

SUBSCRIPTION

Kuwait Times



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THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2017

RABI ALTHANI 16, 1438 AH

No: 17110

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Cabinet picks contradict Trump stands on issues



Top two collide in latest challenge for flying Real



WITH EYE ON TRUMP, PARIS TALKS TO PUSH FOR ME PEACE

SHEIKH KHALED AL-SABAH TO LEAD KUWAITI DELEGATION



Max 19°
Min 07°



NABLUS: A Palestinian protestor uses his jacket to cover his face from rising smoke during clashes with Israeli security forces following a demonstration in the village of Kfar Qaddum near Nablus in the occupied West Bank yesterday.—AFP

SPAIN, HUNGARY ARREST 4 WITH ALLEGED IS LINKS

MADRID: Four people with suspected links to Islamic State jihadists were arrested yesterday in separate incidents in Spain and Hungary, with several weapons also being seized, authorities said.

Spain's interior ministry said police detained two Spanish nationals, who were part of a group "that had reached a very high level of determination to carry out terrorist activities". The group was "fully aligned with the strategy of the terrorist organization Daesh," the ministry said, using an Arabic acronym for IS. Police seized a long gun and three knives during searches of six houses carried out as part of the operation in Ceuta, the tiny Spanish territory bordered by Morocco on one side and the Mediterranean Sea.

Meanwhile, Hungarian authorities said they arrested two young women from France and Belgium allegedly seeking to join IS in Syria. The Belgian, 18, and the French national, 19, were trying to cross into Serbia early yesterday, a police spokesperson told Hungarian news agency MTI.

The women, who were not named, were travelling on a bus from Vienna to Sofia from where they planned to reach Syria and join IS. They were subject to warrants issued for previous "acts in connection with terrorism," Gyorgy Bakondi, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's chief security advisor, told public television. No further details were released. — AFP

ACCIDENT MYSTERY SOLVED; BEDOON HELD FOR MURDER

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior's relations and security media department stated that its detectives managed to unravel the mystery surrounding a normal traffic accident that turned out to be a murder.

The sources explained that a 36-year-old bedoon was arrested for deliberately running over his own brother several times before he used a hammer to smash his skull and finish him.

The sources added that the murderer turned himself in and justified his action by saying that he committed the crime due to family problems. The suspect is facing first degree murder charges.

Meanwhile, a citizen in his thirties was found dead in his house with drug paraphernalia and empty plastic bags with traces of drug by his bed, said security sources. Initial reports suggest that the man would have died of drug overdose. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

PARIS: Around 70 countries and international organizations make a new push for a two-state solution in the Middle East at a conference tomorrow, just days before Donald Trump takes office vowing unstinting support for Israel. The Paris meeting aims to revive the moribund Israeli-Palestinian peace process, amid fears of fresh violence if Trump implements a pledge to recognize the contested city of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. But neither Israel nor the Palestinians will be represented in Paris, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has dismissed it as a "rigged" conference, insisting that only bilateral talks can bring peace.

Meanwhile, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah will leave for Paris today to lead Kuwait's delegation to the conference. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled will deliver a speech during the gathering, elaborating on Palestinian and Arab concerns over the regional peace process and reiterating Kuwait's stance on Palestinian state. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's accompanying delegation includes Assistant Foreign Minister for the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister's Office Affairs Sheikh Dr Ambassador Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Paris Sami Al-Suleiman, Assistant Foreign Minister for Arab Affairs Ambassador Aziz Al-Daihani and several other senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On his farewell tour, US Secretary of State John Kerry will join foreign ministers from around 40 countries and representatives from the UN, EU, Arab League and other organizations in calling for a two-state deal.

The meeting is also expected to back a UN resolution last month condemning Israeli settlement building in occupied Palestinian territory. The UN Security Council adopted the resolution after the Obama administration—in a parting shot at Netanyahu—took the rare step of abstaining from the vote. Netanyahu called the resolution "shameful" and has also lashed out at the Paris meeting.

On Thursday he called the gathering "a rigged conference, rigged by the Palestinians with French auspices to adopt additional anti-Israel stances".

The Palestinians, who are trying to rally opposition to a contentious promise by Trump to move the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, have lauded the multilateral initiative. "The bilaterals have not ended occupation even though we have been engaged in bilateral talks for the last 26 years," said senior Palestinian official Mohammad Shtayyeh.

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas will meet French President Francois Hollande in the coming weeks to be briefed on the conference outcome, French diplomats said. Netanyahu declined a similar invitation, they added.

Writing in Le Monde newspaper on Thursday, Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said France was not trying to impose a solution on the Israelis and Palestinians but wanted to halt an "infernal cycle of radicalization and violence".

Palestinians were seeing "their future state melt away" as Israel continued expanding its settlements, "resulting in more occupation," he said. Israelis meanwhile were subjected to "nearly daily violence by those who "harness frustrations to promote an agenda of hatred," Ayrault added.

Peace efforts have been at a standstill since a US-led initiative collapsed in April 2014. Hardline Israeli lawmakers, including some from Netanyahu's Likud party, have said Trump's win represents an "historic opportunity" to end chances of Palestinian statehood. — Agencies