

Local

Deputy Amir receives Kuwaiti officials, Kosovo Foreign Minister

Sheikh Mishal congratulates Iraq President on successful elections



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Parliament Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. — KUNA photos

KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace Parliament Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. His Highness the Deputy Amir also received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Furthermore, His Highness received Kuwaiti



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

Foreign Minister and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo Donika Gervalla-Schwarz. Several senior officials attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Deputy Amir made a

phone call to Iraqi President Barham Saleh, conveying His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's greetings and congratulations on the successful parliamentary elections. His Highness the Deputy Amir also commended the electoral process regarding the proper organizing and preparation efforts, wishing the members of parliament all

success in order to further the journey of advancement and construction, and achieve all that the Republic of Iraq and its people aspire to. President Saleh expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation for His Highness' kind sentiments towards Iraq and its people, wishing His Highness good health and the people of Kuwait more prosperity. — KUNA



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo Donika Gervalla-Schwarz.

Kuwait Premier receives Kosovo Foreign Minister

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo Donika Gervalla-Schwarz. Kuwait's Foreign Minister and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah attended the meeting.

Meanwhile Sheikh Dr Ahmad held a meeting with his Kosovan counterpart, during which they tackled bilateral ties and means to enhance and boost them in various fields, especially economic, commercial and investments ones, as well as issues of common interest. Following the talks, both sides signed two memoranda of understanding in various arenas of cooperation. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo Donika Gervalla-Schwarz. — KUNA photos



Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah (right) and Kosovo's Foreign Minister Donika Gervalla-Schwarz are seen after signing an agreement between the two countries.

KCCI seeks to boost economic relations with Kosovo

KUWAIT: Deputy Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Abdulwahab Al-Wazzan affirmed yesterday that the chamber is fully ready to devote all its resources to boost

economic relations and trade exchange with the Republic of Kosovo. During his meeting with Kosovo's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Donika Gervalla-Schwarz, he stressed the importance of introducing Kuwaiti business sector to business environment in Kosovo and present investment and commercial opportunities available there through holding various economic activities such as seminars, conferences and trade fairs.

Meanwhile, Minister Gervalla noted that her country is interested in meeting Kuwaiti private

sector about ways to improve economic relations, affirming that Kosovo government is working on enhancing the business environment and exploiting its natural resources especially in the agricultural field, given the fact that it has vast unused farmland. One of Kosovo's top priorities is to reduce unemployment rate and provide suitable job opportunities, added Gervalla, noting that the majority of the Kosovan people are under the age of 35 with high level of education and high efficiency. She boasted that this makes the human element one of the most important resources that

can be employed in the field of industrialization. In the meantime, Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry member Fahd Al-Joan said that the official trade data indicate that the size of trade exchange between Kuwait and Kosovo falls short of expectations, which requires doubling joint efforts to raise the trade balance. Joaan affirmed the Kuwaiti private sector's readiness to establish commercial and investment partnerships with its Kosovan counterpart if the appropriate business environment is available. — KUNA

Cobra killer gets life for...

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public prosecutor, who had sought the death penalty. Snake handler Vava Suresh said it was possible that Sooraj had "inflicted pain on the reptile to

provoke it to bite", the Hindustan Times newspaper quoted him as saying.

Ulthra was from an affluent family but her husband, a bank worker, was not well off. The dead woman's parents became suspicious after Sooraj tried to take control of her property after the death. Their marriage involved a big dowry including a new car and 500,000 rupees (around \$20,000). According to media reports, Sooraj's family was charged with conspiracy after some of Ulthra's gold was found buried near Sooraj's home days after the murder. — AFP

famous role. "Let's go along with it and enjoy the ride," he said in a video release before the launch.

For Blue Origin, meanwhile, a second mission in less than three months represents another step forward as it tries to establish itself as space tourism's leading player. Boshuizen and Vries brought the company's total number of paying customers to three, after Dutch teen Oliver Daemen who was on board the first flight. Competition in the sector is heating up.

Virgin Galactic, which offers a similar experience of a few minutes' weightlessness and a view of the Earth's curvature from the cosmos, launched its founder Richard Branson in July, a few days before Bezos. And in September, SpaceX sent four private citizens on a three-day trip whizzing around the planet - an altogether more ambitious, but also likely far more expensive endeavor.

For many space enthusiasts, Shatner's voyage was a fitting coda for a pop culture phenomenon that inspired generations of astronauts, scientists and engineers. The show has had a long-running association with NASA, whose scientists were sent early scripts to vet their accuracy, according to Cushman, the writer. "Those scientists, as well as nearly everyone at those space agencies, were avid Star Trek watchers, and they well understood that the popularity of the series helped spark growing interest and funding for the space program," he said.

Another mega-fan: Bezos himself. The Amazon founder shared an Instagram post of Star Trek artwork he made when he was nine years old, which included a communication device that influenced flip phone design decades later. Bezos has said Amazon's Alexa voice assistant was inspired by the conversational computer on the Enterprise, and he even made a cameo as an alien in the 2016 film "Star Trek Beyond", sporting an egg-shaped head. — AFP

Families sell gold to survive...

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rent, school fees and hospital bills. Their difficulties have been compounded in recent weeks by soaring prices for electricity, fuel and other items. Desperate for cash, many families and small businesses have been putting up gold jewelry - their last resort - as collateral to secure short-term loans to tide them over.

Banks disbursed "loans against gold jewelry" worth 4.71 trillion rupees (\$64 billion) in the first eight months of 2021, a whopping 74 percent jump year-on-year, central bank data showed. And many of these loans have gone sour with borrowers unable to keep up with repayments, leaving lenders to auction off the gold. Newspapers have been flooded with notices for such sales.

Gold has immense financial and cultural significance in India - it is considered essential at weddings, birthdays and religious ceremonies, and also seen as a safe asset that can be transferred from one generation to the next. Indians bought 315.9 tons of gold-use jewelry in 2020, almost as much as the Americas, Europe and the Middle East combined, according to the World Gold Council. Only China bought more.

Indian households are estimated to be sitting on 24,000 tons - worth \$1.5 trillion - in coins, bars and jewelry. "It is the only social security for the woman or any household because there is no such social security program from the government," said Dinesh Jain, director at the All India Gem and Jewelry Domestic Council. "Gold is like liquid cash," he told AFP. "You encash it in at any time of the day and night."

Kumar Jain, 63, whose family has run a shop in Mumbai's historic Zaveri Bazaar for 106 years, says he has never seen so many people coming to sell. "It wasn't like this before the pandemic," he told AFP. Jain says his customers - predominantly women - have sold a vast array of personal jewelry in recent months including gold bangles, rings, necklaces and earrings.

"The worst part is when they sell their 'mangal-



MUMBAI: This picture taken on August 11, 2021 shows a shop manager speaking with customers at a jewellery shop in Mumbai. — AFP

sutra," he said. That necklace "is a sign of a married woman. You start crying when she takes off the 'mangalsutra' from her neck and says, 'Give me money for this'. That's the worst scenario."

Jogani, the garment business owner in Mumbai, was able to find some breathing space by selling some of her jewelry. In exchange for her eight bangles, a small necklace and a few rings, she got 200,000 rupees (\$2,695) in cash. "Earlier, I would neglect these things when my mother used to tell me that 'you have to save in gold'," Jogani said. "But now I... know. Everyone should save in gold." — AFP

Shatner in tears after...

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Like the roughly 600 astronauts who have gone before him, Shatner marveled at the experience of weightlessness and the stunning view of our world from space. "What you have given me is the most profound experience I can imagine. I'm so filled with emotion about what just happened," he told Bezos. "You look down, and there's the blue down there, and the black up there ... there is mother Earth, and just comfort, and there is just - is that death?"

The mission was a replay of the company's maiden human flight in July, which included Bezos and was seen as a breakthrough moment for the nascent space tourism sector. This time around, all attention was focused on Shatner, who became the oldest-ever astronaut, despite an appearance suggesting a man decades younger.

The intergalactic voyages of the USS Enterprise, commanded by Shatner's character Kirk, helped turn American attention to the stars as the US space program was starting out. "Captain Kirk... represents 'the final frontier' perhaps more than anyone else for a couple different generations of people, in the US and worldwide," screenwriter and Trek historian Marc Cushman told AFP.

Shatner, also known for his role as lawyer Denny Crane in "Boston Legal", among many others, has spoken in the past about an at-times difficult relationship with Star Trek and its fan culture. But in recent years, the actor has leaned into the fame brought about by his most