

Local

Deputy Amir, Crown Prince receives Chamber Chairman, Kuwait Airways Board



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Kuwait Airways Corporation Chairman Ali Mohammad Al-Dakhan and members of the Board of Directors. — KUNA photos

KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday the Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Mohammed Jassem Al-Sager. His Highness the Deputy Amir also received Kuwait Airways Corporation Chairman Ali Mohammad Al-Dakhan and members of the Board of Directors on re-operating flights after stopping due to the coronavirus pandemic. They explained to His Highness the Deputy Amir the obstacles that the company faced during the pandemic's peak, their future plans and upgrading services to its customers, while His Highness wished the company further success.

In other news, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to Pope Francis of the Vatican yesterday on the successful surgery he had recently, wishing him a long healthy life. His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to Pope Francis.

Separately, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-

Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah addressed Monday a cable of condolences to emperor of Japan Naruhito and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga over the victims of the landslide that hit West of Tokyo. In the cable, His Highness wished the injured speedy recovery and hoped for Japan to overcome effects of this natural disaster. His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent similar cables.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences Sunday to Cyprus President of the Republic Nicos Anastasiades, expressing his heartfelt sorrow over the tragic wild fires in Limassol and Larnaca regions. In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished mercy for the deceased and speedy recovery for the injured. His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to Cyprus leadership expressing similar sentiments.

The blaze, which began Saturday afternoon outside the village of Arakapas, spread quickly amid



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets the Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mohammed Jassem Al-Sager.

strong winds and forced the evacuation of at least eight mountain villages, destroying homes and scorching 55 square kilometers (21 square miles) of pine forest and orchards. "We are experiencing the

most destructive fire since the founding of the Cyprus republic," Cyprus Interior Minister Nicos Nouris said, adding that 50 homes were damaged so far. — KUNA

Kuwait Airways resumes flights to Geneva, Munich, Frankfurt

KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) announced yesterday resuming flights to Geneva, Munich and Frankfurt effective July 9 at a rate of two flights per week. KAC Public Relations and Information Director Fayeze Al-Enezi said in a press statement the KAC scheduled flights to Geneva starting Friday (July 9) with two flights a week. There will be two flights per week to Munich as of July 17 in addition to two others to Frankfurt beginning early August. The corporation has decided to resume flights to London, Paris, Malaga and Sarajevo as part of a strategy for gradual restoration of regular operations. The KAC had said in a previous press statement it would organize three flights to Paris per week on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays as of July 7. There will two flights per week to Malaga on Sundays and

Thursday effective July 4 and two flights per week to Sarajevo Saturdays and Wednesdays starting June 30. The corporation has recently declared relaunching flights to London with a single flight a week. On June 15, it started staging three flights per week to Bodrum on Saturdays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. And on June 18, it began organizing three flights a week to Trabzon on Sundays, Mondays and Fridays, in addition to the regular flights to Istanbul. Moreover, the national carrier declared two flights per week to Tbilisi on Mondays and Fridays, in addition to several summer tourism destinations. The corporation has affirmed its readiness to restore full operations of commercial flights in line with approval of the health authorities and resumption of air navigation in other countries. — KUNA



MoH: Over 2.3 million COVID...

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The commission added that state departments whose lists have been endorsed and submitted to the finance ministry are advised to take delivery of the disbursement guidelines regarding payment mechanisms. A commission will be formed to

receive complaints from employees whose names were not included in the lists of eligible beneficiaries. Excluded personnel must explain in writing why they deserve to be financially rewarded, in line with the terms for eligibility.

In a related development, the Cabinet, during its weekly session yesterday, approved a request by the health ministry to employ Pakistani doctors, nurses and technicians to support the health sector. The Government Communication Center said on its Twitter account that the decision to recruit the sixth batch of Pakistani medical personnel is in line with continuing efforts to back up the national health system.

OPEC+ postpones meeting to end oil...

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supplies by the end of April 2022. Benchmark oil prices rebounded as a result, and have lately been hovering around \$75 a barrel, up by about half since the beginning of this year.

But the return to pre-pandemic production levels has stalled several times because of the shifting fortunes in the fight against COVID-19. The alliance is still pumping 5.8 million bpd less than it was before the pandemic. The April 2022 deadline on capping output now seems too close, and some members want to extend it until Dec 2022 - and this is what Abu Dhabi objects to.

The United Arab Emirates has said it wants to revise

the reference level used to calculate the amount by which it must reduce output, Energy Minister Suhail Mohamed Al-Mazrouei told the WAM news agency. The UAE's 3.17 million bpd reference level, set in Oct 2018, was well below its effective potential output level of 3.8 million bpd in April 2020, just before the cuts took effect.

It was this issue that caused last week's talks to break down. The meetings, more used to big hitters Russia and Saudi Arabia setting the agenda, were confronted with the UAE's refusal to toe the line. "It is the whole group versus one country," Saudi Energy Minister Abdulaziz bin Salman told Bloomberg TV.

In a separate interview with Al-Arabiya television aired late on Sunday, Prince Abdulaziz called for "a bit of rationality and a bit of compromise". RBC Capital Markets analyst Helima Croft went further. "The prospect of a no-deal outcome - as well as a UAE OPEC exit - has risen materially, even if it has not yet fully entered into firm base-case territory," she wrote. — AFP

Norway fund sells off assets linked to...

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In total, the Norwegian fund's divestments of shares and company bonds amounted to \$32 million. "Companies have a responsibility to respect and protect human right in all countries that they are operating in, regardless if the state itself is upholding these rights," KLP analyst Kiran Aziz said. "Conflict can mean a partic-

ularly high risk of human rights violations. Companies operating in conflict zones must therefore exercise particular caution to avoid involvement in human rights abuses and to protect vulnerable individuals," she added.

In late June, KLP announced its divestment of the Indian port and logistics group Adani Ports because of its links to the Burmese military junta. Another Norwegian fund, the sovereign wealth fund, which is the largest in the world, has also excluded several companies in the past because of their connections to Zionist settlements. More than 600,000 Zionist settlers live in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, where tensions often flare up between settlers and the Palestinian population. — AFP

Biden marks 'independence'...

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We all know powerful variants have emerged, like the Delta variant."

Biden paid tribute to those who have lost their lives, with the staggering number of deaths in the United States now at more than 600,000. But he struck an overwhelmingly optimistic note, suggesting that under his leadership the country - bitterly and at times violently divided during the Donald Trump presidency - was "coming back together". "Over the last year, we have lived through some of our darkest days," Biden said. "We are about to see our brightest future."

Large crowds packed the National Mall for a huge fireworks display in yet another sign that the United States is looking to its July 4th holiday as a moment to put the virus in the rear view mirror. During last year's holiday, with the pandemic near its summer peak and towns across America reeling from anti-racism and anti-police protests, Washington and other big cities held only muted celebrations.

Despite the atmosphere of Sunday's victory party, the Biden administration says it is concerned about the large numbers of people who have still not got vaccinated. The heavily promoted White House goal of getting seven in 10 adults their first shot by Independence Day has narrowly failed. And when it comes to full vaccinations, only 46 per cent of Americans have taken the two doses. That lag comes as the highly contagious Delta variant continues to spread. Public health officials are eying swaths of rural America where hospitals are starting to fill up again, especially in Utah, Missouri, Arkansas and Wyoming. — AFP