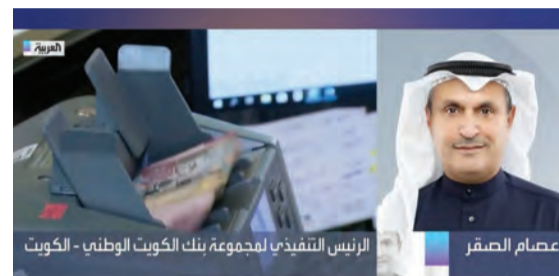




2 Sharing household chores sets good example for kids



9 NBK's resilient business model helps it overcome challenges



16 Liverpool demolish Leeds after Gakpo's controversial opener



RAMADAN TIMINGS	
Fajr	03:55
Shurooq	05:18
Dhuhr	11:47
Asr	15:22
Maghrib	18:17
Isha	19:37

Amir's decision to dissolve National Assembly hailed

Calls to speed up process to hold fresh elections

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Lawmakers and politicians on Tuesday hailed the Amir's decision to dissolve the 2020 National Assembly and call for fresh parliamentary polls as the best decision to resolve the current political crisis, resulting from the Constitutional Court's ruling to annul the September elections. In a speech delivered by HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Amir decided late Monday to dissolve the National Assembly and called for fresh polls within the coming months. No date has been set for the new elections. Marzouq Al-Ghanem, speaker of the National

Assembly which was dissolved in August last year and then reinstated by the court ruling last month, welcomed the decision to return to the people to decide the future, saying that he had repeatedly called for such an option. Ghanem also praised the Amir's verdicts that the judiciary must be respected and his rejection of unconstitutional calls to the contrary.

MP Ahmad Al-Hamad said that the Amiri address has drawn "a roadmap for the future", adding that the Amir in his speech reemphasized on democratic and constitutional process of the country. Minister of Oil Bader Al-Mulla, who is a member of the 2020 and 2022 assemblies, described the address as "historical which lays foundations for the future by sid-

ing with the people's will and the constitution".

MP Hamad Al-Harshani called on all parties to unite under the leadership of HH the Amir and the HH the Crown Prince and learn the lesson from the past by avoiding disputes. Mubarak Al-Rasheedi, a member of the scrapped 2022 Assembly, welcomed the Amir's decision and called on the government to take all legal actions necessary to provide the needed immunity to the next elections.

He also called for speeding up the process of holding the new elections. MP Khalil Al-Saleh said HH the Amir's decision has sided with the constitution and the will of the nation while MP Osama Al-Shaheen said the address has reemphasized

the leadership's firm commitment to the constitution and democracy. Member of the annulled 2022 Assembly Alia Al-Khaled said the address has again emphasized HH the Amir's respect to the popular will, while member of the same assembly Jenan Bushheiri said the decision is a victory to the will of the people.

Following HH the Amir's decision, the government is now expected to approve a decree calling to dissolve the 2020 assembly and then set a date for the fresh elections. Under Kuwaiti law, the elections must be held within two months of the date of dissolving the Assembly. The forthcoming elections will be the third parliamentary polls in three years.

RAMADAN KAREEM

Body and soul in Islam

By Hassan Twaha Bwambale

A human-being is made up of body and soul. Many verses of the Noble Quran allude to the fact that the soul was breathed into Adam (AS) after he was created and fashioned from clay. Also, it is construed from many prophetic narrations that the soul is breathed into a fetus after 120 days (4 months from conception.) (Refer to Al-Bukhari # 3, 208 and 3, 3332)

Almighty Allah says what can be translated as: "(Allah, the Exalted in Might, the All-Merciful, perfected everything He created and began the creation of man from clay. Then He made his (first man's) progeny from a (quintessence) of a humble fluid drawn forth. Then He proportioned him and breathed into him from His (created) soul, and (then) gave you (the faculties) of hearing and sight, along with hearts that comprehend." (As-Sajdah 32: 7 - 9)

The body is regarded as a house for the soul. The soul departs it during sleep and returns when we wake up. When someone dies, the body becomes like a demolished house. Almighty Allah says what can be translated as: "Allah takes the souls (of people) at the (predestined) time of their death. But for those whose (souls) that have not yet died, He takes them during their sleep. Then He withholds the ones upon which He has decreed death and sends the others (back) for a specified time.

Indeed, in (all) this there are sure signs for people who reflect." (Az-Zumar 39: 42) If we compare a human-being to a computer, then his body is like a computer itself, his life like electricity, and the soul like software programs. So, with such complex software programs, the computer is different from other machines just like a human-being is different from animals.

A bitter fact

Despite unanimity about the dichotomous relationship between the body and the soul, the vast majority of the people focus more on the body at the expense of the soul. They eat good food, drink tasty beverages, and some undergo cosmetic surgery to look more beautiful or handsome, but very few make an effort to

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Worshippers spend night in prayer at Grand Mosque

By Shakir Reshamwala

KUWAIT: Tens of thousands of worshippers spent the night of the 27th of Ramadan in prayer and supplication at the Grand Mosque early Tuesday. The attendees savored the atmosphere at the mosque, which reopened for nightly prayers after three years due to the COVID pandemic and maintenance works. Eight rakats of tahajjud were performed, followed by three rakats of witr. The first four rakats were led by Sheikh Fahad Al-Kandari, and the remaining by Sheikh Meshari Al-Afasy. No sermon was scheduled after four rakats as on other nights.

Kuwait authorities have secured 27 mobile medical clinics with the required equipment and staff to operate during nightly prayers, Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi said during a tour of the Grand Mosque and Bilal bin Rabah Mosque on Sunday to inspect medical preparations. (See Page 3)

Saudi and Syria end diplomatic deep-freeze

DAMASCUS: Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad met with Saudi Arabia's top diplomat in Damascus on Tuesday, state media reported, ending more than a decade of diplomatic deep-freeze between the two countries. "President Bashar Al-Assad meets Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan," Syria's official news agency SANA reported. The Saudi prince arrived in Damascus on Tuesday afternoon on the first visit to Syria's capital by a Saudi official since the start of the country's civil war in 2011.

Assad has been politically isolated in the region since the conflict began, but a flurry of diplomatic activity has been underway in the past week as regional relations shift following a decision by Saudi Arabia and Damascus's ally Iran to resume ties. The trip comes less than a week after Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad visited Saudi Arabia, also on the first such visit since the conflict began.

Last week, diplomats from nine Arab countries met in the Saudi city of Jeddah to discuss ending Syria's long spell in the diplomatic wilderness and its possible return to the 22-member Arab League after Damascus was suspended in 2011. The diplomats stressed the "importance of having an Arab leadership role in efforts to end the crisis" in Syria, according to a statement by the Saudi foreign ministry.

Saudi Arabia severed ties with Assad's government in 2012 and Riyadh had long openly championed Assad's ouster, backing Syrian rebels in earlier



KUWAIT: An aerial view shows Muslims performing qiyam ul-layl prayers at the Grand Mosque on April 18, 2023 on the 27th night of the holy fasting month of Ramadan. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



DAMASCUS: Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad met with Saudi Arabia's top diplomat in Damascus on Tuesday, ending more than a decade of diplomatic deep-freeze between the two countries.

stages of the war. Several other Arab countries also cut ties with Syria as some powers bet on Assad's demise. But regional capitals have gradually been warming to Assad as he has clawed back most of the territory lost to rivals, with crucial backing from Russia and Iran. The United Arab Emirates, which re-established ties in late 2018, has been leading the charge to reintegrate Damascus into the Arab fold.

A February 6 earthquake that wreaked devastation in Turkey and Syria sparked Arab outreach to Assad's government, and the surprise rapprochement between Riyadh and Tehran was announced the following month.

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Qatar and UAE to reopen embassies

DOHA: Qatar and the United Arab Emirates are working to reopen their long-closed embassies "in the coming weeks", an official said Tuesday, as a wave of rapprochement sweeps the turbulent Middle East region. The two countries re-established relations in January 2021, after the UAE took part in a nearly four-year Gulf blockade of Qatar, but despite several meetings they are yet to restore the diplomatic missions.

"Regarding the opening of embassies between the two countries, I think it will be in the coming weeks," foreign ministry spokesperson Majid Al-Ansari told a briefing. "The technical committees are now doing their work in this context, and it is expected that there will be exchange visits to consider the procedures we need to reopen embassies." A UAE official confirmed that the reopening of embassies is "under process".

"At present, the activation of diplomatic ties, which will include the reopening of embassies, is under process between both countries," the official said in a statement sent to AFP. Opening the embassies would be just the latest in a series of reconciliatory steps for Gulf relations since heavyweights Saudi Arabia and Iran moved to restore ties last month.

Last week, Qatar put aside a chronic feud to resume relations with Bahrain. The two sides aim to quickly reach the "highest levels of cooperation", Al-Ansari said on Tuesday. Saudi Arabia has been negotiating a fresh ceasefire in Yemen's civil war and nearly 1,000 prisoners from the conflict, pitting a Saudi-led coalition against Iran-backed rebels, have been released in recent days under an exchange deal. — AFP

