

Local

Deputy Amir receives Kuwait social security authority officials



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Public Institution for Social Security officials. — KUNA

KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday the Public Institution for Social Security's (PIFSS) investment committee

chief Abdullah Al-Humaidhi, alongside his deputy Mishal Al-Othman. The PIFSS contingent, which also included committee members Abdulaziz Al-Turaiji and Ziyad Al-Mukhaizeem, in addition to the

pension fund's Deputy Director General for Investment Affairs Raed Al-Nusf, spoke of the institution's record asset gains this year, which amounted to a 20.9 percent increase from last year's figure.

His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince thanked the officials for their contributions towards this remarkable achievement, encouraging them to strive for similar accomplishments. — KUNA

Turkish speaker lauds exceptional ties with Kuwait



KUWAIT: Turkish Parliament Speaker Mustafa Sentop speaks during a press conference in Kuwait yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KUWAIT: Turkish Parliament Speaker Mustafa Sentop lauded yesterday the exceptional ties with the State of Kuwait, saying that both Turkey and Kuwait were open for more cooperation in different fields. Speaking to the press on the sidelines of his visit to Kuwait, Sentop affirmed that he was eager to visit Kuwait despite the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, adding that he was thankful for the invitation by Kuwait National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. Sentop said that he was honored to have met with 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-Ahmad Al-Sabah, stressing that such meetings would contribute to the development of relations on all aspects. Both countries are willing to seek further cooperation in various fields reiterated the Turkish parliamentary Speaker, adding that the two countries shared common vision in regards to political issues in the region namely the Palestinian cause. He added that Kuwait and Turkey would work on the parliamentary level to promote the Palestinian dream of an independent state within the 1967 borders in line with international laws regarding the matter. — KUNA

Kuwait's Foreign Minister meets Turkey's top lawmaker

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah met yesterday with the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Mustafa Sentop, who is currently on a visit to the country. During the meeting, they discussed views on strong bilateral ties and their advancement in various fields, in addition to reviewing regional and international developments, as well as issues of common concern. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah meets the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Mustafa Sentop. — KUNA

Deputy FM receives UK, Sudan envoys

KUWAIT: Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Majdi Al-Dhefeeri received yesterday UK's Ambassador to the country Belinda Lewis, as well as Sudan's Ambassador to Kuwait Abdulmonem Al-Ameen. Bilateral ties between Kuwait and both nations, in addition to latest regional and international developments were discussed during the separate meetings; both attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Office Director Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Majdi Al-Dhefeeri meets UK's Ambassador to Kuwait Belinda Lewis. — KUNA Photos



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Majdi Al-Dhefeeri meets Sudan's Ambassador to Kuwait Abdulmonem Al-Ameen.

Court frees poet Sayer, sets...

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request, which needs the signature of at least 33 members to enforce the term, which is unlikely to be secured because there are only 31 opposition MPs.

In another development, MP Sayer sent a question to HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah about what the authorities have done to implement a statement he made last year

vowing to make Kuwaitis 70 percent of the population. Kuwaitis currently make up 30 percent of the population.

Sayer said the prime minister in June 2020 made a statement in which he vowed to make Kuwaitis 70 percent of the population with expatriates making up 30 percent, exactly the reverse of the current percentage. He asked the premier if any measure had been taken to implement the plan, adding what were the technical, legal and administrative factors for the statement. The lawmaker asked if the statement was based on studies and requested copies of those studies. He also demanded to know the time-frame of implementing the statement.

died in the inferno. In Al-Nasr, north of the city, mourners laid to rest two brothers and two sisters who perished in the flames.

Other funerals were held in the Shiite holy city of Najaf, where mourner Yunus Saleh blamed politicians for the tragedy. "My family lost five members and a sixth wasn't found. We couldn't identify his body," he said. "Where else would something like this happen? Where? The (political) parties burned them."

Hundreds of young protesters shut down private hospitals in Nasiriyah to pressure the authorities to open the doors of a new public hospital. Last month, Prime Minister Mustafa Kadhemi inaugurated the Turkish-built facility. But the more than 400-bed facility has yet to open to patients. Yesterday, Kadhemi declared three days of national mourning for the "martyrs" of Nasiriyah.

The city is seen as the heart of a nationwide anti-government protest movement that broke out in late 2019. "The state must take the necessary measures... to confront the corrupt," one young protester told AFP. He said those responsible must be held "accountable... in transparent investigations that show people that it (the state) is serious about putting an end to these tragedies". — AFP

Foreign envoys in Lebanon...

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cash-strapped state can barely buy enough fuel to keep the nation's power on, respectively leaving charities and private backup generators struggling to fill the gap.

The French diplomatic source said the international community was ready to help Lebanon. But "sadly we can't because, opposite us, we have no one to talk to, or we do but they don't have the means - or the willingness - to act". The last government, painstakingly cobbled together, had barely got off the ground before the explosion at Beirut port on Aug 4, when hundreds of tons of ill-stored ammonium nitrate fertilizer ignited, killing more than 200 people.

Foreign donors have over the past year pledged millions of dollars in humanitarian aid to the Lebanese people, including at two conferences

organized by former colonial power France. But, said the French source, "we're not going to provide the Lebanese state with a blank cheque". A high-ranking UN official said a third donor conference this month would be the chance to sound the alarm over the "humanitarian consequences" of the political paralysis.

"Lebanon - which has a GDP higher than most poor countries - is facing food insecurity, malnutrition and issues of access to basic services," the official said. But "humanitarian aid cannot be a sustainable solution," the official noted, adding that the international community will not "take over the state's... role".

An Arab diplomat in Beirut said Lebanese decision-makers did not appear to have a plan of their own, hoping instead that the international community would help, without them "making any concession, any change" in return. "The international community has long been repeating the same thing: Help yourself so that we can help you."

In Lebanon, more than half the population now lives below the official global poverty line. Beirut's diplomats have seen living conditions deteriorate first hand. — AFP

Grief, anger as 64 killed in Iraq...

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far identified were women. The blaze also injured 100 people. "We heard their screams but we couldn't help them much," said activist Hisham Al-Sumeri, who had helped in the relief effort. He accused the authorities of negligence.

Smoke was still rising from the charred debris of the temporary building yesterday, as grieving relatives looked on. "A patient comes in looking for treatment and he ends up being carried out in a coffin," said Abou Nour Al-Shawi, an elderly onlooker. He pointed out the frailty of the structure, which had collapsed quickly in the flames. "This place is not even fit for animals," he said.

As the first funerals were held, indignant protesters vented their outrage at provincial authorities they blame for the deaths, an AFP correspondent said. In Al-Dawaya, east of Nasiriyah, a joint funeral was held for six members of a single family who had

Qatar takes key step to control...

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and efficiency of the regional airspace, other contiguous airspace over the high seas," it added. Qatar's proposal also covered "its intention to withdraw from the current arrangement whereby it has delegated to Bahrain the provision of air navigation services over its sovereign territory". "The proposal represents one of the sovereign rights of the State of Qatar and

demonstrates the huge investments made by Qatar to develop its air navigation system," Transport Minister Jassim Al-Sulaiti said in the statement.

The move comes a few months after a landmark reconciliation between Qatar and other Gulf countries including Bahrain. The regional bloc led by Saudi Arabia broke ties with Doha in 2017, accusing it of supporting Islamist movements - charges that it denied. During the boycott Qatar sought to strengthen its self-sufficiency in various sectors of its gas-rich economy. The emirate, which is hosting the 2022 World Cup, has become a major player in the airline industry through Qatar Airways, which along with Dubai-based Emirates is one of the largest airlines in the Middle East. — AFP