



Happy new Islamic year 1438



MOI DRAWS PLAN TO PROTECT MOSQUES DURING MUHARRAM

HUNDREDS HELD IN CRACKDOWN • 'BUTCHER' BUSTED • JAIL BEATING REFUTED



Min 20°
Max 35°
High Tide
00:40 & 12:53
Low Tide
04:52 & 17:40



KUWAIT: Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt Gen Suleiman Al-Fahd holds a security meeting yesterday. (Right) Residents board a police bus during a nationwide crackdown yesterday. — MOI



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior has set a plan to safeguard mosques and husseiniyas with the start of the month of Muharram, Undersecretary Lt Gen Suleiman Al-Fahd said yesterday. The plan aims to protect lives and valuables as well as to ensure the safety of all worshippers, "which we refuse to compromise in any way," a statement by the ministry quoted Fahd as saying. "Diligent efforts on the part of security forces are key to the success of this plan," the undersecretary noted. Moreover, Fahd underscored the need of diligence and cooperation between government bodies to ensure that the plan goes off without a hitch.

Meanwhile, a comprehensive security inspection campaign in various governorates resulted in arresting 417 people, including eight wanted for criminal cases, 53 wanted for civilian claims, 56 absconders, 187 for not holding IDs, seven for drug possession, eight for alcohol possession, 83 with expired residency visas and 14 wanted people, in addition to filing 776 traffic tickets. Also, a "butcher" was arrested for collecting dead sheep from the desert, cleaning them at his house and selling them, said security sources.

Separately, the interior ministry's relations and security media department yesterday strongly denied social media rumors about a central prison inmate who was beaten. It explained that during a routine inspection last Tuesday, prison authorities found some illegal items in the prisoner's possession and confiscated them, after taking standard measures followed to deal with the smuggling of illegal items into prison.

SENIOR PEOPLE GIVEN PROPER CARE: SUBAIH

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LIVERPOOL MOVE SECOND, CHELSEA BACK ON TRACK

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NEW DELHI: Indian workers from the eastern state of Bihar gather in a hotel on Sept 29, 2016 after they were repatriated by the Indian government from Saudi Arabia. — AFP

INDIAN MIGRANTS RETURN HOME, RECALL NIGHTMARE

NEW DELHI: They left India for Saudi Arabia with big dreams, but have returned with only harrowing tales after an oil price slump threw the economy into turmoil, leaving thousands of poor migrant laborers stranded. The workers from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Philippines were left destitute, without enough money to get home or even to buy food after losing their jobs. This week around 40 workers from the impoverished east Indian state of Bihar finally arrived home with stories of being "left to die" by their employer Saudi Oger, the once-mighty firm led by Lebanon's billionaire former prime minister Saad Hariiri. The company, which at one time had some 50,000 workers on its payroll, was hit by a drop in income from its core construction business after Saudi Arabia delayed or cancelled projects in the face of plummeting oil revenues. "They closed down the mess (canteen) suddenly. For three days we did not have even water to drink.

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WHITE HOUSE RACE HITS NEW LOW

TRUMP DRAGS SEX SCANDALS INTO CAMPAIGN

DUTERTE DEFIANT OVER CALL TO KILL 3M DRUG DEALERS

MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte refused to back down yesterday over his stated desire to slaughter millions of people, as global condemnation built against him likening his crime war with Hitler's efforts to exterminate Jews. Duterte on Friday drew parallels with the Nazi's mass murder of Jews and his anti-drug crackdown, which has left more than 3,000 people dead and raised concerns about the rule of law crumbling in the chaotic Asian democracy.

Facing a fierce international backlash, Duterte's spokesman released a statement insisting the president did not want to be compared with Nazi leader Adolf Hitler but confirmed he was prepared to kill three million people in his crime war. "We do not wish to diminish the profound loss of six million Jews in the Holocaust," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said in a statement. "The president's reference to the slaughter was an oblique deflection of the way he has been pictured as a mass murderer, a Hitler, a label he rejects."

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WASHINGTON: Donald Trump indicated in a new interview that he's ready to drag ex-president Bill Clinton's sex scandals into the White House campaign, after Democrats lashed out at the billionaire's Twitter rant against a pro-Hillary ex-Miss Universe. Trump told The New York Times that he believes talking about the sex scandals that stained the career of Hillary's husband Bill would turn female voters away from her. "She's nasty, but I can be nastier than she ever can be," Trump told the Times

in an interview posted late Friday.

He added: "Hillary Clinton was married to the single greatest abuser of women in the history of politics," referring to Bill Clinton (president 1993-2001). "Hillary was an enabler, and she attacked the women who Bill Clinton mistreated afterward. I think it's a serious problem for them, and it's something that I'm considering talking about more in the near future," he told the newspaper.

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Rodrigo Duterte



GRAND RAPIDS, Michigan: US Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump pays his respects at former US President Gerald Ford's tomb on Friday. — AFP

ALEPPO HOSPITAL HIT, ARMY PRESSES ASSAULT

ALEPPO: The largest hospital in rebel-held east Aleppo was bombed yesterday for the second time in days as Syrian government forces pressed a Russian-backed offensive to retake the entire city. Aleppo, once Syria's vibrant commercial powerhouse, is now at the heart of a major military campaign by President Bashar Al-Assad's fighters and his steadfast ally Moscow. The offensive, announced on September 22, has seen dozens of civilians killed and residential buildings flattened in the east, where an estimated 250,000 people live under government siege.

As the situation for civilians grows increasingly dire, the largest hospital in east Aleppo was hit by barrel bombs, the medical organization that supports it said. "Two barrel bombs hit the M10 hospital and there were reports of a cluster bomb as well," said Adham Sahloul of the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS). Sahloul said a small group of patients and doctors "were inside the hospital for basic triage, bandaging, and cleaning services for emer-

gency cases" when the bombardment began.

SAMS radiologist and hospital administrator Mohammad Abu Rajab made an urgent call for help on Saturday morning from inside M10. "The hospital is being destroyed! SOS, everyone!" he said in an audio message distributed to journalists. M10 had already been hit on Wednesday along with the second-largest hospital in the area, known as M2. That bombardment heavily damaged the two facilities and left only six fully-functional hospitals in the city's east, according to SAMS.

At the bombed hospital, an AFP journalist saw bloodstained hospital beds and dented equipment lying in disarray beneath blown-out windows. "A new barrel bomb fell this afternoon in front of the hospital, forcing medical staff... to evacuate all patients to another one and leave the hospital," a doctor at M10 told AFP. European Parliament president Martin Schulz called the hospital bombing a "war crime." "Intl community must unite to prevent city annihilation," he tweeted. French Foreign

Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said that "the systematic targeting of structures and health workers is particularly unjustifiable."

The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council urged the UN Security Council to "immediately intervene to stop the aggression against Aleppo." The World Health Organization has called Syria the most dangerous place in the world for health workers, and Aleppo in particular has seen much of its medical infrastructure destroyed or heavily damaged. Since fighting first broke out there in 2012, Aleppo has been divided by a front line between rebel forces in the east and government troops in the west.

After the government launched its offensive last month, more than 220 people have been killed by bombardment on Aleppo's east, including six children and 12 other civilians on Friday, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. In west Aleppo, rebel rocket fire killed 15 civilians and wounded 40 on Friday, state television reported.

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KAFR BATNA, Syria: A Syrian man carries the body of a girl following an air strike in the rebel-held Eastern Ghouta area on the outskirts of the capital Damascus on Friday. — AFP