



baseball

Page 44

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# OBAMA SIGNS OFF ON COVERT ACTION BACKING REBELS

## U.S. TALKS POST-ASSAD

# Annan quits

### Three million Syrians need aid

**ALEPPO, Syria, Aug 2, (Agencies):** Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan is quitting as international peace envoy for Syria, frustrated by "finger-pointing" at the United Nations while the armed rebellion against President Bashar al-Assad becomes increasingly bloody.

As battles raged on Thursday in Syria's second city Aleppo between rebel fighters and government forces using war planes and artillery, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon announced in New York that Annan had said he would go at the end of the month.



Kuwaiti's Feahid Al-Deehani competes in the double trap men qualification round at the Royal Artillery Barracks in London on Aug 2 during the London 2012 Olympic Games. (AFP)

### Not this time

Kuwaiti shooter Feahid Al-Deehani failed on Thursday to get the Men's Double Trap bronze medal at the London Olympics.

Al-Deehani scored 140 out of a total of 185 targets, almost the same score as the Russian Vasily Mosin who won the bronze medal; but he (Al-Deehani) missed one of the two plates while Mosin hit the two targets.

Mosin shared the podium with Peter Robert Russell Wilson, of the United Kingdom who took gold with a score of 143, followed by Hakan Dahlby, of Sweden, with a score of 137 plates and won the silver. (KUNA)

### Opinion

## Sever head of 'sedition'

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE situation has become unbearable. We can no longer tolerate the 'blame game' played by some. What we witness on the political front is not the aftereffect of elections but an act which has brought the entire country to a crippling halt.

The nation is in disarray. The National Assembly does not function. The government cannot take its oath and as a result has lost complete authority in absence of the legislative authority.

The political conflicts and sedition has spread like cancer. Rumors and the social networking websites have fuelled tribal

Continued on Page 5

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US\$/K.D. 0.281960

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British £/K.D. 0.437313

KSE +1.89 pts at closing, Aug 2  
See Page 41

Dow -91.65 pts at closing, Aug 2  
See Page 42

Nasdaq -10.44 pts at closing, Aug 2

FTSE -50.52 pts at closing, Aug 2

Nikkei +11.33 pts at closing, Aug 2

Gold \$1,594.10 per oz (London)

NYMEX crude \$87.13 per barrel

Brent crude \$105.90 per barrel

3-month \$ LIBOR rate 0.45%

Account from Lebanon

## Victim Al-Juwaihel claims wasn't him

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: During interrogation by the State Security police former MP Mohammed Al-Juwaihel denied he has an account on the social networking website Twitter. He also denied insulting the Mutair tribe, reports Annahar daily.

Al-Juwaihel disclosed he is a victim of a fierce defamation campaign launched by unknown people against him for reasons best known to them.

He added over the last few weeks he was under way to find a successor.

Annan's mission, centred on an April ceasefire that never took hold, has looked irrelevant as fighting has intensified in Damascus, Aleppo and elsewhere.

Annan blamed "finger-pointing and name-calling" at the UN Security Council for his decision to quit but suggested his successor may have better luck.

"The world is full of crazy people like me. So don't be surprised if Secretary General Ban Ki-moon can find someone who can do a better job than me," Annan said.

Syria expressed regret that Annan was going. Russia, a key ally of Damascus, also said it regretted the decision, while Britain, which wants Assad to resign, said it showed that the mediation process was not working.

The White House said Annan's decision to quit had highlighted Assad's failure to meet his promise to abide by the ceasefire plan, and added that it continued to believe that "Assad must go".

In Syria, the fight for Aleppo, the latest battlefield, intensified. Rebels turned the gun of a captured tank against government forces, shelling a military airbase north of the city.

Assad's troops meanwhile bombarded the strategic Salaheddine district in Aleppo itself with tank and artillery fire supported by combat aircraft while rebels tried to consolidate their hold on areas they have seized.

In the capital Damascus, troops overran a suburb on Wednesday and killed at least 35 people, mostly unarmed civilians, residents and activist organisations said.

The fighting for Syria's two biggest cities highlights the country's rapid slide into full-scale civil war 17 months on from the peaceful street protests that marked the start of the anti-Assad uprising.

World powers have watched with mounting concern as diplomatic efforts, including Annan's mediation effort, have faltered and violence that has already claimed an estimated 18,000 lives worsens.

Thambi felt the quake on the street

Mujib said it was his first experience of a tremor and initially thought that he was feeling woozy. "It occurred as I was getting up after bending down to pick something up from the floor. I thought I was losing balance as it happens sometimes when you suddenly change positions."

Most of the residents were asleep and came to know about it from neighbors who experienced the tremor. Melissa, a resident, said she first noticed tea rippling in the cup in her hand before she realized that the whole house was shaking a bit. "It was a little scary."

RAMADAN is a month that makes you contemplative, and often life's dearest moments play back in your mind during those bouts of contemplations. Any talk of charity and goodness reminds me of days of invasion, when Kuwait was witness to a host of paradoxical events of extreme aggression and unbelievable acts of courage and kindness.

I came to know about the invasion while I was on my way to office. There was a traffic jam like never before, and I phoned my boss to say that I would be late. He told me not to come and delivered the bad news! I was in a state of shock, and though I didn't want to believe it, there were too many patent signs to indicate that something was terribly amiss. There were Iraqi soldiers on the road totting their rifles. Helicopter gunships were hovering in the sky. I saw Kuwaiti police being taken captives by Iraqi forces.

I returned home. TV and radio were off air. Only BBC radio was on, and the terrible news was being announced. Most of us thought that this was only a temporary incursion by Saddam Hussein to show his muscle and to send a warning to Kuwait. But as days went by, the reality sank into us. Rations were running out. The country's civic systems were falling apart. Queues at bread factories were stretching for miles.

Meanwhile, the invaders were indulging in rampant looting; the Iraqi civilians too had joined the fray to get their share in the cross-border heist. There was total chaos. I had a restaurant and under the cover of darkness, with the help of Kuwait Kerala Muslim Cultural Centre (KKMCC) volunteers, we began to send supplies of food to various people, both Kuwaitis and expatriates. But we knew the Iraqi soldiers would soon loot our restaurant too. Stories of loot were being bandied about. I saw soldiers flagging down cars on the road, and driving them away forcing the owners to abandon

### Dirty tricks to defame local politicians

## Agents plot destabilization campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: Some members of the GCC intelligence units are allegedly plotting to destabilize Kuwait through the publication of edited photos and videos of certain lawmakers and politicians to be used as tools for instigating chaos and to divide the country, reports Al-Hurriya daily quoting sources.

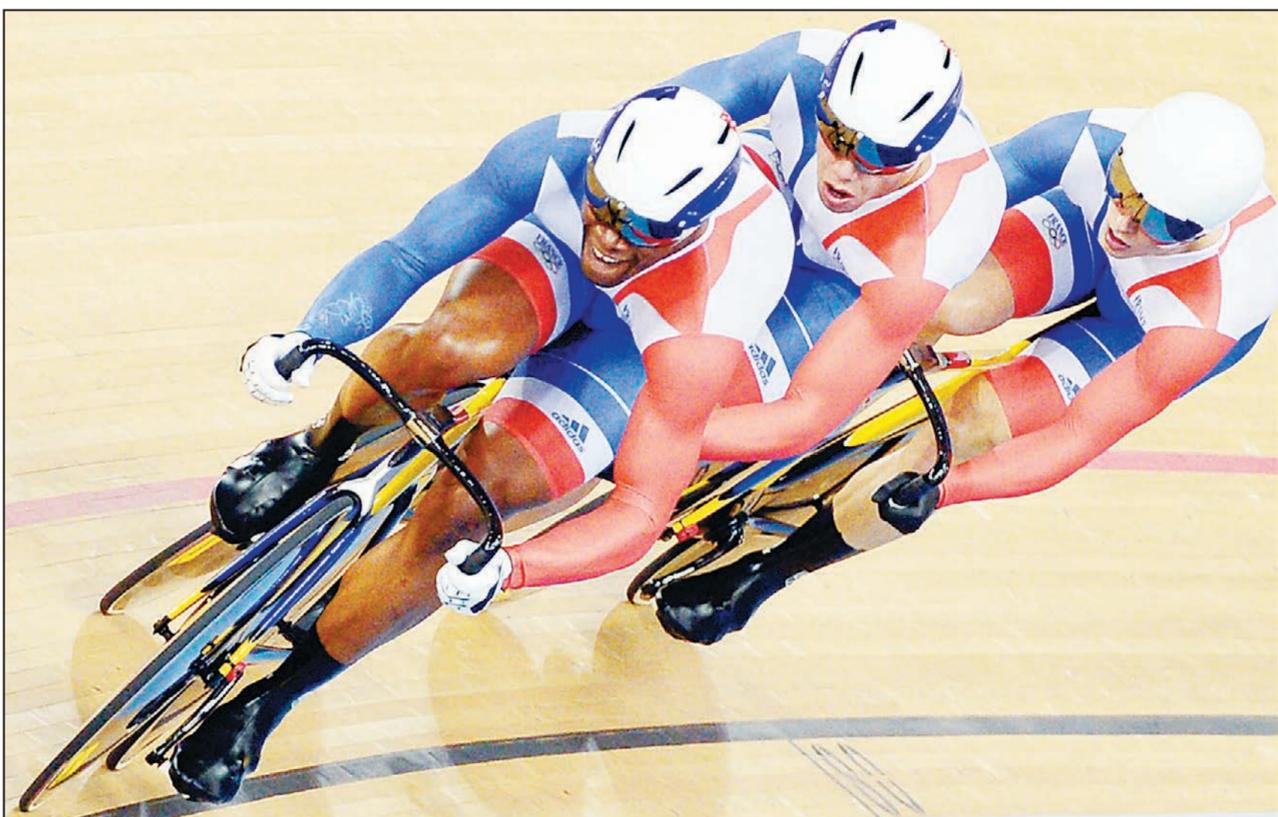
Sources disclosed the people behind the destabilization plot purportedly intend to play an influential role in the next parliamentary elections to manipulate the voters and public opinion. Sources said the intelligence agents were supposed to implement their plan earlier but the expose of Al-An Newspaper on their activities had given them no option but to postpone the act.

Sources added some fake documents related to a well-known personality had been posted on various social net-

working sites in an attempt to disrepute him. However, it was later proven that the documents were fabricated to tarnish his social and political image, sources said.

Commenting on the issue, MP Yousuf Al-Zalzala asserted the government agencies have yet to take action on the prevalence of smear campaigns against a number of prominent personalities through the Internet. He appealed to the Interior Ministry to impose harsher penalties on anyone proven to be involved in these campaigns and the law in this regard must be enforced strictly to serve as a deterrent to others.

Al-Zalzala believes that those behind the smear campaigns on social networking sites are not brave enough to face the public, so they hide their real identities by creating bogus accounts on these sites to hurl baseless accusations at other people.



France's team compete during the Men's team sprint qualifying round as part of the track cycling event of London 2012 Olympic games on Aug 2 at the ExCel centre in London. (AFP) — See Pages 48 to 56

### Salmiya rocks

# 4.2 'earthquake' wakes Kuwait

By Valiya S. Sajjad  
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: An earthquake of 4.2 magnitude on the Richter scale that struck Kuwait 40 km NW of Salmiya at around 7.30 am Thursday was felt by residents in Salmiya.

Though no casualties were reported, some residents complained the quake mildly upset some of their household arrangements. There were a few broken cutlery. Some residents living near the Salmiya garden said they felt the tremor in two short spells in a span of a few seconds.

Most of the residents were asleep and came to know about it from neighbors who experienced the tremor. Melissa, a resident, said she first noticed tea rippling in the cup in her hand before she realized that the whole house was shaking a bit. "It was a little scary."

Mujib said it was his first experience of a tremor and initially thought that he was feeling woozy. "It occurred as I was getting up after bending down to pick something up from the floor. I thought I was losing balance as it happens sometimes when you suddenly change positions."

Thambi felt the quake on the street

Continued on Page 5

## After Iftar **Courage, fairness in 'Storm'**

By Siddique Valiyakath

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I had a restaurant and under the cover of darkness, with the help of Kuwait Kerala Muslim Cultural Centre (KKMCC) volunteers, we began to send supplies of food to various people, both Kuwaitis and expatriates. But we knew the Iraqi soldiers would soon loot our restaurant too. Stories of loot were being bandied about. I saw soldiers flagging down cars on the road, and driving them away forcing the owners to abandon

their cars at gun point.

It became imperative that we shift all the things from the restaurant to a safer place. We went to an Iraqi police outpost in Fahaeel seeking protection during the transfer of goods. They came along and provided us cover. That to me was an act of charity. Yes, while invasion is a horrible, horrible crime, we must not fail to see those rare glimpses of goodness in our enemy. Let's give credit where it is due.

However, the crux of my story is just coming. I moved my effects to my sponsor's godown in Fahaeel industrial area.

As a KKMCC volunteer, I went to Baghdad to oversee the facilities there for the transfer of Indian refugees to the camp in Jordan, from where the Indian government had made arrangements for our flight back to India.

The conditions at the camp were horrible. Thousands were living without electricity or other basic facilities, including toilets. Breads were thrown randomly at people and they scrambled for them, sometimes leading to stampedes. Rodents and cockroaches infested the camp, evoking envy in humans at their lifestyles.

Days went by and I reached India. India was another eye opener for NRIs. We were like refugees. And people never thought that we would one day resume our overseas life again. People who fawned on us while we were in the heydays of our expatriate life, now despised us. The drop in honor was painfully palpable. This was an experience many people shared with me. It added to my pain.

Moreover, anti-US sentiments were whipping up in Kerala back then, which by

Continued on Page 8

### NewsWatch

**KUWAIT CITY:** The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned Kuwait on the possible spread of anthrax especially among those addicted to heroin, reports Al-Hurriya daily quoting sources.

Sources revealed the warning was issued after the reported deaths — one each in France and Denmark — due to anthrax infection, in addition to the discovery of three cases in Germany. Sources confirmed Kuwait's Health Ministry has taken all the necessary precautionary measures to prevent an anthrax epidemic in the country. The ministry has instructed all hospitals and health centers to be cautious in diagnosing patients, especially among those who consume heroin, sources added.

According to Head of the Internal Medicine Unit at the Infectious Diseases Hospital Dr Ghanem Al-Hajilan, the disease is common among heroin-users; hence, it is believed to be the source of anthrax. He warned that late detection of the disease might lead to death and it can be treated easily by taking some antibiotics available in the medical centers if it is detected early. He disclosed the symptoms include high fever and bacteria poisoning, which causes pulmonary bleeding that may result in death. He added anthrax vaccine is available but it is given only to the members of the Armed Forces due to their exposure to biological hazards.

**KUWAIT CITY:** Kuwait's Equate Petrochemicals Co, a joint venture with US Dow Chemical, said on Thursday it has shut down a 550,000 tonnes ethylene glycol unit after it caught fire.

The shutdown will be for approximately six weeks after a fire broke out there Tuesday following a leak. The fire did not cause injuries, the company said, adding that production at its other units was not affected.

Continued on Page 8



Rebels from the 'Tawheed Brigade' in Tal Rifaaat, north of Aleppo, prepare to leave for battle against the Syrian army in Aleppo, early on Aug 2. (AFP)