

Kuwait MP slams KPC over plans to hire expats



Brothers who brought death and ruin to Philippine city



Murray in spotlight; Wimbledon looming



Imsak Fajr Shorook Duhr Asr Maghrib Isha
03:03 03:13 04:48 11:49 15:23 18:50 20:22



150 FILS

NO: 17260

40 PAGES

AMIR ADDRESSES THE NATION, PRAYS FOR PEACE, STABILITY

KUWAIT LEADER PRAYS FOR HEALING RIFT IN GULF TIES



Min 31°
Max 47°
High Tide 07:03 & 19:03
Low Tide 00:27 & 13:18



MAKING THINGS EASY

By Tony Braun

Have you ever signed up for a gym, made a strict plan to go everyday, decided to follow a rigorous new diet, and then... nothing happens. Why don't we stick to our resolutions? The problem is likely - do to the fact that we aren't machines. Therefore, when we pile up expectations on ourselves, it is very easy to get overwhelmed.

We should keep this in mind when it comes to religion. When I first reverted to Islam, I think that I overburdened myself a lot. For example, I went to Hajj just a few months after my reversion, which was a big ordeal. I also went to extremes trying to make my fasting and prayers perfect. I spent a lot of energy trying to get my friends and family to revert to Islam. I got through it, but when I look back, I think I could have achieved better results if I had started with a more reasonable mindset.

Now when I meet new Muslims, which is often because I work at the TIES Center, I always give them the same advice; it is a big step in their life and they should be careful that they don't overdo it. My friend once told me that if Satan can't stop you from doing something (like praying or helping others), he will try to make you go to extremes in that thing. Although, I don't think this is specifically mentioned within the Islamic religion, I am sure that we can all relate to this anecdote.

In Kuwait, there is a nice saying which says that we should hold the stick from the middle. It means that we should try to be balanced and reasonable, as much as possible. Islam is supposed to be a religion of mercy, graciousness, understanding and ease (among other things). We aren't supposed to burden ourselves or others with undue hardship. It was narrated from Abu Hurayrah that the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "Religion is easy, and no one overburdens himself in his religion except that he will be unable to continue in that way." The reference for this hadith can be found in Al-Bukhaari (39) and Muslim (2816).



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah said he hopes for healing the rift among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states through dialogue, urging Kuwaitis to abide by national unity for the security and safety of the nation.

In a speech yesterday marking the last 10 days of the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan, His Highness the Amir said he is looking forward to overcoming the latest developments in the Gulf, and remedying the situation by providing a favorable condition to dissolve the regrettable disagreements and heal the rift through dialogue.

His Highness the Amir highlighted the deep-rooted historical ties, rapport family relations, and common fate and interests that connect the GCC member states. "These makes it inevitable for us to lavish utmost effort to preserve the Gulf entity so that it can remain cohesive, embodying the expectations of the peoples in the member countries," His Highness the Amir stressed.

Kuwait leader prayed to Allah Almighty that the ongoing sincere endeavors and efforts would bring about the outcome to preserve the Gulf nations, and avoid whatever that might harm their solid ties or threaten their security or safety. He congratulated the Kuwaitis, the Arab and Muslim nations on Ramadan, wishing them many returns of the occasion, with further glory and pride.

His Highness the Amir urged the Kuwaitis to abide by the teachings of Islam, renounce differences and hold onto national unity, which is the "defensive fence" of the nation, as well as sticking to the constitution, which he described as "a source of pride."

Continued on Page 13

BODIES OF US SAILORS FOUND

YOKOSUKA: The bodies of missing sailors were found in flooded compartments of the USS Fitzgerald, which came close to sinking after a collision with a container ship off Japan tore a gash under the warship's waterline, the US Navy's Seventh Fleet commander said yesterday. Vice Adm Joseph P Aucoin declined to say how many of the seven missing sailors had been recovered, but Japanese media said all had died. "Out of concern for the families and the notification process, I will decline to state how many we have found at this time," Aucoin told a news conference.

The search at sea had ended, Aucoin said. The USS Fitzgerald could have foundered, or even sunk, but for the crew's desperate efforts to save the ship, he said. "The damage was significant. There was a big gash under the water," Aucoin said at Yokosuka naval base,

home of the US Seventh Fleet, the docked Fitzgerald behind him. "A significant portion of the crew was sleeping" when the destroyer collided with the Philippine-flagged container ship, destroying the commander's cabin, he said.

The Fitzgerald is salvageable, he said, but repairs will likely take months. "Hopefully less than a year. You will see the USS Fitzgerald back," Aucoin said. Multiple US and Japanese investigations are under way on how a ship as large as the container could ram into the warship in clear weather. Aucoin was asked if damage on the starboard side indicated the US ship could have been at fault, but he declined to speculate on the cause of the collision. Maritime rules suggest vessels are supposed to give way to ships on their starboard.

The Seventh Fleet said in a statement earlier yesterday:

"Divers were able to access the space and found a number of bodies." They were transferred to a US naval hospital for identification, it said. The Fitzgerald collided with the merchant vessel more than three times its size some 56 nautical miles southwest of Yokosuka early on Saturday. Three people were medically evacuated to the US Naval Hospital in Yokosuka after the collision, including the ship's commanding officer, Bryce Benson, who was reported to be in stable condition, the Navy said.

The other two were being treated for lacerations and bruises. The Fitzgerald limped into port on Saturday evening, listing around 5 degrees, a US Navy spokesman in Yokosuka said. The flooding was in two berthing compartments, the radio room and auxiliary machine room, he said.

Continued on Page 13

PAKISTAN GRAB CHAMPIONS TROPHY, HUMBLE INDIA



LONDON: Pakistan's Sarfraz Ahmed lifts the trophy as Pakistan players celebrate their victory after the ICC Champions Trophy final cricket match between India and Pakistan yesterday. — AFP (See Page 20)

COURT REDUCES DEATH ON PRO-IRAN CELL RINGLEADER

ACQUITTAL OF 13 MEMBERS OVERTURNED

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The Court of Cassation yesterday commuted the death penalty against the ringleader of a pro-Iran cell to life in prison but overturned the acquittal of half the cell members sentencing them to various jail terms. The members were convicted of forming a cell with links to Iran and Lebanese Hezbollah and plotting attacks in Kuwait.

Hassan Abdulhadi Ali Hajji was sentenced to death by the criminal and appeals courts last year. He was convicted of several crimes including forming the cell and smuggling explosives from Iran. Judge Ahmad Al-Ajeel also reduced a life term against one of the 26-member cell to 15 years in jail and confirmed a similar sentence on a third member. The court, whose rulings are final, sentenced 15 members to 10 years in prison, three others to five years in jail and acquitted two others.

Continued on Page 13

HUGE FOREST FIRES KILL 62 IN PORTUGAL

PENELA: Raging forest fires in Portugal have killed at least 62 people, most of whom burnt to death in their cars, the government said yesterday, in one of the worst such disasters in recent history. The fire broke out on Saturday in the municipality of Pedrogao Grande in central Portugal, before spreading fast across several fronts. Yesterday afternoon, nearly 900 firefighters and 300 vehicles were still battling the blaze as scenes of devastation could be seen around the town.

"Unfortunately, this seems to be the greatest tragedy we have seen in recent years in terms of forest fires," said a visibly moved Prime Minister Antonio Costa, who declared three days of mourning starting yesterday. The flowing expanse of hills situated between Pedrogao Grande, Figueiro do Vinhos to the west and Castanheira de Pera to the north, which 24 hours before had glowed bright green with eucalyptus plants and pine trees, were completely gutted by the flames.

A thick layer of white smoke hovered over either side of a national motorway for a distance of about 20 kilometers,

as blackened trees leaned listlessly over charred soil. A burnt-out car sat outside partly destroyed and abandoned houses, while a few meters away police in face masks surrounded the corpse of a man hidden under a white sheet.

Secretary of State for the Interior Jorge Gomes said 62 people burned to death, mostly trapped in their cars engulfed by flames in the Leiria region. "It is difficult to say if they were fleeing the flames or were taken by surprise," he said. More than 50 people were injured, five critically, including one child and four firefighters. "The number of fatalities could still rise," Costa said. "The priority now is to save those people who could still be in danger."

The European Union said it would provide firefighting planes following a request from Lisbon. "France has offered three planes through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and they will be quickly sent to assist the local emergency efforts," EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides said.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: Photo shows a general view of the Palace of Justice in Kuwait City, which is home to Kuwait's Supreme Court. Kuwait's Supreme Court reduced the death sentence of a citizen convicted of forming a pro-Iranian cell and of plotting attacks to life in prison. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat