

Kuwait Amir, Crown Prince receive KNG deputy chief



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Seif Palace Deputy Chief of Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Lieutenant General (retired) Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also received Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad at Seif Palace. — KUNA photos

GCC speakers approve Mideast green initiative

KUWAIT: Speakers of parliaments and Shura councils in the Gulf Cooperation Council approved during a virtual meeting yesterday, the Middle East Green Initiative to confront climate change, to be the common Gulf dogma for 2022. Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem underlined the importance of the initiative which was linked to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman's green initiative for Saudi Arabia and the Middle East. "There will be a harmony between our proposal and what is happening in the region with regard to this file," he said. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem attends a virtual meeting for speakers of parliaments and Shura councils in the Gulf Cooperation Council yesterday. — KUNA

Kuwait FM meets UK Middle East Affairs Minister

LONDON: Kuwait's Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Sabah met yesterday with Minister of State for Middle East Affairs at the British Foreign Office James Cleverly, during his official visit to the United Kingdom. The foreign minister expressed his aspiration to enhance the joint work between the two friendly countries in all fields, praising during the meeting the outcome of the Kuwaiti-British Joint Steering Committee, which was held in London last Wednesday. Meanwhile, Minister Cleverly praised the meeting with Kuwait's foreign minister and stressed the deep-rooted Kuwaiti-British ties, adding that his country looks forward to more



Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Sabah.

cooperation between the two countries.

In the meantime, Sheikh Dr Ahmad affirmed the importance of coordination between Kuwait's Embassy in Britain and its technical offices to achieve Kuwait's greater good. During his meeting with members of Kuwait's embassy and its offices' managers in London, the Foreign Minister stressed the relations between Kuwait and the UK, which is considered "a main destination for the Kuwaiti people." He noted that he had received directions from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to ease and facilitate all arrangements for Kuwaiti citizens. Earlier, the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister held a meeting as well with his British counterpart Elizabeth Truss during his official one-day visit to the UK. — KUNA

Burgan Bank hosts interns from Kuwait's Scientific Center

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank hosted a group of interns from The Scientific Center of Kuwait (TSCK) at its headquarters, with the aim to further develop their knowledge and understanding of the banking and financial sector. This initiative falls under Burgan's efforts towards spreading financial awareness among local youth and is part of the ongoing strategic partnership program with TSCK.

The 13 TSCK interns were given a guided tour of Burgan's headquarters by a team from the bank. During the tour, the interns were introduced to the bank's various departments, functions and services. The young interns also had the opportunity to learn about the bank's approach to delivering quality customer service, as well as the importance of protecting customers rights and spreading knowledge on the protection of personal and financial data, particularly in relation to using digital banking services.

This initiative is part of Burgan's efforts to support the financial awareness campaign Diraya, launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) to shed light on customer rights and spread banking awareness. The campaign aims at educating the public more about various key financial and banking matters, including loans, financing, bank cards, customer rights, as well as the rights of people with disabilities in the banking sector. It also seeks to disseminate information and advice on cybersecurity and banking safety, as well as the complaints filing procedures.

Hessa Al-Najadah, Public Relations Manager at Burgan Bank, commented about this event saying: "Burgan Bank continues to support Diraya, as part of its social responsibility program. By organizing this visit for the students participating in TSCK's summer internship program, we confirm the special attention we pay towards investing in young Kuwaiti talents and the strategic interest of the bank in increasing financial awareness among its customers and the public in general. This is particularly important with the increasing



use of the digital banking channels and the fast development of digitization with the acceleration of the bank's digital transformation. Digitization demands that we deliver community-wide awareness campaigns, targeting the youth in particular as they are the segment currently living at the apex of digital developments. Therefore, we focus on helping young people maximize the value they get from all banking services available to them, without compromising their security or financial rights."

"We are also very happy with our ongoing partnership with TSCK, which has allowed us to share our expertise and banking experience with young interns. This experience has helped the interns learn about the inner workings of a financial institution in a dynamic and rapidly evolving sector that can offer them many promising future career prospects," added Najadah.

Khaled Al-Ramly, Marketing and Communications Department Manager at TSCK, also commented regarding the interns' visit to Burgan's headquarters saying: "Since the launch of the "Be a Science Communicator" program, both TSCK and Burgan Bank focused on leveraging their respective fields of leadership and expertise to design and deliver

training courses in various fields, with the aim of providing interns with a comprehensive view of the latest developments across different sectors."

"We are determined to play our part in developing the skills of Kuwaiti youth, as Kuwait's sustainable development and the establishment of a knowledge-based economy depends on the younger generation. We are fully prepared to provide opportunities to prepare these future leaders of change and help them overcome any potential obstacles in their way to build a better future for our beloved country," concluded Ramly.

Burgan Bank's partnership with TSCK underpins the bank's commitment to its holistic and inclusive sustainability strategy that reflects its dedication to supporting all the major matters affecting the community's welfare. It also stresses Burgan's keenness to continue developing its various social responsibility programs by sustaining impactful collaborations with organizations acting for the same goal of promoting continuous learning opportunities as well as awareness, knowledge and capacity building among the younger generations in particular to prepare the future leaders of change and the driving force of prosperity and sustainable development.

An event worthy of the UAE and its people

By Mohammad Bassam Al-Husseini

If there is a city that deserves the title of the "metropolis of the world" from the east to the west today, it would undisputedly be Dubai, the city that shimmers with its diverse architecture, facilities and culture; the city which has turned into a model city for the standards of success; the city that everyone falls in love with.

Dubai is a few days away from the launch of Expo 2020, to make up for what it missed in the difficult "corona year", and it is most capable of such an event. For which city can amaze and dazzle hearts and minds and draw the world's attention to it, like Dubai?!

It is basically a city that resembles the prestigious event that it will host over a period of six months, during which it will be the headquarters of competing nations scientifically, culturally, civilizationally, historically and humanly in general.

As much as Dubai exalts business, tourism and culture, it has never neglected science, but culminated in its scientific endeavors by head-

ing towards Mars on the basis of "the possible can sweep away the impossible".

The Dubai renaissance in general, led by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid and a group of competent officials carefully selected from their fields of specialty, is part of a complete success story drawn by the UAE in all its aspects, culminating in dedicating the concept of tolerance and interfaith dialogue as a new banner that the state raises. This enhances its distinguished position among all countries, to confirm once again that it is an ideal choice in word and deed to host a huge event of the size, importance and plurality of the Expo.

Expo Dubai, in every sense of the word, is a date for our tired world emerging from one of the worst pandemics in its history to turn the page to one whose title is joy, hope, gathering and looking forward to a prosperous and bright future. Titles like these truly resemble the UAE, its people, leadership and ambitions, and the city of Dubai whose unending surprises the whole world awaits!

India exam cheats...

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600,000 rupees (\$8,100) per pair. The information was shared with several other districts in time for the exams and many centres asked the students to remove their footwear outside the examination hall. "In one case we caught a student after the

exam and had to take him to a doctor to identify and remove the Bluetooth device from his ear," Chandra said.

Cheating is rife in India's highly competitive government, university and even school examinations and authorities have struggled with evermore sophisticated methods to help people pass. These include professionals who earn a living impersonating others and taking exams in their place, to gangs stealing or illegally procuring exam papers and then selling them. — AFP

Germany in limbo after...

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Laschet, 60, took responsibility for his side's poor showing and vowed "renewal in all areas". But he insisted that "no party" - not even the SPD - could claim a mandate to govern from Sunday's outcome, as said he was ready to head a coalition. Scholz, 63, rejected Laschet's bid, saying voters had made it clear that the conservatives "should go into the opposition".

The finance minister also sought to play down the impact of drawn-out negotiations for a governing majority. "You should know that Germany always has coalitions, and it was

always stable," he said. From Paris, French minister for European affairs Clement Beaune stressed that France "has an interest to have a strong German government in place", urging "swift" action from German parties. The Kremlin said it hoped for "continuity" in Moscow's ties with Berlin.

While Germany will keep plodding along with a caretaker government still led by Merkel, analysts warned of a paralyzed Berlin on the global stage. "Although it keeps managing all dossiers, it loses the legitimacy to shape international initiatives or domestic legal acts," said Christian Moelling of the German Council on Foreign Relations. "Until political leadership again becomes available, bureaucracy will get relatively stronger as it aims to conserve the status quo. — AFP

UK fuel pumps run dry amid...

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workers," said general secretary Christina McAnea.

Medical bodies have already said some health-care staff have struggled to get to work, while schools have warned that online teaching could resume if teachers are unable to reach their classrooms. At petrol stations across London, southeast England and beyond, motorists hoping to fill up their tanks were met with taped off pumps, and signs stating "Sorry, no fuel". The Petrol Retailers Association said almost half of the UK's 8,000 fuel pumps had run out of petrol on Sunday, blaming "panic-buying, pure and simple" for the issue.

Critics blame government inaction on tackling historic shortages of lorry drivers, including after Britain's departure from the European Union in January, and the pandemic, which saw many foreign truckers leave the country. As well as fuel deliveries, the shortage has led to empty supermarket shelves and raised fears about deliveries of food and toys for Christmas.

Germany's weekend election winner, Finance Minister Olaf Scholz, linked the problems directly to Brexit and said low wages in the sector could make the job less appealing. "We worked hard to convince the British not to leave the Union," Scholz said. The situation has evoked the dark days of the 1970s, when energy supply problems led to a three-day working week and fuel rationing in Britain. — AFP