

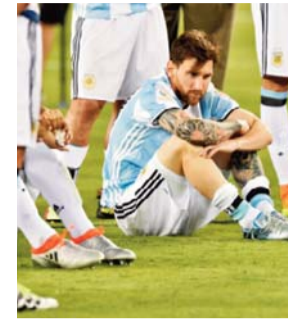
Yemen govt seeks fair peace deal



Suicide blasts kill five near Lebanon border



Messi retires after Chile retain Copa



Israeli, Turkish leaders laud reconciliation

Ramadan Timings

Emsak:	03:06
Fajer:	03:16
Shrooq:	04:50
Dohr:	11:51
Asr:	15:25
Maghreb:	18:51
Eshaa:	20:24

AMIR UNDERLINES NEED TO SAFEGUARD NATIONAL UNITY

MEDIA URGED TO CHECK AUTHENTICITY OF SOCIAL MEDIA REPORTS



Min 33°
Max 49°
High Tide 05:35 & 15:12
Low Tide 11:37

RAMADAN AND CHANGE

Ramadan Kareem

By Hatem Basha

Change is a buzzword in our everyday discourse and we are always seeking a change in our life, whether substantial or marginal. Every single act or endeavor we embark upon is motivated by an urge to make a change in one way or another. However, the changes we experience vary considerably in terms of the depth and breadth of the consequences that these changes imprint on our life. What counts for most of us are profound and significant changes whose effects are far-reaching and transforming. Bernard Shaw said that Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.

The biggest hurdle people have in the path of change is the absence of the strong will. Ramadan provides Muslims with a yearly transforming event to get them accustomed to embrace an indomitable will to change on many levels. Fasting is not restricted to superficial and mundane changes related to habits of eating and sleeping time, but it carries a much wider sense of inner change. Fasting helps the Muslim, on the one hand, to build a firm will that will empower him to acquire positive qualities, and to get rid of bad habits, whims and desires, on the other hand. Muslims are trained to conquer even the most instinctive and

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KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah delivers his annual address marking the last 10 days of the holy month of Ramadan yesterday. — KUNA

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, in his annual address marking the last 10 days of the holy month of Ramadan, emphasized necessity of safeguarding national unity, urging the media to check authenticity of reports intended to foment hatred and sensation on electronic social media.

His Highness the Amir began his speech by renewing congratulations to the people on the holy month of Ramadan and advent of its last blessed days. He stated, "In this critical period of time in the region, where states witness hazards, catastrophes and conflicts, we badly need to unite and adhere to our national unity .. for it is the strong fence to fend off dangers threatening the homeland and its safety.

"We ought to deduce lessons from outcomes of the wars and conflicts in these states; the sensible ones are those who take lessons from the others and appreciate the bounties, security, safety, stability and prosperity at home."

HH the Amir turned to the issue of rumors on social media means, saying, "We regret misuse of social media devices, for some people have been using them for entertainment or for desecrating values of our society such as piety, ideal values and pious morals which we have inherited from our ancestors."

HH the Amir denounced misusing e-media for promoting articles and tweets that negatively target the homeland, doubt peoples' intentions and honesty; such reports are full of baseless accusations." Such online inaccurate and distorted rhetoric, His Highness added, has fomented hatred where "the courts have become

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KUWAIT'S UK INVESTMENTS 'HIGH QUALITY, LONG-TERM'

DUBAI: Kuwait's Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh said yesterday that the country's investments in Britain were "high-quality and long-term", state news agency KUNA reported. His message was delivered to a cabinet meeting which discussed the impact on Kuwait of the British vote on Thursday to leave the European Union which has rattled markets and pushed the value of the British pound to a 31-year low.

"Kuwaiti investments in Britain are considered tangible assets in real estate, infrastructure and government stocks and bonds. They are high-quality and long-term investments," Saleh was quoted as saying. "Direct effects cannot be excluded during the current period represented in the pound sterling, the euro and interest rates pricing," he said, adding that Kuwait's central bank was ready to ensure financial stability. The Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), has \$592 billion in assets under management, according to the Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute (SWFI), and is also a major investor through its London-based Kuwait Investment Office. In 2013 it said the fund had more than doubled its investment in Britain over the previous 10 years to more than \$24 billion.

Kuwait owns London landmarks such as the More One riverside development which houses the headquarters of the mayor, as well as buildings in Canary Wharf. It has focused on infrastructure investments through its Wren House Infrastructure Management arm, set up in 2013. — Reuters

LOCAL EXCHANGES 'HOARD' POUND AS CURRENCY SINKS

KUWAITI INVESTORS IN UK JITTERY

By Ben Garcia and Faten Omar

KUWAIT MOURNS TAREQ RAJAB

KUWAIT: Kuwait's eminent cultural, arts, archaeology pioneer Tareq Sayed Rajab has died at the age of 80. Born in 1935, Rajab was the first Kuwaiti to be sent abroad to study art and archaeology.

After his return from Britain, he was appointed as the first Director of the Department of Antiquities and Museums of Kuwait in 1958. Rajab excavated for antiquities on the island of Failaka. He was also head of public relations at the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC).

In addition, he was head of the New English School in Kuwait, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.

In 1980, he opened the "Tareq Sayed Rajab Museum" displaying the history of Kuwait through a wonderful collection of calligraphy works, manuscripts, miniatures, ceramics, metalwork, glass, jade-, wood- and stone-carvings. — KUNA



Tareq Rajab

Several local money exchange companies have halted dealing in the British pound to avert major financial losses following the record crash of the sterling in the aftermath of the Brexit vote on Thursday. The pound has plunged to a three-decade low following Friday's momentous referendum outcome. The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) said in its daily bulletin yesterday that the pound sterling fell to KD 0.405 against the Kuwaiti dinar in the local market.

Fadel Al-Mandi, Deputy Manager, Communications and Public Relations Department of CBK, told Kuwait Times there has been a sharp fall in the pound after Britain voted to leave the European Union, and warned money exchangers against withholding the currency. "Complaints have been received about money exchangers running out of British pounds. But the fact is that many money exchange companies are hoarding the sterling and refusing to sell it because of the low rate," he said. "However, the Central Bank of Kuwait will do a field study to confirm this and we will take necessary measures to stop hoarding of the currency," he added.

Mandi pointed out that Kuwaiti citizens are jittery following the pound's sharp fall because of their huge investments in the UK. He also urged the government to issue a statement on the current situation. The pound sterling sank as low as \$1.35 yesterday, a near 10 percent drop in value and its lowest rate against the dollar since September 1985, before recovering to \$1.37. The fall was reportedly even greater than the drop during the 2008 global financial crisis.

"We suspended trading because there is no availability of British currency right now; selling or buying of the pound has been halted," said Montaser, a supervisor at a money exchange in Kuwait City.

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CONDOLENCES

Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief, management and staff

convey their deepest condolences to the family of

Tareq Al-Sayed Rajab

on his sad demise

May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on him