

Banking system in Kuwait remains sound, stable: Hashel



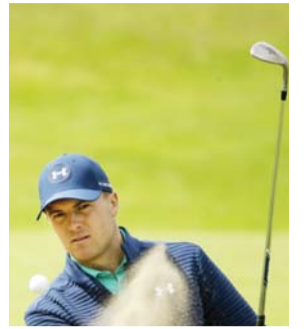
Sanders finally endorses Clinton at joint campaign rally



Hidden angel mosaic at Bethlehem shrine sees the light



Olympic withdrawal was 'hardest decision' for Spieth



150 FILLS  
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## MP CALLS FOR ADDING HEZB, DAWA TO ANTI-TERROR BILL

### SPEEDY IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW SPORTS LAW SOUGHT

Min 35°  
Max 47°  
High Tide 06:07 & 18:22  
Low Tide 12:44

## AIRPORT CLEANERS STRIKE OVER UNPAID WAGES

By Faten Omar and A Saleh

KUWAIT: Cleaners at Kuwait International Airport went on strike yesterday in protest against not being paid their salaries since May. The cleaners also demanded to receive a minimum salary of KD 60 as stipulated in their contracts, as they do not have any other source of income. The workers' cleaning company declined to issue a statement to Kuwait Times, but confirmed that it will pay the workers two months' salary within days, after it is approved by the management.

Acting Director of MPA Ahmad Al-Moussa said the Manpower Public Authority summoned the owner of the cleaning company, and will take legal action against the company if it does not meet its commitments towards the workers, especially with regards to monthly salaries. He said all labor strikes that took place lately are due to nonpayment of monthly salaries. He said MPA punished violating companies by suspending their files, and will not be lax in taking necessary legal action against any violating company.

An airport source said that the delay in payment of salaries is not the first, as it has happened before with security workers. The source added that the cleaners also went on strike last month due to the same reason, and this is because of the inability of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor to adopt an effective law to ensure that companies pay the salaries of their workers on time.



KUWAIT: Cleaners gather during a strike in protest over unpaid salaries at the airport yesterday.

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: MP Abdullah Al-Maayouf said yesterday that a draft law proposed by fellow lawmaker Saleh Ashour to counter terrorist groups should have included Lebanon's Hezbollah and Iraq's Dawa Party besides the Islamic State group. A few days ago, Ashour submitted a draft law calling to consider the Islamic State as a terrorist group and also stipulating a jail term of between 10 and 20 years for those convicted of establishing or promoting terrorist groups.

Maayouf said the Hezbollah and Dawa groups should have been included in the new bill away from any sectarian considerations. Kuwaiti courts have passed rulings against dozens of members, sympathizers and financiers of the Islamic State for being associated with an outlawed organization because Kuwaiti law does not specifically consider the Islamic State as a terrorist group. The law will be studied by the National Assembly after the summer recess in October, but the Assembly's panels are expected to review the bill during the summer recess.

Maayouf also strongly criticized the head of the Kuwait Football Association Sheikh Talal Al-Fahd, claiming he is trying to survive in his post after a new sports law became effective yesterday after its publication in the official gazette Kuwait Al-Youm. He charged that Sheikh Talal has been trying to seek help from outside the country, totally ignoring Kuwaiti domestic laws.

In a related development, MP Abdullah Al-Turajji yesterday called on the Minister of Information and Youth Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah to follow up the implementation of the new sports law, especially after

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## 20 KILLED IN ITALY TRAIN CRASH

News

in brief

### Trial in Makkah crane collapse to begin soon

RIYADH: Charges and a trial are expected soon in Saudi Arabia over last year's crane collapse in Makkah that killed 111 pilgrims and injured nearly 240 people just days before the start of the annual hajj pilgrimage, according to a report published yesterday. The state-linked Al-Riyadh newspaper said the Bureau of Investigation and Prosecution in Makkah has handed over its findings to Makkah's criminal court for judicial review. The crane collapsed amid unusually strong winds on Sept 11, piercing through parts of the roof of the Grand Mosque that houses the Kaaba and bringing down slabs of concrete on worshippers below.

### Qatar to build Hadid flower-shaped hotel

DOHA: Qatar will construct two buildings designed by late Iraqi-British architect Zaha Hadid, including a tower shaped like a desert flower close to the site of the 2022 soccer World Cup final, a member of its ruling family said yesterday. Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad Al-Thani, the brother of Qatar's Emir, commissioned Hadid in 2013 to create the structures, one a 38-story hotel in the form of a hyacinth and featuring a nine-pointed base to shield visitors from the searing Gulf sun. Sheikh Mohammed's Al Alfia Holding said in a statement it would construct the tower "designed in response to current and future environmental challenges" by 2020 in the city of Lusail, 23 km north of the capital Doha.

ROME: At least 20 people were killed yesterday in a head-on collision between two passenger trains in the southern Italian region of Puglia, in one of the country's worst rail accidents in recent years. Emergency services raced to extract people from the wreckage of smashed carriages thrown across a single track into olive groves near the town of Andria, in what one witness described as an "apocalyptic scene". Coffins were taken to the site near the city of Bari to carry away the first of the dead as 200 rescue workers sifted through the wreckage in temperatures

reaching 40 degrees Celsius.

"I saw dead people, others who were begging for help, people crying. The worst scene of my life," one policeman told journalists. Vito Montanaro, director general of the Bari health authority, said 20 people had died and 35 were injured, 18 of them critically. "It was an enormous accident, a very violent crash," said Transport Minister Graziano Delrio, who arrived on at the scene along with two ministry inspectors to aid the investigation.

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Two smashed carriages are thrown across the tracks after a head-on collision between two trains between Ruvo and Corato in the southern Italian region of Puglia yesterday. — AFP



MANILA: An activist wearing a hat representing the Philippine navy boat "Sierra Madre", now half-submerged at the Second Thomas shoal of the Spratly islands, sits with protesters during a demonstration in front of the Chinese consulate yesterday. — AFP

## TRIBUNAL REJECTS CHINA'S SOUTH CHINA SEA CLAIMS

THE HAGUE: An international tribunal ruled yesterday against China's claims it had "historical rights" in the South China Sea in a bitter dispute that risks further stoking regional tensions. Manila - which had lodged the suit against Beijing - welcomed the decision by the Permanent Court of Arbitration but Beijing reacted furiously, saying it "neither accepts nor recognizes" the ruling. Beijing claims most of the South China Sea, even waters approaching neighboring countries, as its

sovereign territory, basing its arguments on Chinese maps dating back to the 1940s marked with a so-called nine-dash line.

"The tribunal concluded that there was no legal basis for China to claim historic rights within the sea areas falling within the 'nine-dash line,'" the Hague-based PCA said in its hard-hitting ruling. It said Beijing had no historic rights to resources in South China Sea waters and that such rights were "extinguished" as being incompatible

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## POKEMON GO DRIVES PLAYERS INTO FRENZY

SAN FRANCISCO: Pokemon Go mania has quickly swept the US as players armed with smartphones hunt streets, parks, rivers and elsewhere to capture monsters and gather supplies in the hit game. The free application based on a Nintendo title that debuted 20 years ago has been adapted to the mobile internet age by Niantic Labs, a company spun out of Google last year after breaking ground with Ingress, a game that merged mapping capabilities with play. By Monday, Pokemon Go had been downloaded millions of times, topping rankings at official online shops for applications tailored for smartphones powered by Apple or Google-backed Android software.

According to the research firm SimilarWeb, the game was downloaded in more than five percent of Android phones in the first two days of release and had outpaced the dating app Tinder. The game uses GPS and mapping

capabilities in mobile phones to let players roam the real world to find "PokeStops" stocked with supplies and hunt cartoon character monsters to capture and train for battles. PokeStops can also dispense monster eggs, which players incubate by racking up walking distances.

Players can also visit "gyms", where captured cartoon creatures can be conditioned as combatants to seize such training facilities. "It's cool to actually play as a Pokemon trainer in real life," said Lucas Garcia, a 17-year-old California boy who has been a fan for more than a decade. "It is nice to have a video game that makes you actually walk around instead of sitting in front of a TV screen holding a controller."

People who played Ingress will recognize PokeStops and gyms, many being monuments, signs, businesses or other real world spots that served as "portals" that could be captured in the earlier Niantic game. "We have helped

users all around the world have fun, socialize, and get more fit as they play and explore," Niantic chief executive John Hanke said in a blog post when Pokemon Go was released last week in the US, Australia and New Zealand.

A tidal wave of interest in the game has bogged down servers hosting the software, frustrating some players and delaying plans to launch Pokemon Go in more countries. "I downloaded it because everyone that I know has liked Pokemon since before fifth grade," said California teenager Owen Fairchild, who is now in college. "Now that I have it, I get it. I never really walked around, but a couple of days ago, I walked across the island... and I hatched two five-kilometer eggs."

A young woman playing Pokemon Go came upon a dead body in a Wyoming river while hunting a water monster in the game, according to US news reports.

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NEW YORK: Medical students Jag Chilana (left) and Scott Kobner play Pokemon Go on their smartphones at Union Square on Monday. — AFP (See Page 27)