.

The other four men recaptured last week included Mahmud Abdullah Ardash, the alleged mastermind of the escape, and Zakaria Zubeidi, who headed the armed wing of the Fatah movement of Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas. Zubeidi was found hiding in a lorry park just outside Nazareth along with one of the other men, Mohammad Ardash, who was sentenced to life in prison in 2002 for his role in Islamic Jihad's armed wing. The remand of the four was extended at Nazareth's magistrates' court to Sept 29 in a hearing yesterday, police said.

Questions remain over how jailbreak could have happened, and a formal inquiry has been announced. A lawyer for Yaqub Qadri, the sixth escapee, told Palestinian television that the inmates had not planned to escape when they did on Sept 6. She said they rushed ahead with the plan on that day because they feared guards had become suspicious and noticed changes in their cell.

The breakout had been planned for months, Ardash's lawyer told AFP, saying that "Mahmud told me he started digging in December". Ardash told him he used spoons, plates and even the handle of a kettle to dig the tunnel from his jail cell. Spoons have since become a symbol of Palestinian resistance, with protesters both inside and outside the Palestinian territories carrying them at demonstrations. They have inspired political artwork as far away as Kuwait, where artist Maitham Abdal has sculpted a giant hand clasping what he labelled the "spoon of freedom". — AFP

A party faction loyal to Duterte also endorsed the president's close aide, Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go, for the top job-but he hasn't yet accepted. Pacquiao would face a formidable opponent if Duterte's daughter, Sara, were to run for president, which she is tipped to do. A recent poll showed the Davao city mayor—who belongs to a different party than her father - with the most voter support, well ahead of Pacquiao and other potential contenders. The deadline for registering as a candidate for next year's elections is Oct 8.

The nomination of two candidates for president from PDP-Laban showed "how deep the divisions in the ruling party are", said Eurasia Group analyst Peter Mumford. "A key watchpoint will be whether most of the anti-Duterte camp falls in behind Pacquiao or whether it splits with multiple different presidential candidates," Mumford said. "The former would complicate Duterte's succession plans by making victory for the eventual Duterte-backed candidate less assured."

Pacquiao, a devout evangelical Christian, was a high-profile backer of Duterte and his controversial drug war. International Criminal Court judges last week authorized a full-blown investigation into the alleged unlawful killing of possibly tens of thousands of people. Pacquiao told AFP in a recent interview that he would continue the crackdown, but in a "proper way" that does not abuse "the rights of individuals". Asked if he would protect the current president from criminal charges if he became leader, he said: "All of us are bound to the law." — AFP

Iraq launches project to reduce flaring at oilfields

BAGHDAD: Iraq has launched a new project that aims to recover gas normally set alight during oil extraction at two oilfields in the country's south. Flaring, or burning off excess gas during oil extraction, is a highly polluting practice but far less costly than processing it for sale. According to the World Bank, Iraq is the second-biggest user of flaring worldwide after Russia.

The new project, signed in 2017 with oil services company Baker Hughes, will eventually allow 200 million cubic feet (around 5.6 million cubic meters) of gas a day that is usually torched on the Nasiriyah and Gharraf oilfields to be captured, according to a statement from the oil ministry sent to the media yesterday.

It seeks to "exploit the gas that escapes from all oilfields across all Iraq, consolidate national gas production" and help preserve the environment, Oil Minister Ihsan Ismail was quoted as saying in the statement. A ministry official told AFP that the implementation of the project and exploitation of the gas would have to wait 30 months for the completion of infrastructure works.

The World Bank said the amount of gas torched in Iraq annually reached 17.37 million cu m last year. Earlier this month, French giant TotalEnergies signed a contract to invest in oil, gas and solar production in Iraq. The French major plans initially to invest \$10 billion in infrastructure, the proceeds of which will then allow a second round of investments of \$17 billion, the officials said.

One of the projects will see the construction of a complex to exploit production from the sector's gas fields. Rather than flaring or burning off the excess, the plan is to recover it for use in electricity generation. The premier's office has said this will "reduce gas imports".

"Reducing flaring and increasing gas production is a priority for Iraq as well as for Total,"

MPs want answers after two Kuwaitis...

Continued from Page 1

"Together, these networks have laundered tens of millions of dollars through regional financial systems and conducted currency exchange operations and trades in gold and electronics for the benefit of the two entities," OFAC said.

OFAC said one of the Kuwaitis coordinated the transfer of millions of dollars to Hezbollah from Kuwait with the other Kuwaiti citizen. Kandari asked the ministers of foreign affairs, finance and commerce about

TotalEnergies chief Patrick Pouyanne had tweeted earlier this year. Decades of conflict, poor maintenance and rampant corruption have battered Iraq's energy sector.

Despite being the number two producer in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, Iraq is experiencing an acute energy crisis and chronic blackouts that fuel social discontent. It is highly dependent on neighboring Iran, which supplies a third of its gas and electricity needs. Baghdad currently owes Tehran six billion dollars for energy already supplied.

Meanwhile, Iran said yesterday it is willing to sell fuel to Lebanon's government to help ease shortages, days after a first delivery of Iranian fuel arranged by Hezbollah entered the country. "If the Lebanese government wants to buy fuel from us to resolve the problems faced by its population, we will supply it," foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said. He told a news conference that the Islamic republic had already sold fuel to a "Lebanese businessman", without naming Hezbollah.

Tehran-backed Hezbollah promised in August to bring fuel from Iran to alleviate the shortages sowing chaos in Lebanon, in defiance of US sanctions. On Thursday, dozens of tanker trucks carrying Iranian fuel arrived by Hezbollah in Lebanon and were due to fill the tanks of fuel distribution firm owned by Hezbollah, which has been under US sanctions.

Lebanon's new Prime Minister Najib Mikati had told CNN the shipment "was not approved by the Lebanese government". He was "saddened" by "the violation of Lebanese sovereignty". Hezbollah is a major political force in Lebanon and the only group to have kept its arsenal of weapons following the end of the country's 1975-1990 civil war.

Lebanon is facing one of its worst-ever economic crises, with more than three out of four Lebanese considered to be under the poverty line. Last year, it defaulted on its foreign debt and can no longer afford to import key goods, including petrol and diesel. Mains electricity are only available a handful of hours a day, while the Lebanese are struggling to find petrol, bread and medicine. — AFP

how the accused network conducted its operations and penetrated Kuwaiti financial institutions without being detected.

Munawer however directed his questions to Interior Minister Sheikh Thamer Al-Sabah and asked him for details about the two people sanctioned and if they had been interrogated by authorities in the past. He asked the minister what measures the authorities plan to take against the two, including seizing their assets. He also asked if the two suspects or others have been sanctioned for smuggling Iranian oil and then laundering the funds resulting from such smuggling operations.

A high-ranking judicial source told Al-Rai Arabic daily that security authorities are communicating with their US counterparts to verify the accusations against the two Kuwaitis, and if their actions are proved to be criminal, legal action will be taken.

Pacquiao to run for...

Continued from Page 1

generosity and hauling himself out of poverty to become one of the world's greatest and wealthiest boxers. His boxing credentials along with fighting poverty and corruption are likely to be the key themes of his campaign. "For those asking what are my qualifications, have you ever experienced hunger?" Pacquiao asked the national assembly held by the anti-Duterte faction of PDP-Laban.

"Have you ever experienced having nothing to eat, to borrow money from your neighbors or to wait for leftovers at a food stall? The Manny Pacquiao that is in front of you was molded by poverty." Pacquiao's star power in a country famed for its celebrity-obsessed politics will put him in a strong position in the presidential race. But it will not guarantee victory.

A public skirmish between Pacquiao and Duterte over the latter's handling of the South China Sea dispute with Beijing and official graft could erode support for the boxer. Duterte - who is allowed to serve only one term as president under the constitution - rivals Pacquiao for the affections of many Filipinos and declared last month he will run for the vice presidency.