

Local

Amir, Crown Prince receive Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad



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



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Abdulaziz Dekheel Al-Dekheel, head of the Diwan of His Highness the Prime Minister.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



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KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday. His Highness the Amir also received Abdulaziz Dekheel Al-Dekheel on the occasion of his appointment as head of the Diwan

of His Highness the Prime Minister. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad and Dekheel at Bayan Palace.

In other news, His Highness the Amir Sheikh

Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences yesterday to India's President Ram Nath Kovind over the victims and casualties of Tauktae cyclone. In the cable, His Highness the Amir prayed to Allah Almighty to bestow mercy upon the dead and wished a speedy recovery for the injured,

as well as voicing trust that officials in the friendly country are able to overcome impacts of such natural disaster. His Highness the 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. — KUNA

Kuwait ready to fund perpetual Sudan development

KUWAIT: Kuwait's foreign minister and representative of His Highness the Amir said on Monday his country stands ready to finance continued development in Sudan at debt-restructuring talks in Paris that aim to lure foreign investment into Khartoum, a measure needed to resuscitate its ailing economy. Commending Sudan's transitional government, formed under a military-civilian power-sharing deal, Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah said the efforts of Sudan's international partners and creditors show a "brighter future ahead" for Khartoum, with "significant development projects" on the way funded by Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. The minister hoped the talks would help propel Sudan into a new era of development and stability, citing "illustrious" bilateral ties that date back more than six decades, which witnessed more than USD one



PARIS: Kuwait's foreign minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah speaks at the international conference for Sudan, in Paris, France on Monday. — AFP

billion worth of development projects come to fruition in the African nation. He emphasized his country's support for broader relief on Sudan's external debt, clearing the way for wider economic relief efforts in the country, in line with the enhanced heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative. "The talks today are only the beginning of a new and more resilient Sudan," he added, as International Monetary Fund member countries agreed to relief Sudan's arrears, allowing it access to more international financing. — KUNA

India cyclone leaves 33 dead...

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"I have never experienced such intensity in my life," a hotel owner in the town of Bhavnagar said. "It was pitch dark as power was cut off and winds were making a roaring sound. It was scary." Prime Minister Narendra Modi was set to visit the cyclone-hit regions in Gujarat, his home state, today.

One support vessel serving oil rigs that were walloped by eight-meter waves off Mumbai sank and 93 of the 273 people who had been on board were missing, the Indian Navy said yesterday. The defense ministry said 180 people were rescued, with warships attempting to save the rest of the crew in "extremely challenging sea conditions".

Navy helicopters managed, however, to rescue all 137 people stuck on another barge that also slipped its anchor and ran aground. One other barge and an oil rig were also adrift. Elsewhere, seven new fatalities took the toll to 33, with most of the deaths occurring when houses or walls collapsed, Gujarat state chief minister Vijay Rupani said.

More than 16,500 houses were damaged, 40,000 trees were uprooted and nearly 6,000 villages were without electricity. Just over 2,100 villages had their power restored, officials said late yesterday. Although the cyclone was one of the fiercest in decades, better forecasting than in previous disasters meant that 200,000 people in danger zones were evacuated from their homes. "Our planning over the last three days has paid off. We have man-

aged to minimize human casualties," said Rupani.

The cyclone barreled inland, weakening slightly but still bringing heavy rains and gale-force winds. Forecasters said it had eased into a deep depression and would further weaken into a depression overnight. The deadly weather system hit as India's healthcare system struggled with a coronavirus surge that in the past 24 hours killed a record 4,329 people.

Mumbai shifted about 600 COVID-19 patients from field hospitals "to safer locations". In Gujarat, all Covid-19 patients in hospitals within five kilometers of the coast were moved. Authorities worked to ensure there would be no power cuts in hospitals and 41 oxygen plants. More than 120 hospitals with COVID-19 patients experienced power disruptions, although electricity supply had been restored to many of them, officials said late yesterday.

However, one COVID-19 patient died in the town of Mahuva after he could not be moved in time before the storm hit, doctors said. The state also suspended vaccinations for two days. Mumbai did the same for one day. "This is one of the most powerful cyclones we've faced in India for decades, and after weeks of chaos and devastating loss of life caused by COVID-19, it could not have come at a worse time," Save the Children India's Santanu Chakraborty said in a statement yesterday.

Last May, more than 110 people died after "super cyclone" Amphan ravaged eastern India and Bangladesh in the Bay of Bengal. The Arabian Sea previously experienced fewer severe cyclones than the Bay of Bengal but rising water temperatures because of global warming was changing that, Roxy Mathew Koll from the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology told AFP. — AFP

Nepalese envoy praises Kuwait Red Crescent Society

KUWAIT: The Ambassador of the Republic of Nepal to the State of Kuwait, Durga Prasad Bhandari, has lauded Kuwait Red Crescent Society's efforts to relieve victims of catastrophes particularly amid the coronavirus crisis. Ambassador Bhandari, in remarks to the press yesterday, said following a meeting with the KRCS Chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer that his discussions with the society chief dealt with humanitarian issues concerning the two countries. Kuwait plays a distinctive and pioneering role at the humanitarian level, he said, praising its apparatuses' efforts in fighting the virus and immunizing the population. He indicated that the talks also touched on prospects of aiding his country against the coronavirus; noting the



KUWAIT: Ambassador of Nepal to Kuwait Durga Prasad Bhandari (left) meets KRCS Chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer. — KUNA

need for medical supplies. Meanwhile, Dr Sayer expressed readiness to help Nepal at this level in coordination with the Nepalese Red Cross. In the past, the Kuwaiti association dispatched a medical team to Nepal where they conducted 40 surgeries for low-income patients. — KUNA

Death toll climbs in Zionist attacks...

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were overwhelmed by patients and there are frequent power blackouts.

Palestinians across the West Bank and in Zionist-annexed east Jerusalem mobilized yesterday for protests and a general strike that shuttered non-essential businesses, in support of those under bombardment in Gaza. Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement had called for a "day of anger", a call echoed in Arab and ethnically mixed towns inside the Zionist entity.

The Zionist army said troops came under fire north of Ramallah. It said two soldiers suffered leg injuries and were taken to hospital. In a separate incident, a 25-year-old Palestinian man was shot

dead by Zionist troops in Al-Bireh, north of Ramallah, the Palestinian health ministry said. The ministry reported 70 people hospitalized due to clashes with Zionist forces throughout the West Bank, five of them in a serious condition.

Earlier in the day, an assailant who attempted to attack soldiers in the West Bank city of Hebron was shot dead. Tensions again flared in east Jerusalem's flashpoint Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, where Palestinian protesters faced off against police, who used stun grenades and "skunk water" cannon to disperse protesters.

The Zionist entity has been trying to contain violence between Jews and Arabs, as well as unrest in the occupied West Bank, where Palestinian authorities say Zionist forces have killed 22 Palestinians since May 10. France's President Emmanuel Macron, his Egyptian counterpart Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi and Jordan's King Abdullah II held talks yesterday aimed at seeking a ceasefire. Sisi is currently in Paris for summits on Africa while Abdullah joined by video conference, the Elysee Palace said. — AFP

Panic as China skyscraper...

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building had been detected. Experts "found no safety abnormalities in the main structure and surrounding environment of the building," and the interior and exterior components of the building appeared undamaged, the district said.

It was not immediately clear how authorities will handle a dangerous tower of its scale in the heart of a city of over 12 million people. Bystander videos published by local media on Weibo showed the skyscraper shaking on its foundations as hundreds of terrified pedestrians ran away outside. "SEG has been

completely evacuated," wrote one Weibo user in a caption to a video of hundreds of people milling about on a wide shopping street near the tower.

The building is named after the semiconductor and electronics manufacturer Shenzhen Electronics Group, whose offices are based in the complex. It is the 18th tallest tower in Shenzhen, according to the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat skyscraper database. Chinese authorities last year banned the construction of skyscrapers taller than 500 m, adding to height restrictions already enforced in some cities such as Beijing.

The new guidelines for architects, urban planners and developers aimed to "highlight Chinese characteristics" and also banned tacky "copycat" buildings modelled after world landmarks. Five of the world's tallest skyscrapers are located in China, including the world's second-tallest building, the Shanghai Tower, which stands at 632 m. — AFP