

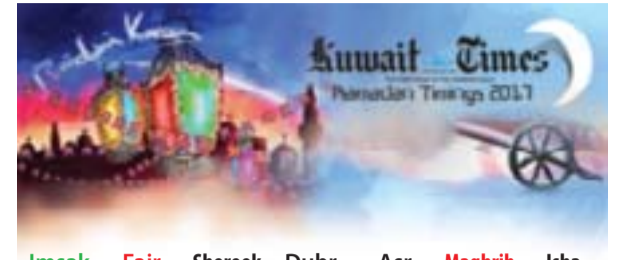
A building collapses in Jabriya



Cattle slaughter crackdown hits leather industry



Ronaldo accused of evading €14.7 million in tax



Imsak 03:03 Fajr 03:13 Shorook 04:48 Duhr 11:48 Asr 15:22 Maghrib 18:49 Isha 20:21

12 DEAD, 74 INJURED AS DEADLY FIRE ENGULFS LONDON TOWER

BABIES, KIDS TOSSED OUT OF WINDOWS AS FIRE RAVAGES BUILDING



Min 31°
Max 49°
High Tide 03:05 & 13:10
Low Tide 07:59 & 20:55

'ZAIN FAMILY' CELEBRATES SUCCESS



KUWAIT: Zain Group Vice-Chairman and CEO Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi speaks during the ghabga.

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, celebrated its employees with a Ramadan Ghabga gathering at Al Raya Hall in Kuwait City, in an atmosphere of enthusiasm and team spirit, and in the presence of Zain Group Vice-Chairman and CEO Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi. Such events, which bring together staff and senior executive management, look to strengthen the links between members of the Zain family, and renew

the spirit of shared ambition and responsibilities for the challenges ahead.

Addressing the assembled guests, Kharafi said, "Due to your motivation and your deep sense of belonging to this company, I would like to thank you for your commitment and performance. I hope you are as proud as I am to be part of the Zain family. We together represent the company's aspirations and success." (See Page 5)

LONDON: A deadly overnight fire raced through a 24-storey apartment tower in London yesterday, killing at least 12 people and injuring 74 others, police said. Witnesses reported seeing residents throw babies and small children from high windows to people on the sidewalk in a desperate effort to save them from the flames. The inferno lit up the night sky and spewed black smoke from the windows of the Grenfell Tower in North Kensington, where more than 200 firefighters battled the blaze.

A plume of smoke stretched for miles across the sky after dawn, revealing the blackened, flame-licked wreckage of the building, which was still burning over 12 hours later. People trapped by the quickly advancing flames and thick smoke banged on windows and screamed for help to those watching down below, witnesses and survivors said. One resident said the fire alarm did not go off. "The flames, I have never seen anything like it, it just reminded me of 9/11," said Muna Ali, 45.

"The fire started on the upper floors ... oh my goodness, it spread so quickly. It had completely spread within half an hour," Fire Commissioner Dany Cotton told reporters. "In my 29 years of being a firefighter I have never, ever seen anything of this scale." She said she feared more victims would be found still inside the building.

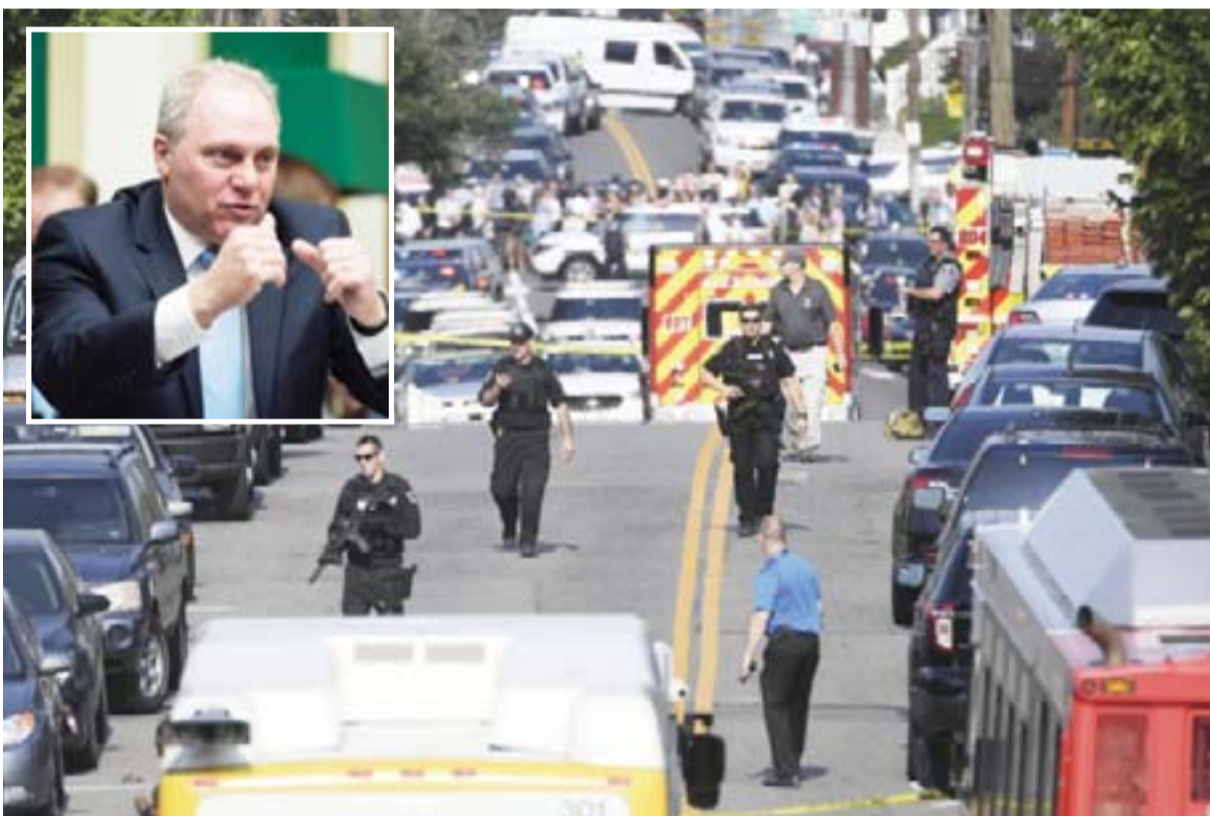


LONDON: Fire engulfs Grenfell Tower, a residential tower block yesterday in west London. The massive fire ripped through the 27-storey apartment block in west London in the early hours of yesterday, trapping residents inside as 200 firefighters battled the blaze. — AFP

Continued on Page 13

REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN SCALISE WOUNDED IN MULTIPLE SHOOTING

SHOOTING ERUPTS AT US LAWMAKERS BASEBALL PRACTICE



ALEXANDRIA: Emergency personnel respond after reports of shots fired yesterday in Alexandria, Va. A top House Republican, Steve Scalise of Louisiana (inset), was shot by a rifle-wielding gunman yesterday at a congressional baseball practice just outside of Washington. — AP

ALEXANDRIA: A rifle-wielding attacker opened fire on Republican lawmakers at a congressional baseball practice yesterday, wounding House GOP Whip Steve Scalise of Louisiana and several others as congressmen and aides dove for cover. The assailant, prepared with "a lot of ammo," fought a gun battle with police before he, too, was shot and later died. Scalise dragged himself off the infield leaving a trail of blood as colleagues rushed to his assistance.

Capitol Police officers who were in Scalise's security detail wounded the shooter, who was taken into custody. In all, five people were taken to area hospitals, including the suspect, Alexandria police said. The shooter later died of his injuries, President Donald Trump told the nation from the White House. "Everyone on that field is a public servant," Trump said. "Their sacrifice makes democracy possible." Scalise, 51, the No 3 House Republican leader first elected to the House in 2008, was in stable condition and undergoing surgery.

A government official identified the shooter as an Illinois man named James T Hodgkinson. The official was not authorized to discuss an investigation by name and spoke on condition of anonymity. Texas Rep Roger Williams, who coaches the GOP team, said that one of his aides, Zack Barth, was shot, but "is doing well and is expected to make a full recovery." Rep Jeff Duncan of South Carolina said he had just left the practice and encountered the apparent gunman in the parking lot before the shooting.

The man calmly asked which party's lawmakers were practicing and Duncan told him they were the Republicans. The man thanked him.

Continued on Page 13

EGYPT MPs APPROVE DEAL GIVING ISLANDS TO SAUDI

CAIRO: In defiance of a court ruling, Egypt's parliament voted yesterday to ratify a disputed 2016 agreement that would transfer two strategic Red Sea islands to Saudi Arabia. The vote, in which lawmakers in favor were asked to stand up, came shortly after the 596-seat chamber opened a debate on the pact earlier in the day. The outcome was a foregone conclusion since the legislature is packed with supporters of President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, whose government signed the deal when Saudi King Salman visited last year.

The vote and the uncustomary speed with which the house processed the agreement are

likely to spark protests by Egyptians opposed to the deal, as well as lead to potentially destabilizing legal battles between the legislative branch of government and the judiciary after a court ruled against the islands transfer in January. Lawmakers who back the deal have insisted that only parliament has the right to ratify international agreements.

"The ruling by the highest administrative court annulling the agreement makes parliament's discussion and ratification of the agreement invalid," said Raafat Fouda, a constitutional law professor at Cairo University.

Continued on Page 13



SHARM EL SHEIKH: Photo taken through the window of an airplane shows the Red Sea's Tiran (foreground) and the Sanafir (background) islands in the Strait of Tiran between Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and Saudi Arabia. — AFP



NO WASTA WITH GOD

By Teresa Leshar

The cornerstone of Islam is the concept of a single deity and the direct relationship of people with God. The Muslim prayer is addressed directly to the Creator, without any sons, partners, semi-Gods, saints, or ancestors who intervene on the supplicant's behalf. In other words, we don't need "wasta" with God. We are taught to pray directly to the source of all good - God Almighty - and that praying to others or expecting benefit from them is offensive to God and a great sin.

He said in the Quran, "And when My servants ask you concerning Me, then surely I am very near; I answer the prayer of the suppliant when he calls on Me, so they should answer My call and believe in Me that they may walk in the right way." (2:186) If God Himself hears our prayer and answers us, why would we ever ask another? In addition to performing formal prayers at regular intervals so that we are trained to connect with God often, we are encouraged to engage often in remembrance of God and supplication.

Supplication is informal communications with God, a spontaneous prayer from the heart of a believer at any moment during his life - in times of need, in moments of joy, during reflection or strenuous effort. The Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) set a perfect example by supplicating often from the time he woke up until he slept at night. He repented often, sought God's help at every opportunity and constantly glorified He who sustains us, provides for us and guides us throughout our lives.

His supplications were recorded by his companions and touch every aspect of life - from the usually mindless activities such as dressing in the morning to the most serious and somber situations like preparing a body for burial. Ramadan is a month full of many blessings and a superior time for supplication. This can be inferred from the statement of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who said, "When Ramadan comes, the Doors of Mercy (another narration says Paradise) are opened, and the doors of Hell are closed, and the devils are locked up."

(Sahih al-Bukhari #1899, Muslim #1079) Thus, it is clear that supplication during Ramadan has a greater chance of being accepted, as the Gates of Paradise and Mercy are opened. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) also said, "Three supplications will not be rejected (by Almighty God), the supplication of the parent for his child, the supplication of the one who is fasting, and the supplication of the traveler. [at-Tirmidhi].

Continued on Page 13