



6 Woman in blasphemy row leaves Pakistan



22 Jerusalem's dilemma: Hordes of stray cats



28 Raptors crush Sixers; Nuggets rout Blazers



Ramadan KAREEM

IMSAK	03:22
Fajr	03:32
Dhur	11:44
Asr	15:20
Magrib	18:29
Isha	19:54

Kuwait Information Minister survives no-confidence vote

Amir congratulates Info Minister on renewed confidence

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Information Minister Mohammad Al-Jabri yesterday comfortably survived a no-confidence motion filed against him following a marathon grilling last week based on alleged financial and administrative violations. Thirty-four MPs voted against the motion and in support of Jabri, while only 12 lawmakers voted to back the motion and two MPs abstained.

Only elected MPs who are not Cabinet ministers are allowed to vote on no-confidence motions. The voting was taken in a special brief session as per the Kuwaiti constitution which states that voting on no-confidence motions must be carried out eight days after its submission. The minister thanked the government and the National Assembly for renewing confidence in him and vowed to forge ahead with reforms.

During the grilling, the minister had categorically denied the allegations. MP Riyadh Al-Adasani however warned he would file more grillings against the minister if the session was turned into sectarian discussion. Adasani said that the minister has failed to respond to most of the accusations and insisted that financial violations and illegal appointments had increased under the minister especially in the agricultural and sports authorities. MP Saadoun Hammad strongly defended the minister saying that most



KUWAIT: Information Minister Mohammad Al-Jabri (center) chats with other lawmakers after he survived a no-confidence motion filed against him following a marathon grilling last week. — KUNA

of the alleged violations were committed before Jabri was appointed in the post and that he had taken steps to reform the situation. Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh

Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a cable of congratulation to Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth

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KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Al-Sabah family received Tuesday senior foreign ministry officials, top officers of the army, police, national guard and fire department, as well as diplomats on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. (See Page 4)

Ramadan Kareem

Slice of Ramadan dipped in the bowl of mercy

By Mariam-Joyce DSouza

By way of introduction, the 30 days of this beautiful, glorious and bountiful month called 'Ramadan' are divided into three parts - each comprising of 10 days. The first 10 days are the days of Mercy; the middle 10 days are the days of forgiveness; and the last 10 days are the days of salvation. This article refers to the first 10 days of mercy.

My dear readers, it's the most wonderful time of the year and a great opportunity to make and establish resolutions. This is a special month because it symbolizes the spirit of worship, sacrifice and most challenging of all - God consciousness. All leading to becoming merciful ourselves thus resulting in receiving God's blessings of mercy.

Hence, I take this opportunity to urge you to seek opportunities to be merciful. Show leniency, clemency & compassion. Be graceful, tender-hearted, generous and kind. Practice pity, charity and forgiveness. Exercise humanity, humaneness, forbearance, soft-heartedness & tolerance. Maintain mildness of character, sympathy, empathy and benevolence. So in these ten days (and hopefully always), attach your name to at least one of these traits.

This is a special quote for those readers who house the volumes of hadiths on their bookshelf: Allah created mercy in one hundred parts and sent down to earth only one part. Because of this one part, there is mutual love amongst creation, so much so that an animal will lift up its hoof from its young one, fearing that it might harm it. Allah has reserved the remaining ninety-nine parts of this mercy to favor His believing servants on the Day of Judgment. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as recorded in Bukhari and Muslim, Book #037, Hadith #6631

I would like to share this little story I recently read. And so as most stories begin, once upon a time, in a small rural village, there lived a young orphan boy with his paternal relatives. Due to the scarcity of water in the village, the young boy awoke early every morning, carried his pot and headed for the stream with the aim of fetching water for the family.

Sadly for him, he alone had this task as a routine every morning and evening while his cousins were given other lenient tasks. Yet, the young boy bore no grudge against his family.

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Tehran rolls back nuclear pledges

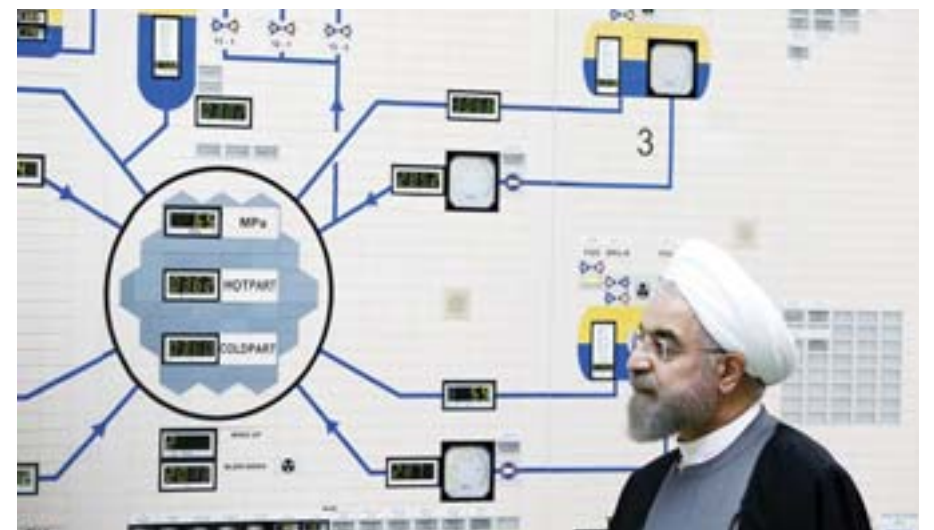
LONDON: Iran announced yesterday it was scaling back curbs to its nuclear program, announcing steps that stop short of violating its 2015 deal with world powers for now, but threatening more action if countries did not shield it from US sanctions. A year to the day after Washington pulled out of the nuclear deal, President Hassan Rouhani announced changes that experts said appeared calibrated to ensure Iran avoids triggering the deal's mechanism to punish it for violations, at least for now. "For now, nothing changes, but this

could be a ticking time bomb," a European diplomat said.

The main new measure that takes effect now would have limited practical impact: a halt to sales of enriched uranium and heavy water to other countries. The deal allows such sales to Iran can keep reducing its stockpiles below maximum thresholds, but Washington already effectively barred the sales with a sanctions move last week. For now, Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium is still well below the deal's cap and heavy water is less sensitive.

Rouhani also threatened that in 60 days Iran would resume enrichment of uranium beyond the low purity - suitable for civilian nuclear power generation - allowed under the deal, unless the five other powers signed up to it found a way to protect Iran's oil and banking

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BUSHEHR: In this file photo, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani visits the control room of the Bushehr nuclear power plant in the Gulf port city of Bushehr. — AFP

World gets first glimpse of UK's royal baby

LONDON: Britain's Prince Harry and wife Meghan gave the world the first glimpse of their "dream" newborn boy yesterday - but kept people guessing on what his name will be. Harry, 34, and 37-year-old Meghan emerged in front of the cameras inside Windsor Castle to show off their son born on Monday, ahead of introducing him to great-grandmother Queen Elizabeth II.

"He's just been a dream," said a smiling Meghan, in her first public comments since giving birth to the seven-pound, three-ounce baby, who stayed firmly asleep during his public unveiling. "He has the sweetest temperament. He's really calm," added

the Duchess of Sussex, as Prince Harry cradled the newborn, wrapped in a white blanket, by her side.

Royal watchers have been desperate for a glimpse of the new baby, who is seventh in the line to the British throne, ever since the couple announced his birth to their 6.5 million followers on Instagram with the message "It's a BOY!" But they disappointed those keen to know what they will call him, with neither new parent mentioning a name yesterday.

Instead, Harry focused his comments on life as a proud dad. "Parenting is amazing," he said, the day after brother Prince William - two years his senior and with three children of his own - had jokingly welcomed him to the "sleep deprivation society that is parenting." "We're just so thrilled to have our own little bundle of joy," Meghan added. "It's been a special couple of days."

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WINDSOR: Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex and his wife Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, pose for a photo with their newborn baby son in St George's Hall at Windsor Castle yesterday. — AFP

US: Iran planning imminent attack

BAGHDAD: Iraq has promised to guarantee the safety of US interests from Iran. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said as he paid a surprise trip to Baghdad where he accused Tehran of planning "imminent" attacks. The top US diplomat's unannounced visit marked an effort to stand up Washington's ties with Baghdad as it pushes ahead with its "maximum pressure" against Tehran - a US arch-rival, but an ally of Iraq. Pompeo abruptly cancelled talks in Germany and made a lengthy detour from a European tour to spend four hours in Iraq, where he met both President Barham

Saleh and Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi. "We talked to them about the importance of Iraq ensuring that it's able to adequately protect Americans in their country," Pompeo told reporters after the meetings. "They both provided assurances that they understood that was their responsibility," he said.

Pompeo said he made the trip because Iranian forces are "escalating their activity" and said the threat of attacks were "very specific." "These were attacks that were imminent," Pompeo said. He declined to go into further detail on the alleged plot, which has been met with skepticism in numerous quarters, with leading Democratic lawmakers fearing that President Donald Trump's administration is seeking to spark a war with Iran.

In the latest US move, the Pentagon said it was send-

ing several massive, nuclear-capable B-52s to the region. The deployment was in response to "recent and clear indications that Iranian and Iranian proxy forces were making preparations to possibly attack US forces," the Pentagon said. On Sunday, Washington announced it was dispatching an aircraft carrier strike group to the Middle East as national security advisor John Bolton warned Iran that Washington would respond with "unrelenting force" to any attack by Tehran, including by its regional allies.

Iraq's majority Shiite population enjoys religious kinship with Iran, which played a significant role in helping Baghdad to fight the Islamic State extremist movement. President Hassan Rouhani paid an official visit to Iraq in March, where he denounced pressure

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