

Employ tech to enhance performance, says FANA

'Arab media outlets play vital role'

Election under new rules

Jordan 'votes' in election toward democratic reform

AMMAN, Jordan, Sept 20, (AP): Jordanians voted Tuesday for a new parliament under revised rules that officials say are meant to strengthen political parties but are seen by some as a small step, at most, toward democratic reform.

The Muslim Brotherhood, the kingdom's most organized opposition group, competed for the first time since 2007, but was not expected to win enough seats to challenge control of parliament by establishment candidates, including tribal representatives.

The vote comes at a time of regional turmoil, including domestic and external security threats to pro-Western Jordan by Islamic State extremists who control large areas in neighboring Syria and Iraq. In holding regular, orderly elections, Jordan seeks to strengthen its image as an island of stability in the region.

However, parliament is weak, with most powers remaining in the hands of King Abdullah II. Polls have indicated widespread voter apathy, predicting more than half of potential voters won't cast a ballot, despite the participation of the Brotherhood.

More than 4 million Jordanians were eligible to vote for a 130-member parliament, with 15 seats reserved for women, nine for Christians and three for minority Chechens and Circassians. By 2:00 pm, about 750,000 votes had been cast.

Voter Nour al-Ghwairi, 44, said she hoped the new parliament would tackle Jordan's economic difficulties, such as rising joblessness, particularly among the young. "The country suffers from unemployment and other problems", she said after voting in the Jabal Hussein neighborhood of the capital, Amman.

Elsewhere in central Amman, 71-year-old Othman Abu Felah said he didn't bother voting because "it doesn't help anything". Katrina Sammour, a political researcher, said

she would cast a blank ballot in protest because she believes parliament is weak and no party or list addresses her concerns. Prime Minister Hani al-Mulki, appointed in May after the king dissolved the outgoing parliament, said that Jordan is proud to hold elections in a stable atmosphere.

"We resort to ballot boxes and to the electoral process to select the path for the future, and we don't resort to anything else", he said, apparently referring to escalating conflicts in the region.

Tuesday's election is being held under new rules that replace the "one man, one vote" system. The old method, in place since 1993, had discouraged the formation of political parties. Critics said the latest electoral reforms have fallen short and are unlikely to lead to meaningful change.

They said they expect the new parliament to be similar to the outgoing one — largely made up of individuals with competing, narrow interests.

Under new voting rules, voters chose candidates from lists in 23 electoral districts. In all, 1,252 candidates ran on 226 lists.

Only six percent of the lists are affiliated with a specific political party, 11 percent have some party representatives, 39 percent are independent and 43 percent are based on tribal affiliations, according to the International Republican Institute, a US-based non-partisan group that seeks to promote democracy.

"While there might be some consolidation compared to previous parliaments, you are still going to see a parliament of individuals", said Ramsey Day, the IRI's Jordan director. He said this is "somewhat inconsistent" with what has been cited as the ultimate goal of democratic reforms, a government formed by parliament.

TUNIS, Sept 20, (KUNA): Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA) called on employing technology to enhance the performance of Arab news agencies amidst a fierce surge of digital media.

Chairman of FANA and Board Chairman and Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah said, on Tuesday, at the conclusion of FANA's two-day meeting that the key to carrying on and providing quality of service is to enhance the performance of Arab media to enable them to deliver biased and transparent news to the public.

"As Chairman of FANA, I can say that Arab news agencies are striving to build relations of professionalism based on delivering news subjectively with other news outlets," he said, adding that having this level of expertise ensures that Arab agencies perform in line with its founding regulations.

He added that despite the widespread use of social networks and digital contents yet traditional news agencies are still needed for their accurate and subjective deliverance of content.

He also stressed that Arab media outlets play a vital role in promoting healthy image of Arab culture that has been tarnished lately.



KUNA photo
Chairman of FANA and Board Chairman and Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah

5 dead in Libya military helicopter crash

Italians, Canadian kidnapped in Libya

TRIPOLI, Sept 20, (Agencies): Two Italians and a Canadian have been kidnapped in Libya's southwestern desert, possibly by a criminal gang, authorities said.

The three, who were working on airport projects, were abducted between the towns of Ghat and Tahala, near the border with Algeria early on Monday. Ghat's mayor Gomani Mohamad Saleh told Reuters.

"The two Italians were working on a runway project at the airport but the Canadian was working on installing air aviation system," he said on Tuesday.

"The security authorities are following the incident closely ... That's all the information we have so far."

Numerous criminal and armed groups are active in Libya's vast southern desert, and al-Qaeda-linked Islamist militants have long had a presence across the border between Libya and Algeria.

The Italian foreign ministry said late on Monday that two of its citizens had been abducted in the Libyan desert, without giving further details.

The Canadian government said it was aware of a "troubling yet unconfirmed report of the abduction of a Canadian citizen in Libya".

Local media reports said the three were working for the Libyan branch of Italian firm Contratti Internazionali Costruzioni SpA. The company declined to comment when contacted.

Also:

TRIPOLI: A military helicopter crashed in eastern Libya on Tuesday, killing five people including officers loyal to authorities that have refused to cede power to a unity government, parliament said.

It was not immediately clear why the aircraft came down.

The victims included General Idris Yunis al-Dressi, chief of staff for Aguila Saleh, speaker of the internationally recognised parliament based in Tobruk in eastern Libya.

His son Ahmed Idris al-Dressi, who worked in the parliament, was also killed along with two air force colonels and one lieutenant.

WITH YOU AT EVERY STAGE OF YOUR LIFE..

The Women Urogynecology & Physiotherapy clinic at the Gynecology & Obstetrics Department offer you the latest treatments and services with a specialized medical team

- Urinary Incontinence Treatment
- Pelvic floor disorders • Bladder Scanning
- Pelvic Floor Organ Prolapse
- Pelvic Floor Muscle Exercises
- Bladder Weakness • Menstrual Disorders



Dr. Abubakr Elmardi
- Head & Consultant of Obstetrics & Gynaecology Department
- Head of Urogynaecology Unit



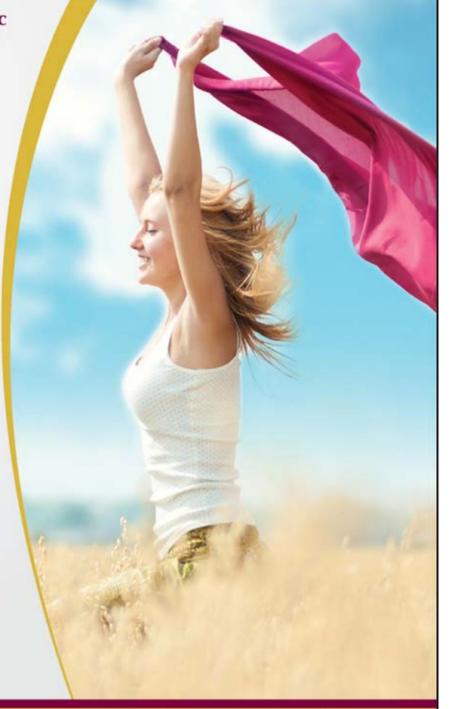
PT. Cindy Amin
Physiotherapist



Marilou Ramos
Nurse



Arlene Onia
Nurse



مستشفى رويال هايات
ROYALE HAYAT HOSPITAL
Celebrating Life

2536 0000

www.royalehayat.com



royalehayat /royalehayathospital



Best Hospital Award
From 2010 to 2015

Power. To an advanced degree.

Save 12% with our Educational Offer on Mac*.



* Terms & Conditions apply
Offer valid from 26 June till 15 October, 2016
for University students and teachers.
Ask our staff for more details.

alpha store



222 525 88
www.alnaha.net
alphastore@alnaha.net

Shuwaikh Al-Telal Complex Jhra road

الشويخ - مجمع التلال - طريق الجهراء

PART OF | النها |



Test Drive a Toyota & you may get a gift up to KD 20

Draw for 2 Accessorised Prados + Scratch & Win + benefits and gifts

Highest Trade-In Value

To book your test drive Call now 1803803

Terms and conditions apply

On top of our massive September Toyota promotion, visit us on any Saturday at any of our showrooms and test drive any car to get an instant KD 10 gift voucher. And, if you purchase a vehicle, you will get a KD 10 petrol card. Hurry to our showrooms and take advantage of these great benefits.

Ask about the best Trade-In offer for your car!



Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Est. Co. W.L.L.
ONE OF THE AL-SAYER GROUP HOLDING COMPANIES.

T-connect



Tel: 1803803
toyota.com.kw
toyotakw

AL-Rai 4th Ring Road - AL-AHMADI Eastern Ahmadi - AL-JAHRA Industrial Area - SHUWAIKH Al-Tal Showroom