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Crown Prince handed govt resignation

Kuwaitization to continue despite resignation of Cabinet



KUWAIT: HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives on Tuesday HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah, who handed HH the Crown Prince the resignation of his government in writing. — KUNA

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah handed the government's resignation letter to HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Tuesday. The government had said the resignation was due to a dispute with the National Assembly.

The Cabinet also did not attend a regular Assembly session on Tuesday, leading Speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun to adjourn the session. Although 39 MPs attended, Saadoun halted the session after he was informed by the Cabinet that it was not attending. Under Kuwaiti law, the attendance of at least one minister is essential to convene the Assembly.

But MP Abdulkarim Al-Kandari said there is no article in the law that requires the attendance of ministers to convene Assembly sessions. He called on Saadoun to convene the sessions even if ministers do not attend. MPs had insisted on passing a number of populist draft legislation, including one calling to purchase billions of loans of Kuwaiti citizens, while the government rejected debating them because they were too costly for the state's finances.

MP Alia Al-Khaled said Kuwait is passing through its worst conditions as the budget and state finances are in a bad situation. She called on the prime minister to form a strong team of Cabinet ministers if he is renamed by HH the Amir to form the next government.

Meanwhile, the government's resignation will not hinder work being done to fulfill the promises officials have made regarding Kuwaitization of jobs and the reevaluation of residency affairs, government sources told Kuwait Times. The resigned government will remain in place to deal with urgent matters, sources said, as implementing decisions it previously made is still within its power.

The Cabinet has informed all ministries to proceed with their plans until the fate of the current government is settled, either by rejecting its resignation or accepting it and appointing a new government," sources revealed to Kuwait Times.

Sources added expat teachers and administrators of the education ministry's termination lists have been informed so that they can continue working in their positions until the end of the current academic year.

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News in brief

Stem cell transplants rising

KUWAIT: Kuwait ranks second in the Gulf in stem cell transplants for children. Up to 33 transplant operations for children have been conducted within the framework of this program in patients suffering from cancer and immune deficiencies as well as blood and hereditary diseases. Among the 33 operations, 29 cases had been with donated organs. — KUNA (See Page 4)

Nod to new area names

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality has approved in principle a request presented by the housing authority to rename some areas of Kuwait and referred it to the Municipal Council. South Saad Al-Abdullah will be renamed Nawaf Al-Ahmad City; South Sabah Al-Ahmad (Istiqlal); blocks 1 and 2 of South Khaitan (Al-Tahrir); Northwest Sulaibikhat (Al-Boom); East Sabah Al-Ahmad (Al-Khuzami); West Abdullah Mubarak (Al-Majd); low-cost housing area will be renamed Al-Liwan; East Taima (Al-Danah); South Abdullah Mubarak (Al-Soor); and South Qairawan (Al-Nuwair).

Jordan king meets Zionist PM

AMMAN: Jordan's King Abdullah II on Tuesday hosted Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Amman in a rare meeting after years of strained relations between the two leaders. The royal palace said they discussed the situation in Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque compound and "the importance of respecting the historical and legal status quo". Netanyahu's office said he discussed "regional issues" and bilateral ties with the Jordanian king. — AFP

Beirut blast judge takes aim at top

BEIRUT: Lebanon's judge Tarek Bitar, who is investigating the deadly 2020 Beirut port blast, has charged Lebanon's top prosecutor and seven others with probable intent to murder, arson and other crimes, an official said Tuesday. Bitar had sparked surprise in Lebanon a day before when he charged eight top security and judicial officials, among them Prosecutor General Ghassan Oueidat, reviving a probe that was suspended for over a

year amid vehement political and legal pushback.

The more than one dozen senior officials now in his sights over the disaster also include the head of General Security, Abbas Ibrahim, and State Security agency chief Tony Saliba, summoning them for questioning next month. The Beirut port blast of Aug 4, 2020 - one of history's biggest non-nuclear explosions - destroyed most of Beirut port and swathes of the capital, killing more than 215 people and injuring over 6,500.

Authorities said the mega-explosion was sparked by a fire in a port-side warehouse, where a vast stockpile of the volatile industrial chemical ammonium nitrate had been haphazardly stored for years.

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BEIRUT: In this file photo taken on Aug 4, 2020, a wounded man lies on the ground in front of billowing smoke at the scene of a massive explosion that hit Beirut's port. — AFP

Grief grips Asian Americans after mass shootings

MONTEREY PARK, California: Asian Americans were reeling Tuesday after two mass shootings in California targeting members of their community

left 18 people dead - with the alleged gunmen in both cases being older men of Asian descent. The killings came in a span of just 48 hours - so close together that California governor Gavin Newsom was at a hospital meeting with victims of the first when he was pulled away to be briefed about the second. "Tragedy upon tragedy," he tweeted.

The carnage prompted President Joe Biden to renew calls for Congress to act quickly on an assault weapons ban. A group of senators on Monday reintroduced a federal assault weapons ban and legislation that would raise the minimum

purchase age for assault weapons to 21. China's foreign ministry called for its citizens in the United States to "pay close attention to the local security situation" and "avoid going to places where people gather" in the wake of the killings.

Investigators were still probing the motives behind the two incidents, which stood out among the scourge of mass shootings in America both for the community impacted - gun violence is usually seen as rare among Asians and Asian Americans - and for the age of the suspects, 67 and 72.

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Egypt finds 'complete' Roman city

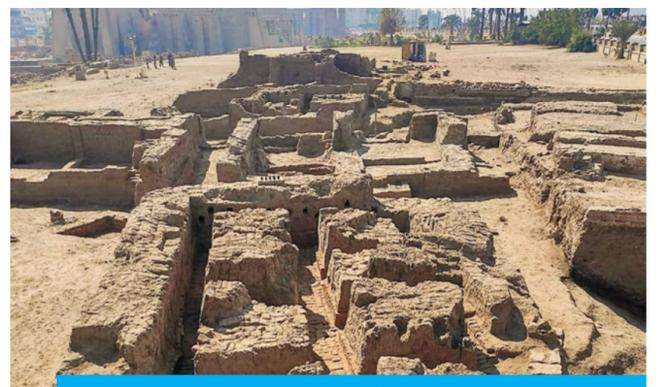
CAIRO: Egyptian archaeologists said Tuesday they had discovered an 1,800-year-old "complete residential city from the Roman-era" in the heart of the southern city of Luxor. The city, dating to the second and third centuries, is the "oldest and most important city found on the eastern bank of Luxor," according to Mostafa Waziri, head of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities.

Archaeologists discovered "a number of residential buildings", as well as "two pigeon towers" - a structure used

to house pigeons or doves - and a "number of metal workshops", Waziri said in a statement. Inside the workshops, researchers found a collection of pots, tools and "bronze and copper Roman coins".

It is a rare archaeological find in Egypt, where excavations - including on Luxor's west bank, where the famous Valley of the Queens and Valley of the Kings lie - are most commonly of temples and tombs. In April 2021, authorities announced the discovery of a 3,000-year-old "lost golden city" on Luxor's west bank, with the archaeological team calling it "the largest" ancient city ever uncovered in Egypt. Egypt has unveiled several major archaeological discoveries in recent years.

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LUXOR: Handout picture released on Jan 24, 2023 shows a view of an excavation of an 1,800-year-old "complete residential city from the Roman-era" in the heart of Luxor. — AFP



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