



baseball

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**24/7**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2015 / ZUL-HIJAH 9, 1436 AH

emergency number 112

NO. 15899

44 PAGES

150 FILS

# Amir extends congratulations on Eid Al-Adha

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahamd Al-Jaber Al-Sabah congratulated on Tuesday citizens and residents on the advent of Eid Al-Adha, expressing best wishes, good health, and prosperity to all.

A statement by the Amiri Diwan noted that His Highness the Amir extended his sentiments to the Arab and Islamic worlds, wishing all security and stability and asked Allah almighty to protect Kuwait and its people.

In a related development, His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Tuesday a phone call from Bahraini Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa to congratulate him on the advent of Eid Al-Adha. The Premier expressed his sincere wishes for prosperity to both nations, Arab and Islamic worlds, wishing His Highness everlasting health and wellness.

In turn, His Highness the

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Debt to 'Dasman'

## Dar seeks to 'impose' deal

DUBAI, Sept 22, (RTS): Indebted Kuwaiti financial firm Investment Dar is seeking court approval to help close a KD 813 million (\$2.7 billion) debt restructuring, according to an official document seen by Reuters.

The new plan, called Dasman, is designed to overcome minority creditor dissent to earlier proposals by asking Kuwait's Court of Appeal to impose the deal on all creditors. The plan involves transferring Investment Dar's assets, and the management of their disposal, directly to creditors.

It is the latest effort by the company, which holds assets in sectors including finance and property, to pay off creditors after becoming indebted during the financial crisis.

The company was reorganised under Kuwait's Financial Stability Law, which was introduced in 2009 to assist corporate debt negotiations in the absence of effective insolvency rules.

After signing a deal in 2011 covering about 1 billion dinars, it paid off some creditors. Others took up a settlement-in-kind offer swapping debt for a share in a pool of assets, which included its stake in luxury car-maker Aston Martin.

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## Glitch on Skype

NEW YORK, Sept 22, (RTS): Skype, Microsoft Corp's online telephone and video service, said it identified the glitch that prevented some users from making calls, and is working to resolve the issue.

Skype said on Monday that some users are unable to make calls because their settings showed that they and their contacts are offline, even when they are logged in.

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▲ US\$/KD 0.30210/20
▼ Euro/KD 0.3361
■ Yen/KD 0.0025
▼ British £/KD 0.4643
▼ KSE -11.95 pts at closing, Sept 22 See Page 35
▼ Dow -251.74 pts at 21:25, Sept 22 See Page 36
▼ Nasdaq -100.20 pts at 21:25, Sept 22
▼ FTSE -172.87 pts at closing, Sept 22
▼ Nikkei -362.06 pts at closing, Sept 22
▼ Gold \$1,122.90 per oz (London)
▼ NYMEX crude \$45.76 pb
▲ Brent crude \$48.44 pb
3-month \$ LIBOR rate 0.32606

# OVER TWO MILLION MUSLIM FAITHFUL GATHER FOR HAJJ Pilgrims set for Arafat Standing



This Sept 19 photo shows thousands of tents being prepared to host millions of Muslim pilgrims during the annual pilgrimage, known as the Hajj, in Mina, on the outskirts of the Holy city of Makkah, Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia has deployed 100,000 security personnel to oversee the annual Islamic Hajj pilgrimage that began on Tuesday, the Interior Ministry spokesman said Saturday, underscoring both the massive arrangements needed to secure one of the largest pilgrimages in the world and the multitude of threats the Hajj faces. (AP)

## Security forces take measures to prevent attacks

MAKKAH, Saudi Arabia, Sept 22, (AFP): Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from around the world moved on Tuesday from the holy city of Makkah to near-by Mina for the start of the Hajj.

Over two million people are expected to take part in this year's pilgrimage, undeterred by a crane collapse in Makkah earlier this month that killed 109 people and injured nearly 400 at Islam's holiest site.

"It is a gift from God that He has chosen us to come here," said Walaa Ali, a 35-year-old Egyptian pilgrim with tears in her eyes. "I am so happy to be here."

Nearly, both men and women sat side by side listening to preachers explain the history and rituals of the

Hajj, one of the world's largest annual gatherings.

This year's Hajj begins against a backdrop of increased jihadist violence, a surge of the deadly MERS virus and with Saudi Arabia at war in Yemen.

The first day of the Hajj is known as Tarwiah Day, when pilgrims traditionally watered their animals and stocked water for their trip to Mount Arafat, about 10 kms (six miles) southeast of Mina.

Nowadays pilgrims spend their time there in prayer and reciting the Holy Quran.

The climax of the Hajj season is on Arafat Day, which falls on Wednesday.

With the start of the Hajj, pilgrims enter the stage of ihram — a state of purity in which they must not wear perfume, cut their nails, or trim their hair or beards.

During ihram, men wear a seamless two-piece shroud-like white garment, symbolising resurrection and

emphasising unity regardless of social status or nationality.

Women must wear loose dresses exposing only their faces and hands.

They are following the 1,400-year-old tradition of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH).

The Hajj is among the five pillars of Islam and every capable Muslim must perform the pilgrimage at least once in their life.

Previously marred by stampedes and fires that killed hundreds, it had been largely incident-free for the past decade after safety improvements.

But on Sept 11, during severe winds, a construction crane toppled into a courtyard of Makkah's Grand Mosque.

Saudis, Iranians, Nigerians, Malaysians, Indonesians and Indians were among the dead.

Authorities say they are on the alert for possible attacks by the extremist Islamic State group, which has carried out bombings targeting mosques in the kingdom in recent months.

Security forces have taken "measures to prevent terrorist groups from exploiting Hajj season to carry out acts of sabotage," said interior ministry spokesman General Mansur al-Turki.

The ministry says 100,000 police have been deployed to secure Hajj.

"We take all possibilities into consideration during Hajj. This includes the kingdom being targeted by terrorist organisations," Turki told AFP.

Saudi Arabia is also at war this year, leading an Arab coalition conducting air strikes and

## IMF urges reform

# Kuwait budget deficit hits KD 1.094 bln

Yemeni president returns to Aden

## Coalition air strikes kill 21 in Sanaa

DUBAI, Sept 22, (Agencies): Kuwait's budget deficit in the first five months of its fiscal year stood at KD 1.094 billion (\$3.62 billion) after a deduction for the Future Generations Fund, the finance ministry said on Tuesday in a statement carried by Kuwait News Agency.

The deficit from April 1 to Aug 31 stood at KD 361.38 million before the 10 percent contribution of KD 733.50 million to the Future Generations Fund, part of Kuwait's sovereign wealth fund, the statement said.

Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh told reporters on Sept 15 that Kuwait plans to issue bonds in local currency by the end of the year to help bridge its budget deficit.

Kuwait's Parliament in July approved a state budget for the current 2015-16 fiscal year, which begins on April 1, that envisages a budget deficit of KD 8.18 billion because of low oil prices.

However, the actual deficit may not turn out to be nearly as large. The size will depend on oil prices, while Kuwait has in the past often underspent its budget because of bureaucratic red tape and tensions between the cabinet and parliament that have slowed economic projects. This could also limit the deficit.

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## Fish prices up ... again

By Adnan Makkawi  
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 22: Prices of local fish are noticeably starting to increase with the approach of Eid Al-Adha.

The price of Zubaidi fish currently ranges between KD 11 and 14 per kilogram, while the price of Hamour fish has increased to KD 6.5, Balool fish to KD 8, Sha'am fish to KD 4.5.

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SANAA, Sept 22, (Agencies): A Saudi-led coalition air strike on rebels in a residential area of the Yemeni capital on Tuesday killed at least 21 people including civilians, witnesses and medics said.

The raid targeted Iran-backed Houthi insurgents in the Sabeen neighbourhood of the rebel-held capital Sanaa, but nearby homes were also damaged, witnesses said.

"At least 21 Houthis and residents were killed in the raid," a medical source told AFP, without being able to specify the number of civilian fatalities.

The death toll is likely to rise because some

people are missing, another medical source said, as rescuers combed the rubble.

The Arab coalition launched an air war against the Shiite rebels in March, when the advancing insurgents forced President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi to flee to neighbouring Saudi Arabia.

The United Nations says nearly 4,900 people have been killed in the conflict. The UN aid chief has called the scale of human suffering "almost incomprehensible".

On Monday the rebels celebrated the first anniversary of their seizure of Sanaa, which

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In this image released on Sept 22 on the official Facebook account of the Egyptian military spokesman, soldiers take up combat positions during an operation near the Bahriyah Oasis in the Western Desert of Egypt. Spokesman

Brig Gen Mohammed Samir says troops have killed 10 militants near the oasis, an area where Egyptian forces earlier this month mistakenly attacked a group of Mexican tourists, killing 12 people. (AP)



Iranian army troops conclude their march in a military parade marking the 35th anniversary of Iraq's 1980 invasion of Iran, in front of the shrine of late revolutionary founder Ayatollah Khomeini, just outside Tehran, Iran on Sept 22. (AP)

## NewsWatch

**KUWAIT CITY:** Dr Hussein Ahmad Al-Ansari has been appointed president of Kuwait University through an Amiri decree, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Ansari holds a master's degree in Information from Wisconsin University in the USA and doctorate degree in Information Studies from Florida State University. He worked as a professor of Library Science and Information at the College of Social Sciences when he started at the university in 1979.

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