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Amiri order to accept government resignation

Government to continue as caretaker until new Cabinet is formed

B Izzak

KUWAIT: An Amiri order was issued on Thursday to accept the resignation of the government just three months after its formation as a result of disputes with the National Assembly. The order also asked the government to act as a caretaker government to run day-to-day urgent matters until a new Cabinet is formed.

The government submitted its resignation on Monday following a standoff with MPs who insisted

to debate populist draft legislation that the government sees very expensive for public funds. One of the legislation requires the government to purchase billions of dinars of bank loans owed by over a half a million Kuwaiti citizens to local banks.

The government said the draft law is very costly because it deals with over KD 14 billion of personal, consumer and housing loans. MPs insisted that the cost was magnified because housing loans are not included and the value of personal and consumer loans is under KD 2 billion.

The dispute between the two authorities became public after two ministers attending the assembly session on January 10 walked out of the session after MPs rejected their request to return populist draft legislation to the assembly's financial and economic affairs committee for reconsideration.

HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who has been delegated some powers of HH the Amir, is expected to begin customary consultations with current and former assembly speakers and prime ministers. After that, he can either

rename Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah or another personality to form the new Cabinet.

Kuwait has been rocked by continued political crises between the National Assembly and various government for most of the past two decades during which the Assembly was repeatedly dissolved and many Cabinets formed. But the country breathed a sigh of relief following the September parliamentary election when MPs and the government appeared to be on good terms and very cooperative.

KIA boosts its ownership in Mercedes-Benz

KUWAIT: Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) increased its ownership in Mercedes-Benz Group AG via a disclosure on January 19, 2023. KIA's ownership increased to 5.33 percent (voting rights) from 4.24 percent. The Mercedes-Benz Group AG (former Daimler AG) is a major European automobile company.

There are 823 million outstanding Daimler Truck Holding AG shares that are held around the globe. Daimler Truck Holding was part of Daimler AG from November 2019 to December 2021. The Mercedes-Benz Group (at 30.01 percent) is the largest individual shareholder of Daimler Truck Holding AG. Other major shareholders include Chinese BAIC Group (at 6.49 percent), the Chinese investor Li Shufu (at 6.3 percent), the Daimler Pension Trust e.V. (at 4.99 percent), and the Kuwait Investment Authority (at 5.01 percent). Li Shufu holds his shares in Daimler Truck Holding AG through Tenacious3 Prospect Investment Limited. On January 20, 2023, there were more than 910 thousand Daimler Truck Holding shareholders. - Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute.

Zionist raid in West Bank kills 10 Palestinians

JENIN, Palestinian Territories: Zionist forces in a West Bank raid killed ten Palestinians Thursday, officials in the occupied territory said. The bloodiest day in the West Bank in years erupted during a raid on the crowded refugee camp in the northern city of Jenin, where gunshots rang through the streets and smoke billowed from burning street barricades.

The Palestinian health ministry said the death toll from the clashes rose to ten, including a woman, and that 20 people were wounded before the Zionist forces withdrew mid-morning. Since its records began in 2005, the United Nations has never recorded such a high death toll in a single operation in the West Bank.

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JENIN, Palestinian Territories: An elderly Palestinian man mourns the death of 10 reported victims killed during a Zionist raid on the West Bank's Jenin refugee camp. —AFP

Kuwait Airways to take over T4

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways will acquire the Terminal 4 (T4) after renting it out for about KD 1 million annually, said Kuwait Airways Chairman Captain Ali Al-Dukhan Al-Dukhan. Addressing a press conference, he said T4 is currently operated by a Korean company.

Kuwait's national airline will then move to T4 after the Korean compa-

ny's contract ends in 2013. Al-Dukhan said that he hopes the investment returns of the T4 building will bring Kuwait Airways closer to reaching the expected breakeven point in 2024.

KAC losses dropped from KD 107 million in 2019 to about KD 55 million in 2022, Al-Dukhan said. Revenues climbed by 10 percent compared to 2019 and 115 percent compared to 2021. The profit margin also improved by 40 percent compared to 2019 and 37 percent compared to 2021. Passenger traffic at T4 grew by 26 percent during 2022 compared to 2019 and to 229 percent compared to 2021. (See Page 8)



KUWAIT: Ali Al-Dukhan (right) and Basem Muthafar during the press conference on Thursday.

UAE astronaut says not required to fast on ISS

HOUSTON: Emirati astronaut Sultan Al-Neyadi said Wednesday that he will not be required to fast during Ramadan while on his upcoming space mission. The 41-year-old will become the first Arab astronaut to spend six months in space when he blasts off for the International Space Station (ISS) next month aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

Neyadi, NASA's Stephen Bowen and Warren Hoburg and Russia's Andrey Fedyaev are scheduled to fly to the ISS on February 26 as members of SpaceX Dragon Crew-6. Asked at a press conference Wednesday how he will observe the holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims typically fast from dawn to

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8 dead after ship sinks near Japan

BEIJING: Eight people are dead, including six Chinese nationals, after a ship sank in waters off the coast of Japan, a Chinese diplomat and the Japanese coast guard said Thursday. The Jin Tian, carrying crew from China and Myanmar, sent a distress signal on Tuesday evening from a position around 110 kilometers (68 miles) west of the remote and uninhabited Danjo Islands in far southwestern Japan.

The ship's captain used a satellite

phone to tell the South Korean coast guard that he and the crew would abandon the sinking ship in the early hours of Wednesday morning, the Jeju coast guard said.

Multiple vessels and aircraft from Japan's coast guard and military were also involved in the search, which retrieved 13 crew members. Three private ships in the area also helped to pick up five of the stranded crew members, Japan's coast guard said.

China's consul general in the city of Fukuoka, Lu Guijun, told state broadcaster CGTN Thursday that of the 13 people found, "eight have been confirmed dead, of whom six are Chinese".

"Five of them-including four Chinese crew members-are not in

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JEJU, South Korea: This handout photo taken on January 25, 2023 and provided by the Korea Coast Guard shows coast guard members searching for missing people after a Hong Kong cargo ship sank off South Korea's southern island of Jeju. —AFP

