

India scrapped notes without homework: Congress leader



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DASHTI OUT OF ELECTION RACE AFTER FINAL COURT RULING

OPPOSITION CANDIDATES BLAST DISSOLVED ASSEMBLY



Max 33°
Min 12°
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Low Tide 06:22 & 18:27



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SKYGAZERS GAWK AT EXTRA BRIGHT 'SUPERMOON'

JAKARTA: Skygazers took to high-rise buildings, observatories and beaches yesterday to get a glimpse of the closest "supermoon" to Earth in almost seven decades, and snap dramatic pictures. The unusually big and bright moon appeared at its most impressive as night fell over Asia, but astronomy enthusiasts were able to see Earth's satellite loom large anywhere in the world shortly after sunset. The phenomenon happens when the moon is full at the same time as, or very near, perigee - its closest point to Earth on an elliptical, monthly orbit.

It was the closest to Earth since 1948 at a distance of 356,509 km, creating what NASA described as "an extra-supermoon". Skygazers and photographers headed to the best viewing spots in Asia, where the phenomenon was visible first, hoping that cloudy skies and the perennial pollution that blights many of the region's cities would not spoil the fun. The eastern Sydney suburb of Bronte became an unexpected viewing spot as thousands of people armed with picnic mats and cameras packed its small beach near Bondi to catch a glimpse of the supermoon after a Facebook invite went viral.

Loud cheers went up among the crowd as the moon made brief appearances between heavy, grey clouds before disappearing. "It's really nice," Aidan Millar-Powell told AFP of the festive, community atmosphere at the beach. "People don't usually come together like this in Sydney for a natural phenomenon."

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KUWAIT: People observe the "supermoon" spectacle yesterday from Balajat beach in Salmiya. The moon is at its closest position to earth since 1948, making it the brightest in nearly 69 years. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The court of cassation yesterday ruled former MP Abdulhameed Dashti cannot run in the parliamentary elections on Nov 26 for filing his registration papers while he was outside the country. Dashti has been living in Britain since March, and asked his elder son to file his nomination papers. The election authorities rejected them, but the lower court ordered them to accept his registration after he produced a medical certificate saying he is undergoing treatment and cannot travel.

Last week, the appeals court overturned that ruling and said candidates must submit their registration papers in person. The cassation court yesterday upheld the ruling. Dashti acknowledged the ruling and said this was not the end of the road. Kuwaiti courts have sentenced Dashti to 31 years and six months in jail for insulting Saudi Arabia and Bahrain in statements he made and in comments he wrote on Twitter.

The government meanwhile challenged appeals court rulings that allowed a number of candidates, including former MP Safa Al-Hashem, to run in the polls. Hashem was among 47 candidates barred by the election authorities for not fulfilling registration conditions or for being previously convicted in court. The courts have already reinstated several candidates, and are still looking into the cases of others.

Separately, former opposition MPs who are running in the election strongly lashed out at members of the dissolved Assembly, blaming them for failing to defend the rights of the Kuwaiti people. Speaking at an election gathering, former Islamist MP Bader Al-Dahoum urged voters not to vote for any of those members, saying that they had approved a large number of very dangerous and antisocial laws.

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