

LOCAL

Jaber Al-Ahmad

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The event's schedule for the first half of the season, until December, is currently posted on the centre's website. (KUNA)

Kuwait complies

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the initiative to relegate North Korea's diplomatic representation to the position of chargé d'affaires," the source noted.

"Kuwait is concerned over the status quo in the Korean peninsula and urges all sides to maintain composure and work towards a diplomatic solution that would avert destruction and warfare," it said.

Kuwait tackles

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The KPC, in coordination with other oil companies, has dispatched marine units and equipment to the location to contain the floating oil, discovered at 7:30 am.

It is also coordinating with other departments, namely the Ministry of Interior, to survey the location and assess the slick size.

Kuwait reported a leak in the same area last month. That was followed by another spill at Abu Fatira, about 15 miles (25 kms) south of the capital Kuwait City, spanning one nautical mile.

There was also a limited spill from a pipeline at Kuwait's northern al-Ratqa field in July.

Kuwait's oil minister said last month that neighbouring Saudi Arabia and Iran had said they had not detected any oil spillage in their waters from the marine leaks.

US, Iran

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comment on Haley's remarks about inspections. In a speech on Monday, however, he defended the deal as an important step forward.

"The nuclear-related commitments undertaken by Iran under the JCPOA are being implemented," Amano said. "Iran is now subject to the world's most robust nuclear verification regime."

On Sunday Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Tehran would not submit to US "bullying".

"The corrupt, lying, deceitful US officials insolently accuse the nation of Iran ... of lying, whereas the nation of Iran has acted honestly and will continue on this path until the end in an honest manner," said Khamenei.

Trump, meanwhile, warned Monday that Washington will walk away from the nuclear deal it agreed to with Iran and five other nations if it deems that the International Atomic Energy Agency is not tough enough in monitoring it.

The warning from Trump came in a message to the UN agency's annual meeting, being held in Vienna, that was read by US Energy Secretary Rick Perry.

The United States asserts that Iran is obligated to open its military sites to IAEA inspection on demand if the agency suspects unreported nuclear activities at any of them. That's something Tehran stridently rejects, and Iranian nuclear chief Ali Akbar Salehi urged the agency and its head, Yukiya Amano, to "resist such unacceptable demands."

Asserting that Iran is fully complying with terms of the accord, Salehi said the greatest threat to its survival is "the American administration's hostile attitude."

But Trump, as quoted by Perry, suggested the deal could stand or fall on IAEA access to Iranian military sites, declaring "we will not accept a weakly enforced or inadequately monitored deal."

Syrians gain

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The US-backed offensive is focused on the Iraq border area, which is still controlled by IS. Washington fears that further advances by pro-government forces in Syria could help Iran expand its influence across the region via a land bridge stretching through Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, all the way to Israel.

Iran is a key ally of Assad, and has provided financial and logistical support to his forces throughout the six-year civil war.

Meanwhile, outgoing Syria war crimes investigator Carla Del Ponte said on Monday she had quit her post out of frustration over "total impu-



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Sunday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at his residency in the United States. (KUNA)

KNPC denies sacking Kuwaiti workers after refinery closure

MPs express shock over story

By Abubakar A. Ibrahim
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: MPs Hamoud Al-Khudair and Askar Al-Anazi were shocked when they heard news of the dismissal of more than 100 Kuwaiti employees from Shuaiba Refinery and that they were replaced with Asian workers.

Stressing that generating job opportunities for Kuwaitis will remain as one of the priorities of lawmakers, Al-Khudair and Al-Anazi pointed out that if the news is true then it means the oil minister is disregarding all decisions on replacement of national manpower and shattering the dreams of Kuwaiti youths. They affirmed the lawmakers will not ignore such provocative acts in the oil sector.

They accused Minister of Oil, Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq of provoking the National Assembly through acts which entail unwillingness to cooperate with MPs; thereby, putting himself in an unpleasant situation. They warned that continuation of this provocative approach will only increase the political price the minister has to pay. They also reiterated their call on the minister to generate jobs for Kuwaitis in the oil sector instead of employing expatriates.

Meanwhile, Official Spokesperson of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) Bassem Al-Issa on Monday denied the alleged sacking of Kuwaiti employees after the closure of Shuaiba Refinery recently.

He asserted the company did not terminate any employee or canceled any contract, affirming the status of Kuwaiti workers in the refinery is the top priority of the company.

He also clarified that Kuwaiti employees, who were supposedly dismissed, were transferred to other

facilities with the same employment conditions.

In another development, MP Majed Al-Mutairi urged the minister to personally follow up reports on the recent discovery of oil spots near Al-Zour plants in the northern and southern areas. He emphasized the need for the minister to take preventive measures, considering the repetition of oil leakage incidents which might damage vital facilities.

He pointed out that steps have been taken to contain the oil spill through the contingency plans laid down earlier, indicating the minister must oversee the implementation of these plans and then update the National Assem-

blly in this regard.

Meanwhile, MP Mohammed Al-Dalal criticized the decision of Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and State Minister for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh to dissolve the Board of Directors of Kaifan Cooperative Society. He claimed the decision was based on "the report of an internal investigation committee in the ministry and there are fears that the elected board might privatize the cooperative." He warned the decision could harm the cooperative and its shareholders in particular, and the entire cooperative sector in general.

This has prompted the lawmaker to forward questions to the minister as he

wants to know the results of the investigation conducted by the commission of inquiry which were used as basis for the dissolution of the board.

He demanded for copies of the final report of the commission of inquiry and the memorandum submitted by the vice-chairman of the Higher Committee to look into the results of investigation and evaluate the work of the commission.

He asked if members of the dissolved board of directors filed a complaint at the Public Prosecution, measures taken in this regard, if the board members were found to have violated regulations, and if there is a plan to privatize the cooperative.



The National Theatre at Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre.

KUNA photo

Blended Criminal Court, an effort that has been blocked by the Damascus regime's ally Russia.

"Why is it not possible to have a tribunal?" Del Ponte asked, addressing some of her farewell remarks directly at Syria's UN ambassador Hussam Edin Aala.

The COI has accused all sides — including the government and rebels — of committing war crimes in Syria.

Its most recent report, submitted to the rights council on Monday, charged Damascus with carrying out a chemical attack which killed dozens of people in Khan Sheikhun in April.

A new UN body — called the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism — has recently started work in Geneva with a mandate to prepare cases against specific individuals.

Del Ponte called that effort "a little step towards justice".

But the mechanism's chief, Catherine Marchi-Uhel of France, cautioned earlier this month that her office was not a court and had no power to bring international charges.

Ex-foster children

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He said the 21-year-old was also a former foster child of the Joneses. Sky News and other British media named him as Yahyah Farroukh, who is originally from Syria.

West Thames College in West London said in a statement that "Yahyah Farroukh, who, according to media reports is the second suspect detained in connection with the Parsons Green incident, was a former student at the college from December 2013 to June 2015." It said he began attending courses when he was 17 to learn English.

Suleman Sarwar, co-owner of Aladdin's Fried Chicken in Hounslow, said Farroukh worked there and was arrested by police Saturday night at the end of his shift.

Stephen Griffiths, who lives across the street from Penelope and Ronald Jones, said police had visited the house several times, most recently two or

three weeks ago.

"The police were there multiple times over the span of about a month — a few times a week," he said.

"You always think foster kids are going to have a bit of trouble, but you don't think terrorism," he added.

Footage obtained by broadcaster ITV shows a man near the Sunbury address Friday morning carrying a bag from Lidl supermarket. Images posted on social media following the attack appeared to show wires protruding from a flaming bucket contained in a Lidl bag on the floor of the train carriage.

Commuters returned to Parsons Green station Monday for the first morning rush hour since the bombing. Police asked the traveling public to be vigilant and said there would be more armed police on the transit network for the time being.

Most of the injured in Friday's explosion aboard a District Line train suffered flash burns while some were injured in the panicked rush to leave.

The Islamic State group has claimed

responsibility for the attack, but British officials say there is no proof yet that it was involved.

Four other violent attacks in Britain this year have killed 36 people. Three were the work of attackers motivated by Islamic extremism, and one by anti-Muslim hatred.

In the deadliest attack, a suicide bomber struck a packed concert hall in Manchester in northern England, killing 22 people. The other attacks, near Parliament, on London Bridge and near a mosque in Finsbury Park in north London, involved vehicles and, in two cases, knives.

Philippines rescues

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apparently well-fed Suganob declared: "I am physically strong and handsome. That's it for now."

Hundreds of gunmen rampaged through Marawi, the main Muslim city in the mostly Catholic Philippines, on May 23 and then occupied key districts in what authorities said was an attempt to establish a Southeast Asian base for IS in the Philippines.

More than 850 people have been killed and large parts of Marawi destroyed in the ensuing fighting, which has seen the gunmen defy a US-backed military campaign that has included heavy bombing.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte imposed martial law across the southern region of Mindanao in response to the crisis.

Suganob, a parish priest in Marawi commonly known as "Father Chito", was taken hostage along with about 13 parishioners from a local cathedral on the first day of the fighting.

The militants later released a video showing themselves vandalising the cathedral.

Another video released by his captors in late May showed Suganob standing in the rubble of buildings in Marawi asking President Duterte to withdraw troops and stop the military offensive.

Suganob said at the time that the gunmen were holding 240 "prisoners of war", including teachers, carpenters and household workers. They were mostly Christians and local tribespeople.

"We want to live another day. We want to live another month," Suganob said in the video as gunfire was heard in the distance.

One escaped hostage later told authorities that Suganob had been forced to serve as a cook for the militants, according to the then-military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Jo-ar Herrera in early July.

This was one of many reports that the militants were forcing their hostages to work as slaves.

Baghdad to

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Hundreds of women and children surrendered to Kurdish forces deployed north of Al-Ayadih, officials said.

Meanwhile, Turkey launched a military drill featuring tanks close to the Iraqi border on Monday, the army said, a week before Iraq's Kurdish region will hold an independence referendum.

Despite opposition from Turkey, Iran and the United States, the Kurdistan Regional Government's leaders have said they will hold the non-binding independence vote on Sept 25.

Ankara has previously warned against the poll, saying it could risk "civil war" and will "have a cost" if it goes ahead.

Despite forging strong ties with the KRG in northern Iraq in recent years, Turkey fears the vote could stoke separatist aspirations among its own sizeable Kurdish minority.

Ankara's national security council will meet on Sept 22 to discuss the country's official position on the poll but President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday said it was a "mistake".

He was speaking before leaving for the United Nations General Assembly, where he will meet Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi — whose Baghdad government is also fiercely against the KRG's move.

In other news, Iraq's supreme court Monday ordered the suspension of a Sept 25 referendum on the independence of Iraqi Kurdistan, as legal and political pressure mounted on the Kurds to call off the vote.

With just a week left before polling, the court said it "has issued the order to suspend organising the referendum set for Sept 25 ... until it examines the complaints it has received over this plebiscite un-constitutional".

Court spokesman Ayas al-Samouk told AFP it had "received several complaints", as a parliamentary source said at least eight lawmakers had called on the court to intervene on constitutional grounds.

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signed by Minister of State for Defence Affairs Khalid bin Mohammed Al Attiyah and his British counterpart Michael Fallon, QNA added. (RTRS)

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's Shura Council, an influential advisory body to the government, will vote on a proposal to merge the religious police into the ministry of Islamic affairs, local media reported, further curbing the force's authority.

The religious police, officially known as the Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, patrols public spaces to enforce bans on alcohol, music, prayer time, store closures and the mixing of unrelated men and women. It also imposes strict modesty requirements on women's dress. (RTRS)

UNITED NATIONS: President Donald Trump made his debut at the United Nations on Monday, using his first moments at the world body to urge the 193-nation organization to reduce bureaucracy and costs while more clearly defining its mis-

sion around the world.

But while Trump chastised the United Nations — an organization he sharply criticized as a candidate for president for its spiraling costs — he said the United States would "pledge to be partners in your work" in order to make the UN "a more effective force" for peace across the globe. (AP)

SAN FRANCISCO: Hackers broke into British company Piriform's free software for optimising computer performance last month potentially allowing them to control the devices of more than two million users, the company and independent researchers said on Monday.

The malicious program was slipped into legitimate software called CCleaner, which is downloaded for personal computers and Android phones as often as five million times a week. It cleans up junk programs and advertising cookies to speed up devices. (RTRS)

SANAA: Yemeni medical officials and tribesmen say an airstrike this weekend by the Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Shiite rebels killed 12 civilians in central Marib province.

They say four children and four women were among those killed on Saturday. The attack hit a car in the Harib al-Qaramesh area, along the only route used by civilians to escape the fighting but that is also near rebel military installations. (AP)

GENEVA: The World Health Organization on Monday urged Yemen to approve cholera vaccinations it has offered to help contain an epidemic that could affect nearly a million people by year's end.

Yemen, where a multinational conflict has caused a humanitarian crisis, had asked the UN health agency earlier this year for doses of the vaccine, said **Dominique Legros**, the agency's cholera specialist. (AFP)

BERLIN: Turkey summoned Germany's ambassador to its foreign ministry on Monday, Berlin said, amid a mounting row between the two NATO powers.

Der Spiegel magazine said Ankara wanted to raise a German parliamentary motion last year that declared the 1915 massacre of Armenians by Ottoman forces a genocide — a description that Turkey has long fiercely rejected. (RTRS)