

## Local

# Amir receives senior state officials at Bayan Palace



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



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Integrity Enhancement Abdullah Al-Roumi.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday. His Highness the Amir also received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah. Furthermore, His Highness the Amir received Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Integrity Enhancement Abdullah Al-Roumi.

In the meantime, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled and Roumi at Bayan Palace. Moreover, His Highness Sheikh Mishal received Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali and Interior Minister Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. — KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Defense Minister Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah and Interior Minister Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

## Ramadan Kareem

## Gloating over one's misfortune is prohibited in Islam

By Hassan T Bwambale

Among Islam's articles of belief is to believe in preordainment. Almighty Allah has predetermined what will happen and what will not happen. If someone is tested by a calamity or affliction or something else, there is wisdom behind it. It is prohibited for a believer to rejoice in a misfortune that strikes anyone whom he considers enemy or whom he doesn't like or whom he competes with. While he rejoices in the misfortunes and sufferings of others, what assurances does he have that a similar or worse catastrophe cannot strike him? Moreover, is he aware of Allah's plans? Whatever you regard as calamity may turn out to be a blessing in disguise. Almighty Allah told Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) what can be translated as: "If a blessing befalls you, it grieves them (ie your enemies), but if a calamity strikes you, they say, 'We took our precautions beforehand,' and they turn away rejoicing. Tell them that nothing will befall us except what Allah has decreed for us. For He is our guardian and protector, and on Him let the believers rely." (Al-Tawbah 9: 50 - 51)

\* Among the things that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) used to seek refuge with Almighty Allah from was his enemies rejoicing in his predicament. Abu Huraira (ra) narrated, "The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) used to seek refuge with Allah from the difficult moment of a severe calamity, from being overwhelmed by destruction, from being destined to an evil end, and from the malicious gloating of enemies; rejoicing in his predicament." (Al-Bukhari # 6, 616)

\* You might rejoice in a person's calamity and then God Almighty (Allah) responds by bestowing mercy on him. One of Prophet Muhammad's companions, Wa'ithila bin Al-Asqa'a, narrated that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said, "Do not rejoice at your brother's misfortune lest Allah bestow mercy on him and afflict you with a calamity." (Al-Mun'dhirey graded it as Hasan (authentic) in Saheeh At-Targheeb 3/310)

\* We deduce from the above prophetic narration that gloating over someone's grief or predicament

may result in being afflicted with a similar or worse calamity. Let God Almighty deal with His servants whom He created because He is their creator and knows more about them than anyone else.

\* Only Allah can judge His servants: If anyone, especially the one you dislike, gets afflicted with a calamity, do not conclude that it's because of his sins. Who gave you the moral authority to judge others? Jundub bin Abdullah narrated that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) informed his companions about a man who quarreled with his friend-turned-adversary, saying, "I swear by Allah that He will not forgive so-and-so!" God Almighty responded, "Who is He who thinks he can control Me, claiming that I won't forgive so-and-so? For, I have, indeed, forgiven him and rendered your deeds null and void." (Saheeh Muslim # 2, 621)

\* Even if someone rejoices in your calamity or predicament, do not retaliate by doing the same when he suffers: 'two wrongs cannot make a right.' Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) advised Ja'ber bin Saleem in a long prophetic narration, saying, "... and if a person insults and humiliates you, do not retaliate in the same manner, because he will bear the evil consequences of that." (Al-Albani rated it authentic in Saheeh At-Tirmidhi # 2, 722).

Therefore, if anyone rejoices at your misfortune or predicament, leave it up to Allah (the Almighty and Majestic) to deal with him.

Finally, inasmuch as we yearn for God's forgiveness, especially during this auspicious month of Ramadan, let us learn to forgive and forget. "If you forgive someone for something they did to you, it doesn't mean you agree with what they did or believe it was right. Forgiving that person means you have chosen not to dwell on the matter anymore; you have moved on with your life."

*Courtesy of TIES: TIES is among the projects funded and managed by Kuwaiti Society for Cultural Dialogue. TIES aims at empowering Kuwait's expats through social and educational services that promote a positive and productive role in society, and to facilitate opportunities for intra- and interfaith interactions that promote social solidarity. For more information, please call 25231015/6 or 94079426 or e-mail: info@tiescenter.net.*

## Hope and fear in Taleban bastion Kandahar

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan: As the US military began formally withdrawing from Afghanistan Saturday, some residents in Kandahar—the former bastion of the Taleban—were optimistic the exit will bring peace to the violence-wracked country.

"The fighting will then be between two Muslim brothers (Afghan government forces and the Taleban) and the hope is that the two will reconcile and make peace," said Pacha Khan, a farmer from the southern Afghan province that was once a flashpoint of fighting. US President Joe Biden had announced in April that the remaining 2,500 American troops will formally begin leaving Afghanistan from May 1 and complete their withdrawal by the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks, bringing an end to America's longest war.

In reality, the withdrawal has been a work in progress for months. Fighting between US forces and the Taleban has stopped since a landmark deal between Biden's predecessor Donald Trump and the insurgents last year. But battles rage daily between Afghan government forces and the militants across Kandahar, the birthplace of the Taleban who ruled the country in the 1990s with a harsh version of Islamic sharia law.

Few shops were open in Kandahar city's main market on Saturday, while police set up checkpoints on roads leading to the airport—almost deserted as most American troops have left. In Kandahar's Bush Bazar—named for former US president who started the war in 2001 — shopkeepers sorted through used goods for sale from the former American base. "A few days ago there was a big blast outside the airport. We later came to know the Americans had destroyed equipment," said Esa Mohammad, the bazar's secretary.

"Now we get scrap from there to be sold in the market." Many ordinary Afghans remain bitter at US forces for the hardships over the years. Mohammad, a farmer who gave only one name, said the past 20 years had been worse than the 1980s, when Afghanistan was occupied by Soviet troops.

"The Russians did not inflict the kind of casualties the Americans did," said the father of eight. "The Americans killed my brother 10 years ago when they bombarded our village. These infidels have inflicted heavy losses and I'm happy they are



KANDAHAR: People make their way along a market area in Kandahar, as the US military pressed on May 1 withdrawing troops from Afghanistan. — AFP

leaving." His views were echoed by Agha Shireen, a trishaw driver from Arghandab on the outskirts of Kandahar city. "They have killed a lot of our people and brought only misery," he said. "If the Taleban return, the situation might turn better."

But Pari, 31, who works in Panjwai district believes that for lasting peace, the Taleban have to declare a ceasefire.

"I'm happy the US is withdrawing... but if the situation deteriorates in the absence of a ceasefire I might be unable to work," she said. One of the biggest achievements of the last two decades has been a boost to women's rights, with Afghan women working in almost every sector. Women were banned from work and girls from attending school during the Taleban regime. Even as the mood appeared optimistic in Kandahar, fear lurked in other cities over the US pullout. "I feel the Taleban will again be strong after the withdrawal of foreign troops," said Ghulam Nabi, a shopkeeper from the western city of Herat.

"I feel scared of another civil war and that we will be forced to leave the country." The departure of US forces will weaken the morale of Afghans, said Adila Kabiri, a professor at Herat University.

Her views were shared by Abdul Ahad Safi, a resident from the restive eastern city of Jalalabad, which has seen deadly attacks by Taleban and jihadists from the Islamic State. — AFP