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Arab MPs reject European statements against Kuwait

Lawmaker points out 24 nations exempt from Schengen visas apply the death penalty

CAIRO: Members of the Arab Parliament expressed rejection of offensive European statements and interferences in the internal affairs of Kuwait. This came in a statement by Mohammad Al-Huwailah, a Kuwaiti MP and member of the political, foreign affairs and national security committee of the Arab Parliament at the end of the committee meeting on Thursday.

"There is a statement by the committee that fully supports measures taken by the Kuwaiti govern-

ment to address these interferences and respect the independence of the Kuwaiti judiciary," Huwailah told KUNA. He was responding to a question about the support of the Arab Parliament for Kuwait's positions in the field of human rights and response to the statements made by the Vice President of the European Commission about his interference in Kuwait's internal affairs.

Huwailah added that the statement of the committee would certainly receive the approval and

support of MPs of the Arab Parliament in their plenary session on Saturday, which confirms the correct position of the Kuwaiti judiciary and the necessity of respecting its independence, impartiality and non-interference in the internal affairs of Kuwait.

Huwailah affirmed the support of the Arab Parliament and Arab parliamentary diplomacy for the honorable stances of Kuwait in the field of human rights. He pointed out that the European Union has agreements for exemption from the

Schengen visa with 36 countries in the world, 24 of which apply the death penalty. He expressed "surprise" at these anti-Kuwait statements, stressing his "pride" in Kuwait's honorable human rights record, as well as its good relations with everyone.

In this context, Huwailah stressed the role of the Arab Parliament, which complements national parliaments in light of the existence of broad coordination in this field, praising the "serious stance" of the Arab Parliament. — KUNA

News in brief

Algeria sentences scores to death

ALGIERS: An Algerian court Thursday sentenced 49 people to death over the lynching of a man falsely accused of starting deadly forest fires during an extended heatwave last year. Onlookers had beaten 38-year-old Djamel Ben Ismail to death after he turned himself in at a police station in the Tizi Ouzou region. He had gone there upon hearing that he was suspected of arson, at the height of blazes which killed at least 90 people nationwide. It later emerged that Ben Ismail had headed to the region as a volunteer to help put out the fires. — AFP

Saudi to host China-Arab summit

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia will host the first-ever Chinese-Arab summit in early December, Beijing's consul in Dubai has said, as the oil-rich kingdom shores up ties with Asia. Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to visit Saudi Arabia that same month, according to Riyadh's foreign minister, but the consul statement did not specify whether the trip will coincide with the summit. — AFP

Boy rescued from quake rubble

CIANJUR, Indonesia: A six-year-old boy has been pulled from the rubble of a deadly Indonesia earthquake after spending two days trapped under debris without food or water, in a "miracle" rescue. Video showed rescue workers pulling the boy Azka free from a destroyed home in the West Java town of Cianjur's worst-hit district of Cugenang, wearing the blue shirt and trousers he had on when he became trapped. — AFP

Net migration to UK swells

LONDON: "Unprecedented" world events including the war in Ukraine are driving record numbers of people to move to Britain, statisticians said Thursday. Net migration into the UK stood at 504,000 in the 12 months to June, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said. That was up sharply from 173,000 in the previous year, and was also driven by the resettlement of Afghan refugees, plus a new visa route for UK passport holders living in Hong Kong. — AFP

Defense minister vows to upgrade Kuwait air force

KUWAIT: Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Al-Sabah pledged steady efforts for upgrading defense aviation capabilities related to equipment and personnel. The military said in a statement on Thursday that the minister, who made the vow during an inspection of Abdullah Al-Mubarak Air Base accompanied by top brass, expressed satisfaction with the dedication and sincere efforts exerted by the air force personnel for serving the homeland, singling out their sacrifices during peak of the coronavirus pandemic by supporting state institutions and participating in relief operations. — KUNA (See Page 3)



KUWAIT: Defense Minister Sheikh Abdullah Ali Al-Sabah visits the Abdullah Al-Mubarak Air Base on Nov 24, 2022. — MoD

Amnesty commission holds first meeting

KUWAIT: The special amnesty commission formed by Amiri Decree 218 for the year 2022 held its first meeting Thursday at Seif Palace, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Barrak Al-Sheetan. Official government spokesperson and head of the Center of Government Communications Tareq Al-Mezrem told the press that members of the committee include General Prosecutor Saad Al-Safran, Interior Ministry Undersecretary Anwar Al-Barjes and

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KUWAIT: Members of the amnesty commission hold their first meeting on Nov 24, 2022. — KUNA

Anwar sworn in as Malaysia's prime minister

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's perennial opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim was sworn in as prime minister before the king in Kuala Lumpur Thursday, ending a five-day political impasse after inconclusive polls. The ceremony at the National Palace closed the chapter on one of the most dramatic elections in Malaysia's history, after no party managed to secure a majority to form a government for the first time since independence in 1957.

Anwar's ascension to the premiership caps a turbulent political life, which has not only propelled him into



Malaysia's newly appointed prime minister Anwar Ibrahim. — AFP

the corridors of power but also landed him inside a jail cell. "I will not tolerate corruption and abuses ... None should be marginalized under my administration," Anwar told a news conference. He said his focus would be on the economy. "This is a national unity government. All are welcome, on condition you accept the

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2 dead as storm shuts schools, cuts road to Makkah

RIYADH: At least two people died on Thursday as heavy rains hit western Saudi Arabia, including the coastal city of Jeddah, delaying flights and forcing schools to close, officials said. "Two deaths have been recorded so far, and we call on everyone not to go out unless necessary," the Makkah regional government said on its Twitter page. The Makkah region includes Jeddah, the kingdom's second-largest city of roughly four million people, and Makkah city, the holiest city in Islam where millions perform the hajj and umrah pilgrimages

each year. The road connecting the two, which many pilgrims use to reach Makkah, was closed on Thursday once the rains began, state media reported, although it was later reopened, authorities said. The state-affiliated Al-Ekhbariya channel showed footage of worshippers at the Grand Mosque in Makkah circling the Kaaba - the cubic structure that is the focal point of Islam - under a heavy downpour.

In Jeddah, images posted to social media showed standing water snarling traffic and partially submerging some vehicles. The city's King Abdulaziz International Airport said that "due to weather conditions, the departure of some flights has been delayed" and urged passengers to contact carriers for up-to-date schedules.

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