SAUDI KING VOWS STABILITY

RIYADH/STOCKHOLM: Saudi King Salman vowed yes- terday that low oil prices would not halt progress in his country, and promised to defend Arab and Muslim causes around the world in his first major policy speech since assuming the throne. King Salman, 79, said the kingdom would continue oil and gas exploration, despite crude prices being nearly half of what they were last summer. In an acknowledgement of the kingdom’s weakness, he added that all Saudis are equal before his eyes. He said that “Every citizen in the country and every region of our nation are of my concern, interest and care,” he said, adding that “farce” was not an appropriate term. MPs Abdulhameed Dashti and Tameemi held their Kalashnikovs high in the air as they entered the Assembly building to surrender them to the interior ministry, saying the process was a “show off” and a “farce”. MPs Abdulhameed Dashti, Abdulrah Al-Tameemi and Nabeel Al-Fadhl on Monday brought unlicensed firearms including two Kalashnikovs, machineguns and gave them to an interior ministry team to show their commitment to a law to collect unlicensed firearms. Dashti and Tameemi described the event as an “unprecedented” and “utterly ridiculous”, adding that they had handed their Kalashnikovs, but other weapons were under guard. They described what happened as a “showing off” event. They also handed the interior ministry for sending a team to the Assembly.

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS STAGE PROTEST IN DUBAI

Dispute resolved after riot police deployed

DUBAI: Hundreds of foreign construction workers staged a rare public protest on yesterday outside the opulent Dubai Mall, one of the main tourist attractions in the United Arab Emirates, in a pay dispute with their company. Dubai authorities deployed riot police to disperse the workers who were demanding to be paid up to three months’ wages. The workers who are mainly Pakistanis, were demanding overtime pay, which was used to speed up construction work but became unnecessary.

France mourns sports stars killed in helicopter crash

PARIS: France was plunged into mourning yesterday after three well-known sports stars, including an Olympic champion swimmer and one of the world’s best sisters, died in a helicopter crash in Argentina. The victims were French Olympic swimming champion Camille Muffat, her twin sister Camille Muffat, and Olympic boxer Alexis Vastine were among 10 killed when two newspapers reporting on a survival series “Dropped” crashed into each other in the rugged mountains of La Rioja province, local officials said. “The whole of France is in mourning,” said Prime Minister Manuel Valls. La Rioja provincial spokesman Miguel Cano told AFP there were no survivors in the crash, which happened in good weather condi- tions on wintry mountains up to 4,000 meters (13,000 feet). The two newspapers were on the crash site filming the record smashes and the impact was set to be used on French television showed the two helicopters flying extremely close to each other, their rotors clipping, and both aircraft plummeting to the ground. Local media showed video footage of the crash site, with wreckage scattered across the frozen terrain.

Saudi King Salman delivers his first major policy speech since assuming the throne at the Al-Yamama palace in the capital, Riyadh.

KUWAIT: The Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Speaker of Iran’s Shura Council Ali Larijani at Bayan Palace yesterday. — KUNA (See Page 2)

Lawmaker slams arms surrender by ‘showoff’ MPs

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Harvian MP Hami bin Al-Ameen yesterday strongly lashed out at three lawmakers who yester- day brought their unlicensed firearms to the Assembly building to surrender them to the interior ministry, saying “Every citizen in the country and every region of our nation are of my concern, interest and care,” he said, adding that “farce” was not an appropriate term. MPs Abdulhameed Dashti, Abdulrah Al-Tameemi and Nabeel Al-Fadhl on Monday brought unlicensed firearms including two Kalashnikovs, machineguns and gave them to an interior ministry team to show their commitment to a law to collect unlicensed firearms. Dashti and Tameemi described the event as an “unprecedented” and “utterly ridiculous”, adding that they had handed their Kalashnikovs, but other weapons were under guard. They described what happened as a “showing off” event. They also handed the interior ministry for sending a team to the Assembly.

Construction workers stage protest in Dubai

Dispute resolved after riot police deployed

By B Izzak

DUBAI: Hundreds of foreign construction workers staged a rare public protest on yesterday outside the opulent Dubai Mall, one of the main tourist attractions in the United Arab Emirates, in a pay dispute with their company. Dubai authorities deployed riot police to disperse the workers who were demanding to be paid up to three months’ wages. The workers who are mainly Pakistanis, were demanding overtime pay, which was used to speed up construction work but became unnecessary.

France mourns sports stars killed in helicopter crash

PARIS: France was plunged into mourning yesterday after three well-known sports stars, including an Olympic champion swimmer and one of the world’s best sisters, died in a helicopter crash in Argentina. The victims were French Olympic swimming champion Camille Muffat, her twin sister Camille Muffat, and Olympic boxer Alexis Vastine were among 10 killed when two newspapers reporting on a survival series “Dropped” crashed into each other in the rugged mountains of La Rioja province, local officials said. “The whole of France is in mourning,” said Prime Minister Manuel Valls. La Rioja provincial spokesman Miguel Cano told AFP there were no survivors in the crash, which happened in good weather condi- tions on wintry mountains up to 4,000 meters (13,000 feet). The two newspapers were on the crash site filming the record smashes and the impact was set to be used on French television showed the two helicopters flying extremely close to each other, their rotors clipping, and both aircraft plummeting to the ground. Local media showed video footage of the crash site, with wreckage scattered across the frozen terrain.

Lawmaker slams arms surrender by ‘showoff’ MPs

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Harvian MP Hami bin Al-Ameen yesterday strongly lashed out at three lawmakers who yester- day brought their unlicensed firearms to the Assembly building to surrender them to the interior ministry, saying “Every citizen in the country and every region of our nation are of my concern, interest and care,” he said, adding that “farce” was not an appropriate term. MPs Abdulhameed Dashti, Abdulrah Al-Tameemi and Nabeel Al-Fadhl on Monday brought unlicensed firearms including two Kalashnikovs, machineguns and gave them to an interior ministry team to show their commitment to a law to collect unlicensed firearms. Dashti and Tameemi described the event as an “unprecedented” and “utterly ridiculous”, adding that they had handed their Kalashnikovs, but other weapons were under guard. They described what happened as a “showing off” event. They also handed the interior ministry for sending a team to the Assembly.

Construction workers stage protest in Dubai

Dispute resolved after riot police deployed

By B Izzak

DUBAI: Hundreds of foreign construction workers staged a rare public protest on yesterday outside the opulent Dubai Mall, one of the main tourist attractions in the United Arab Emirates, in a pay dispute with their company. Dubai authorities deployed riot police to disperse the workers who were demanding to be paid up to three months’ wages. The workers who are mainly Pakistanis, were demanding overtime pay, which was used to speed up construction work but became unnecessary.

France mourns sports stars killed in helicopter crash

PARIS: France was plunged into mourning yesterday after three well-known sports stars, including an Olympic champion swimmer and one of the world’s best sisters, died in a helicopter crash in Argentina. The victims were French Olympic swimming champion Camille Muffat, her twin sister Camille Muffat, and Olympic boxer Alexis Vastine were among 10 killed when two newspapers reporting on a survival series “Dropped” crashed into each other in the rugged mountains of La Rioja province, local officials said. “The whole of France is in mourning,” said Prime Minister Manuel Valls. La Rioja provincial spokesman Miguel Cano told AFP there were no survivors in the crash, which happened in good weather condi- tions on wintry mountains up to 4,000 meters (13,000 feet). The two newspapers were on the crash site filming the record smashes and the impact was set to be used on French television showed the two helicopters flying extremely close to each other, their rotors clipping, and both aircraft plummeting to the ground. Local media showed video footage of the crash site, with wreckage scattered across the frozen terrain.