

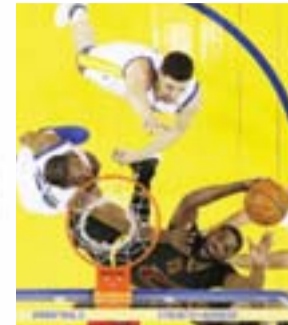
Kuwait marks anniversary of Mosque attack



Beyond kebabs: Turkish cuisine seeks a place at the table



Durant, Curry spark Warriors win; record win streak at 14



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KUWAIT GOVERNMENT SETS KD 75 AS MINIMUM WAGE

MPS URGE KUWAIT MEDIATION IN NEW GCC SPAT

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and State Minister for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh yesterday issued a decision setting the minimum monthly wage for workers in the private and oil sector at KD 75. This is the first time ever that Kuwait sets a minimum wage for laborers in the private sector. The move apparently comes in line with demands from international rights organizations.

The decision means that the lowest salary that can be given to laborers in the private sector should be KD 75. Laborers who are paid less than this salary can sue their employers. The measure comes after the Interior Ministry last year set a minimum wage of KD 60 for domestic helpers. The amount must be mentioned in the work contract. According to the minister's decision, the new wage limit applies to new or renewed work permits and contracts both in the private and oil sectors. Around 1.5 million people are working in the private sector, the overwhelming majority of them are expatriates.

In the meantime, MPs yesterday expressed deep sorrow at the developments among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members after Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, all GCC members, along with Egypt yesterday severed their diplomatic relations with GCC member Qatar. The lawmakers utilized the Assembly's special session to discuss budgets of government bodies and called for restraint among the GCC states and also called on Kuwait to mediate a peaceful solution between them.

MP Abdullah Al-Roumi said he was deeply concerned over the turn of events between the GCC states but added that he was confident in the wisdom of King Salman of Saudi Arabia and the Amir of Kuwait who will help resolve the crisis.

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BANDA ACEH: Indonesian Muslims pray at a mosque in Banda Aceh during the holy month of Ramadan. — AFP

AMIR LAUDS INTERIOR

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has expressed satisfaction at the Interior Ministry's successful clampdown on terrorist groups, but urged for greater readiness to foil plots aimed at undermining Kuwait's security. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, in a statement he made during a visit to the Interior Ministry headquarters, expressed felicitation on the blessed month and praised the significant security achievements made by the Ministry of Interior and its apparatuses recently.

His Highness the Amir, who was accompanied by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, singled out the crackdown on "elements with connections to terrorist groups." He also lauded the successful pre-emptive security operations that resulted in decreasing crimes. Addressing the officials attending the ceremony namely the Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, he highly appreciated the Ministry's campaigns to raise awareness of negative phenomena namely youth violence, narcotics and breaches of laws namely the traffic laws. — KUNA (See Page 5)



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah welcomes Prince Khaled Bin Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Advisor of the Saudi King yesterday. — KUNA



Min 29°
Max 45°
High Tide 09:56 & 22:55
Low Tide 03:40 & 16:44



MODERATION

By Teresa Leshner

In these days of Ramadan, we refrain from eating in daylight, instead eating at night. Some people indulge excessively in food and drink all night long, which is counterproductive to the lessons of Ramadan. It is not so we can learn to turn our schedules upside down, but to learn to control our desires so that we can lead a pious and balanced life.

In the context of Ramadan, the Quran says "God intends for you ease, and He does not want to make things difficult for you." (2:185) By behaving moderately after we break fast, we can benefit from the lessons of Ramadan throughout the year. Overall, Islam promotes a life of moderation and ease. God says in the Quran (2:143), "We have appointed you (Muslims) a moderate nation." This general statement can be applied specifically to consumption, which, if we consider our actual needs, should be little.

The Quran says, "And eat and drink but do not waste; certainly He does not like the extravagant." (7:31) Whether we cook at home or eat in restaurants, we should be moderate in consumption and avoid wasting food. So cook only what you will use, put on your plate only what you intend to eat, use leftovers for another meal, and ask for takeaway containers for leftover food at restaurants.

Moderation extends to other kinds of consumption as well, such as for clothes, perfumes, cars, phones, homes and vacations. The Quran sets the standard: "And those, who when they spend, are neither extravagant nor stingy, but hold a medium (way) between those (extremes)." (25:67) By practicing moderation, we engage in an easy-going lifestyle. When we are stingy, we suffer unnecessary hardship, and when we are extravagant, we squander resources and usually end up broke by the end of the month or in serious debt.

All matters of life need moderation: in relationships, in work, in play, in spending, even in religion. Allah said in the Quran that "He has not placed upon you in the religion any difficulty" (22:78). That is not to say that if we shouldn't strive to fulfill our obligations, even when they seem difficult, but that with the right attitude and approach, all the obligations are easy. For example, it is not difficult to wake up for dawn prayer if you go to bed well before midnight.

The basic requirements of faith are few, as outlined in the Quran: "And they were not commanded except to worship God, [being] sincere to Him in religion, inclining to truth, and to establish prayer and to give alms.

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QATAR IN DIPLOMATIC STORM



DOHA: Photo shows pigeons flying above the corniche in Doha. Arab nations including Saudi Arabia and Egypt cut ties with Qatar, accusing it of supporting extremism, in the biggest diplomatic crisis to hit the region in years. — AFP

RIYADH: Arab nations including Saudi Arabia and Egypt yesterday cut ties with Qatar, accusing it of supporting extremism, in the biggest diplomatic crisis to hit the region in years. Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen and the Maldives joined Saudi Arabia and Egypt in severing relations with gas-rich Qatar, with Riyadh accusing Doha of supporting groups, including some backed by Iran, "that aim to destabilize the region".

Qatar reacted with fury, denying any support for extremists and accusing its Gulf neighbors of seeking to put the country under "guardianship". The crisis was likely to have wide-ranging consequences, not just for Qatar and its citizens but around the Middle East and for Western interests. Qatar hosts the largest US airbase in the region, which is crucial to operations against Islamic State group jihadists, and is set to host the 2022 football World Cup.

Yesterday's announcement came less than a month after US President Donald

Trump visited Saudi Arabia to cement ties with Riyadh and called for a united front among Muslim countries against extremism. It also followed weeks of rising tensions between Doha and its neighbors, including Qatari accusations of a concerted media campaign against it and the alleged hacking of the Qatar News Agency.

The Gulf states and Egypt said they were severing diplomatic ties and closing transport links with Qatar, which relies on imports from its neighbors. The Gulf states banned their citizens from traveling to Qatar and ordered Qatari citizens to leave within 14 days. Saudi Arabia also closed its borders with Qatar, effectively blocking food and other supplies exported by land to Qatar. Supermarkets were besieged by shoppers yesterday as many rushed to buy food, leaving shelves bare and resulting in queues up to 25-people deep at some major stores in central Doha.

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EX-WORKER KILLS 5, THEN HIMSELF

ORLANDO: A disgruntled former employee opened fire yesterday inside a Florida awning manufacturer, killing five workers before killing himself, authorities said. Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings described the shooter as a 45-year-old man who had been fired in April and had been previously accused of assaulting a co-worker. The attacker was not believed to be a member of any type of subversive or terrorist organization, he said. The man was not charged when he was accused of battering the co-worker in June 2014.

That co-worker was not among the victims yesterday, the sheriff said. Shelley Adams said her sister, Sheila McIntyre, called her from the company's bathroom during the shooting and was upset. She kept repeating "My boss is dead. My boss is dead," Adams said after state and federal law enforcement officers converged on the industrial park in Orlando. Police were called around 8 am by a woman who ran from the awning business, Fiamma Inc, saying the gunman had told her to leave.

She used the phone of a tile business across the street to call 911, said Yamaris Gomez, the tile store's owner. The sheriff said officers were dispatched within 45 seconds and arrived two minutes later. Special Agent Danny Banks of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement said that while five people were killed, "seven others' lives were saved due to the quick actions of the officers who arrived on the scene today."

Banks and Orlando Mayor Teresa Jacobs both said the attack shows why people need to alert authorities if they learn of anything that could lead to violence. "If people see something that seems abnormal, they need to say something," the mayor said. Fiamma Inc calls itself one of the largest manufacturers of awnings for camper

vans, motor coaches and sports utility vehicles. Gov Rick Scott said he had been briefed by law enforcement and that he and his wife, Ann, "are praying for the families who lost loved ones today." "I ask all Floridians to pray for the families impacted by this senseless act of violence," he added. — AP



ORLANDO: Law enforcement and media respond to shooting at Fiamma in Orlando yesterday. — AP

TRUMP LASHES OUT AT LONDON MAYOR

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump for a second day lashed out at London's mayor on Twitter in the wake of a deadly terror attack in the city. Trump tweeted yesterday morning that London Mayor Sadiq Khan had offered a "pathetic excuse" and "had to think fast on his 'no reason to be alarmed' statement." Trump's tweet renews his mischaracterization of Khan's statement to London residents following a vehicle and knife attack that left seven people dead and dozens injured. The mayor had told London residents not to be concerned by a stepped-up police presence in the city after the incident.

In a Sunday tweet, Trump mischaracterized Khan's remarks by suggesting the mayor had said there was "no reason to be alarmed" about the attack itself. Khan's spokesman said he was too busy to respond to Trump's "ill-informed" tweet. Trump's latest missive at Khan was part of several yesterday morning tweets from the president. Trump also lashed out at his own Justice Department for seeking a "watered down" version of the travel ban he signed in March instead of a broader directive that was also blocked by the courts.

The war of words was the latest episode in a long simmering feud between Trump and Khan, a Muslim who was elected as London's mayor in May 2016. After his election last year, Khan tweeted criticism of then-candidate Trump's rhetoric, saying that his "ignorant view of Islam could make both our countries less safe.

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