

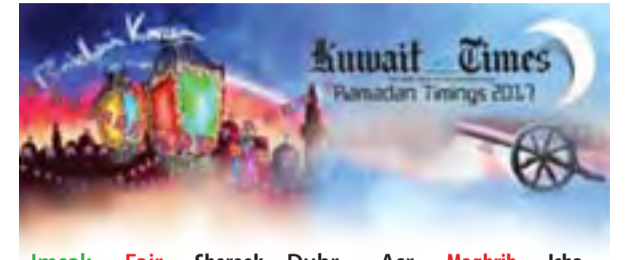
Temperature soars as power consumption hits new record



Britain's May face fury of MPs in battle to keep her job



Iran targets World Cup spot as China, Qatar target survival



Imsak 03:03 Fajr 03:13 Shorook 04:48 Duhr 11:48 Asr 15:22 Maghrib 18:48 Isha 20:20

150 FILS
NO: 17255
40 PAGES

US APPEALS COURT BLOCKS CONTROVERSIAL TRAVEL BAN

ISLAMIC STATE'S LAPTOP BOMB PLOT UNCOVERED



Min 32°
Max 49°
High Tide 03:05 & 13:10
Low Tide 07:59 & 20:55



PROPHET'S WIFE AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

By Tony Braun

Those outside of the Islamic faith hold a variety of views about the treatment of women within an Islamic context. It appears that most of these views are not founded on solid sources. When we look at Islamic values, it is important to look at them in isolation of the actions found within Muslim communities because pure Islamic teachings are often tainted by culture. After all, we aren't robots and our own personalities will affect how we interpret and adhere to a religion.

There are about two billion Muslims in the world with vastly different backgrounds, geography, cultures, ideas, history, etc. Therefore, it is natural that Muslim women would have vastly different experiences depending on their region and upbringing. For example, Muslim women living in China and Muslim women living in Argentina will definitely not have the same privileges or hardships. It is therefore logical to examine Islamic teachings in their pure form without applying some type of cultural filter or lens.

To help understand women's empowerment within Islam, it is very profitable to look at the Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) first wife. Khadijah was a wealthy business owner, who proposed to marry the Prophet (PBUH). Already, we can see how empowered she was; she was the one who took the initiative for proposing the marriage. She was also in full control of her wealth and business. My own grandmother did not have the legal right to open a bank

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GAZA: A Palestinian man reads verses of the Quran during the month of Ramadan at Al Emari mosque in Gaza. Muslims across the world are observing the holy fasting month of Ramadan, where they refrain from eating, drinking and smoking from dawn to dusk. —AP

BLAST KILLS SAUDI POLICE

RIYADH: A homemade explosive device has killed a senior Saudi police officer in a Shiite town where deadly violence has flared in recent weeks, the Interior Ministry said yesterday. Major Tariq Al-Alaqi was killed and two other policemen were wounded in the blast late Sunday in Awamiya, the ministry said in a statement. They were patrolling the town's Almosara

neighborhood, where unrest has escalated in recent weeks around a redevelopment project in the old district. Alaqi is at least the fourth person to have been killed in the violence. The Interior Ministry has said criminals involved in the drug and arms trade were implicated in the unrest.

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LOS ANGELES: A US Appeals Court yesterday left in place a block on President Donald Trump's travel ban targeting citizens from six Muslim majority nations—the latest in a string of judicial blows for the controversial measure. The US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit largely upheld an injunction on the ban issued by a lower court, but however said the government was within its right to review the vetting process for people entering the country.

"Immigration, even for the president, is not a one-person show," the ruling said. "The president, in issuing the executive order, exceeded the scope of the authority delegated to him by Congress." The decision came just ahead of a deadline for states challenging the ban to submit briefings before the US Supreme Court in response to the Trump administration's request that the nine justices hear the case.

The US Justice Department filed an emergency application to the Supreme Court on June 1, urging it to undo two lower court rulings blocking Trump's decision to prevent entry to travelers from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen for 90 days. The Trump administration argues the ban is needed to ward off terrorist attacks in the country. Critics say the ban is discriminatory and violates the US constitution by specifically targeting Muslim-majority countries.

In another development, Israeli government spies hacked into the operations of Islamic State bombmakers to discover they were developing a laptop computer bomb to blow up a commercial aircraft, the New York Times reported yesterday. The Times said the work by Israeli cyber operators was a rare success of western intelligence against the constantly evolving, encryption-protected and social-media-driven cyber operations of the extremist group.

It said the Israeli hackers penetrated the small Syria-based cell of bombmakers months ago, an effort that led to the March 21 ban on carry-on laptops and other electronics larger than cellphones on direct flights to the United States from 10 airports in Turkey, the Middle East and North Africa. The Israeli cyber-penetration "was how the United States learned that the terrorist group was working to make explosives that fooled airport X-ray machines and other screening by looking exactly like batteries for laptop computers," the Times said.

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MARYLAND: Two women walk at the 61st Montgomery County Agricultural Fair Gaithersburg, Maryland. The number of obese people has more than doubled in 73 countries since 1980 and has continued to rise in other countries, leading to a large increase in related diseases, according to a wide-scale study. — AFP

OBESITY 'EPIDEMIC'

1 IN 10 AFFECTED WORLDWIDE

WASHINGTON: More than one in 10 people worldwide are now obese and 2.2 billion are believed to be overweight, fueling a global health crisis that claims millions of lives every year, according to a major new international study released yesterday. Obesity numbers have more than doubled in 73 countries and surged elsewhere around the world since the launch in 1980 of the study published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Conducted in 195 countries over a 35-year period, the research presented at a conference in Stockholm yesterday is billed as the most comprehensive carried out to date on the subject of obesity. At the conclusion of the study in 2015, 107.7 million children and 603.7 million adults worldwide were deemed to be obese, triggering what its authors described as "a growing and disturbing global public health crisis."

Even though the obesity rate in children remained lower than among adults, it had grown at a faster rate during the study period—a finding experts described as especially "worrisome." "Excess body

weight is one of the most challenging public health problems of our time, affecting nearly one in every three people," said Dr Ashkan Afshin, the paper's lead author and an assistant professor of global health at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington in Seattle.

"Over the past decade, numerous interventions have been evaluated, but very little evidence exists about their long-term effectiveness," he added, announcing a new 10-year partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization to evaluate global progress in controlling excess weight. A total of 2.2 billion people - 30 percent of the world population—were believed to be either obese or overweight by 2015.

The World Health Organization had estimated the number of overweight people at 1.9 billion in 2014, including more than 600 million who were obese. Excess weight is linked to sharply increased rates of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and some types of cancer.

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MIDEAST RESEARCH CENTER BRINGS 'ENEMIES' TOGETHER

NORWAY TO BAN THE MUSLIM VEIL

OSLO: The Norwegian government yesterday proposed a bill to ban the full-face Muslim veil in all schools, from nurseries to universities, saying it hinders communication between students and teachers. Norway's ruling coalition of conservative and anti-immigration rightwing parties had promised the ban last year, targeting the full-face veil called the niqab as well as burqas, balaclavas and masks. "We do not want clothes covering the face in nurseries, schools and universities," Minister of Education and Research Torbjorn Roe Isaksen said in a statement.

"These clothes prevent good communication, which is important for students to receive a good education," he added. Norwegian authorities will consult over the coming months with those who could be affected by the draft law. Norwegian media reported the government can count on the support of most parties, saying the bill was expected to pass in the spring of 2018. Local authorities in Norway already have the power to ban the veil in schools, however there is no uniform national policy. At this stage, the bill does not lay out consequences for disregarding the proposed law.

The full-face veil is rather uncommon in Norway, even more so in schools, but the issue comes intermittently back into political debates. The Islamic Council, an umbrella organization representing Muslims, hired a communication manager wearing a niqab, which sparked a heated discussion earlier this year. Legislative elections will take place on September 11 in the Nordic country. "Clothes covering the face, like the niqab and the burqa, have no place in Norwegian schools. It is a fundamental value to be able to communicate with each other," Per Sandberg, interim minister of immigration and integration, said. — AFP

ALLAN: A top-notch research center that brought together Iran, Israel and other Mideast antagonists is launching operations this fall in hopes of boosting scientific discovery with the help of a powerful microscope and opening a window to a better future for a region beset by war, boycotts and closed borders. It's been a tough journey since groundbreaking in 2003, marked by political rows and the 2010 assassination of an Iranian scientist linked to the project.

Perhaps even more threatening were chronic funding shortages, said Khaled Toukan, the Jordanian director of the project, known by its acronym, SESAME. The undertaking was at risk of collapse several times, but has reached a point of no return, he said in an interview. "It is working, and I am surprised," he said of the rare collaboration of eight members that also include Egypt, Turkey, Cyprus, Pakistan and the Palestinian Authority, a self-rule government in parts of the

Israeli-occupied West Bank.

The centerpiece of SESAME is a synchrotron light source - essentially a powerful microscope - that fills a large hangar in the countryside of western Jordan, about 35 kilometers from the capital of Amman. The contraption zaps electrons through a circular tube at near the speed of light, generating intense light beams. Researchers can train these "beam lines" on their subject of study, from cells to materials, in a wide range of disciplines, from medicine and biology to archaeology and environmental science.

The first two lines will start operating by November, and dozens of researchers have applied for "beam time," said Toukan. In all, two dozen lines are to be set up eventually, in hopes of drawing hundreds of researchers from the region. Israel's Science Ministry reported a growing interest in the project among Israeli scientists.

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ALLAN: Egyptian physicist Gihan Kamel, 41, works in her lab at the research center known by its acronym, SESAME, in the countryside of western Jordan. — AP