

Panel did not recommend raising school fees, says MP



UK polls show momentum for 'In' after MP's murder



Chile thrash Mexico 7-0 to reach Copa semis



Protests as tension at Orlando funerals

Ramadan Timings	
Emsak:	03:03
Fajer:	03:13
Shrooq:	04:48
Dohr:	11:49
Asr:	15:23
Maghreb:	18:50
Eshaa:	20:22

150 FILES
40 PAGES
NO: 16910

ASSEMBLY PASSES BUDGETS OF EIGHT NEW GOVT BODIES

MPS LASH OUT AT SPORTS OFFICIALS AS THEY AMEND SPORTS LAWS

Min 30°
Max 46°
High Tide 00:35 & 11:07
Low Tide 05:33 & 18:48

GRATITUDE: A LESSON OF HOLY RAMADAN

Ramadan Kareem

By Teresa Leshner

By the end of the day, when I finally sit down to a glass of cool water and a few dates, I am overcome with a sense of gratitude. I realize what a blessing food and water are. I realize that many people do not have access to clean water or nutritious food. I realize that many people never feel the satisfaction I do at the end of a balanced and delicious meal. I become aware of how blessed I am, and as I take those first sips and savor the first tastes, I am filled with gratitude. Not only for the food and drink, but for the opportunity to express my devotion to God through fasting in daylight hours, just as He has asked me to do. I feel fortunate that I have been guided to an annual ritual that, despite the feelings of weakness I experience, strengthens me in every way - physically, mentally and spiritually.

Maryam, mother of Jesus, is a fine example of someone grateful for God's many blessings. The holy Quran says that when Zachariah found food with her when he visited her, he asked where she got it from. Her response is quite interesting. Most people probably would have said, "The neighbor sent it to me" or "A caravan has just arrived from Yemen" or "I bought it this morning from the farmers' market." Although any answer would satisfy the most curious person, it didn't satisfy her. She was so devout and so wise that she could see beyond the obvious and the circumstantial - she could see the Truth. So she answered, "This is from Allah. Verily, Allah provides sustenance to whom He wills, without limit." (3:37)

We should respond as wisely as Maryam when asked about our blessings. The holy Quran says, "Whatever good has come to you, it is from God" (4:79). So if someone asks you, "I love your clothes! Where did you get them? You should realize that they are from God. Or if someone remarks that you are so strong, you should acknowledge the source of all strength: "It's from God!" Or if your kids ask, what's for dinner, the best response is "rice and chicken from God." That's the outlook that Maryam had: appreciative, humble, insightful. Look around and start counting your blessings - from the food you expect to eat tonight, to the soft pillow on your bed, to the eyes that are reading these words. If it's good, it's from God.

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KUWAIT: Minarets of three different mosques are pictured in Kuwait City. Mosques around Kuwait prepare to welcome worshippers for 'Qiyam' prayers that are performed during the last ten nights of Ramadan, starting from Friday night. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The National Assembly yesterday, meeting in a special session, approved the 2016/2017 budgets and the final accounts of eight new government bodies and voted to approve government-sponsored amendments to sports laws to facilitate lifting of international sanctions. MPs voted by 46 in favor with six against to a new sports law that allows the government to dissolve sports federations and clubs for the sake of public interest. It however gives these bodies the right to challenge the dissolution in court.

It also changes the voting to the single-vote system which allows members of clubs to elect only one member in the board. The previous system allowed members to vote for all the board members. Some MPs strongly criticized Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, chairman of the Olympic Council of Asia and senior member of international sports organizations and his younger brother Sheikh Talal, chairman of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, blaming them for causing the suspension of Kuwaiti sports internationally. MP Abdullah Al-Turaiji asked until when the two brothers will continue to control the Kuwaiti sports and wondered why the international sports bodies do not interfere in other Gulf countries.

He called on the government to dissolve all sports bodies in the country after the amendment. But a number of MPs warned that the amendments will likely bring more government control and interference in sports and accordingly will not help lift the international suspension.

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EGYPT, QATAR CLASH OVER MORSI-ERA ESPIONAGE CASE

DUBAI: Qatar and Egypt have renewed their animosity, trading harshly-worded statements over the sentencing to death by a Cairo court of six people, including two Al-Jazeera employees, for allegedly passing Egyptian documents related to national security to Qatar and the Doha-based TV network during the rule of President Mohammed Morsi.

Relations between Egypt and Qatar have been fraught with tension and suspicion since the ouster by the military in 2013 of the Islamist Morsi, who enjoyed the support of the rich Gulf nation throughout his one year in office. Egypt claims that Qatar endangers its national security by supporting Islamist groups, including Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood, which is now banned in Egypt and has been declared a terrorist group by the government.

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DUBAI GROUP BUYS MAJORITY STAKE IN KUWAIT'S AMERICANA

KUWAIT: A Dubai-based investor group led by Emaar Properties chairman Mohamed Al-Abbar has agreed to purchase a majority stake in Kuwait's top food company Americana, the firm said yesterday. A binding agreement for the acquisition, estimated at \$2.3 billion, was reached between Abbar's Adeptio group and Al-Khair National for Stocks and Real Estate, a statement on Kuwait's Stock Exchange said.

The new development comes three weeks after the two sides announced that takeover negotiations had collapsed. Al-Khair said in its statement that negotiations were reopened and the binding deal was signed on Saturday to buy the stake for KD 2.65 (\$8.8) per share. Based on the latest official figures, Al-Khair holds a 66.8 percent stake in Americana's 391 million stocks worth around \$2.3 billion. Under Kuwaiti law, Adeptio must make a similar offer to the holders of the remaining 33

percent of the company. Established in 1964, Americana, or Kuwait Food Company, is the parent group that brought to the Middle East more than a dozen major food brands like Pizza Hut, KFC, Costa Coffee and TGI Friday's.

It owns more than 1,690 outlets and employs 63,000 workers in the Middle East and North Africa region. It also has 17 factories in the region and abroad and produces a variety of food products.

Meanwhile, nutrition giant Americana's shares resumed trading yesterday after the company's clarification about the sale deal between Kuwait's Al-Khair and Dubai's Adeptio. The company's shares received offers worth KD 2,200, but no offers and transactions were made. Both companies will be notified by the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) about all necessary procedures in order to complete the transaction, the statement added. — Agencies

News

in brief

2 workers killed in UAE nuclear plant accident

DUBAI: A state-owned newspaper has reported that two workers have been killed while building the first nuclear power plant in the United Arab Emirates.

The National of Abu Dhabi reported that the workers were killed and three others injured while working in a "man basket held by a crane" on May 12 at the under-construction Barakah nuclear power plant in the UAE's western desert.

The first nuclear reactor at Barakah under construction.

It's unclear why the deaths are being reported more than a month later. The Emirates Nuclear Energy Corp did not respond to a request for comment yesterday. The UAE's Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation issued a statement to The Associated Press saying that the incident occurred in a "non-nuclear related facility" at the site.

Qatar delays \$200bn infrastructure works

DOHA: A \$200 billion infrastructure program launched by Qatar could see higher costs and delays because of the slump in oil prices, the government of the 2022 football World Cup host warned yesterday. A study from the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics (MDPS) said that "continued volatility" on the oil market was likely to have consequences for the vast construction projects underway in the Gulf state. The MDPS predicted that Doha will run budget deficits for at least three years as it adjusts its energy-reliant economy to the fall in oil prices, which have dropped by more than half since 2014. It also confirmed that Qatar will for the first time introduce a value-added tax in 2018, in the form of a five percent levy on certain goods that was agreed by Gulf Cooperation Council finance ministers this month.

TRUMP: US SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER PROFILING MUSLIMS

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump says the country should "seriously" consider profiling Muslims in the United States as a terrorism-fighting tool. The presumptive Republican presidential nominee says other countries use profiling and "it's not the worst thing to do."

In an interview with CBS' "Face the Nation," Trump said, "I hate the concept of profiling, but we have to start using common sense" and "look at it seriously." Profiling is the government practice of targeting people for investigation based factors such as their race, religion or nationality. Civil libertarians have decried the practice as discriminatory.

Trump says that in the age of international terrorism, it's a matter of choosing "common sense" over "political correctness." He's also proposed a temporary ban on foreign Muslims from entering the United States.

"You look at Israel and you look at others, and they do it and they do it successfully. And you know, I hate the concept of profiling, but we have to start using common sense," he added. Trump has drawn criticism from many in his party for his comments on American Muslims after the Orlando attack, in which a US born Muslim man killed 49 people at a gay nightclub.

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PHOENIX, Arizona: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks to a crowd of supporters during a campaign rally Saturday in Phoenix, Arizona. — AFP



TEHRAN: A Boeing 747 of Iran's national airline on the tarmac of Mehrabad International Airport in Tehran. — AP

IRAN INKS DEAL TO BUY 100 BOEING PLANES

TEHRAN: Iran said yesterday it has reached an agreement with American aerospace giant Boeing to purchase 100 aircraft to renew its ageing fleet, though the deal must still be approved by the US government. The Islamic republic has ordered about 200 planes from three Western manufacturers since mid-January, when economic sanctions were lifted following a deal on Tehran's nuclear program.

Ali Abedzadeh, head of Iran's civil aviation authority said in remarks published by the daily Iran newspaper that an agreement had been reached with Boeing for the purchase but said the deal was contingent on US Treasury permission.

Deputy Transport Minister Asghar

Fakhrieh Kashan however said yesterday that he hoped the initial accord could be completed within a month. He told the Fars news agency that the deal would be "the largest and most important contract" with the United States-barring military deals-since before Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

A nuclear agreement in July with six world powers, including the US, has lifted some of the economic sanctions on Iran in return for limits on the Islamic republic's controversial atomic program. Many of Iran's ageing civil aviation fleet — 230 planes out of 250 according to Abedzadeh-are in desperate need of replacement.

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