



Al-Rai sheep market readies for Eid Al-Adha buyers' surge



Iraq launches battle for Tal Afar, IS bastion near Mosul



Accused of assault in South Africa, Zimbabwe's Grace Mugabe flies home



Alonso brace boosts Chelsea, Huddersfield win again



150 FILES
NO: 17311
32 PAGES

SPAIN POLICE UNCOVER GAS ARSENAL AT BOMB FACTORY

EXTREMISTS PLANNED MASSIVE ATTACK • BARCELONA MOURNS VICTIMS



Min 34°
Max 47°
High Tide 10:46
Low Tide 05:08 & 18:20

POLICE ARREST 14TH CONVICT OF 'ABDALY CELL'

KUWAIT: The interior ministry announced the arrest of the 14th fugitive convict of the so-called "Abdaly cell" on Saturday evening. In a press statement, the ministry identified the convict as Abdulmohsen Jamal Hussein Al-Shatti, a Kuwaiti, who was sentenced for 10 years in jail. Shatti was caught as a result of the ministry's relentless efforts to enforce the final verdict against him by the court of cassation's case no. 55 of 2015.

Last week, the ministry captured 13 other convicts of the same cell. Kuwait had charged 25 citizens and an Iranian member of the cell after the discovery of guns and explosives in a raid in 2015, which escalated sectarian tensions. Prosecutors said that the men intended to carry out "hostile acts" against Kuwait. — KUNA



BARCELONA: A police officer stands by the Sagrada Familia basilica yesterday before a mass to commemorate victims of two devastating terror attacks in Barcelona and Cambrils. — AFP

BARCELONA: Spanish police said yesterday they had uncovered a cache of 120 gas canisters at a house believed to be the bomb-making factory of suspects in terror attacks that claimed 14 lives, as Barcelona mourned victims of the rampage. The suspected militants had been preparing bombs for "one or more attacks in Barcelona", regional police chief Josep Lluís Trapero told reporters, revealing that traces of TATP explosive had also been found.

But the suspects accidentally detonated an explosive at the house on the eve of Thursday's attack in Barcelona - an error that likely forced them to modify their plans. Instead, they used a vehicle to smash into crowds on Barcelona's Las Ramblas boulevard as it was thronged with tourists, killing 13 people and injuring about 100. Several hours later, a similar attack in the seaside town of Cambrils left one woman dead. Police shot and killed the five attackers in Cambrils, some of whom were wearing fake explosive belts and carrying knives.

The Islamic State (IS) group claimed responsibility for the attacks, believed to be its first in Spain. Police are hunting a Moroccan man suspected of driving the van used in Barcelona, and warn that he could be at large outside Spain. "We don't know where he is," said Trapero of the 22-year-old suspect, Younes Abouyaaqoub.

Three days after the attack that plunged the country into deep grief, locals and tourists turned out in force yesterday to mourn victims at Barcelona's Sagrada Familia basilica. King Felipe, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy and Catalonia's president, Carles Puigdemont,

Continued on Page 11



DAMASCUS: Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad delivers a speech to members of Syria's diplomatic corps in the capital. — AFP

ASSAD REJECTS SECURITY COOPERATION WITH WEST

ROCKET HITS DAMASCUS FAIR

DAMASCUS: Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad yesterday refused any security cooperation with Western nations or the reopening of their embassies, until they cut ties with opposition and insurgent groups. Shortly after Assad gave his speech, a shell hit the first international fair in the country since the war began six years ago, killing and wounding several people.

Assad's defiant comments come at a time when his troops and pro-Iranian militiamen are gaining ground across the

country under the cover of Russian airstrikes. Many countries have ceased calling for him to step down. Speaking before dozens of Syrian diplomats in Damascus, Assad praised Russia, Iran, China and Lebanon's Hezbollah for supporting his government during the conflict.

He said Syria will look east when it comes to political, economic and cultural relations. "The direct support of our friends, politically, economically and militarily, made our advance on the ground

Continued on Page 11

QATAR: NO DELAYS TO WORLD CUP

STADIUM SHAPED LIKE ARABIAN CAP TO BE BUILT

QATAR HAS NOT APPROVED HAJJ FLIGHTS: SAUDIA

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia said yesterday its aircraft have not been given permission to land in Doha to pick up Qatari pilgrims for the annual hajj after the king authorized flights to transport people to Makkah. Saudi Arabia reopened its border with Qatar last week to allow Qataris to attend the hajj amid a months-long rift between the neighboring countries. King Salman also authorized Saudi planes to transport pilgrims at his expense. Already, more than 100 Qataris have crossed into Saudi Arabia since the border was opened.

But Saleh Al-Jasser, the general manager of Saudi Arabian Airlines, was quoted by Saudi state TV as saying Qatari authorities have not authorized the kingdom's aircraft to land in the capital, despite a request submitted several days ago to transport Qatari pilgrims from Hamad International Airport in Doha. Qatar's foreign minister said his country welcomed the decision to facilitate the hajj for Qataris, however the moves do not appear to have been coordinated with Qatar's government.

In early June, Saudi Arabia sealed Qatar's only land border. The kingdom, along with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt also cut all diplomatic and transport links with Qatar, including

Continued on Page 11



DOHA: A visitor takes a selfie during an exhibition of artworks, which were donated by members of the community, depicting Qatari Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani titled "Glorious Tamim: In celebration of national unity" in the garden of the Islamic Museum yesterday. — AFP

DOHA: Qatar's 2022 World Cup preparations have been inconvenienced but not delayed by the political and economic boycott by its neighbors, the country's most senior tournament organizer insisted yesterday. Hassan Al-Thawadi, Secretary General of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, said alternative suppliers outside those countries involved in the ongoing dispute have been found for tournament-related construction projects.

"The impact has been minimal," Thawadi told Doha-based broadcaster Al-Jazeera English in an interview yesterday. "In terms of stadium progress or stadium construction and infrastructure requirements for the World Cup, progress is being made as well." He added that the crisis has "caused an inconvenience". Asked outright if projects had been delayed, Thawadi responded: "Projects are on schedule. No delays have occurred."

Continued on Page 11

MEDIA TESTED ANEW IN 'WAR' WITH TRUMP

WASHINGTON: When Donald Trump sought this week to lump white supremacists and those protesting against them into the same bag, he triggered a political firestorm with Republicans and Democrats warning "both sides" could not be treated alike. He also added fuel to an increasingly urgent debate over whether the US media can uphold its tradition of so-called "both sides" reporting - which strives to give equal weight to rival viewpoints - in the Trump era.

"This week should put the nail in the coffin for 'both sides' journalism," wrote Washington Post media columnist Margaret Sullivan following Trump's claim that leftwing counter-protestors shared in the blame for the neo-Nazi rally that turned violent in Charlottesville, Virginia. "Journalists should indeed stand for some things.

Continued on Page 11



MOUNTAIN VIEW, California: Attendees hold signs protesting against US President Donald Trump and the GOP at a rally against white nationalism on Saturday. — AFP

SHUNNED LEBANON BAND FINDS AUDIENCE IN WEST

BEIRUT: Lebanese band Mashrou' Leila's blend of indie rock and lyrics about social and political injustice has won a passionate following among fans seeking an alternative to Arab pop with its romantic themes. But securing a firm footing in the Middle East has been difficult for the band. Jordanian authorities cancelled its concert in June, for the second year in a row. Lebanese radio stations steer clear of its music.

"They don't know where to place us," said Hamed Sinno, 29, the openly gay vocalist of the five-member band formed in 2008 that has stirred controversy in the region with songs tackling oppression, classism, sectarianism and homophobia. "We can't play in Syria, we can't play in Palestine, we can't play in Jordan

apparently, we obviously can't play in Saudi," he said, listing places where conflict or social conservatism prohibit them from performing.

And things don't seem to be changing in the region, Sinno said, so the band has been playing more abroad. Mashrou' Leila has played concerts in cities including Paris, London, New York and San Francisco since its 2015 album Ibn El Leil reached number 13 on the Billboard world album chart. The band's music has broken away from the norm in a region whose pop stars steer clear of social issues, singing mostly of romances. Arabic music doesn't really have a tradition of "teenagers rebelling or expressing a lot of anger", Sinno said.

Continued on Page 11