

Local

Kuwait Amir receives Crown Prince, parliament speaker



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday 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. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah as well as Ghanem at the Bayan Palace yesterday. — KUNA photos

Foreign Ministry celebrates Sheikh Ahmad's honoring

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday celebrated His Highness the Amir's recent decoration of the Foreign Minister with the First-Class Order of Kuwait. Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah inaugurated the ceremony at the foreign ministry building, marking His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's recent honoring of the minister with the state top decoration. Addressing the ceremony, Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad said he was honored with His Highness the Amir's gesture that crowned the outcome of efforts for addressing various issues during the era of the late Amir, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, namely the work that had been done to tackle the inter-GCC rift. He congratulated His Highness the Amir on the fruitful efforts that healed the wedge among some GCC countries, recalling the shuttle missions by the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad who spared no effort to reunify the GCC ranks, heaping

praise as well upon His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah who had closely followed up organizational procedures that ensured success of the latest GCC summit, held in Al-Ula, Saudi Arabia.

The honoring by His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Dr Ahmad continued, should be also addressed to all ministers who had held the portfolio since 60 years ago, starting with the late Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Kuwait's first foreign minister, as well as the late Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, in addition to the ex-minister Sheikh Dr Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah "and my great brother His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah who had exerted remarkable efforts when held the post." Moreover, he eyed the Amir's gesture as appreciation for all founders of the departments, the diplomats who had fallen as martyrs in the service and those who had devoted all their life time for the diplomatic work abroad, in addition to all personnel and would-be staff. Meanwhile, Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Khaled Al-Jarallah also spoke at the ceremony, thanking His Highness the Amir for his overture and expressing felicitations to the foreign minister, saying the honoring "constituted the peak of civilization and faithfulness." He pledged continuing work alongside the foreign minister for a better performance by the department. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and other ministry officials cut the cake during the ceremony. — KUNA

Kuwait Towers shimmer with sadu patterns 'til Jan 31



KUWAIT: Sadu House Chairperson Sheikh Bibi Al-Sabah (second from right) in a group photo in front of Kuwait Towers. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Kuwait Towers will continue beaming with ornamented and colored lights depicting inscriptions and patterns of the national sadu craft works until January 31, chairperson of Al-Sadu Weaving

Cooperative Society (Sadu House) Sheikh Bibi Duaj Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah said yesterday. Kuwait Towers are shimmering with the lighted ornamentations in celebration of listing sadu in UNESCO's list of human

race immaterial heritage. Sheikh Bibi affirmed the association approach to preserve the national traditional art, one of the most important components of the Kuwaiti cultural heritage. — KUNA

WhatsApp users flock...

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"We can't see your private messages or hear your calls, and neither can Facebook," WhatsApp said in a blog post. "We don't keep logs of who everyone is messaging or calling. We can't see your shared location and neither can Facebook." Location data along with message contents is encrypted end-to-end, according to WhatsApp.

PM submits govt resignation...

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impose the fine. The lawmaker said the committee also discussed the vaccination drive against the coronavirus and the vaccines the ministry has already contracted to buy. He said the health ministry explained that it has already contracted to purchase one million vaccines from Pfizer, enough to inoculate 500,000 people.

"We're giving businesses the option to use secure hosting services from Facebook to manage WhatsApp chats with their customers, answer questions, and send helpful information like purchase receipts," WhatsApp said in the post. "Whether you communicate with a business by phone, email, or WhatsApp, it can see what you're saying and may use that information for its own marketing purposes, which may include advertising on Facebook."

Encrypted messaging app Telegram has seen user ranks surge on the heels of the WhatsApp service terms announcement, said its Russia-born founder Pavel Durov. Durov, 36, said on his Telegram channel Tuesday that the app had over 500 million monthly active users. — AFP

Hammad said the ministry has also signed a contract to import three million AstraZeneca vaccines, enough for 1.5 million people. This means that throughout this year, the ministry will be importing vaccines enough for two million people, he said. The committee however called on the ministry to sign more contracts directly with manufacturing companies to import vaccines enough for the entire population of the country within the current year.

In a related development, MP Osama Al-Shaheen asked the health minister why the vaccination drive in Kuwait has been so slow. He also asked him about the ministry's vaccination plan and if it plans to recruit foreign teams to help in the vaccination process.

Trump on the brink of 2nd...

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Trump still remains defiant, refusing to accept responsibility for his campaign to undermine Americans' belief in the election system and his final, fiery speech on the Mall. But his once seemingly unbreakable grip on Republicans is eroding as leaders run out of patience - and look to a post-Trump rebuilding of their party.

Vice President Mike Pence threw Trump a lifeline on Tuesday, saying he would not invoke the 25th Amendment that allows him and the Cabinet to strip a sitting president of his powers. But impeachment on the single charge of "incitement of insurrection" is all but assured to pass. A vote had been scheduled for around 3:00 pm (2000 GMT).

Trump, who has been stripped of his social media megaphones by Twitter and Facebook, and finds himself increasingly ostracized in the business world, is struggling to impose his message - let alone any kind of resistance. On a quick trip to Texas on Tuesday he visited the US-Mexico border wall, which he regards as one of his biggest achievements. But the brief, low-energy speech he made there did nothing to recapture his rapidly

News in brief

Amir condoles with Saudi King

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has addressed a cable of condolences to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz on the demise of Prince Khaled bin Abdullah Al Saud. Their Highnesses the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, respectively, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah addressed identical cables to the Saudi Monarch. — KUNA

539 new COVID cases

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti announced yesterday recording 539 new COVID-19 cases and one death in the previous 24 hours, raising total infections and deaths to 155,874 and 947 respectively. Meanwhile, total recoveries reached 149,809 with 234 fresh ones registered in the same period. The total number of COVID-19 patients in hospitals stood yesterday at 5,118, including 48 in intensive care units. Health workers conducted 11,567 swab tests during the same period, bringing the total up to 1,359,421. — KUNA

Aid to 440 refugee families

AMMAN: The Kuwaiti International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO), in cooperation with the Kuwait "Tarahom" volunteers' team, launched yesterday a winter relief project to distribute aid to about 440 Syrian refugee families in Jordan. Kuwait's Ambassador to Jordan Aziz Al-Daihani said that Kuwait, led by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, pursues its humanitarian approach, based on supporting and helping people within the framework of humanitarian projects and programs around the world. — KUNA

sliding momentum.

His insistence that his infamous speech to the crowd had been "totally appropriate" and that he bore no blame infuriated allies and opponents alike. While the House impeachment is all but assured, it had seemed highly unlikely that the Republican-controlled Senate would follow through with a trial.

Senate leader Mitch McConnell made clear that there was no time before the Jan 20 change in presidency because the Senate is in recess until Jan 19. Other than scheduling problems, there has been no appetite among Republicans, who acquitted Trump in his first impeachment trial a year ago, to strip him of office just days before he is set to leave anyway.

However, according to The New York Times, McConnell signaled privately on Tuesday that he believes Trump did commit impeachable offenses and he welcomes the impeachment. If confirmed, this would be a potentially fatal shift in the ground under Trump's feet. McConnell could in theory call the Senate back for an emergency session or encourage his senators to join Democrats in convicting Trump even after Biden assumes office.

In the House, the number three Republican Liz Cheney said she would be voting to impeach, and called Trump's actions "a betrayal" of his office. This came after top House Republican Kevin McCarthy said members would not be required to toe the party line on the vote - a significant weakening of support for Trump. — AFP