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In a first, top court orders govt to reinstate citizenship of 3 families

Ex-MP denies pulling out of election race • Tribesmen fined over primaries

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Kuwait's court of cassation, whose verdicts are final, ordered the government in a landmark ruling on Thursday to return the citizenship of three families whose nationality was revoked. Kuwaiti courts normally refuse to look into cases involving citizenship disputes under the pretext that such issues are sovereign cases and should not be debated in courts. But the cassation court decided on Wednesday to rule on such cases and ordered the government to return the revoked citizenships, setting a precedent for courts to follow in the future. Meanwhile, the court of first instance on Thursday

fined 20 tribesmen KD 5,000 each for taking part in outlawed tribal primaries. Also, former MP Ahmad Al-Ahmad denied in a statement that he had pulled out of the election race, describing such reports as rumors aimed at weakening his chances of winning a seat. Hamad was elected to the Assembly for the first time in 2020, but he failed to win in the 2022 elections that were annulled by the constitutional court. This time he is bidding again to retain his seat.

Former MP Ali Al-Saeed said continued disputes between two groups in the National Assembly have frustrated the Kuwaiti people, who are suffering as a result. He said Kuwait is experiencing a highly polluted atmosphere and instability, adding he could run

for the speaker's post if he wins a seat in the June 6 parliamentary polls.

Member of the 2022 scrapped Assembly Saud Al-Asfour blamed the government for not implementing laws, adding the constitutional court law must be amended to prevent dissolving assemblies easily. Candidate Mohammad Jawhar Hayat said if he wins a seat, he plans to submit a draft resolution calling for comprehensive political reforms for the sake of achieving the aspirations of the people. He added the Kuwaiti people now understand that sectarianism, tribalism and racism will not resolve their problems.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Actor Ahmad Jowhar passes away

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti actor Ahmad Jowhar passed away on Thursday after a long battle with illness. He was 65. Jowhar starred in various prominent dramas and TV shows in Kuwait and the Gulf during the 1990s.



Ship briefly grounded in Suez

ISMAILIA, Egypt: A cargo ship ran aground Thursday in Egypt's Suez Canal before it was quickly refloated without interrupting traffic. The Hong Kong-flagged Xin Hai Tong 23 bulk carrier was refloated after "a sudden malfunction of the machinery" while it was crossing on its way from Saudi Arabia to Egypt, the Suez Canal Authority said. It added that the Xin Hai Tong 23 measures 190 m in length and 32 m in width, with a loading capacity of 34,000 tons. — AFP

Dispute behind Dubai killing

DUBAI: Police in Dubai said Thursday a dispute between two families was behind the fatal assault of a citizen of the Zionist entity by eight other compatriots, who have been arrested in the emirate. Ghassan Shamsyeh, 33, died of wounds suffered in Wednesday's attack in the Business Bay area of Dubai. The eight suspects, all of whom are in police custody, "had arrived from a European country for tourism and shopping", Dubai police said in a statement. — AFP

Sudan rivals trade blame

KHARTOUM: Sudan's warring sides accused each other on Thursday of being behind breaches of the latest ceasefire that was negotiated by the US and Saudi Arabia, now in its third day. The one-week truce was violated only minutes after it came into effect on Monday night, with residents of the capital Khartoum reporting air strikes and artillery fire shaking the city. There have since been further breaches of the ceasefire agreement, the latest in a series of truces that have all been systematically violated. — AFP

Rainstorm destroys 'Cotton Tree'

FREETOWN: A centuries-old, towering tree that served as a historic symbol in Sierra Leone has been felled during a wind and rain storm in the capital Freetown, the government said on Thursday. The 70-metre Ceiba pentandra — lovingly known by Sierra Leoneans as "Cotton Tree" — lost all of its branches late Wednesday, with only the base of its enormous trunk still standing, a government statement said, citing "torrential rains and high winds". It estimated the tree to be around 400 years old. — AFP

Iran unveils its longest-range ballistic missile

TEHRAN: Iran's defense ministry on Thursday unveiled a new ballistic missile with a range of 2,000 km and a capacity to carry warheads weighing over a ton. The Kheibar missile — the latest version of the Khorramshahr which is Iran's longest-range missile to date — was unveiled alongside a replica of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, in a live broadcast on state television.

Iran's Defense Minister Mohammad-Reza Ashtiani said the missile was

unveiled as part of moves to "provide comprehensive support to our friends and countries that are on the path of fighting against the domination system". State news agency IRNA said the Kheibar is "a liquid fuel missile with a range of 2,000 kilometers and a 1,500 kilograms warhead".

Its name references the ancient town of Khaybar — located in modern-day Saudi Arabia — known for a decisive seventh-century battle in which the army of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) defeated its thousands of Jewish residents. According to state media, the speed of the high-mobility tactical missile "can reach Mach 16 outside the atmosphere and Mach 8 inside the atmosphere".

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A handout picture provided on May 25, 2023 shows the testing of Iran's fourth generation Khorramshahr ballistic missile, named Kheibar, at an undisclosed location. — AFP

World mourns 'simply the best' Tina Turner

LOS ANGELES: Tributes poured in on Thursday for Tina Turner, the trailblazing rocker whose powerful voice, electrifying stage presence, and personal story of triumph mesmerized global audiences for decades. Turner, an instantly recognizable performer whose popularity spanned generations, died on Wednesday at the age of 83 at her home in a plush Swiss suburb.

Presidents, fellow singers and fans paid tribute to an explosive performer, whose popularity spanned generations and whose story of overcoming domestic violence touched many around the world. Rolling Stones frontman Mick Jagger — who, legend has it, learned his dance moves from the diva, said the world had lost "an enormously

talented performer and singer".

Fans lined up to pay tribute at the wrought iron gates of her huge compound in Kusnacht, on Switzerland's Lake Zurich, many bearing candles and flowers. Chateau Algonquin had been the home Turner shared with her German husband Erwin Bach for almost three decades, including when she took Swiss citizenship in 2013, relinquishing her US passport.

"The world has lost an icon," Swiss President Alain Berset said. US President Joe Biden paid a pointed tribute to a "once-in-a-generation talent that changed American music forever". "Tina's personal strength was remarkable," Biden wrote. "Overcoming adversity, and even abuse, she built a career for the ages and a life and legacy that were entirely hers," he added, calling Turner "simply the best".

Biden's former boss, Barack Obama called her "a star whose light will never fade". "Tina Turner was raw. She was powerful. She was unstoppable. And she was unapologetically herself - speaking and singing her truth through joy and pain: triumph and tragedy," America's first black president wrote of the star held up as a black icon. — AFP (See Pages 12 & 13)



ANNECY, France: US singer Tina Turner performs in this July 9, 1987 file photo. — AFP

Syrian babies abandoned as war grinds on

HAZANO, Syria: One cold winter night, Syrian Ibrahim Othman went out to pray and came home cradling a baby girl, abandoned at the doorstep of the village mosque just hours after she was born. "I took her home and told my wife, 'I brought you a gift,'" said the 59-year-old resident of Hazano, in rebel-held northwest Syria. He named the baby Hibatullah, meaning "gift of God", and decided to raise her as one of the family. Officials say babies are being left

outside mosques, hospitals and even under olive trees in war-torn Syria as more than 12 years of grinding conflict fuel poverty and desperation. "Only a few cases of child abandonment" were officially documented before the war broke out in 2011, according to the Washington-based group Syrians for Truth and Justice, which records human rights abuses in the country.

But between early 2021 and late 2022, more than 100 children — 62 of them girls — were found abandoned across the country, it said in a March report, estimating the real figure to be much higher. "The numbers have increased dramatically" since the start of the conflict along with "the social and economic repercussions of the

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HAZANO, Syria: A picture taken on March 22, 2023 shows Ibrahim Othman and a relative playing with a girl he had found abandoned at the doorstep of the village mosque. — AFP

