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Amir inaugurates landmark Jaber Al-Ahmad Causeway

Bridge linking Kuwait City with Silk City to help establish Kuwait as an international trade hub



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, visiting South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and other senior officials are seen during the inauguration ceremony of the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Causeway yesterday. — Photos by Amiri Diwan and Yasser Al-Zayyat

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah attended and patronized the inauguration ceremony of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Causeway yesterday. The ceremony was attended by HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, visiting South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon, President of the French Senate Gerard Larcher and a host of senior state officials.

Addressing the event, Lee congratulated HH the Amir on the inauguration of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Causeway,

expressing gratitude for supporting the execution of this project since 2013. "It is a great pleasure for South Korean companies to participate in the largest national project in the history of Kuwait," he said, extending his thanks to Hyundai Engineering and Construction Company for its utmost efforts throughout the work period on the bridge project. Lee further expressed confidence that the 2035 vision of HH the Amir will have "remarkable achievements".

"The project uses the latest methods of civil engineering and environmentally-friendly technologies," he noted,

adding that the causeway will be managed and operated through an intelligent transport system. He said the causeway will play a pivotal role in linking the southern and northern regions and reduce commuting time between Kuwait City and Subbiya to around 20 minutes instead of one hour. "The late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah had instilled democracy and economic development. Therefore, I trust that the causeway will enhance Kuwait's reputation in the international community," Lee said.

Deputy Director General of the Public Authority for

Roads and Transportation Saud Al-Naqi told KUNA that Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Causeway is part of Kuwait integrated development plan. He stressed that the project is the new development "gateway" for the country, branding the causeway the "artery" that will link Kuwait City with Silk City, which is considered the future financial and commercial center. The project begins from the intersection of Jamal Abdunnasser St and Ghazali Highway to the new Subbiya area. It crosses two artificial islands of 280,000 sq m each, in addition to government buildings, green spaces and areas for future investment projects. — KUNA

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News in brief

Iran frees detained Kuwaitis

KUWAIT: Diplomatic sources said Iranian authorities released Kuwaiti citizens Adnan Al-Kharafi and Fahd Al-Alyan after interrogating them for entering Iran's territorial waters by mistake. The sources said the citizens are in good condition and were handed over to the Kuwaiti Embassy in Tehran. They are expected to return to Kuwait today. — Meshaal Al-Enezi

Expat remittance bill shelved

KUWAIT: Well-informed sources said that the parliament has excluded the bill on taxing expat remittances from its agenda for the current parliamentary term ending in June. The sources said the government's strong rejection reflects the opinion of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry. — A Saleh

Rain damage claims studied

KUWAIT: The ministerial team authorized by the Cabinet to follow up and handle compensating those affected by the rains last year issued a statement with details. According to the statement, the team studied 3,931 claims including 2,251 for vehicle damage and 780 for property damage, while 900 personal damage claims are still being studied. The statement also noted that the compensations will be paid once the 2019-2020 fiscal year budget is approved. — A Saleh

Selfie-crazy teens crushed by train

NEW DELHI: Three teenagers were killed while taking selfies on a railway track in India. A fourth youth managed to jump to safety before the accident in Panipat in the northern state of Haryana. "The victims were busy taking selfies and when they saw a train approaching they jumped to a second track without realizing another train was coming on that," police officer M S Dabas said. — AFP

Indian group calls for niqab ban

NEW DELHI: An Indian Hindu nationalist group allied with Prime Minister Narendra Modi called yesterday for a ban on veils after Sri Lanka prohibited the garments worn by some Muslim women following militant bomb attacks there. "We welcome this decision and demand Prime Minister Narendra Modi follows in Sri Lanka's footsteps and bans the burqa and niqab in India," the Mumbai-based Shiv Sena party wrote in an editorial in the Saamana newspaper. — Reuters

Protests erupt at May Day rallies

PARIS: Celebrating May Day was once to participate in the ancient ritual of reveling in the return of spring. In more modern times the date has become an international holiday to honor the labor movement and, hopefully, enjoy a little early sunshine. But increasingly the occasion takes the form of protest against the authorities - and this year was no exception, with public ire plainly on view from Paris to Saint Petersburg, via Algiers, Athens and Istanbul.

In Paris, police fired tear gas to disperse anti-capitalist protesters as thousands of people gathered for a May Day

march which ended up being barely any more festive than the "gilets jaunes" protests which have plagued France in recent months. In a nod to the festival's ancient origins - the return of sunshine and flowers after a long European winter - street traders across France rushed to sell lily of the valley bouquets as traditional seasonal offerings.

Istanbul police made dozens of arrests of people at an unauthorized rally at Taksim Square, the city's traditional focal point of protest. A nearby officially-approved event to mark the day drew several thousand people, including members of workers' unions and opposition political parties. In Saint Petersburg, home city of Vladimir Putin, officials allowed pro-Kremlin marchers to rally freely.

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PARIS: A cameraman reacts as he is hit by a tear gas canister as a protester goes to help him during clashes with police on the sidelines of the annual May Day rally yesterday. — AFP

Assange jailed for 50 weeks for UK bail breach

LONDON: WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange was sentenced yesterday to 50 weeks in jail for breaching a British court order seven years ago, when he took refuge in Ecuador's London embassy to avoid extradition to Sweden. The Australian whistleblower, who was arrested on April 11 after Ecuador gave him up, will serve the nearly one-year sentence while fighting a separate attempt to transfer him to the United States. The 47-year-old, his shaggy beard neatly trimmed, raised his fist to supporters in the public gallery at London's Southwark Crown Court as he was taken down to the cells.

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LONDON: WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange gestures from the window of a prison van as he is driven into Southwark Crown Court yesterday. — AFP

US AG grilled over handling of Russia report

WASHINGTON: The US Justice Department head defended his handling of the Russia interference report yesterday after it emerged that lead investigator Robert Mueller had questioned his decision to declare that it cleared President Donald Trump. Facing allegations that he "whitewashed" the Mueller report, Attorney General Bill Barr told the Senate Judiciary Committee that after receiving it in March, it was his "baby" and therefore his prerogative to sum up its conclusions.

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WASHINGTON: US Attorney General William Barr testifies before the Senate Judiciary Committee yesterday. — AFP

Indian Maoists kill 16; Amir sends condolences

MUMBAI: A bomb attack by suspected Maoist rebels killed 15 Indian elite commandos and their driver yesterday, police said, in the latest incident of election-time violence in a decades-long insurgency. Tens of thousands of people have been killed since the 1960s in several areas of India in clashes between security forces and guerrillas first inspired by Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Zedong. In the latest incident, "Maoists attacked a team of commandos travelling in a private vehicle to inspect an earlier attack. So far 16 men have died," an official at police headquarters in the western state of Maharashtra told AFP.

The attack, the deadliest carried out by the Maoists since 2017, happened in the densely forested Gadchiroli region of Maharashtra, deep in the Indian interior. Gadchiroli police official Prashant Dute told AFP that the police commandos had been on their way to the scene of the earlier attack in the same area in which more than 30 vehicles were torched. The Maoists insurgents are believed to be present in at least 20 Indian states but are most active in Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Bihar and Jharkhand.

HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a cable of condolences to Indian President Ram Nath Kovind. In the cable, the Amir expressed sincere sentiments over the victims.

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