

Local

Amir, Crown Prince receive state officials



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the

Amir also received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. Furthermore, His Highness the Amir received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Moreover, His

Highness hosted Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. In addition, he received Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Minister of State for Cabinet

Affairs Anas Al-Saleh. In the meantime, His Highness the Crown Prince received Speaker Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour, and Saleh at Bayan Palace. — KUNA

Kuwait's Foreign Minister meets Bahraini counterpart

KUWAIT: Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah met yesterday with the visiting Foreign Minister of Bahrain Dr Abdullah Al-Zayani and his accompanying delegation. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and latest regional as well as international developments. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocol Affairs

Ambassador Dhari Al-Ajran, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Gulf Cooperation Council Affairs Ambassador Nasser Al-Muzain, Assistant Foreign Minister for Foreign Minister Office Affairs Ambassador Saleh Al-Loughani, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Foreign Minister Office Affairs Counselor Ahmed Al-Shuraim, and a number of senior officials in the ministry. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah meets Bahrain's Foreign Minister Dr Abdullah Al-Zayani. — KUNA

Minister orders investigation over rain accumulations

KUWAIT: Minister of Public Works and the Minister of State for Housing Dr Rana Al-Fares formed yesterday a neutral and emergency legal and technical fact-finding committee to investigate the causes of water accumulations in some areas due to recent heavy rains in various parts of the country. In a press release, Minister Fares said that the main objective for committee is to identify deficiencies in rain drainage network and submit its report and recommendations within a week of its date regarding the legal, technical and administrative procedures that must be followed in this regard. The minister stressed that her ministry will not be negligent in taking the necessary

legal measures against any party or company whose negligence is proven, as it will be referred to the regulatory and legal authorities according to what the committee will conclude. She added that in light of the weather conditions and the thunderstorm that the country recently experienced, accompanied by rain, the concerned teams were able to deal with all the reports received on the main roads and highways and regions in the various governorates that witnessed rain gathering. Fares confirmed that the bad weather conditions remain, and there are expectations of another wave of heavy rains which requires the cooperation of all in this regard. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Public Works and the Minister of State for Housing Dr Rana Al-Fares inspects a site damaged by heavy rain. — KUNA

Iran mulling response to...

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Then it was taken yesterday to Fatima Masumeh's shrine in Qom, south of Tehran, and later to that of the Islamic republic's founder Imam Khomeini, according to Iranian media. Fakhrizadeh's funeral will be held today in the presence of senior military commanders and his family, the defense ministry said on its website, without specifying where.

Israel has declined to comment on Fakhrizadeh's killing, less than two months before US President-elect Joe Biden is set to take office following four years of hawkish foreign policy under President Donald Trump. Trump withdrew the US from a multilateral nuclear agreement with Iran in 2018 and then reimposed and beefed up punishing sanctions as part of its "maximum pressure" campaign against Tehran. Biden has signaled his administration may be prepared to rejoin the accord, but the nuclear scientist's assassination has revived opposition to the deal among Iranian conservatives.

Yesterday, Iran's parliament held a closed session to "investigate the assassination," ISNA news agency reported. Speaker Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf called yesterday for "a strong reaction" that would "deter and take revenge" on those behind the killing of Fakhrizadeh, who was aged 59 according to Iranian media.

In an op-ed yesterday, the ultraconservative Kayhan daily called for strikes on Israel if it is "proven" to be behind the assassination. It called for the port city of Haifa to be targeted "in a way that would annihilate its infrastructure and leave a heavy human toll". That will "certainly achieve deterrence, since the US and the Zionist regime ... are in no way ready to fight a war," it added.

The United States slapped sanctions on Fakhrizadeh in 2008 for "activities and transactions that contributed to the devel-



MASHHAD, Iran: A handout picture shows servants of the holy shrine of Imam Reza praying around the coffin of Iran's assassinated top nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh during his funeral procession in this northeastern city. — AFP

opment of Iran's nuclear program". Almost a year after the US withdrawal, Iran responded by gradually abandoning most of its essential nuclear commitments under the deal. Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called Saturday for Fakhrizadeh's killers to be punished.

Yesterday, parliament said the "best response" to Fakhrizadeh's assassination would be to "revive Iran's glorious nuclear industry" by halting the voluntary implementation of the additional protocol, a document which under the 2015 accord prescribes more intrusive inspections of Iran's nuclear facilities. In a statement following its meeting, the legislature said the killing showed that Israel, the US and their allies had become "brazen" in their "terror and sabotage" against Iran.

Signed by all 290 members of parliament, the statement called for International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors to be barred from the country's atomic sites, said

the legislature's news agency ICANA. Some MPs had earlier accused inspectors of acting as "spies" and potentially leading to Fakhrizadeh's death. But the spokesman for Iran's atomic energy organization, Behrouz Kamalvandi, told IRNA on Saturday that the issue of inspectors' access "must be decided on at high levels" of the Islamic republic's leadership.

Tehran representative Mahmoud Nabavian told Tasnim news agency inspectors should be barred "from interviewing experts and scientists, since our mistrust of the (IAEA)'s inspectors has been proven (to be correct)". "The enemy could have identified martyr Fakhrizadeh either through intelligence work or direct interviews," he added. Firebrand MP Javad Karimi Ghodousi, had on Friday accused Rouhani of setting up a meeting between Fakhrizadeh and IAEA officials in the past - a claim strongly denied by the Rouhani administration. — AFP



KUWAIT: Deputy Chief of Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad bin Khaled Al Saud.

Saudi envoy visits National Guard's Deputy Chief

KUWAIT: Deputy Chief of Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad bin Khaled Al Saud in his office at the National Guard's headquarters building yesterday. Prince Sultan congratulated Sheikh Ahmad on winning the trust of Kuwait's political leadership, and being appointed in his current post. Sheikh Ahmad, meanwhile, highlighted the deep-rooted relations between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, Kuwait National Guard said in a press release. The two sides also discussed issues of common interest between the two countries, it added.