

**Mogherini urges talks to resolve Gulf crisis**



**Ex-Gaza chief says Hamas deal will open border**



**Princes William, Harry remember their final call with Diana**



**Shrubsole stars as England edge India in Women's World Cup final**



## ERDOGAN VISITS KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA TO DEFUSE QATAR CRISIS

TURKISH PRESIDENT MEETS AMIR, SUPPORTS MEDIATION EFFORTS



Min 33°  
Max 51°  
High Tide 00:57 & 11:37  
Low Tide 06:12 & 19:18



(Left) Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is welcomed by HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah upon his arrival at Kuwait International Airport late yesterday. (Right) Erdogan is greeted by Saudi King Salman upon his arrival in Jeddah yesterday. — KUNA/AP

KUWAIT: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday began a key trip to the Gulf aimed at defusing the standoff over Turkey's ally Qatar, saying no one had an interest in prolonging the crisis. Erdogan, whose country has come to Qatar's aid in the dispute, had talks in Jeddah with King Salman who hailed the Turkish leader's "efforts in the fight against terrorism and its financing", Saudi state news agency SPA reported. He also met Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman before leaving for Kuwait for the second leg of his tour. Erdogan was received by Kuwait's Amir HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who has been mediating to resolve the crisis.

On June 5, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt cut ties with Qatar, accusing it of backing extremism and fostering ties with its Shiite rival Iran. Doha denies the claim and has been strongly backed by Ankara throughout the standoff. The Turkish president will visit Qatar today for his first face-to-face talks with Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani since the crisis began. "No one has any interest in prolonging this crisis anymore," Erdogan said before leaving Istanbul. He accused "enemies" of seeking to "fire up tensions between brothers" in the region.

Erdogan praised Qatar's behavior in the crisis, saying Doha had sought to find a solution through dialogue. "I hope our visit will be beneficial for the region," he said. The crisis has put Turkey in a delicate position, and Erdogan has repeatedly said he wants to see an end to the dispute as soon as possible. In recent years, Qatar has emerged as Turkey's number one ally in the Middle East, with Ankara and Doha closely coordinating over issues

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### MP PROPOSES AMENDMENTS TO PENAL CODE

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Opposition MP Abdulkarim Al-Kandari said yesterday he has completed a proposal calling to amend five provisions in the penal code to toughen penalties against those harboring wanted criminals. Kandari said the proposed amendments call for increasing penalties related to crimes of those who evade jail terms and those who provide assistance to help wanted and convicted criminals flee or hide them.

The amendments came in light of the reported escape of 14 Kuwaitis convicted for being members of the so-called "Abdaly cell", a 26-member terror cell convicted of having links to Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah, possessing large quantities of arms and plotting attacks in Kuwait. The amendments must first be approved by Assembly committees before they can be sent to the National Assembly for a debate.

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## RALLIES HELD IN SUPPORT OF AQSA



KUWAIT: (Left) Demonstrators gather at the Kuwait University campus in Khaldiya yesterday against Israeli violations at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound. (Right) A man carries a placard with a slogan reading "the National Liberation Movement of Ahwaz supports the right of worship of Palestinians in Al-Aqsa mosque" at a demonstration outside the Palestinian Embassy in Bayan yesterday. — Photos by Joseph Shagra and Yasser Al-Zayyat

### BODIES OF EIGHT MIGRANTS FOUND IN TEXAS TRUCK

WASHINGTON: Eight people were found dead yesterday inside a truck in a Walmart parking lot in San Antonio, Texas in what police said appeared to be "human trafficking crime". Another 28 people were injured - 20 of them severely - and were being treated at seven local hospitals, San Antonio Police Chief William McManus and Fire Chief Charles Hood told reporters. The police chief said the group included children, but later told CNN that the eight dead were adult men. He said the truck driver had been arrested.

"We got a call from a Walmart employee about a welfare check in a tractor-trailer that was parked on the lot here," McManus told a news conference. "He was approached by someone from that truck, who was asking for water." The employee returned with the water and then called the police who "found eight people dead in the back of that trailer," the police chief said, calling it a "horrific tragedy".

He said store security footage showed that some vehicles came to pick up some travellers who were on the truck and who had made it out alive. "We're looking at a human trafficking crime this evening," he added. It was not immediately clear how many people may have survived and fled, McManus said. Hood said the air conditioner in the trailer was not working. "We started extricating patients out of the back of a semi-truck ... we had another 20 patients that were either in extremely critical condition or very serious condition and they have been transported to a number of hospitals."

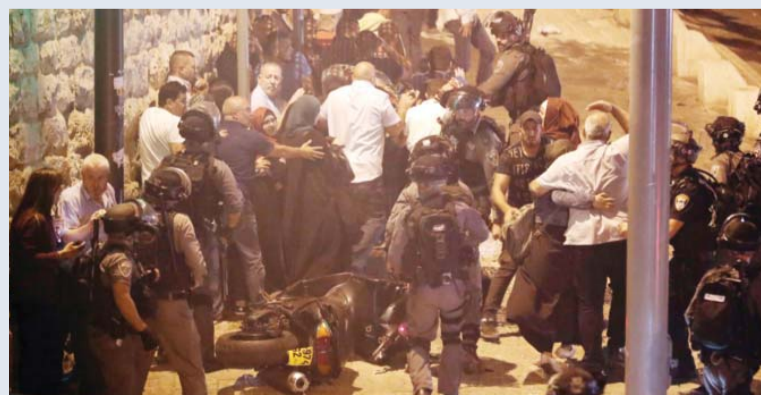
San Antonio is a few hours' drive from the border with Mexico's Nuevo Leon state. Weather in the area has been hot and dry. Federal immigration officials with Immigration and Customs Enforcement have also been notified, the police chief said. The deadly discovery, sadly "is not an isolated incident. This happens quite frequently under cover of night," McManus said. Illegal migration over the US border with Mexico is an everyday fact. — AFP

### BIBI FACES PRESSURE OVER AQSA SITE AFTER 8 KILLED

MAN KILLED AT AMMAN ISRAELI EMBASSY

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faced mounting pressure yesterday over new security measures at a sensitive Jerusalem holy site after a weekend of violence left eight people dead, with fears of further unrest. Israeli officials signaled they may be open to changing the measures at the Haram Al-Sharif mosque compound, known to Jews as the Temple Mount, after metal detectors were installed at entrances following an attack that killed two policemen. The detectors remained in place yesterday, though cameras had also been mounted near at least one entrance to the compound in Jerusalem's Old City - a possible indication of an alternative.

Meanwhile, a Jordanian was killed yesterday and an Israeli seriously wounded at the Israeli embassy in Amman, a security source said. "A Jordanian man was killed and an Israeli man wounded and is in a serious condition following an incident inside the (Israeli) embassy" in the residential Rabyeh neighborhood of Amman, said the source. Jordanian security forces deployed in the streets around the embassy, an AFP correspondent said. Israel and Jordan are bound by a 1994 peace treaty, but tensions



JERUSALEM: Israeli border guards attempt to disperse Palestinian Muslim worshippers outside Lions' Gate, a main entrance to the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem's Old City on Saturday as they gather in protest. — AFP

have been high in recent days. Netanyahu was holding a cabinet meeting and was due to meet his security cabinet later yesterday. "Since the start of the events, I have held a series of assessments with security elements including those

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By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Student groups and a number of local organizations gathered at the Kuwait University campus in Khaldiya yesterday to condemn ongoing Israeli violations at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem. The National Union of Kuwaiti Students, in collaboration with the Youth Association for Jerusalem, organized the rally under the slogan "Rage over Al-Aqsa" to support Palestinians. Another demonstration was held outside the Palestinian Embassy in Bayan yesterday.

Mohammad Al-Otaibi, President of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students, said Kuwait supported and will always support Palestine, and the Muslim world will not remain silent. "It is our responsibility to support them because Al-Aqsa belongs not only to the Palestinians - it also belongs to Muslims worldwide," he said.

Yousef Shamsah, member of global movement for a campaign of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel, said "our role is to spread awareness of the importance of boycotting the Zionist entity". "We are trying not only to boycott Israeli products, but also companies that support them, such as G4S, which is a British security company that controls the Israeli airport, helps Israel run checkpoints, a police training center and prisons where Palestinian political prisoners are held," he said. "In response to international pressure, G4S has announced that it may sell its Israeli operations," Shamsah noted.

Cleric Sheikh Mohammed Al Awadhi urged scholars and advocates to educate people about Palestine. "The recent situation in Aqsa requires strong knowledge of its history and our constant support for it," he told the crowd. The event was attended by the Kuwaiti Literary Association, Jerusalem Cultural Forum, Kuwait Lawyers Association and the BDS movement.