

No injuries in blaze at Hawally transformer



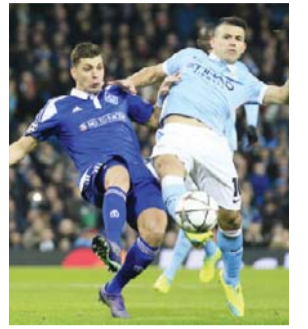
Mass killer Breivik makes Nazi salute as he sues Norway



Suu Kyi close aide voted Myanmar's next president



City qualify for Champions League quarterfinals



150 FILLS
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SUBAIH GRILLING DELAYED, DASHTI IMMUNITY LIFTED

ASSEMBLY OKS RECOMMENDATIONS ON BEDOONS, ELDERLY BILL



Min 18°
Max 25°
High Tide 05:59 & 16:38
Low Tide 11:10



KUWAIT: Yemeni President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi is welcomed by HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah upon his arrival at Kuwait international airport yesterday on a two-day official visit. — KUNA (See Page 2)

KUWAIT: The National Assembly decided yesterday to delay the grilling of Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Subaih to today's follow-up session. MP Saleh Ashour had filed an interpellation motion against the minister on issues related to privatizing cooperative societies and purported manipulation of financial allotments for orphans, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. Subaih is also Minister of State for Planning and Development.

Following the session, MP Abdullah Al-Turajji announced intentions to file yet another grilling motion against Subaih tomorrow. The lawmaker accused the minister of 'failure to enforce the law' that penalizes those who hinder national unity, not being up to her position's responsibilities and having negative attitudes towards the Assembly.

Turajji explained that the minister "stood still and did nothing" when a senior social affairs ministry official allegedly posted some 'racial comments' on his Twitter account. "Accordingly, we have to be up to the responsibilities stipulated in the constitution to avoid our silence being taken as an excuse for further violations," he stated.

On Ashour's grilling, Turajji said that he would attempt to evaluate Subaih's arguments during the debate today before making his decision whether to support or oppose the grilling accordingly. "Regardless of the result of Ashour's motion, I am filing mine (tomorrow morning)," he emphasized.

Also during the session, the parliament approved the public prosecution's request to strip MP Abdulhameed Dashti of his parliamentary immunity.



KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Planning Hind Al-Subaih gestures during a session at the National Assembly yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

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DHAKA: Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman, who resigned yesterday, addresses a press conference yesterday. — AP

B'DESH BANK CHIEF QUILTS OVER \$81M CYBER HEIST

MAN IN MANILA GETS \$30M CASH

DHAKA/MANILA: Bangladesh's central bank governor resigned yesterday over the theft of \$81 million from the bank's US account, as details emerged in the Philippines that \$30 million of the money was delivered in cash to a casino junket operator in Manila. The audacious cyber-theft has embarrassed the Bangladeshi government, triggered outrage in the impoverished country and raised alarm over the security of the country's foreign exchange reserves of over \$28 billion. The rest of the money hackers stole from the Bangladesh Bank's account at the New York Federal Reserve, one of the largest cyber heists in history, went to two casinos, officials told a Philippines Senate hearing into the scandal.

They said a mix of dollars and Philippine pesos was sent by a foreign exchange broker to the ethnic Chinese junket operator over several days, a haul that would have been made up of at least 780,000 banknotes. Unknown hackers last month breached the computer systems of Bangladesh Bank and attempted to steal \$951 million from its Fed account, which it uses for international settlements, but the bank's security systems and typing errors in some requests prevented the full theft. They managed to transfer \$81 million to entities in the Philippines.

Bangladesh Bank officials have said

there is little hope of apprehending the perpetrators and recovering the money would be difficult and could take months. In Dhaka, central bank governor Atiur Rahman said he had resigned to set an example in a country where there is little precedence of accountability and to uphold the image of the institution. The government also fired two deputy governors of the bank, Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith said, days after blaming it for keeping the government in the dark about the theft.

Rahman, who held the bank's top post for seven years, told reporters he resigned voluntarily. "I submitted my resignation to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ... tears rolled out from her two eyes," he said. Rahman's exit could be a blow to Bangladesh, a South Asian nation of 160 million. The country has been aspiring to reach middle-income status, and Rahman was seen as one of the driving forces helping Dhaka towards that goal. Under the former development economics professor, the country's foreign exchange reserves have increased four-fold to \$28 billion and he also sought to ensure farmers and women entrepreneurs had better access to banking services and credit.

Rahman defended his record at the central bank, saying he was proud of his achievements there.

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RUSSIA JETS RETURN FROM SYRIA

KNPC CLOSE TO \$3BN LOAN TO PART-FUND REFINERIES' REVAMP

DUBAI: Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) expects to close the first phase of funding for its multi-billion-dollar Clean Fuels Project with local banks as soon as the first week of April, the state oil refiner told Kuwait News Agency yesterday. Part of the country's KD 30 billion (\$100 billion) economic development plan, the Clean Fuels Project will upgrade and expand two of the Gulf Arab state's largest existing refineries with a focus on producing higher-value products such as diesel and kerosene for export.

KNPC was in advanced talks with local conventional and Islamic banks to secure a KD 900 million loan of 10 years duration, Chief Executive Mohammed Al-Mutairi was quoted as saying in a statement to the state news agency. National Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Finance House were helping to arrange this part of the funding, the statement said. Negotiations were also underway to secure further financing from international banks which would be guaranteed by the export credit agencies of South Korea, Japan, Britain, Italy and the Netherlands.

No figure for this portion was given, but the statement said the expected completion of talks was scheduled later this year. Sources told Reuters in April 2015 that KNPC was in talks with banks to raise as much as \$10 billion for a period between seven and 10 years to fund around 70 percent of the total project cost.

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MOSCOW: The first of Russia's warplanes to leave Syria received a hero's welcome back home yesterday, starting a surprise withdrawal the West hopes could boost peace talks by pressuring Damascus. Despite the initial pullout, a monitoring group said Russian helicopters - and likely warplanes - which are still in Syria had pounded Islamic State group positions as regime troops pressed an advance. UN peace envoy Staffan de Mistura described the withdrawal announcement as a "significant development" for negotiations that began in Geneva on Monday in the

latest push to end the brutal conflict as it enters its sixth year. "We hope (this) will have a positive impact on the progress of the negotiations," he said in a statement.

President Vladimir Putin on Monday ordered the "main part" of Russia's forces out of the war-torn nation, but the Kremlin denied it was trying to pressure its long-time ally President Bashar Al-Assad. Russia will, however, keep a contingent at its air and naval bases in Syria and a senior official said strikes against "terrorist targets" would continue.

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VORONEZH, Russia: A Russian pilot receives a hero's welcome on returning from Syria at an airbase near this Russian city yesterday. — AP

1503 SHIPWRECK FOUND OFF OMAN



Divers excavate the wreck site of Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama's ship Esmeralda, which sank in a storm in May 1503 off the coast of Al Hallaniyah island in Oman's Dhofar region. — AP

DUBAI: The 500-year-old wreckage of Portuguese ship piloted by an uncle of explorer Vasco da Gama has been found off the coast of Oman, archaeologists said yesterday, a discovery that included the recovery of an incredibly rare coin. The Esmeralda sank during a violent storm near Al-Hallaniyah Island in the Indian Ocean in May 1503, killing commander Vicente Sodre and all those aboard.

Beginning in 2013, a team from the British company Blue Water Recoveries and the Oman Ministry of Heritage and Culture explored a site in the island's Ghubbat ar Rahib Bay. They later determined the debris found there came from the long-missing ship, one of two lost in the storm from da Gama's second voyage to India. Among the stone shot, ceramics, a bell and other debris, divers discovered an incredibly rare silver coin called an Indio, of which only one other is known to exist today, said David L Mearns, the director of Blue Water Recoveries. The coins were forged in 1499 after da Gama's first voyage to India, which helps date the wreckage, he said.

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