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# Kuwait Times Friday Times



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**Kuwait urged to abolish the 'sponsorship system'**

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**India seeks repatriation of all illegal residents**

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**Mourinho, Pep resume hostilities in derby duel**

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## MUSLIMS CROWD MAKKAH FOR HAJJ

**MAKKAH:** Close to 1.5 million Muslims from around the world had descended yesterday on Saudi Arabia for the annual hajj pilgrimage, undeterred by last year's stampede disaster but with Iranians absent. As temperatures exceeded 40C (105F), pilgrims crowded into Makkah's sprawling, air-conditioned Grand Mosque complex to walk around the Kaaba-the black cube that Muslims across the globe face while they pray.

In one of the first rites of hajj, which formally starts on Saturday, white-clad pilgrims take their turn circling the Kaaba in a procession that continues 24 hours a day. Pilgrims who cannot walk are pushed around the mosque in wheelchairs by workers. Regularly-spaced taps provide thirsty pilgrims with spring water, and visitors can eat under large fast food signs at a commercial centre inside the complex, where they are also able to shop.

But as soon as loudspeakers sound the call to prayer, the shops are shuttered and the faithful line up to worship. Outside at all the Grand Mosque's entrances, Saudi police control the movement of pilgrims between green plastic barriers. Step out of line, and a policeman calls through a megaphone to order them back into place.

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True Taste of **Lebanese** Cuisine



## Al Sanawbar

Good Times

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