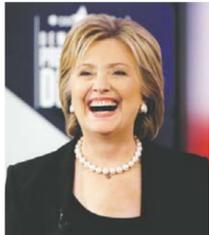




Kuwait to join sports events only when its flag is raised



Clinton urges war on Islamic State, not Muslims



Nishikori fails to crack Djokovic riddle



Holm silences Rousey in stunning KO win



WORLD LEADERS UNITE TO CONDEMN PARIS ATTACKS

OBAMA, PUTIN AGREE NEED FOR SYRIA TALKS, CEASEFIRE



150 FILLS
NO: 16699
40 PAGES



Min 13°
Max 26°
High Tide 01:14 & 15:37
Low Tide 08:50 & 20:46



ANTALYA, Turkey: US President Barack Obama (left) speaks with Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) prior to the opening session of the G20 summit yesterday. — AP

ANTALYA, Turkey: World leaders united yesterday to denounce terrorism at a heavily-guarded summit in Turkey after the gun and bomb assaults in Paris, despite divisions over conflict-riven Syria. US President Barack Obama, Vladimir Putin of Russia, China's President Xi Jinping and other leaders gathered at the Mediterranean resort of Antalya two days after the Paris attacks claimed by Islamic State jihadists.

Obama condemned the killing of 129 people in Paris as well as a double suicide bombing in Ankara last month as attacks "on the civilized world" and vowed to "redouble our efforts" to eliminate the Islamic State network. "We stand in solidarity with France in hunting down the perpetrators of this crime and bringing them to justice," Obama declared after talks with his host, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The Paris killings darkened the mood of the summit of the Group of 20 top world economies, with security and the Syrian conflict now eclipsing an economic agenda that will also deal with the spreading refugee crisis, climate change and tax avoidance. Erdogan said the summit agenda was now "very different" given the massacre in Paris, with the leaders to condemn the attacks in their communique or a separate statement. "I believe that our stance against international terrorism will find its expression in a very strong, tough message at the G20 summit," Erdogan said. "This terrorist action is not only against French people but all humanity."

Russia's Putin said that overcoming global terror was possible only "if all the international community unites its efforts". Putin is key to the gathering, which is taking place without French leader Francois Hollande who remains home to lead his shaken country in the aftermath of the attacks.

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KUWAIT: The Kuwait Towers are illuminated in the colors of the French flag yesterday in solidarity with the people of France after the Paris terrorist attacks. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

News

in brief

Arrest warrant out for Rajaan

KUWAIT: The public prosecution has issued an international arrest warrant against former general director of the Public Institution for Social Security Fahad Al-Rajaan after a prison sentence was handed in absentia against him on charges of manipulation of the institution's funds. The prosecution said in a statement that it had concluded investigations into the case involving Rajaan and an employee for "inflicting grave harm on the funds" of the institution. The pair are charged with breaching the institution's law and the finance minister's decisions and using the institution's funds in high-risk investments and speculations, thus leading to heavy losses and undermining the "state's financial status". It said that an international detention warrant has been issued against the fugitive Al-Rajaan and has ordered his imprisonment in absentia.

Sultan Qaboos makes rare public appearance

MUSCAT: Omani leader Sultan Qaboos made a rare public appearance yesterday to address the annual session of parliament, in his first live broadcast speech since he returned from an eight-month medical stay in Germany. Upon his return in March, state media said his treatment had been a success and that he was in "complete health".



Sultan Qaboos

Appearing in good health, Qaboos spoke for three minutes in his address to the Oman Council, which is made up of both elected and appointed members. Western-backed Qaboos has ruled since taking over from his father in a bloodless coup with the help of Oman's former colonial power, Britain. Since then, he has helped to transform an impoverished backwater riven by internal conflict into a prosperous state that plays a small but important role in regional diplomacy.

Saudis seized 22m meth pills in a year

RIYADH: Saudi authorities, where drug traffickers are sentenced to death, have seized 22.4 million amphetamine pills in one year, an interior ministry spokesman said yesterday. Around 28.8 tonnes of hashish and 26.2 kg of heroin have also been seized during the past Hijri Islamic year which ended in mid-October, the spokesman said in a statement published on the official SPA news agency. In their campaign against drug-trafficking, authorities have also confiscated hundreds of weapons, including 184 machineguns as well as rifles and guns, in addition to over 41 million riyals (\$11 million), said the statement. During eight months of the past Hijri year, 1,776 drug traffickers were arrested in the kingdom.

THREE BROTHERS TIED TO PARIS ATTACKS

PARIS: Belgium issued an international arrest warrant yesterday for one of three brothers linked to the brutal attacks in Paris that killed 129 people, as the probe spread across Europe. As thousands gathered in central Paris in mourning and solidarity, authorities in at least five European countries scrambled to tie together leads and hunt down possible accomplices. Security sources said one of the three brothers died in the Bataclan concert hall where the worst of the bloodshed took place, while another had been detained along with six other people in Belgium.

Seven gunmen wearing suicide belts died during the attacks, which have been claimed by the Islamic State group - either at the Stade de France stadium, or in and around the Bataclan venue. The sports minister said at least one of the bombers who detonated their explosives near the stadium had tried to enter the venue where France were playing Germany in an international football match at the time.

Prosecutors say they believe three groups of attackers were involved in the Paris carnage, raising the possibility that one group may still be at large. It is now known that three of the suicide bombers were French nationals, but two of the men had lived in the Belgian capital Brussels. Two cars used in the attacks were hired in Belgium. One was quickly found near the Bataclan venue, and one overnight on Saturday in the suburb of Montreuil east of Paris, with two AK47 rifles inside. Witnesses said the second car, a black Seat, was used by gunmen who shot dozens of people in bars and restaurants in the hip Canal St Martin area of Paris.

The first attacker to be named by investigators is Omar Ismail Mostefai, a 29-year-old father and French citizen, who was identified from a severed finger among the carnage at the Bataclan, where 89 people were killed after heavily armed men in wearing explosives vests stormed into the venue. Police detained six people close to Mostefai, including his father, brother and sister-in-law, judicial sources said.

Born in the modest Paris suburb of Courcouronnes, he had eight convictions for petty crimes but had never served a prison sentence. "It's a crazy thing, it's madness. Yesterday I was in Paris and I saw what a mess this was," one of his brothers told AFP before he was taken into custody on Saturday night. Belgian prosecutors said two of the attackers were Frenchmen who had lived in Brussels, at least one in the neighbourhood of Molenbeek which has been linked to Islamic radicalism. Premier Charles Michel conceded Molenbeek, a poor immigrant neighbourhood known as a hotbed of radicalisation, was a "gigantic problem".

Meanwhile, German authorities were questioning a man from Montenegro found last week with a car-load of eight Kalashnikov rifles, three pistols and explosives. The man, who had been heading for Paris, has refused to cooperate with police. The discovery of a Syrian passport near the body of one attacker has raised fears that some of the assailants might have entered Europe as part of the huge influx of people fleeing Syria's civil war.

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HAMMAD FILES TO GRILL JASSAR PANEL TO REVIEW CHARGES LAW

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: MP Saadoun Hammad yesterday filed a request to grill Minister of Public Works, Electricity and Water Ahmad Al-Jassar over alleged financial and administrative violations in the airport expansion project. The grilling was filed although Jassar has already tendered his resignation over a suspended jail term issued against him several weeks ago. Legally, Jassar remains a Cabinet member until his resignation is accepted. The grilling is expected to figure on the Assembly session tomorrow to be debated two weeks later.

But the dilemma is that currently, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah is the acting minister of public works. This is the second grilling to be submitted in the current session which

began Oct 27. The first grilling filed by MP Mohammad Tana against Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Hind Al-Subaih was debated on the opening day. It ended with recommendations.

In another development, head of the financial and economic affairs committee MP Faisal Al-Shayeh said yesterday the committee will meet soon to review the public charges law issued more than two decades ago. The law bans the government from introducing or raising charges on public services without the approval of the National Assembly.

Shayeh said the Assembly's legal and legislative affairs committee has pointed out that the law is unconstitutional and that the financial committee will meet to review the issue. The government has been trying to raise non-oil revenues after oil prices dropped sharply, and with the budget facing with a certain deficit.

UNVEILED IRAN DRIVERS TO HAVE CARS IMPOUNDED

TELEGRAM TARGETED

TEHRAN: Iranian women who fail to wear the veil when driving will have their cars impounded for a week and are likely to be fined, police warned yesterday. In the past week, about 10,000 motorists have received warnings, with 2,000 facing further action for breaking "social norms", but the new measure to confiscate cars will come into force nationwide. Deputy police chief Said Montazer-ol-Mehdi said officers had been authorized by prosecutors to take such steps.

If traffic police spot an unveiled woman driver or passenger, "their car will be taken to a police compound for a week", he said, according to the official IRNA news agency. Some owners will be fined but other offenders will be referred to judicial authorities for further investigation, he added. The steps are part of a wider traffic police crackdown that could also see male drivers targeted for bad conduct. Violations could include "removal of veil inside the car, driving recklessly, parading in the streets and harassing women," IRNA said.

When in public, all women in the Islamic republic, including foreigners, are required to wear at least a loose scarf, known as hijab, which covers the hair and neck. Since the mid-1990s, however, there has been a gradual change in the dress code. Many women wear stylish and colorful coats and headscarves and often tight trousers instead of the traditional one-piece, head-to-toe black chador. Police patrols have continued campaigns to enforce the law and the authorities also use a network of "trustees" to identify transgressors.

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KUWAIT: Protestors gather in solidarity outside the diwaniya of former MP Abdullah Al-Barghash (right) after the appeals court last week overturned a lower court verdict ordering the government to reinstate Barghash's citizenship and ruled that it was not competent under the law to handle sovereign issues. The government revoked the citizenship of the former Islamist lawmaker along with 56 members of his family. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

