

Jarallah: Stable environment for women crucial for development



Macron appoints center-right PM to widen appeal, meets Merkel



Government scientist from DC wins Miss USA title



Federer to skip Roland Garros to focus on grass/hardcourt



SECURITY KEY TO DEVELOPMENT, ARAB SPRING AN 'ILLUSION': PM

SHEIKH JABER TALKS ONE-VOTE SYSTEM, AUSTERITY, YOUTH, CONSCRIPTION, PAST POSTS



Min 28°
Max 41°
High Tide 08:59 & 21:08
Low Tide 08:53 & 20:46

TOP COURT UPHOLDS 5-YEAR JAIL TERM AGAINST 3 ROYALS

KUWAIT: The court of cassation yesterday upheld a five-year jail term against three members of the ruling family, including the former secret service chief, for insulting the judiciary. Dubbed the "Al-Fintas group", those convicted include Sheikh Athbi Al-Fahd Al-Sabah, former head of the secret service police, according to an official court verdict. He was one of three royals convicted, along with two other Kuwaiti citizens, of publishing posts on social media accusing judges of accepting bribes.

The five men were sentenced last year. An appeals court upheld the verdict in January. The supreme court also upheld a one-year jail term for a sixth defendant and acquitted six others, according to the verdict. Charges included posting fake footage on Twitter and WhatsApp. A thirteenth defendant, who allegedly posted online the footage, was sentenced to 10 years in jail by a lower court. He did not appeal the challenge and has since left Kuwait, according to the verdict. —AFP

AMIR HONORS TALENTED YOUTH



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is presented a memento during the Kuwait Capital of Arab Youth 2017 ceremony yesterday. — KUNA (See Page 3)

KUWAIT: HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday said security is a key challenge, and if it is restored, will lead to stability and consequently economic development. He was speaking in an interview with the National Assembly's TV station late yesterday.

Sheikh Jaber stressed that the waves of the so-called Arab Spring were an "illusion", as HH the Amir said during the Arab Summit in Jordan, adding that "our Arab world was in chaos, which affected nations". The so-called Arab Spring created several crises in many countries, in addition to the displacement of millions of people. Hundreds of thousands were killed and many others were wounded. Terrorism also spread intensively in the aftermath of the revolutions that broke out in the Arab countries.

The premier stressed that HH the Amir's vision of the "one person, one vote" system aims to provide equal opportunity to all the country's segments running for parliament. He noted that the system helped people from many tribes and categories be elected as MPs in the parliament. The National Assembly consists of 50 members who



HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah

represent five constituencies, ie 10 MPs from each district.

Sheikh Jaber said dealing with economic hardships should not be at the expense of citizens and is a core responsibility of the nation. In the interview, he said that wasted electricity and water is a serious issue and that "sacrifices should be made to put an end to the squander".

Continued on Page 13

SAUDI KING HAILS TRUMP SUMMIT

RIYADH: Saudi King Salman yesterday expressed hope a "historic" summit to be held Sunday between Arab and Muslim nations and US President Donald Trump will enhance ties and promote tolerance. The summit will be one of three forums held during a visit by Trump, who is making Saudi Arabia his first overseas stop since assuming office in January. Trump has frequently been accused of fuelling Islamophobia but aides described his decision to visit Saudi Arabia as an effort to reset relations with the Muslim world.

Along with the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), at least 18 other Muslim nations have been invited to the summit, including Turkey, Azerbaijan,

Niger and Indonesia, which has the world's largest Muslim population. Saudi Arabia's regional rival Iran is not invited. Salman told a cabinet meeting in the Red Sea city of Jeddah that the meeting "comes in light of the challenges and sensitive situations that the world is going through".

According to the official Saudi Press Agency, "he expressed his hope that this historic summit will establish a new partnership in the face of extremism and terrorism and spreading the values of tolerance and coexistence" while enhancing security. Trump is to also hold a bilateral summit with Saudi Arabia and talks with the GCC on Saturday.

Continued on Page 13

PUTIN BLAMES US AS CYBER ATTACKS EASE

LONDON: The world's biggest ransomware attack leveled off yesterday after wreaking havoc in 150 countries, but Russian President Vladimir Putin called it payback for the US intelligence services. Microsoft's president and chief legal officer Brad Smith has said the US National Security Agency developed the original code used in the attack, which later leaked in a document dump.

"Microsoft's leadership stated this directly, they said the source of the virus was the special services of the United States," Putin said on the sidelines of a summit in Beijing. "A genie let out of a bottle of this kind, especially created by secret services, can then cause damage to its authors and creators." Russia has recently been accused of cyber meddling in several countries, but Putin said they had nothing to do with the attack, which hit hundreds of thousands of computers. "A protection system... needs to be worked out," he said.

Smith earlier said he hoped the attacks would serve as "a wake-up call", warning governments against stockpiling code that could be misused if it fell into the wrong hands. And vulnerabilities should be pointed out to manufacturers, he said. "An equivalent scenario with conventional weapons would be the US military having some of its Tomahawk missiles stolen," Smith wrote.

There had been concern that yesterday's start of the working week would see an upsurge in attacks but the number of incidents reported leveled off. The cross-border police agency Europol said the situation was "stable", after attacks that struck computers in British hospital wards, European car factories and Russian banks. "The number of victims appears not to have gone up," a senior spokesman for Europol, Jan Op Gen Oorth, told AFP.

Continued on Page 13



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump shakes hands with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan of Abu Dhabi during a meeting in the Oval Office of the White House yesterday. — AFP

ISRAELI NAVY KILLS GAZA FISHERMAN

CONTROVERSIAL NEW US ENVOY ARRIVES IN ISRAEL

GAZA: An Israeli patrol boat fired at Palestinian fishermen accused of breaching the blockade off the northern Gaza Strip yesterday, leaving one of them dead, officials said. Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza have fought three wars since 2008 and the territory has been under an Israeli blockade for 10 years. Fishing off the northern part of the strip, adjacent to Israel, is limited to six nautical miles offshore and the Israeli navy regularly fires at Palestinians at the zone's outer limit. Such incidents rarely result in deaths, however.

Fishermen's union chief Nizar Ayash said the shooting and the arrest of four other crewmen happened in one incident, and two more arrests were made when the military boarded another Gaza boat overnight. The dead man's family identified him as Mohammed Majed

Bakr, 25. His body was transferred to a morgue in Gaza ahead of his funeral later yesterday. Ayash told AFP his union was suspending fishing until the end of Thursday.

An Israeli military spokeswoman confirmed the shooting but did not speak of additional arrests. "A vessel deviated from the designated fishing zone in the northern Gaza Strip," the spokeswoman told AFP. "Naval forces in the area called upon the vessel to halt and fired warning shots into the air." She said the boat ignored the warning and the navy then fired at it. "As a result of the fire a Palestinian was injured and was evacuated to an Israeli hospital for immediate medical treatment," she added.

The military later confirmed that the man had died. Gazan fishing official Zacharia Bakr also confirmed the death. UN officials have

called for the blockade to be lifted, citing deteriorating humanitarian conditions, but Israel says it is needed to keep Hamas, which runs the strip, from importing weapons or materials used to make them. The size of the fishing zone has varied over the years, having been set at 20 nautical miles by the Oslo accords of the 1990s before being reduced by Israeli authorities. About 4,000 fishermen work off the coastal strip, more than half of whom live below the poverty line.

Meanwhile, controversial new US ambassador to Israel David Friedman arrived in the country yesterday to take up his post, days ahead of a visit by US President Donald Trump. Friedman, due to present his credentials to President Reuven Rivlin today, has

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti man looks at fishing vessels docked next to the central fish market in Kuwait City in front of the new building of the Central Bank of Kuwait (right) yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

MP CALLS TO REDUCE EXPAT STUDENTS IN GOVT SCHOOLS

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Islamist opposition MP Osama Al-Shaheen criticized the government's policy aimed at dealing with the demographic imbalance and called for reducing the number of expatriate students in public schools as part of the solution. He said reforming the demographic imbalance in the country requires a strong will by the government, but this will is not there. Shaheen said based on official statistics in April, the number of expatriates reached 3.054 million, or 69.5 percent of the population. Kuwaitis number about 1.35 million, just 30.5 percent.

The lawmaker said there are 71,000 teachers in the country including 46,000 Kuwaiti teachers, which means that there are 25,000 Arab and foreign teachers, adding that some of these jobs should be given to Kuwaitis. According to education ministry statistics, about 51,400 expatriate students are studying in public schools, with each student costing the government nearly KD 5,000. This amounts to KD 253.6 million being spent on the education of non-Kuwaitis.

Expat students are in general not allowed to join public schools, but the ministry has exempted several

Continued on Page 13



GAZA CITY: Palestinian mourners carry the body of fisherman Mohammed Majed Bakr, 25, outside a hospital morgue yesterday. — AFP