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# Amir, Qatar invited to GCC summit

'Keep wearing masks'

## No omicron in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 5, (KUNA): Health Minister Sheikh Dr. Basel Al-Sabah said on Sunday although omicron virus has spread in many countries, there was no reported cases of the virus in Kuwait.

On the sidelines of celebrating the opening of Al-Fnaites Medical Center, Sheikh Dr. Basel Al-Sabah confirmed that the ministry's procedures in this regards were exceptional even before the existence of this mutation.

Health regulations and procedure imposed in Kuwait had prevented this virus from spreading among citizens and residents, the Minister noted. "We urge all people to keep wearing their masks in closed areas, get vaccinated and get the third booster dose, and do their PCR tests," he stressed.

He added that even with the good vaccination rate in the country, the number of cases would rise if the new Virus spreads in the country, and this is why "we have to increase out protection level among people and society."



HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during his reception of the Saudi Foreign Minister.

Greetings exchanged

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 5, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Sunday received an invitation, addressed to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, from Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz, to attend the 42nd session of the GCC Summit.

The invitation, addressed to His Highness the Amir, was delivered to His Highness the Crown Prince by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud. The meeting between the visiting Saudi foreign minister and His Highness the Crown Prince was attended by Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Dr. Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Amiri Diwan Undersecretary and Director of His Highness the Amir Bureau, Ambassador Ahmad Fahad Al-Fahad.

Also present at the meeting were the Director of His Highness the Crown Prince Bureau (ret. Lieut. Gen.) Jamal Mohammad Al-Dhiab and Assistant Foreign Minister for GCC Affairs Ambassador Hamad Rashed Al-Meri.

Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani also received on Sunday an invitation from King Salman to attend the 42nd annual Gulf Arab summit due in Riyadh later this month.

According to official Qatari News Agency, the message was delivered by the visiting Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan during a meeting with Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim.

The Saudi Foreign Minister conveyed sincere greetings from King Salman bin Abdul Aziz, wishing the Qatari Amir all success and his people further progress and wellbeing.

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani asked the minister to relay greetings to King Salman, expressing good wishes to the monarch and the kingdom.

### Opinion

## Centennial thieves ... cosmetics, drugs and masquerades

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THROUGHOUT history, thieves have been developing and refining methods to deceive their victims and get what they want. However, one of the strangest things I have read about in this regard is the story of a thief who masqueraded himself as a religious man and dyed his face with cosmetics for it to glow and shine.

He then entered a jeweler's shop in a manner that convinced the goldsmith of his humbleness and reverence. The goldsmith welcomed the "sheikh" and asked him how he could serve him.

The thief (sheikh) said, "I am your good deed, my son, and I have come to you to inform you of what you are heading towards as a result of your kindness and righteousness."

The goldsmith laughed mockingly and said, "What are you saying, sheikh? It is true that your face shines with light, but frankly you are overselling yourself."

Meanwhile, a bride and her fiancé entered the shop to buy gold. The goldsmith asked for coffee for the three, and said to the engaged couple, "Please sit down as I weigh the gold and prepare the invoice!"

The goldsmith was surprised when the bride sat on the chair on which the sheikh was sitting. He said to her, "Be careful, my sister. You are sitting on the sheikh!"

The girl said in astonishment, "What old man? Where is he? Are you crazy? The chair is empty."

The thief said, "My son, you are the only one who sees me and hears me. The rest of the people cannot do so because, as I told you, I am your good deed."

The goldsmith was silent. He went on to weigh the gold, took the money from the couple, and handed them the bill.

After the couple left, the sheikh said, "Oh, my son, I do not want anything from you. If not for your integrity and your faith, you would not have been able to see me. So take this piece of cloth and wipe your face with it to increase your sustenance and blessings."

The goldsmith took the rag. With all sanctity and reverence, he kissed it, smelled it and wiped his face, and immediately fainted. The alleged sheikh then robbed everything in the shop and followed the girl and her partner.

After about four years, a police car stopped in front of the same shop. Three officers stepped out with the alleged sheikh in shackles. The goldsmith was happy that his money had been returned to him. He began to thank the policemen, who asked him to follow their instructions. The officer went to the alleged sheikh and said, "Show us how you stole this man."

He then began to explain the events in detail. When he reached the part of the piece of cloth, the officer said to the man, "Tell us how you took the piece of cloth from him, and what you did."

The goldsmith took the piece of cloth, smelled it and wiped his face. He passed out immediately, and then the gang robbed the shop again.

This type of gang is widespread nowadays in all fields.

During the election season, thieves come to us disguised in many outfits to rob four years of our life and steal the country and the people without accountability. Sometimes they are in the guise of believers who embrace religion, and other times, they come in the garb of defending democracy and freedoms. These are the thieves of the twenty-first century.

Years ago, some Gulf leaders became aware of these tricks being practiced by thieves at the forefront of society. They put an end to these tricks, like in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia when Prince Mohammed bin Salman, under the directives of King Salman bin Abdulaziz, gathered corrupt princes, officials and businessmen in the Ritz Hotel in Riyadh.

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Mounted police force inside a mall.

Support force in field

## Mounted police join patrols

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 5, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior announced on Saturday the implementation of security campaigns according to a plan based on the distribution of foot patrols and mounted police force targeting beaches, coastal areas, places of entertainment and gatherings in order to impose security control and prevent quarrels.

The General Department of Relations and Security Media said in a statement that the campaigns implemented by the Public Security Sector in coordination with the Education and Training Affairs sector come in light of the directives of the Minister of Interior Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah and with the vigorous follow-up of the Undersecretary of the Ministry Lieutenant-General Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the supervision of the Assistant Undersecretary for Security Affairs Education and Training Acting Major General Nasser Bouresli on the need to address growing violence.

They explained that it coincides with launching security campaigns targeting all regions of the country round the clock to impose security control and address violations and the negative effects resulting from quarrels and violence, especially among young people.

The statement added that the cavalry is a support force for the field security sectors in securing the safety of beachgoers, entertainment venues and open markets in which some events are held and where families are present to protect them, indicating that their presence continues weekly and during holidays and vacations in the evening period from four o'clock until 12 in the evening.

## PAM resumes inspection

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 5: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) has confirmed the resumption of the work of inspection committees tasked to regulate the labor market and track down expatriate workers who violated the Residency Law; including those who work for other employers while their residencies are registered under another sponsor, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The inspection committees started working again after a two-month hiatus, following the Interior Ministry's decision to suspend such inspection campaigns due to overcrowding in the deportation cell.

According to sources from the

authority, Deputy Director for Manpower Protection Affairs Dr Mubarak Al-Azmi instructed the labor inspectors to resume inspection tours throughout the country. Sources said the inspection campaigns will be intensified in the coming days; especially in areas where labor gatherings are common like Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Shuwaikh Industrial Area. Sources explained these campaigns are aimed at monitoring and controlling violations as per Article 136 of Private Sector Labor Law number 6 of 2010.

Sources stated that the past two months witnessed the deportation of hundreds of expatriate workers who escaped from their sponsors in both the private and domestic labor sectors.

## Travel test rules in UK tightened; 58 new in EU

Fares fall

## 'Outreach' to unvaccinated

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 5, (Agencies): At a time the health authorities are striving to continue improving the epidemiological situation and to protect the country from the new coronavirus variant omicron, the Corona Emergency Committee, in coordination with other concerned authorities, is seeking to establish a communication mechanism with those who refrained from taking the vaccine — about 18 percent of the population, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting sources.

Sources clarified the percentage of those who rejected vaccination in the country is within the normal range. Sources affirmed there have been attempts to change these people's perception about vaccination; indicating that the number of those who took the booster dose of corona vaccine reached more than 230,000 citizens and expatriates.

Sources stressed that governmental efforts to speed up the pace of administering the booster dose were doubled after the immunity of those vaccinated with the two doses decreased. Sources said the Corona Emergency Committee has been sending messages (SMS) to citizens and expatriates who completed the required vaccine doses six months ago or more, urging them to take the booster dose.

The prices of airline tickets to and from Kuwait have fallen to relative lows after almost people pay double the price to enter Kuwait for fear the Kuwaiti authorities may shut down borders to prevent the spread of Covid-19 mutant omicron into the country, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The director of one of the travel offices told the daily from the beginning of this week, the prices of travel tickets have relatively stabilized around the world.

Also:

**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia reported on Sunday 35 new coronavirus (COVID-19) infections, 45 recoveries and two deaths in the past 24 hours. The Ministry of Health stated that the total number of cases reached 549,912 with 539,056 recoveries and a total of 8,844 deaths.

The UAE reported, Sunday, 50 new coronavirus (COVID-19) infections and 75 recoveries in the past 24 hours.

The Ministry of Health and Prevention stated that the total number of cases reached 742,328 with 737,330 recoveries. The total of deaths hit 2,148.

## Saudis down 'four drones'

RIYADH, Dec 5, (KUNA): Anti-aircraft units of the Saudi-commanded coalition on Sunday intercepted and knocked out four drones that were buzzing across the skies in the direction of southern Saudi regions.

Official Saudi Press Agency (SPA), citing the coalition, said the pilotless aircraft were launched simultaneously with the firing of four ballistic missiles in the direction of the Yemeni region of Ma'rib.

"We have monitored the Houthis using civil installations for preparing and launching the missiles," SPA quoted the coalition that supports legitimacy in Yemen as saying in a statement.



A person wears a face mask while crossing a road in Piccadilly Circus, in London, Dec. 4. Britain says it will offer all adults a booster dose of vaccine within two months to bolster the nation's immunity as the new omicron variant of the coronavirus spreads. (AP)

### Newswatch

**KUWAIT CITY:** The Foreign Ministry on Sunday expressed Kuwait's condemnation and denunciation of the terrorist act in Iraq, Khidr Jija, which resulted in the death and injury of people.

The statement stressed Kuwait's supportive stance rejecting all forms of terrorism and violence.

It expressed sincere condolences to Iraq and the families of the victims and wished the injured speedy recovery. (KUNA)

**KUWAIT CITY:** Next year the National Day on Feb 25 falls on Friday followed by the Liberation Day on Saturday, Feb 26, and Sunday, Feb 27, will be an official holiday instead of Friday, Feb 25, and government work will begin on Monday, Feb 28, reports Al-Anba daily.

The source said the New Year Day of 2022 also falls on a Saturday, which is a day of rest and according to the circulars issued by the Civil Service Commission, if any of the official holiday falls on a Saturday, this day is considered an official holiday and not the following Sunday and is not compensated with another day.

Informed sources said the official holidays for the National Day and Liberation Day will be 3 consecutive days.

**KUWAIT CITY:** His Highness Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Sunday a cable of condolences to Indonesia President Joko Widodo, on the demise of volcanic eruption victims of Mount Semeru, located in east Java.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir expressed sincere condolences to the president and to the families of the victims, and wished those wounded a speedy recovery.

His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sabah Hamad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah sent similar cables. (KUNA)

**RIYADH:** The Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Aramco) signed on Saturday five documents with leading French companies, including one to explore manufacturing of hydrogen vehicles in Saudi Arabia.

The signing took place during an event, organized by the Ministry of Investment in Jeddah to explore investment opportunities for French companies in Saudi Arabia, according to a statement by Aramco. (KUNA)

**PARIS:** French President Emmanuel Macron on Saturday said that he discussed political priorities with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al-Saud, during the discussions as "frank and useful."

The meeting reviewed regional security and stability, French President wrote on his Twitter account, confirming a contact with Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati. (KUNA)

**RAMALLAH:** A Palestinian man was shot dead by Israeli occupation forces late Saturday near Damascus Gate (Bah al-Amoud) in the occupied Jerusalem City.

Mohammad Sulaima, 25, succumbed to his injuries on the spot, Palestine's news agency (Wafa) reported. (KUNA)