



2 Public urged to abide by health instructions



6 Minneapolis' African refugees see American dream in tatters



8 Foes delight in criticizing America as protests flare



19 What future for sport, sponsors after coronavirus lockdown?



# Assembly to discuss coronavirus issues; banks allowed to reopen

## KPC to set up treatment halls at Mishref fairgrounds

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The National Assembly has decided to resume its sessions on June 16 and 17 to debate a raft of issues related to the coronavirus crisis and its economic consequences. Speaker Marzouk Al-Ghanem said yesterday. He said that the sessions could extend until June 18 if needed, adding that at the start of the June 16 session, the Assembly will have an open debate on the government's performance during the crisis.

The Assembly has held only one session since late February because of the coronavirus shut-downs. Ghanem said the Assembly is also due to

debate a grilling filed by MP Faisal Al-Kandari against Education Minister Saud Al-Harbi for not ending the school year and allegedly endangering the lives of students and the teaching staff.

The speaker said the Assembly will first debate issues related to the coronavirus before debating the grilling. The government has already expressed total solidarity with the education minister. Among the draft laws expected to be debated during the session is legislation allowing private sector establishments impacted by the coronavirus closures to reduce salaries of employees.

The government has introduced a few changes to the original legislation. Under the new format, pri-

vate sector employers affected by the coronavirus can send their employees on annual leave with reduced salary but not less than the minimum wage. Such establishments can also reduce the salaries of their employees by up to 50 percent in agreement with the employees during a certain period to be defined by the Cabinet.

Such amendments to the labor law in the private sector are temporary and will become ineffective once the coronavirus impact ends. The whole process will be closely regulated by the Council of Ministers.

Ahead of the assembly session, the financial and economic affairs committee will hold an expanded

meeting on Sunday to discuss a number of draft laws related to the economic impacts of the coronavirus. MPs have said they are preparing legislation to exempt small and medium businesses from paying rent for a few months, while landlords will be allowed to access easy-term funding from banks.

The Council of Ministers on Monday decided to allow banks to reopen to serve customers from yesterday, government spokesman Tareq Al-Mazrem told a press conference. Mazrem also said that all activities that were open before the total lockdown which began on May 10 and ended on Sunday can also resume work as usual.

Continued on Page 16

## Trump defiant as autopsy finds cop suffocated man

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump vowed to order a military crack-down on once-in-a-generation violent protests gripping the United States, saying he was sending thousands of troops onto the streets of the capital and threatening to deploy soldiers to states unable to regain control.

The dramatic escalation came a week after the death in Minneapolis of George Floyd, an unarmed black man who was killed when a white police officer knelt on his neck, leading to the worst civil unrest in decades in New York, Los Angeles and dozens of other American cities. After being criticized for his silence on the worsening crisis, Trump struck a martial tone in a nationwide address Monday from the White House garden, as police fired tear gas on peaceful protesters outside the

fence.

"I am dispatching thousands and thousands of heavily armed soldiers, military personnel and law enforcement officers to stop the rioting, looting, vandalism, assaults and the wanton destruction of property," Trump said. He slammed the previous night's unrest in Washington as a "total disgrace" and called on governors to "dominate the streets".

"If a city or state refuses to take the actions that are necessary to defend the life and property of their residents, then I will deploy the United States military and quickly solve the problem for them," he said, denouncing "acts of domestic terror". Despite the president's rhetoric, Monday's protests appeared largely peaceful in major cities, though some looting was reported in New York and Los Angeles.

During his address, however, law enforcement including military police used tear gas to clear protesters outside the White House so the president could walk across the street to the two-centuries-old St John's church, hit with graffiti and partially damaged by fire during unrest on Sunday. "We have a great country," Trump declared as he stood before the church's boarded-up windows, held up a Bible and posed for photographs.

The backlash was swift. "He's using the American military against the American people," tweeted Democratic presidential hopeful Joe Biden. "He tear-gassed peaceful protesters and fired rubber bullets. For a photo. For our children, for the very soul of our country, we must defeat him," he said. Washington's Episcopalian bishop, Mariann Budde, said she was "outraged" at the church visit, which she said Trump did not have permission for.

Thousands of people have participated in the nationwide demonstrations against police brutality and racism since Floyd's

Continued on Page 16



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump holds a Bible while visiting St John's Church across from the White House after the area was cleared of people protesting the death of George Floyd on Monday. — AFP

## Gulf crisis sees new 'fake news' flurry online

DOHA: A tweet claiming to show the start of a coup in Qatar, with shaky footage of an illuminated window and crackling gunfire, spread quickly after being posted early last month. It came from an account with no followers. It has been viewed almost 300,000 times since May 4, with experts saying it was boosted by automated "zombie" accounts ahead of Friday's third anniversary of a diplomatic feud between the Gulf neighbors.

The cyber onslaught is the latest front in a dispute which erupted following an apparent hack of Qatar's state news agency website in May 2017. Back then, incendiary comments endorsing Islamist groups appeared, credited to Qatar's ruler Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, alongside criticism of US President Donald Trump.

Doha scrambled to deny the posts, insisting the site had been hacked, but regional media picked up the story and ran critical articles. The hashtag "cut relations with Qatar" began to trend on Twitter. The following month, Saudi Arabia along with Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt did cut ties, alleging Doha was too close to Iran and supported radical Islamist movements, and issued a raft of demands.

Despite firm Qatari denials, and promising signs of a breakthrough including a round of shuttle diplomacy and the restoration of some sporting links, reconciliation efforts have ground to a stalemate. In recent weeks, pro-Saudi Twitter accounts have been systematically spreading rumors of unrest in Qatar, AFP analysis of hundreds of tweets and twitter interactions shows.

Continued on Page 16

## Qatar autonomy drive stoked by embargo, virus

DOHA: A Qatari arms factory that makes rifles and grenade launchers has added a product that saves rather than takes lives — ventilators, needed at home and abroad amid the coronavirus pandemic. The venture is the latest salvo in Doha's charm offensive to cement old partnerships and secure new friends as a bitter spat with Saudi Arabia and its allies drags into its fourth year this Friday.

It has also allowed the small Gulf state to draw on capabilities developed the hard way in the wake of its regional isolation. In the nerve center of Qatar's nascent arms industry, the state-run Barzan Holdings facility, giant posters of soldiers toting locally made rifles promote "sovereignty" and "lethality".

But alongside all the gun parts and night-vision goggles, the factory is now preparing to churn out 2,000 life-giving ventilators weekly, in collaboration with US defense manufacturer Wilcox.

Continued on Page 16

## Facebook in turmoil over Trump posts

SAN FRANCISCO: The clash between Twitter and Donald Trump has thrust rival Facebook into turmoil, with employees rebelling against CEO Mark Zuckerberg's refusal to sanction false or inflammatory posts by the US presi-

dent. Some Facebook employees put out word of a "virtual walkout" on Monday to protest, according to tweeted messages.

"As allies we must stand in the way of danger, not behind. I will be participating in today's virtual walkout in solidarity with the black community," tweeted Sara Zhang, one of the Facebook employees in the action. Nearly all Facebook employees are working remotely due to the pandemic.

"We recognize the pain many of our people are feeling right now, especially

our Black community," Facebook said in response to the AFP request for comment. "We encourage employees to speak openly when they disagree with leadership." Facebook was aware some workers planned the virtual walkout and did not plan to dock their pay.

"Mark is wrong, and I will endeavor in the loudest possible way to change his mind," Ryan Freitas, the design director of Facebook's News Feed, tweeted Sunday, adding that he was organizing about 50 other employees

Continued on Page 16



Mark Zuckerberg



## Local

# Kuwait govt urges public to abide by health instructions throughout transition

## Health authorities monitoring situation in areas under lockdown

In My View

### Return of aviation

By Khalaf Al-Mane

International airlines incurred around \$320 billion in losses by April, while Arab airlines lost \$28 billion by the end of February due to the suspension of commercial flights because of the coronavirus outbreak. It is expected airlines will take four to six years to recover from the losses, if a vaccine is found for the virus.

The return of aviation is considered one aspect of returning to normal life, particularly if we realize that International airlines are a main contributor to the global economy as they transport one-third of trade by air.

The aviation sector is going through vast chaos due to major losses because of the grounding of aircraft fleets in an unprecedented phenomenon not witnessed in history before. Airlines are working on how to manage the financial crisis without a source of revenue, in addition to controlling liquidity to meet commitments for employees' salaries as well as suppliers.

Airlines and airports are currently getting ready to implement procedures required by authorities to safeguard flight safety as a prelude to resuming the operation of commercial flights gradually, coinciding with some countries' preparations to resume organized tourism with very strict conditions to guarantee the health and safety of tourists. Among the notable countries that are promoting tourism products are Spain and Greece, by starting to advertise the touristic agenda, so are we going to do likewise?

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's government Monday urged the public to abide by preventive health instructions in order to bring about success to a plan aimed at gradually restoring normal life through five phases. The government, in its weekly meeting chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, urged the public to be socially responsible in order to move to the second phase of the transition to normal life. The government approved, last Thursday, a five-phase plan aimed at easing restrictions that were imposed due to the spread of coronavirus. Every phase lasts for three weeks, and health authorities will assess every phase before deciding to move to the next, providing compliance by the public.

The cabinet "urges everybody to cooperate and abide by the health instructions for the best interest of the individual and community, and to work as one team to confront this pandemic and defeat it," Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Anas Al-Saleh said in a statement. The cabinet members discussed developments of the virus and efforts to confront it, said Saleh, also Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs. The cabinet, he added, decided to establish an entity with a mandate of following up and implementing the health authorities' instructions throughout the five phases. It assigned the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) to establish a platform to be used by the public to obtain appointments to finish their papers at government departments. Saleh said the government assigned Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and affiliate companies to build and equip medical wards in halls five, six and eight at the International Fairs Ground in Mishref Area.

#### Areas under lockdown

Health authorities in Kuwait are monitoring the situation in areas under lockdown and lifting the restrictions on these areas depend on levels of infections and spread of coronavirus, government spokesman said Monday. "The health authorities are working on controlling the spread of the pandemic in areas under lockdown to bring the infections to acceptable levels," Tareq Al-Mezrem told an online press conference following the cabinet meeting. Ending the lockdown, he added, depends on the "level of spread of the pandemic, rate of infections, intensity and hotspots of the virus."

Mezrem was also asked about operation of Kuwait International Airport, and said the "return of the airport for operation will be part of the phases," and it depended on approval of the health authorities and blessing of the government. Mezrem urged the public to comply with health instructions, including physical distancing. "We have not returned to normal life and the



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the cabinet's meeting. — KUNA

pandemic remains able to spread. Failure to abide by the instructions will take us back to previous phases. We should not exhaust the health authorities and to maintain the health system in the State of Kuwait in order to preserve public health," said Mezrem.

#### Minister's grilling

The cabinet members, meanwhile, extended support for Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Saud Al-Harbi in the face of an interpellation submitted by MP Faisal Al-Kandari. Kuwait's National Assembly will resume regular sessions on June 16 to discuss government's measures against coronavirus as well as a grilling motion against Minister Dr Harbi, the Speaker said. Marzouq Al-Ghanem made the remarks in a press statement after a meeting of the Parliament's Bureau Monday, where members of the bureau decided to resume sessions on Tuesday, June 16. He said chairmen of the house committees were called to resume their meeting this week in order to finalize all reports that would be submitted to the next session, as well as making sure health measures were properly implemented.

"The current term will be extended to compensate suspension of sessions," said Ghanem. The first thing on the agenda of the first sessions, he added, would be a report about the government's preparations and measures against COVID-19. The interpellation against Dr Harbi, he said, would be next unless the parliament decided otherwise. MP Faisal Al-Kandari submitted the interpellation request on Sunday, charging Dr Harbi's alleged mismanagement of the educational process throughout the coronavirus crisis, which he claims has "caused severe harm on students." — KUNA

## Sibi George appointed new Indian Ambassador

By Sajeev K Peter

**KUWAIT:** Sibi George, presently Ambassador of India to Switzerland, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the State of Kuwait. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly, a press release issued by India's Ministry of External affairs said yesterday.

The Kuwait government has approved

George as India's new ambassador to the country, who will be submitting his credentials on his arrival in Kuwait, sources said. George, who succeeds Jeeva Sagar as India's ambassador, is expected to take charge from August 1, 2020.

George, a 1993 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, has been India's Ambassador to Switzerland since 2017. He was first appointed as political officer at Indian High

Commission in Pakistan. He also has served various Indian missions in Cairo, Doha, Tehran, Riyadh and Washington DC in various capacities prior to his appointment in Switzerland.

George, who hails from Kottayam district in the Indian state of Kerala, belongs to Podimattam family of Pala. A gold medalist both for his graduation and post-graduation, George is well-versed in Arabic language.



Sibi George

## Coronavirus in Kuwait: What we know so far

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait has recorded 27,762 cases infected with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) as of Monday, in addition to 220 deaths. With the exception of 204 cases in intensive care, all infected cases are in stable condition and are recovering in quarantined locations designated by the government for this purpose, while thousands have been discharged from quarantine after exhibiting no symptoms during their 14-day quarantine period, the Ministry of Health confirmed. Meanwhile, 14,281 people have recovered completely after previously being infected with the virus, while there are 13,261 people receiving treatment and 23 quarantined.

#### Curfew

Kuwait imposed a three-week partial curfew starting May 31, as part of a five-phase plan for a gradual return to normal life, brought to a standstill by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The first phase also includes a total lockdown on Farwaniya, Khaitan, Hawally and Maidan Hawally, joining Mahboula and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh which were put under lockdown earlier.

Activities to resume in first phase included home deliveries of restaurants, telecommunication companies, food retailers, companies' transportation of employees, gas stations, private clinics and car workshops. The second phase will see the curfew shortened to be between 9:00 pm and 6:00 am, while resuming work in the government and private sectors with the workforce being less than 30 percent, in addition to resumption of constructions, banking sector, malls opening for eight hours and according to special instructions, parks and pickups from restaurants.

The third phase would see an end of curfew, and health authorities would be assessing situation of areas under lockdown. It would see increase of workforce to less than 50 percent. Visits for social care homes would be allowed, reopening of hotels, resorts and hotel apartments. Taxis will be allowed to operate with only one passenger, and Mosques would be allowed to perform Friday prayers.

Phase four would see an increase in workforce, restaurants would be receiving customers but with restrictions, and public transportation resumed but with distancing. All activities would resume in phase five, government and private sector returned to normal, families could gather, weddings and graduation ceremonies, health clubs and gyms to reopen, as well as cinemas and theaters.

Earlier, Kuwait imposed a total curfew from May 10 to May 30, allowing room for people to walk out for daily exercise between 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm, and to shop at co-ops and supermarkets once every six days

during the curfew hours by making an appointment through [www.moci.shop](http://www.moci.shop). Before that, Kuwait enforced a country-wide partial curfew from 5:00 pm to 6:00 am, which was later extended to start from 4:00 pm until 8:00 am during Ramadan, while allowing restaurants and food stores to make home deliveries from 5:00 pm until 1:00 am. The government also locked down Mahboula and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh in a bid to contain the spread of the virus and enable health workers to test inhabitants. Earlier, the government decided to close all shopping malls, beauty salons and barber shops as part of its measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The government also allowed supermarkets, restaurants and shops to host a maximum of five people at a time and in case there are lines, the distance must be at least one meter between people. The Ministry of Commerce launched a website ([www.moci.shop](http://www.moci.shop)) to enable people to book appointments to shop at co-operative societies in their areas. The Public Authority for Industry also announced that companies can apply to evacuate their workers from Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Mahboula. To do so, they must fill a 'workers evacuation form' available on [www.pai.gov.kw](http://www.pai.gov.kw), and send the form via email to: [jasiri@moh.gov.kw](mailto:jasiri@moh.gov.kw).

#### Precautions

Kuwait halted all commercial flights until further notice, and has sent special flights to repatriate Kuwaitis back home from countries affected with the virus' spread. Kuwait took all measures to test Kuwaitis repatriated from infected areas for potential infection. Kuwait had required all expatriates who arrived from travel on March 1 and beyond to visit Kuwait International Fairground where the Ministry of Health has set up a center to test people for possible infection. Meanwhile, the Cabinet announced on April 9 the operation of all airline flights for expats who are wishing to return back to their countries. Authorities also announced a public holiday in the country from March 12 to May 28, with work resuming on May 31, while entities providing vital services will remain open. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education has suspended classes for March at all public and private schools (for both students and teaching staffs); first from March 1 to March 12, and later extended it until March 29, before eventually suspending schools until August for grade 12 and October for other stages. State departments have been on high alert to take precautions against the potential spread of the virus. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has taken measures to make sure that facial masks, hand sanitizers and other goods remain accessible to

the public.

Kuwait suspended issuing entry permits and visas unless those issued through diplomatic missions. The Interior Ministry issued an amnesty allowing residency violators to leave the country between April 1 and April 30 without paying any fines or airfare with a chance to return to Kuwait later. The amnesty was issued in view of the circumstances the country is currently going through and as part of the precautionary measures taken to fight the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). During the amnesty period, individuals desiring to procure valid residencies in Kuwait and were willing to pay the fines without being subjected to investigations were allowed to pay the fines and legalize their status if they meet the required conditions.

#### Hotlines

The Ministry of Health has set the following hotlines to receive inquiries about the coronavirus 24/7: 24970967 - 96049698 - 99048619.

The Education Ministry set the following hotlines to receive inquiries on school closures related to the anti-coronavirus measures:

- 24970967 (24/7 hotline)
- 51575591 (Capital Educational Zone)
- 51576117 (Hawally Educational Zone)
- 51576576 (Farwaniya Educational Zone)
- 51577055 (Jahra Educational Zone)
- 51577655 (Ahmadi Educational Zone)
- 51577951 (Mubarak Al-Kabeer Educational Zone)
- 51578171 (Religious Studies Department)
- 51588599 (Private Education Department)
- 51592515 (Services Department)
- 51594544 (Public Relations Department)

#### Medicine delivery

Kuwait's Ministry of Health (MOH) launched a new medicine delivery service for people in Kuwait, which they can use to order medications to be delivered during curfew hours. The medications will be delivered within 72 hours after the order is submitted. To place an order, patients should send a WhatsApp to the numbers for the hospitals and medical centers as listed below. The patient should include their name, Civil ID number, hospital or clinic file number, mobile phone number and the medicine needed to the following numbers:

Amiri Hospital: 50880699  
Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital: 50880755  
Farwaniya Hospital: 50880852  
Adan Hospital: 50880908  
Jahra Hospital: 50881066  
Sabah Hospital: 97632660

Jaber Hospital: 96992079  
Ibn Sina Hospital: 99613948  
Chest Hospital: 99258749  
Razi Hospital: 97633487  
Kuwait Cancer Control Center: 96735242  
Psychiatric Hospital: 97350113  
Physiotherapy Hospital: 99824037  
Maternity Hospital: 98559531  
As'ad Al-Hamad Dermatology Center: 98514508  
Zain Hospital: 97552031  
NBK Hospital: 96931761  
Al-Rashed Allergy Hospital: 94162470  
Infectious Diseases Hospital: 96989164  
Palliative Care Hospital: 94024786  
Sabah Al-Ahmad Urology Center: 90952469  
KFH Addiction Treatment Center: 94169363

Meanwhile, all licensed pharmacies in Kuwait delivering medicine are allowed to continue their services 24 hours a day. The Ministry of Health is also asking doctors and nurses affiliated with the private medical sector to volunteer in order to contribute to the fight against the virus. Volunteering is available through the link: <http://volunteering.q8-ehealth.com>. The ministry had closed all private clinics and medical centers effective March 22, 2020 until further notice.

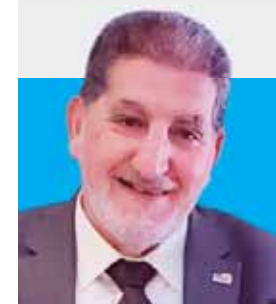
#### Mental health assistance

The Kuwait Psychological Association (KPA) is providing consultation through the phone for people suffering from the psychological impacts of coronavirus. Different doctors are working on the hotline in different timings as follows:

Dr Rashed Al-Sahl: on Monday and Wednesday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. Call 9797-6168.  
Dr Fahad Al-Tasha: daily from 8:00 pm - 12:00 am. Call 9904-8258.  
Dr Othman Al-Asfour: daily 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Call 9938-5350.  
Dr Mohammed Al-Khaldi (head of this team): daily 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Call 9903-6470.  
Dr Ahmad Al-Khaldi: daily 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Call 9910-7965.  
Dr Muneera Al-Qattan: Monday and Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Call 9953-3108.  
Dr Zainab Al-Saffar: Sunday and Thursday 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Call 9954-9908.  
Dr Sameera Al-Kandari: Tuesday 9:00 pm - 12:00 am. Call 6770-9434.  
Dr Kawthar Al-Yaqout: Monday and Wednesday 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Call 5521-0088.  
For information and other concerns, call 9401-4283.

In My View

### Our precious treasure



By Abdellatif Sharaa

local@kuwaittimes.com

My daughter-in-law took her child out for a walk, but once they were a few meters out, she stopped her, telling her that we should return to the building yard because there is corona out on the street! The child must have been told something about this virus and that we should not go out to avoid the illness. For a child of this age to keep in mind such an idea about this danger prompts us to be very careful when dealing with our children, no matter their age.

It is true that it is the nature of children to be more active as they are full of energy, but the current circumstances impose certain measures, most obviously being home indoors for long hours, so we have to deal with our true treasures - our children - in a way to keep them happy and comfortable as much as possible.

The role of the guardian is enjoyable, but it is not easy, as we always have to polish the unlimited love by learning to raise the educational level in order to practice our role perfectly with the most precious of what we own. The world health situation has imposed an open break for children that altered their daily routine, causing most of them to get bored and even angry.

In order to face any negative effects or behavior while directing them towards the positive side, we must adopt some strategies that are simple. We must inform the child about the current situation and explain the logic and necessity of the health quarantine, while being cautious not to exaggerate matters to avoid scaring them.

Their precautionary health practices such as washing hands and using sanitizers should be turned into an achievement that they should be rewarded for. It is very important not to express any feelings of fear or disappointment in front of the child. Children need love at all times and should be listened to, and we should be pleasant while dealing with them. This in turn strengthens their psychological immunity and keeps memories almost forever.

The tricky part at this point is for us to be keen to reduce and rationalize the role of video games in our children's lives. School age children used to follow a certain daily routine, so we need to set some rules to be followed at all times, and this routine should be organized. A simple enjoyable daily routine will have a major positive effect. It will not hurt to give children some free time to let go of their active energy; also, let them show their creativity and innovation in drawing, for example.

It can be helpful to prepare a weekly plan for achievements the child decides to make, leaving the child to prepare a list of achievements he wishes to complete in a week to reduce boredom. These can be reading stories, certain sports skills and so on. The child should be encouraged to decorate and color his scheduled plan and place it in his room. The child will be happy and excited when he refers to the schedule in the evening and mark the achievement of his daily mission.

Having said that, there should not be a problem in breaking the routine sometimes! Please be extremely patient and take good care of your children and do your best to keep them happy and comfortable with discipline.

Final word: "The most precious jewels you'll have around your neck are the arms of your children." — Anon



## Local

# ‘KD 2.250 remaining for June’: People surviving under lockdown on bare minimum

## ‘No work, no pay’ regular topic of conversation among expat workers

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** The months of lockdown and curfews brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in sufferings, difficulties and unforeseen circumstances for many people around the world, including expats in Kuwait. No work and no pay is a regular topic of conversation among expatriate workers. Cases of hunger have been registered, employees have been terminated and there have been some reported cases of expats committing suicide due to the coronavirus or living in locked down areas.

The lockdown of two areas in Kuwait – Mahboula and Jleeb – was implemented in April. Three more areas – Farwaniya, Khaitan and Hawally – have now been included. Marivic, 60, not her real name, told Kuwait Times how she is coping, especially since many businesses including that of her sponsor are still closed. The florist lives and works in the new lockdown area of Hawally. She said her budget for the month of June is less than KD 3.

### New normal

Before the lockdown announcement, she was preparing for the new normal, excited to visit her shop to fix some labels, throw out rotten flowers and organize stuff for the impending reopening of her flower shop. But the announcement of the lockdown dimmed her desire to go back to work on June 1.

“I know that it will not be normal as before, and

we are not allowed to open yet, but I only wanted to check our stocks after the full curfew was eased. But I was shocked and disappointed that Hawally was included in the extended lockdown for three more weeks,” Marivic said.

But her biggest problem is her dwindling budget. “I don’t have money now to survive. My last remaining KD 3 from my salary in March is now only KD 2.250 since I bought a gas cylinder so that we could cook rice and our remaining canned food and noodles. This is really a tough time for us – it is very difficult. I don’t know how we will survive after our stocks are over,” she said.

“I don’t know if the remaining noodles and canned food will last even a week. The lockdown is for three weeks – what will I do? I have to cook rice or soup so my daughter and I can survive till the end of this month. We are both in the same boat with no work and no pay,” she lamented. She said she contacted her boss for help, but several calls and messages were never answered.

Marivic told her landlord she cannot pay her April, May and June rent after the harris (janitor) told them to pay. “I cannot pay – what will I pay? We have no money,” she said. Marivic shares a single room with her daughter in Hawally so they can save money. “We

share the rent as well as food and other expenses,” she said. “My daughter has family to feed back in the Philippines. I know she doesn’t have money. Between the two of us, we have KD 2,250 after we replaced our gas cylinder for 750 fils,” she said.

“Earlier we used to order the cylinder from the baqala, but we had to pay KD 2. So I told my daughter we can save our money if we buy the gas cylinder from the main station, but we had to walk about 3 kilometers from our house. At midday, we were pushing and pulling the gas cylinder through the main street of Hawally to reach the main station and then bring it back with us to the house,” Marivic said. The duo used a trolley bag to hold the cylinder.

### Not surprised

Beth, 33, also not her real name, a resident of Mahboula, has been under lockdown area since April 10, and when she heard about the lockdown extension, she was not surprised at all. “I’ve been following the cases of COVID-19 in Kuwait every single day. I know there are no changes, so I assumed the government will not lift the lockdown. I wasn’t wrong after all. But I am particularly concerned of the plight of many expatriates in this area – they need help and food to survive,” she told Kuwait Times.

She said baqalas have run out of stocks. “Two months of being in the isolated area has been long enough – some people are literally begging for food in the neighborhood. Despite our meager stocks, I gave some of our canned food to some Indian residents who came and knocked on our door for help. We need to share, so I gave five cans,” said Beth, a teacher by profession.

But she also raised one subject – of fumigating and disinfecting. “I hope the lockdown and curfews can be used by the authorities to disinfect or fumigate the whole area to free us from the virus, but we haven’t seen such activities so far. I don’t know why they are not doing that, or maybe they did so but I haven’t seen it personally,” Beth said.

“They should be spraying chemicals to kill the virus. If we are considered an infected area, then they should spray. What I know is only suspected buildings are being disinfected. If this is the case, why do we have to be under lockdown? They can easily lock down a building with suspected COVID cases. What we are hoping is for the government to disinfect the area so the virus is eliminated,” she added.

“I probably would’ve been somewhere in the mountains or beaches of the Philippines now, preparing to return from a long vacation. I am a teacher and after a long and tiring year, I wanted to rest. But I couldn’t because of this pandemic. I hope this virus will end very soon. We need to reclaim our sanity and morality,” she said.



KUWAIT: For the second day in a row, vehicles crowded Shuwaikh Industrial on Monday as car repair shops continue to receive clients following the end of total curfew on most areas around Kuwait. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

### News in brief

#### Visas extended for three months

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait’s Ministry of Interior said Monday it would extend, up to three months, residency permits and visas of all expatriates, which were due to expire in June. Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Anas Al-Saleh signed resolution No 444 that would extend residency permits and visas for three months starting June 1 up until August 31, the Ministry of Interior’s security media department said in a statement. It said the resolution was signed amidst exceptional circumstances caused by the spread of the coronavirus.

#### Kuwait FM calls Nepal counterpart

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah on Monday contacted his Nepalese counterpart Pradeep Gyawali on the deportation of Nepalese workers from Kuwait as they are violators of residency law in the country. During the phone conversation, both foreign ministers also discussed bilateral relations between both friendly countries and joint cooperation in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

#### Oil price up

**KUWAIT:** Price of the Kuwaiti crude oil jumped \$5.63 to \$33.01 per barrel in Monday’s trades against \$27.38 pb on Friday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said yesterday. In international markets, the Brent crude rose by 48 cents to 38.32 pb, 1.3 percent. Meanwhile, the American crude price dropped by five cents to settle at \$35.44 pb, 0.1 percent.

#### Nine flights

**KUWAIT:** The Directorate General of Civil Aviation announced that nine flights departed Kuwait International Airport yesterday, carrying a total of 1,662 passengers. They included three flights to Egypt, three flights to India, one flight to Qatar, one flight to Iran, and one flight to Cameroon.

Stay safe. Stay home. Stay informed

Kuwait Times  
Established 1961  
The First Daily in the Arabian Gulf



KuwaitTimes



94488888



## Local

## Photo of the Day



**KUWAIT:** Vehicles drive down a highway in the Kuwaiti capital Kuwait City on May 31, 2020, after authorities eased some of the restrictive measures put in place during the coronavirus pandemic crisis. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## Sharq fish market opens today using pre-booked entry codes

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Huge crowds of customers gathered outside the Sharq fish market on June 1st following Kuwait Municipality's decision to open fish markets around Kuwait after the total curfew was eased. Customers, who have been craving fresh local fish following the curfew imposed by the cabinet to control the spread of COVID-19 as well as Ramadan, were disappointed to find the market's doors still closed and no fish was on sale.

In this regard, Sharq fish market manager Meshaal Al-Sheeha stressed that the market will be opened today after coordinating with relevant bodies to organize customer entry using the pre-booked entry codes. Shoppers can make appointments to shop at the fish market via the [www.moci.shop](http://www.moci.shop) shopping portal.

Kuwait Municipality had announced re-opening the fish market on the first day of return to partial lockdown on Sunday, but Sheeha explained that the documents to allow re-opening the market arrived late Sunday without containing details about any special re-opening plans. "Therefore, the re-opening was

postponed pending coordination with relevant authorities," he said, explaining that Kuwait Municipality, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition, the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources and Ministry of Interior need to come up with the plan to organize entry according to health precautions set by the cabinet, mainly preventing crowds and gatherings inside and outside the market.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Fishermen Union Chairman Thaher Al-Sowayyan said that the local market is eager for local fish's return, blaming the government's decision to ban fishing for 'Zbaidi' (pomfrit) for 45 days and postpone fishing 'Meed' (mullet) till July 1st for "depriving customers from those two favorable dishes for Kuwaitis." "The decisions also frustrated fishermen banned from fishing upon Interior Ministry instructions," he added.

Accordingly, Sowayyan urged PAAAFR to allow fishing pomfrit and mullet effective June 1st, which is the usual annual date, adding that postponement had been decided two years ago because this date coincided with the holy month of Ramadan, which is not the case this year.

## Commerce Ministry penalizes 17 law breaking shops

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwaiti Ministry of Commerce and Industry said yesterday that its inspection teams had filed reports against 17 shops and shut down three shops for breaking law and guidelines put in place to curb the fallout of the novel coronavirus

(COVID-19). The ministry's trade control and consumers' protection sector had monitored a total of 71 cooperative societies, shopping centers and shops in order to verify if they followed the determined prices of products, the ministry said in a press statement. It added that its teams had also inspected 80 supply shops with a view to making sure that the process of selling and delivering food commodities to citizens had gone smoothly. It noted that its emergency center had received a total of 112 complaints through its hotline 135 and 10 others via its control centers, while 45 supply cards were issued or renewed. —KUNA

## GCC chief hails Yemen's donors conference

**RIYADH:** GCC Secretary-General Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf said that Saudi Arabia's organization and hosting of Yemen Donors' Virtual Conference affirms its leadership role in supporting and relieving the suffering of its neighbor. Hajraf added in a statement to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) Monday that this is an extension of its generous contributions in providing humanitarian and development support to Yemen, as the Kingdom is historically the first donor country

to Yemen. Hajraf also hailed the great support that the Cooperation Council provides to Yemen and its people, as its humanitarian and development assistance constituted the largest part of all aid that Yemen received during the past decades.

GCC chief also expressed hope that this initiative contributes to mobilizing the efforts of international donors to make this major humanitarian conference a success by standing with Yemen in a way that contributes to restoring the security and stability in Yemen and the prosperity of its people, including providing basic services to meet the serious economic, health and security challenges there. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was set yesterday to organize the Donors' Virtual Conference for Yemen 2020 in cooperation with the United Nations. —KUNA

• Read Kuwait Times now on your phone for **FREE**

• Send Subscribe to **+965 944 88888**

• Enjoy the first daily paper in Kuwait on your phone

P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait  
 Tel: 24833199 - 24833358 - 24835616/7 | Fax: 24835620 - 24835621  
 E: [info@kuwaittimes.net](mailto:info@kuwaittimes.net)



## Local

# KNG approves a number of retirees back in service amid combating COVID-19

## ‘Special cabins’ to test suspected coronavirus cases



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait National Guard (KNG) announced Monday that they have enlisted a number of retired volunteers who ended their services in the past to benefit from their experiences in light of the current circumstances in Kuwait, the move is in coordination with the General Department of National Defense at the Ministry of Interior. The move also comes based on wishes by volunteers to carry out their duties towards their homeland and the global fight against coronavirus.

KNG Associate for Financial Affairs and Resource Management, Brigadier Riyadh Muhammad Tawari, told reporters that the volunteers will undergo medical examinations in the Medical Services Directorate to ensure their health status and their readiness to take on tasks and duties in addition to informing them of new instructions that qualify them to perform their duties efficiently and competently. Tawari thanked the volunteers for their initiative in extending a

helping hand and “utilizing the experience they had acquired in the years of working in the National Guard to assist their brothers.”

Brigadier Tawari affirmed that the National Command welcomes their efforts which reflects their sincere intentions to serve their country in such circumstances. Meanwhile, a number of former KNG members expressed their happiness and pleasure to volunteer and join their brothers in the National Guard to serve the country.

In the meantime, KNG announced producing ‘special cabins’ that can be used to take swaps for novel coronavirus (COVID-19) testing, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health. The cabins were designed to protect both people taking the tests and medical staff members, and are placed at the KNG-operated ‘Tahrir Camp’ in the clinic for testing of cases suspected to be infected with the coronavirus, KNG said in a statement. — KUNA



### Tests to ensure volunteers’ health



**KUWAIT:** Police man a checkpoint in Hawally on June 1, 2020, to check driver's permits before allowing them out of the area which remains under total lockdown along with Farwaniya, Khaitan, Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Mahboula. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh





Foes delight in criticizing US; protests flare

Page 8

## Wuhan calling: China punk capital loses its voice under lockdown

Page 8



OHIO: Protesters hold a die-in as they gather peacefully to protest the death of George Floyd at the State Capital building in downtown Columbus, Ohio. — AFP

# Biden condemns ‘institutional racism’

**WILMINGTON:** Presumptive Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden blasted President Donald Trump and denounced “systemic racism” Monday as he sought to reignite his White House campaign after weeks of coronavirus sequestration. Biden, who had met with anti-racism protesters on Sunday, took to Twitter to express his fury at his opponent’s response to the protests that have broken out nationwide over the death of George Floyd, an unarmed black man, at the hands of a white Minnesota police officer.

“He’s using the American military against the American people,” Biden tweeted after the president vowed to order an army crackdown on civil unrest gripping the United States. “He tear-gassed peaceful protesters and fired rubber bullets. For a photo,” Biden wrote, referring to Trump’s decision to use law enforcement - including military police - to clear protesters from outside the White House so he could pose for photographs at a riot-damaged church nearby.

“For our children, for the very soul of our country, we must defeat him,” the former vice president said. Biden also announced in a campaign statement he would speak in Philadelphia “on the civil unrest facing communities across America.” The speech will be just his third public appearance since the COVID-19 pandemic began in mid-March. After facing accusations that he was out of touch by spending too much time at home in virus lockdown, the 77-year-old Biden seems to have gotten another wind and is

ready to step up the pace of his campaign as restrictions relax.

**‘Systemic racism’**

In a meeting with African-American religious and political leaders on Monday in which Floyd’s death figured prominently, and speaking later in a virtual town hall, Biden accused Republican Trump of fomenting racist hate and letting minorities suffer most in the novel coronavirus pandemic. “The band-aid has been ripped off this pandemic and this president,” Biden said, speaking at the Bethel AME Church in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware. “Nobody can pretend any longer what this is all about.” The church meeting was the second time that Biden, who served as president Barack Obama’s vice president, had participated in person in a public gathering since mid-March, when the COVID-19 pandemic abruptly paralyzed his campaign.

“Hate just hides. Doesn’t go away. And when you have somebody in power who breathes oxygen into the hate under the rocks, it comes out from under the rocks,” Biden said of Trump. “It matters what the

president says,” Biden added. “It encourages people to bring out the vitriol.” Speaking later at a virtual town hall Biden returned to the theme of racism. “There is systemic racism, white supremacy, it’s real,” he said. “You see it. I think we all see it but African-Americans see more clearly.”

Floyd’s death “invoked the full weight of our history ... how black lives have been devalued by society. And it’s not only intolerable but people are angry.” Biden’s remarks came after days and nights of demonstrations and riots around the country over the death of Floyd, filmed as he was pleading for air while his neck was under the white police officer’s knee. Biden said he had spoken with Floyd’s family during the past few days. During a virtual fundraiser late Monday Biden said that Floyd’s brother Philonise told him: “Promise me. Promise me we’ll have justice. Promise me people will be held accountable. Promise me that.”

**Promise for first 100 days**

At the Bethel AME church, which has a black congregation, Biden wore a mask and took notes after a prayer was said. Leaders and congregation members

criticized Trump, but also challenged Biden to do more for African Americans if he wins the White House in the November 3 election. Democratic House Representative Blunt Rochester, in emotional, impassioned remarks, said she appreciated Biden for “showing up.” “For those who are out there complaining, we’ve got a president that ain’t even showing up, that doesn’t even care,” she said. “Come on.”

But State Senator Darius Brown noted that African-Americans did not gain economically during the eight years of Biden’s vice presidency. “We’re here not only to love you, but to push you” for more support to the Democratic Party’s African-American base, he said. Biden said he would work in his first hundred days of office to address the needs of black Americans. “I promise you... that we’re going to make sure that the economic recovery deals with the institutional structures and institutional racism, but also economic structures that need to be fixed,” he said.

Biden also promised that, if elected, he would create a police oversight commission in his first hundred days in office. Several people urged Biden to choose an African-American as his vice presidential running mate. “I promise you there are multiple African-American candidates who are being considered,” he said. Biden is popular among black voters, a key electorate for any Democrat hoping to win the presidency. But he is not immune to criticism. In May, he provoked backlash when he told a radio host “you ain’t black” if he was thinking of voting for Trump. Biden quickly apologized after the interview was aired. — AFP

## African refugees see the ‘American dream’ in tatters

**MINNEAPOLIS:** African refugees living in Minneapolis were already struggling with their “American dream” when George Floyd died in police custody. Now their dream is in tatters and they have joined their African American “brothers” in the streets to protest racism in their adopted homeland. “I came here for freedom. My country was at war,” said Tiha Jibi, who arrived from South Sudan at age 15.

“I end up having two boys, 10 and six, who are afraid because we are not white,” she said, full of rage. Leaving her family and her country was hard, as was the journey to get to the United States, but she was determined to pursue her own American dream of peace, equality and democracy. Now, she realizes, “it’s all a lie. Now we have to face that reality.” That’s why she has been marching to protest the death at the hands of a white police officer of George Floyd, a 46-year-old African American man whose killing has sparked nationwide protests and clashes with police.

“I came here as a refugee but not as a white refugee,” she said. “My permanent home is the US and my permanent color is black. I have to protest.” The state of Minnesota, where Minneapolis is located, has the highest percentage of refugees per inhabitant in the whole country, with two percent of the US population but 13 percent of its refugees, according to the most recent census. Among them are a large number of people from the Horn of Africa — Ethiopians and Somalis - whose presence in the marches was noticeable because of the col-



MINNESOTA: A Somali-American protester kneels during a call for justice for George Floyd outside the Cup Foods in Minneapolis, Minnesota. — AFP

orful robes worn by the women.

Deka Jama, a 24-year-old woman who came to the United States from Somalia in 2007, showed up with friends, all of them veiled, to protest the discrimination that met them in their new homeland. “We thought that everyone would be equal, that we would not be judged by religion, by color, by our dresses. That’s not how we were welcomed,” she told AFP. She feels a close affinity to African Americans, many of them descended from slaves and who have been Americans for generations. There is “something connects us,” she said. “We are all dehumanized, regardless of our cultural differences. We have to be here for them.”

Minnesota’s Somali community has a source of pride, though, in Ilhan Omar, a 37-year-old born in Mogadishu who was elected to Congress in 2018. But she too has been the target of racial abuse, death threats and slander. Last summer, President

Donald Trump said that she and three other women of color in Congress should “go back” to their countries of origin. For the past week, Omar has often been asked to comment on the situation. She has not held back from telling people that, beyond acts of police violence, Americans have to address the core issue of inequality in the country.

“So many people know a social and economic neglect,” Omar said on Sunday. According to Minnesota Compass, a website that tracks the state’s demographics, families from Africa are particularly hard hit. In 2016, 12 percent of the population of Minnesota was living under the poverty line, but that number rose to 31 percent among the Ethiopian community and 55 percent among Somalis. That has meant that for many refugees, an important facet of the American dream - social mobility - has broken down over time. — AFP

## Burned flags and curfews: US cities convulsed by unrest

**WASHINGTON:** Major US cities - convulsed by protests, clashes with police and looting since the death in Minneapolis police custody of George Floyd a week ago - braced Monday for another night of unrest. Demonstrators took to the streets of more than 140 towns and cities overnight Sunday, US media reported, with many protests turning into running battles with police. Curfew were renewed in a number of cities on Monday as the country geared up for another night of turmoil.

**Minneapolis**

The Midwestern city where a police officer killed George Floyd by kneeling on his neck for more than eight minutes was calmer overnight after beefing up its security forces. Thousands of people marched on Sunday to the capitol building in Saint Paul, Minneapolis’ twin city and the seat of the state’s legislature. The demonstrators were marching peacefully along a highway when the driver of a speeding tanker truck tried to force his way through the crowd, without causing any injuries. The driver is being investigated by police. When the curfew began at 8:00 pm for a third night, police fired flash-bang rounds at protesters to disperse them. More than 150 were arrested for

breaking the curfew, officials said.

**Washington**

Hundreds of protesters gathered outside the White House on Sunday for a peaceful demonstration that turned more tense once night fell and the crowds grew. Police fired tear gas to drive the crowds away from the presidential seat. In the ensuing melee, American flags were burned, cars were set ablaze, graffiti sprayed on walls and numerous shop windows smashed. A curfew was introduced for the first time at 11:00 pm, a deadline that was brought forward to 7:00 pm Monday as the city braced for more protests. According to The New York Times, President Donald Trump was moved by his Secret Service guards to an underground bunker as the protests roiled the park outside.

**New York**

Between 5,000 and 6,000 demonstrators took to the streets of New York Sunday, police chief Dermot Shea said. “When it got dark, it got ugly, and it got ugly quick,” he said Monday. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced Monday the city would be under curfew from 11:00 pm until 5:00 am Tuesday. Some police officers took a knee as a sign of support for the demonstrations, the Times said, but violence broke out at Union Square and in Soho, where stores were looted and vandalized. Among the hundreds of people arrested on four consecutive nights of unrest in the city was the daughter of Mayor Bill de Blasio, Chiara de Blasio, who was briefly detained for unlawful assembly, the Times said. — AFP



## International

# Scientists hunt hotspots in race to test vaccines

## Vaccine volunteers need to be put at risk of infection

**LONDON:** The first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic may be waning. For vaccine developers, that could be a problem. Scientists in Europe and the United States say the relative success of draconian lockdown and social distancing policies in some areas and countries means virus transmission rates may be at such low levels that there is not enough disease circulating to truly test potential vaccines. They may need to look further afield, to pandemic hotspots in Africa and Latin America, to get convincing results.

"Ironically, if we're really successful using public health measures to stamp out the hot spots of viral infection, it will be harder to test the vaccine," said Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health in the United States. A vaccine is seen as essential to ending a pandemic that has killed nearly 370,000 people and infected more than 6 million so far, with world leaders looking at inoculation as the only real way to restart their stalled economies. But running large-scale clinical trials of potential vaccines against a completely new disease at speed is complex, scientists say. Showing efficacy in those trials during a

fluctuating pandemic adds extra difficulty - and doing so when outbreaks are waning makes it harder still.

"For this to work, people need to have a risk of infection in the community. If the virus has been temporarily cleared out, then the exercise is futile," said Ayfer Ali, an expert in drug repurposing at Britain's Warwick Business School. "The solution is



**Low transmission rates may scupper fast vaccine trials**

to move to areas where the infection is being spread widely in the community - that would be countries like Brazil and Mexico at the moment." Vaccine trials work by randomly dividing people into a treatment group and a control group, with the treatment group getting the experi-

mental trial vaccine and the control group getting a placebo.

All participants go back into the community where the disease is circulating, and subsequent rates of infection are compared. The hope is that infections within the control group will be higher, showing the trial vaccine is protecting the other group. With COVID-19 epidemics in Britain, mainland Europe and the United States coming down from their peak and transmission rates of the coronavirus dropping, a key task for scientists is to chase fluctuating outbreaks and seek volunteers in sections of populations or in countries where the disease is still rife. A similar problem emerged when scientists were seeking to test potential new vaccines against Ebola during the vast 2014 outbreak in West Africa. Then, drugmakers were forced to drastically scale back plans for large trials because their vaccines were only test-ready late in the epidemic when case numbers were dwindling.

### Looking abroad

Among the first COVID-19 vaccines to move into Phase II, or mid-stage, trials is one from the US biotech company Mod-



**SOFIA:** Neonatologist Valentina Gerginova holds a dose of BCG vaccine in Vita private hospital in Sofia. As labs test if the traditional BCG anti-tuberculosis vaccine offers any protection against coronavirus, Bulgaria is holding its breath in the hope of new markets for the millions of BCG doses it makes every year. — AFP

erna Inc. Another is being developed by scientists at Oxford University supported by AstraZeneca Plc. The United States in July is planning to launch vast efficacy trials of 20,000 to 30,000 volunteers per vaccine. Collins said US health officials will

tap government and industry clinical trial networks in the United States first and use mapping to detect where the virus is most active. They will also consider looking abroad if domestic disease rates fall too far, he said. — Reuters

## Pandemic antibiotics surge will cause more deaths: WHO

**GENEVA:** Increased antibiotics use in combating the COVID-19 pandemic will strengthen bacterial resistance and ultimately lead to more deaths during the crisis and beyond, the World Health Organization said Monday. WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said a "worrying number" of bacterial infections were becoming increasingly resistant to the medicines traditionally used to treat them. The UN health agency said it was concerned that the inappropriate use of antibiotics during the coronavirus crisis would further fuel the trend.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has led to an increased use of antibiotics, which ultimately will lead to higher bacterial resistance rates that will impact the burden of disease and deaths during the pandemic and beyond," Tedros told a virtual press conference from the WHO's Geneva headquarters. The WHO said only a small proportion of COVID-19 patients needed antibiotics to treat subsequent bacterial infections. The organization has issued guidance to medicines not to provide antibiotic therapy or prophylaxis to patients with mild COVID-19, or to patients with moderate illness without a clinical suspicion of bacterial infection.

Tedros said the guidelines said should help tackle antimicrobial resist-

ance while saving lives. He called the threat of antimicrobial resistance "one of the most urgent challenges of our time". "It's clear that the world is losing its ability to use critically important antimicrobial medicines," he said. Highlighting inappropriate usage, he said there was an "overuse" of antibiotics in some countries, while in low-income states, such life-saving medicines were unavailable, "leading to needless suffering and death".

### Disease treatment disrupted

Meanwhile the WHO said the prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) had been severely disrupted since the COVID-19 pandemic began in December, following a survey of 155 countries. "This situation is of significant concern because people living with NCDs are at higher risk of severe COVID-19-related illness and death," it said. The survey, during a three-week period in May, found that low-income countries were most affected. Some 53 percent of countries reported partially or completely disrupted services for hypertension treatment.

The figure was 49 percent for diabetes treatment and related complications; 42 percent for cancer treatment, and 31 percent for cardiovascular emergencies. The most common rea-



**SANTIAGO:** Employees of a funeral parlour put the coffin containing the body of a person who died of COVID-19 in the vehicle of a relative, outside the San Jose Hospital in Santiago amid the novel coronavirus pandemic. — AFP

sons for discontinuing or reducing services were cancellations of planned treatments, a decrease in available public transport and a lack of staff because health workers had been reassigned to COVID-19 treatment.

### Mass gatherings risk

The WHO warned about the dangers of mass gatherings, as protests rage in the United States and elsewhere over the killing of unarmed black man George Floyd, and as sports events begin a tentative resumption. "Mass gatherings have the potential to act as super-spreading events," warned Tedros, highlighting WHO guidance designed to help organizers determine how such events can be held safely. The

WHO was asked about the street protests in the United States and the fear that they could increase the spread of the virus.

"With increasing social mixing and people coming together, particularly in areas if the virus is not under control, that close contact between people can pose a risk," answered the organization's COVID-19 technical lead Maria Van Kerkhove - stressing that she was speaking about mass gatherings in general. People planning mass events should undertake a "very serious, rigorous risk assessment", she said. "Physical distancing remains a very important aspect to control and suppression of transmission of COVID-19. This is not over yet," the expert said. — AFP

## West Bank poverty may double over COVID pandemic

**RAMALLAH:** Poverty in the occupied West Bank may double as Palestinians are hit by the coronavirus, the World Bank warned Monday, just weeks before Israel aims to kick-start plans to annex parts of the territory. The United Nations has warned that such a move by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government would stifle financial and aid flows to the Palestinians and "most likely trigger conflict". Israel may start the annexation process as soon as July 1 with the support of US President Donald Trump, who in January published a peace plan that was roundly rejected by the Palestinians.

The UN warned in a report Sunday that, without improved relations between the two sides and if annexation goes ahead, "the achievements of the Palestinian government over the last quarter century will fade. 'The peace and security situation will worsen, and a hardened and more extremist politics on both sides will inevitably

result," it said. Palestinian foreign minister Riyad Al-Maliki on Monday said that annexation was "tantamount to an act of aggression". "This is really a declaration of war," against Palestinian aspirations, he said.

And in an apparent reference to potential Palestinian unrest, Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz told the army "to expedite military preparedness ahead of political steps on the agenda in the Palestinian arena", said a statement from his office. In recent weeks some Israeli commentators have cast doubt on whether the annexation would actually go ahead, saying that the military had so far not been told to prepare contingency plans. Prospects of annexation appeared to grow after Netanyahu last month forged a unity government following more than a year of political deadlock, and as both Israel and the Palestinian territories are assessing the impact of the pandemic.

The Palestinian territories have seen low infection rates after acting quickly to curtail the spread of COVID-19, with three deaths out of 450 cases registered among some five million residents in Gaza and the West Bank. But the Palestinian Authority's (PA) financial situation is "expected to become increasingly difficult" due to loss of income and increased spending on healthcare and other areas, the World Bank said in a report. — AFP



**RAMALLAH:** Palestinians gather at a market in the West Bank city of Ramallah, after the authorities relaxed some of the restrictive measures that had been imposed in a bid to stem the spread of the novel coronavirus. — AFP

## Round Four: UK and EU back in the Brexit ring

**BRUSSELS:** Trade negotiators from Britain and the EU embark on a fourth round of post-Brexit negotiations Tuesday but no-one in London or Brussels expects a breakthrough. Instead, once the latest cross-Channel video conferences are over, Prime Minister Boris Johnson and EU chief Ursula von der Leyen will meet to decide how to proceed. A "high-level" June meeting to take stock of the talks was already foreseen in the political declaration signed by both parties alongside the divorce accord. But it may take on more urgency now, as talks between EU negotiator Michel Barnier and his UK counterpart David Frost have revealed stark differences in approach.

### Deadly pandemic

Britain is not now expected to ask for any extension to the post-Brexit transition and so is on track to leave the single market and EU customs union on December 31. If no trade deal is in place by then, experts predict severe disruption to businesses already reeling from a coronavirus pandemic that no-one expected when Britain voted to leave the union in June 2016. Barnier, the Brussels veteran and former French minister tasked by the remaining 27 EU members with negotiating an orderly Brexit, said last week that the talks would be telling.

"I expect that I will find out whether the United Kingdom wants to leave the single market at the end of this year with an agreement or without one," he told German radio. Later, he told British weekly The Sunday Times that he and Frost have a "joint responsibility" to head off disaster. "If we don't get an agreement then that will have even more consequences. And then of course those will be added to the already very serious consequences of the coronavirus crisis," he said. But despite the urgency of the matter, there is still profound disagreement in how London and Brussels want to approach the search for new arrangements to oversee trade and cooperation. Barnier has been given a mandate to seek an ambitious overarching agreement to oversee a so-called "level playing field" in manufacturing, labor and environmental standards. This would give British firms access to most - but not all - of the benefits of the single market, without exposing their European rivals to attempts to undercut standards. — AFP

## HCO: Drug dividing the world

**PARIS:** Banned in some countries, promoted in others - the drug hydroxychloroquine (HCO) as a potential treatment for the new coronavirus is dividing opinion worldwide. Scientists looking to find licensed medicines that could be repurposed as a treatment for COVID-19 had started tests of hydroxychloroquine, normally used to treat arthritis, and chloroquine, an anti-malarial. Both drugs can produce potentially serious side effects, particularly heart arrhythmia, leading many experts to warn against their use outside of clinical trials.

But that has not stopped prominent figures like US President Donald Trump endorsing hydroxychloroquine despite a lack of evidence of its efficacy. Escalating the debate, The Lancet on May 22 published a study of nearly 100,000 coronavirus patients that showed no benefit in treating them with the two drugs - and even increased the likelihood of them dying in hospital. This led the World Health Organization to suspend clinical trials of hydroxychloroquine, but dozens of scientists have since raised concerns over the study's methodology. The Lancet corrected part of the data, but researchers have stood by their conclusions. Countries worldwide vary on their own policies.

### Banned

The study prompts several countries to halt the use of hydroxychloroquine. France does so on May 27, days after controversial French doctor Didier Raoult - whose own methodology has been questioned - rejected the study and stood by his belief the drug can help patients recover from the virus. Other countries including Italy, Egypt, Tunisia, Colombia, Chile, El Salvador, Cape Verde, Albania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina also ban the use of the drug for COVID-19 patients, though in Italy it remains possible in clinical trials.

Hungary meanwhile does not use the drug "for newly diagnosed patients" but continues to do so "for patients who already started taking it", according to a government spokesperson. Even before the study some countries had stopped using hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19 patients. Sweden had used the drug in the early phases of the pandemic to treat patients with severe symptoms, but halted its use in April after the European Medicines Agency recommended it only be used in clinical trials. Germany too had judged that the current studies did not allow for the drug to be used on individual COVID-19 patients and it could only be used in clinical trials.

### Promoted

Several countries continue to promote the use of hydroxychloroquine in the fight against the virus. These include Brazil, Algeria, Morocco, Turkey, Jordan, Romania, Portugal, Kenya, Senegal, Chad and the Republic of Congo. Russia, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates have not yet suspended the use of the drug either, and in Iran recent social media posts of prescriptions show virus patients are still receiving it there.

Thailand is also still using hydroxychloroquine in its treatment of COVID-19 patients, and India and Venezuela continue to use the drug as a preventative measure. Cuba too is using the drug but will revise its protocols to introduce further precautions. In the US hydroxychloroquine can only in principle be given to COVID-19 patients in hospital, but the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned in April that the drug could have potential harmful impact on the heart. Trump had promoted the use of the drug and even said he was taking hydroxychloroquine as a precaution, before saying shortly after the publication of the study that he had stopped. — AFP



## International

# Foes delight in criticizing US; deadly protests flare

## US protests show 'chronic disease' of racism

**WASHINGTON:** With US cities in flames over outrage about police brutality, nations that are usually on the receiving end of Washington's criticism on human rights are gleefully turning the tables. Condemnation of the US record on race came from China, which days earlier faced US counter-measures for tightening controls on Hong Kong, as well as Iran, where officials have been slapped with US sanctions for suppressing protests in November.

The United States is experiencing some of its worst riots in 50 years with dozens of cities under curfews following the killing in Minneapolis of George Floyd, an unarmed African-American man who pleaded "I can't breathe" as a white police officer pinned him under his knee for nearly nine minutes. "Racism against ethnic minorities in the US is a chronic disease of American society," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said. "The current situation reflects once more the severity of the problems of racism and police violence in the US," he told reporters in Beijing.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi echoed the language frequently voiced by President Donald Trump's administration in its support for opponents of the clerical state. "To the American people: the world has heard your outcry over the state of oppression. The world is standing with you," Mousavi said, in English, in Tehran. "And to the American officials and police: stop violence against your people and let them breathe," he said. Both Iran and China also took to social media to troll the United States, with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeting a State De-

partment condemnation of Iran in which he flipped the names of the two countries.

Trump's national security advisor, Robert O'Brien, criticized Chinese officials for "taking some sort of pleasure and solace in what they're seeing here." Americans seeking redress are "not going to be thrown in jail for peaceful protesting. There's a difference between us and you," he told ABC News. Many demonstrations have been peaceful but activists have accused police of using excessive force in a number of incidents and that a man was killed early Monday in Louisville, Kentucky. O'Brien also singled out Zimbabwe among "our foreign adversaries" that may be relishing the scenes in the United States. Zimbabwe - which has faced US criticism over violently dispersing protests as well as British-led pressure over its seizures of white-owned farms - summoned the US ambassador to protest O'Brien's remarks.

Diverting attention? Observers say that China and Iran are hardly sterling examples on rights. Activists say China is detaining at least one million Uighurs and other Turkic Muslims in a vast network of brainwashing camps. In the commercial hub of Guangzhou, African residents said that police forcibly evicted them this year from accommodation and that they were refused service at shops and restaurants as part of a coronavirus scare.

In Iran, a lawmaker on Monday acknowledged that 230 people died in last year's protests triggered by a fuel price hike, although outside groups say the number was far higher. "Like every country, America has never been perfect when it comes to human rights. Far from

site of a 1911 uprising that led to the collapse of thousands of years of imperial rule. Home to several universities and their students, and the expat staff of multinational manufacturers, it is known for its openness to new ideas, while a massive industrial sector adds a blue-collar air.

### 'Not punk'

Its reputation for straight talk and quick tempers was captured on video when a top national official arrived in March to inspect epidemic-control efforts. Communist authorities have endured unprecedented criticism after Wuhan officials initially suppressed news of the outbreak and fumbled the initial response, and the official was jeered by locals sequestered in their apartment blocks. Zhu is the former drummer for pioneering Wuhan punk band SMZB, which emerged in the late 1990s with several other local groups, earning Wuhan a reputation as one of China's punk crucibles, along with Beijing.

SMZB's frontman, Wuhan-born guitarist Wu Wei, is recognized as the godfather of Chinese punk, penning provocative lyrics that sometimes criticize authorities. He also founded Wuhan Prison, another punk landmark, a decade ago. "This is a place where many people gather together and pass on their energy," said Ingmar Liu, 21-year-old vocalist for a local band and a Wuhan Prison employee. But Liu, with green hair and a series of surreal arm tattoos, said the club has struggled to pay its rent without customers. A mid-May attempt to reopen was quickly aborted by police due to COVID-19 transmission fears. "The epidemic has impacted the entire bar and concert industry, not just us," she said.

## China punk capital loses its voice under COVID lockdown

**WUHAN:** Wuhan is arguably China's punk capital, its historically feisty reputation reflected in the writhing mosh pits and live venues of a vibrant music scene. Or at least it was before coronavirus, which has tattooed a new outcast image on the city of 11 million and at the same time pulled the plug on the high-decibel subculture. The city that gave the world COVID-19 remains fearful of new outbreaks, forbidding live shows, forcing performances online, and clouding the future. "The eventual impact on us remains unknown," said Zhu Ning, founding member of a landmark Wuhan punk band and proprietor of indie live house VOX. "The most important thing is to keep (the music scene) alive." Wuhan's 11-week coronavirus lockdown was finally fully lifted in April as new infections abated, reawakening the city, but live shows remain banned.

"No performance means no customers and that means no revenue," Zhu, 48, told AFP inside his empty club, hours after police ordered him to call off an event. Vox had planned to live-stream a show by Beijing-based rockers Queen Sea Big Shark. "We were all ready and had to suddenly put a stop to it. What's wrong with the world?" Zhu sighed. Located at China's center, Wuhan is an ancient crossroads and

## Hong Kong leader Lam accuses US of 'double standards'

**HONG KONG:** Hong Kong's leader accused the United States yesterday of applying "double standards" in its response to violent protests as she warned Washington's plan to place trade restrictions on the financial hub would "only hurt themselves". Semi-autonomous Hong Kong has been rocked by months of huge and often violent pro-democracy protests over the past year, which riot police have stamped out with more than 9,000 arrests.

Washington has been critical of Hong Kong's response to the demonstrations with US President Donald Trump last week vowing to end the city's special trading status after Beijing announced plans to impose a sweeping national security law on the business hub. Yesterday, Hong Kong's Chief Executive Carrie Lam said such a move would be self-defeating as she took aim at the Trump administration for its own response to violent racial justice protests sweeping the United States.

"We have seen most clearly in recent weeks the double standards that are around," Lam, who was selected as city leader by a pro-Beijing committee, told reporters. "You know there are riots in the United States and we see how local governments reacted. And then in Hong Kong, when we had similar riots, we saw what position they adopted then." Both Chinese and Hong Kong officials have seized on the unrest gripping the US in their propaganda drive to justify their own crackdown on pro-democracy protests and the national security law plans.

Last week, China's rubber-stamp parliament approved the plans for a law that would punish secession, subversion of state power, terrorism and acts that endanger national security - as well as allow Chinese security agencies to operate openly in the city. Beijing says the anti-subversion law - which will bypass Hong Kong's legislature - is needed to tackle "terrorism" and "separatism". Opponents fear it will bring mainland-style political oppression to a business hub supposedly guaranteed freedoms and autonomy for 50 years after its 1997 handover from Britain to China.—AFP

## US cities in flames



**BINNISH:** Syria: Syrian artists Aziz Asmar and Anis Hamdoun finish a mural depicting George Floyd in this town in north-western Idlib province on Monday. — AFP

it," said Rob Berschinski, senior vice president for policy at Human Rights First. "But the fact that a human rights advocate like me can say this openly is what differentiates the United States and other free countries from countries like China and Iran," he said.

"When the Chinese and Iranian governments criticize demonstrations in America, they're doing so to distract from their own records, not because they care

about racial injustice," Berschinski, who served at the State Department under president Barack Obama, said nonetheless that Trump hurt the cause, including by calling on Twitter for the shooting of looters. "When American citizens are brutalized by our police and national leaders like President Trump promote violence, of course America's ability to speak credibly on human rights abroad is harmed," he said.—AFP



**WUHAN:** A woman wearing a facemask sells a type of bread on a street in Wuhan, China's central Hubei province. —AFP

It has also scattered musicians for local bands, including foreigners, said members of reggae/ska band Sky King Jack. Unable to perform, they gather in private for loose rehearsals, waiting to take the stage again. "The band can't make money and now we play music just for fun," bassist Liu Jia said after assembling for practice at a rented cottage. It remains to be seen whether Wuhan's famed frankness will be reflected in future songs referencing the pandemic. "I was very angry with the government's handling of the coronavirus at first, but now I have digested it," said Ingmar Liu. "Anger alone is not punk."—AFP

## In nod to #MeToo, China codifies sexual harassment by law

**BEIJING:** Two years ago, Zhou Xiaoxuan publicly accused one of China's most recognizable people of groping and forcibly kissing her, setting off a firestorm in a country that did not specify sexual harassment as a legal offence. Last week Zhou and dozens of other women who started China's #MeToo movement won a small victory when the nation's parliament enacted legislation that for the first time defines actions that can constitute sexual harassment. The reference in the new civil code, approved on Thursday by a session of the National People's Congress, is largely a symbolic step. While it holds schools, businesses and other organizations responsible for preventing and dealing with sexual harassment, it does not lay out guidelines for enforcement.

"The civil code is a big step, but much more will need to be fleshed out," said Darius Longarino, a senior fellow at the Paul Tsai China Center at Yale Law School. "After all, US sexual-harassment law is still developing after decades and grappling with its failures, as laid bare by #MeToo." Still, some lawyers and activists say the civil code offers for the first time a nationally recognised enumeration of sexual harassment as a legal offence. Article 1,010 of the new code says a person may be held liable "for speech, words, images or bodily actions that have been used to carry out sexual harassment against a person's wishes."

The development could pave the way for further changes to allow sexual-harassment victims to seek redress, six lawyers and activists interviewed by Reuters said. The parliament's Legislative Affairs Commission and China's State Council did not respond to faxed requests for comment about the decision to define sexual harassment in the civil code.

### Victims come forward

China's #MeToo movement took off in 2018 when a college student in Beijing publicly accused her professor of sexual harassment. It spread to NGOs, media and other industries. Zhou's accusation against Zhu Jun, a well-known TV personality, was one of the most prominent. In a series of social media posts, she described a 2014 incident when she was an intern working for him at state broadcaster CCTV. She says he tried to reach into her dress and drag her onto himself, and then forcibly kissed her. Zhou's accusation quickly went viral. Zhu denies the allegations and is countering Zhou. He could not be reached, and his lawyer declined to comment on the case or the new legislation.

Some activists and lawyers are hopeful that the movement is starting to lead to real change, starting with the mention in the civil code. "MeToo's spread has made a huge push on this matter of law," said Zhou, who says much more needs to be done to protect the rights of sexual-violence victims. "But this may be a process, and you can't solve it in one leap." More than a year and a half later, there have been no hearings in the case brought by Zhou in September 2018. Most Chinese #MeToo cases remain unresolved, activists say.

Zhou filed hers under the category "personal rights" - a broad term in Chinese law that includes rights applying to one's body and health - because sexual harassment was not recognized as a legal cause of action. "If you wanted to go bring a court case, then you had to bring a labor dispute - it was very difficult," said a woman who brought her own #MeToo accusation against a prominent charity founder in 2018 and who works under the name Huahua for privacy and safety. She ultimately chose not to take her accusation to court. Sexual harassment remains sensitive in China. The movement, despite bursts of grassroots activity, has faced government pressure and censorship, the activists said. The State Council did not respond requests for comment about the allegations of pressure and censorship.—Reuters



**WASHINGTON:** A protester wears a 'I Can't Breathe' mask during a demonstration against the death of George Floyd at a park near the White House in Washington, DC. — AFP

## Distancing, masks cut COVID-19 risk

**LONDON:** Keeping at least one meter apart and wearing face masks and eye protection are the best ways to cut the risk of COVID-19 infection, according to the largest review to date of studies on coronavirus disease transmission. In a review that pooled evidence from 172 studies in 16 countries, researchers found frequent hand-washing and good hygiene are also critical - though even all those measures combined can not give full protection.

The findings, published in The Lancet journal on Monday, will help guide governments and health agencies, some of whom have given conflicting advice on measures, largely because of limited information about COVID-19. "Our findings are the first to synthesise all direct information on COVID-19, SARS, and MERS, and provide the currently best available evidence on the optimum use of these common and simple interventions to help 'flatten the curve'," said Holger Schünemann from

McMaster University in Canada, who co-led the research. Current evidence suggests COVID-19 is most commonly spread by droplets, especially when people cough, and infects by entering through the eyes, nose and mouth, either directly or via contaminated surfaces.

For this analysis, an international research team conducted a systematic review of 172 studies assessing distance measures, face masks and eye protection to prevent transmission of three diseases caused by coronaviruses - COVID-19, SARS and MERS. The researchers noted that the findings, while comprehensive, have some limitations for the current pandemic since most of the evidence came from studies of SARS and MERS. They found, however, that physical distancing of at least 1 metre lowers risk of COVID-19 transmission, and that a distance of 2 metres could be more effective. Masks and protective eye coverings may also add protective benefits, though the evidence for that was less clear cut, they added. Derek Chu, an assistant professor at McMaster University who co-led the work, said people should understand that "wearing a mask is not an alternative to physical distancing, eye protection or basic measures such as hand hygiene." — Reuters



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2020

# Business

**10** Emirates could take 4 years to return to normal: Head



**10** NBK serves its customers through 19 branches



**11** US manufacturing activity crawls off an 11-year low



LONDON: People walk past closed shops in Portobello Market in west London on Monday following the easing of the lockdown restrictions during the novel coronavirus pandemic. — AFP

## Mixed fortunes for virus-hit London shops

### Small businesses, retailers bear the brunt of lockdown

**LONDON:** Behind the colorful shopfronts in England's Lane, a picture-postcard street near north London's Primrose Hill, business owners are experiencing mixed fortunes as a result of the pandemic lockdown.

While window displays stay empty and shutters are drawn, including at The Washington pub, certain shops are benefitting as customers avoid big queues elsewhere and seek out items that are hard to find at major retailers.

The newsagent and stationery store are enjoying fresh custom from people working remotely and home-schooling their children. The street's bike shop has meanwhile struggled to keep up with demand.

"It's madness right now, everyone is cycling," Michael Falkowski, co-owner of the Impressed store, tells AFP as he busily fixes a bike.

The Grain bakery has expanded its offering,

transforming itself into a mini grocer by replacing tables for customers with shelves. Owner Kristin Labrague, who has temporarily laid off two of her workers, said that while "it's a bit frightening to take public transport... we wanted to stay open and feed the community".

Across the street, the Chamomile cafe has shut.

Irit Reed, who runs the eatery with husband David, says "the decision to close was based on the safety of our staff, our customers". Ordinarily the cafe would have people waiting patiently for a table and brunch, but it now has a notice attached to its pale blue exterior with a message asking for

help.

"Like many other small businesses and industries who have been required to close, we have been hit pretty hard," it reads. "If anyone is able to donate to help us and our team through this next challenging period, we would be eternally grateful."

"In return we will be offering a free hot drink or discount once through this crisis," the message adds.

Lack of control

Irit speaks of the "shock" she has felt. "We've worked hard all our lives, all of a sudden not being able to work is devastating."



**UK retail sales dived 18.1% in April**

UK retail sales dived by a record 18.1 percent in April with the country in coronavirus lockdown. But most shops will soon be allowed to reopen, as Britain—with the world's second-highest death toll in the coronavirus outbreak—took its biggest step out of lockdown on Monday.

Outdoor markets and car showrooms reopened as businesses seek to lure back customers and recoup losses suffered since Britain effectively shut down on March 23.

In England's Lane, the Visage hair salon must wait a while longer to reopen, along with pubs, restaurants and gyms throughout Britain. Without state funding "I don't know what we would have done", says co-owner Estella Cicek, referring to government measures to pay workers' wages and delay payment of taxes during the lockdown.

Irit is meanwhile upbeat about the future. "The cafe will reopen no question," she insists. — AFP

### Retailers wrestle with mountain of unsold stock

**MADRID/LOS ANGELES:** Forget fast or slow fashion, now it's ground to a halt.

A mountain of apparel has been piling up in stores, distribution centers, warehouses and even shipping containers during months of COVID-19 lockdowns. As retailers reopen around the world, they have to work out how to get rid of it.

Their main options? Keep it in storage, hold a sale, offload it to "off-price" retailers like TJ Maxx which sell branded goods at deep discounts, or move it to online resale sites. None are ideal, and all are damage-limitation.

Real estate company Knight Frank told Reuters it had fielded inquiries for excess stock for over 6 million square feet (557,500 square meters) of short-term let warehouse space in Britain since the pandemic took hold there in March.

Yet storage is only a realistic option for evergreen "basics" that are not tied to one particular year and could be sold at a later date should consumer demand bounce back - items like underwear, t-shirts, chinos and classic sneaker styles. Apparel chains including British high-street retailer Next

and German sportswear brand Adidas said they had stashed away unsold basics, with the aim to offer them to shoppers next year instead.

But stowing away piles of inventory is risky. "This is not like wine that gets better with age. Your inventory gets worse," said Emanuel Chirico, chief executive of PVH Corp, which owns Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger, on a recent earnings call. In the United States, clothing sales fell 89 percent in April from the same month in 2019, while in Britain clothing sales sank by 50 percent compared with an already-squeezed March.

Retailers hope that easing of lockdown measures will see shoppers return to stores, eager to unleash pent-up demand. But there is no guarantee that sales will rebound any time soon.

Many stores are likely to pursue a combination of holding sales as well selling stock to off-price retailers. The mix will depend on consumer appetite, how much merchandise stores have to shift and how fast they must free up space for new collections.

In-store discounts are usually a better option as dumping inventory in bulk to off-price players returns just pennies on the dollar for the retailers.

Off-price retail group TJX, which started opening its TJ Maxx and Marshalls stores this month, said in May there was "incredible availability" of stock on the market. UK-based Parker Lane Group, which helps companies manage excess stock and advises on selling off-price, is processing at least double its usual volume of up to 1.5 million items of



LVERKUSEN: A person is seen inside an empty shopping mall during a partial lockdown in Leverkusen, Germany as the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) continues. — Reuters

apparel per month, founder Raffy Kassardjian told Reuters.

"Some of our customers are waiting for retail to open up to gauge their performance before they make a commitment on how much stock they want to write off," he said, referring to both selling at discount in-store and offloading to off-price.

Potentially more lucrative is moving merchandise

to online re-sale marketplaces that take a commission on sales, although that option is largely only open for high-end brands. California-based luxury re-sale marketplace Tradesy opened a new business unit in April to deal with the jump in brands looking to sell stock they were stuck with after department stores canceled wholesale orders, said CEO Tracy DiNunzio. — Reuters



## Business

# Emirates could take 4 years to return to normal: Head

## Some airlines may disappear in the chaos: Clark

**DUBAI:** It could take up to four years for Emirates airline's operations to return "to some degree of normality", its president said Monday, a day after the carrier announced job cuts over the coronavirus crisis. The Middle East's largest carrier, which has a 100,000-strong staff and a fleet of 270 wide-bodied aircraft, halted operations in late March as part of shutdowns to combat the spread of the pandemic.

Two weeks later, the airline resumed limited passenger operations but focused on repatriation flights as large numbers of the foreign residents in the United Arab Emirates returned to their home countries.

Dubai-based Emirates said on Sunday it was cutting its giant workforce but did not specify the extent of the layoffs. "This is an action we have to take. We just can't keep our employees doing nothing for so long. So, we have to let some go, unfortunately," Emirates president Tim Clark told the Arabian Travel Market virtual conference.

"I think probably by the year 22-23, 23-24, we will see things coming back to

some degree of normality and Emirates will be operating its network as it was," he said. Clark said that Emirates, which reported a bumper 21 percent rise in annual profits in March, had hoped to resume operations in the second half of May, but conditions did not ease enough to allow it.

The long-serving executive, who is due to retire soon as president but re-

adding that the next six to nine months will be "tough". "We have never been in this horrendous situation ... It is a huge structural change to our industry."

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) estimated last week that global airlines will lose \$314 billion in 2020 revenues, a 55-percent dive from last year. Clark said that airlines are facing "critical cashflow issues" that will limit their choices on orders.

"The reality of the situation today is, like all airlines, all bets are off ... So, you have to re-think exactly what your priorities are, one is survival," he said. "We are nowhere near confident enough that the economics, the cashflows, the bottomline will put us in a good position to be able to guess if we'll buy a hundred of this or a hundred of that," he said, asked about the possible blend of aircraft after the coronavirus.

Emirates already back in November slimmed its orders from both Boeing and Airbus, cutting aircraft worth about \$20 billion due to an economic downturn. At present, it has orders for 30 Boeing 787s and 126 Boeing 777X and 50 Airbus A350-900s, in addition to a few remain-



WASHINGTON, DC: In this file photo, President of Emirates Airline Tim Clark speaks during a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. — AFP

ing Airbus A-380 superjumbos. Clark said that contractual obligations mean that airlines cannot continue to keep their fleets grounded. "We must get this business back on its feet as quickly as possible," said the boss of Emirates, whose own fleet

includes 115 Airbus A-380s. But he warned the airline industry was in "a very critical and fragile state", and that the wearing of masks and gloves and sterilization programs in the post-pandemic era would signal "a paradigm change". — AFP

## ABK announces phased reopening of branches

**KUWAIT:** With the gradual easing of COVID-19 restrictions by the Council of Ministries, and in line with the announcement made by the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA), Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait K.S.C.P. (ABK) will open eleven strategically located branches to receive customers from 9 am to 1 pm, starting 2nd June 2020. ABK branches will include head office (Kuwait City), Sharq, Shaab, Salmiya, Fahaheel, Jahra 2, Jabriya, Andalous, Zahra, Adan & Shuwaikh.

With most services available online, ABK urges customers to use the bank's Digital Banking services, which are always available, and limit branch visits only to those transactions that cannot be completed online. Customers can use 'Global View' to manage multiple ABK accounts through a single login; 'ABKPay' to split bill payments or transfer money to their ABK account from other local bank accounts; and 'eServices' to instantly open a savings account



online without visiting a branch. The bank's Call Center will also continue to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

ABK's first priority is the safety and wellbeing of its customers and employees. Respecting the prevailing health and safety guidelines, the bank will continue to extend and review preventive protocols across all the operating branches, including measuring the temperature of customers and only allowing customers with masks and gloves to

enter the branch. To help prevent the spread of the virus, ABK has also installed hand sanitizers in all branches and across all ATMs, including offsite ATMs.

Through continuous risk assessment, by adopting good hygiene practices in the workplace, and by educating employees on the facts and risks, ABK is committed to limiting the spread of the virus, and upholding the health and wellbeing of employees, customers, and the general public.

## NBK serves its customers through 19 branches

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) strives to meet its customers' needs by providing them with all banking services even under prevailing circumstances. The bank resumed its operations through 19 branches in all governorates, while abiding by the safety guidelines mandated by the concerned authorities, including checking customers' temperature before entering the branch, making sure they are wearing medical masks and gloves and observing social distancing practices to ensure the safety of our customers and employees.

NBK provides its services according to the decision of the Council of Ministers and in compliance with instructions of the Central Bank of Kuwait and KBA, through 19 branches operating from 9 am to 1 pm. Some of these branches serve individual customers only and they are: Al-Daiya, Shamiya, Sabah Al-Salem, Al-Andalus, Saad Al-Abdullah, Salwa, Kaifan, Surra, Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Al-Rehab and Hadiya. The rest of the branches will serve individuals and Corporate Banking Customers and these comprise: Abdullah Al-Ahmad (Previously Head Office), Cinema Al-Salmiya, Al-Salam Mall - Salmiya, Ahmed Al-Jaber, Ahmadi, Sharq, Ghazali and Sabhan.

Meanwhile, NBK continues to provide its services under all circumstances through its various digital channels, mainly NBK Online Banking and NBK Mobile Banking.

Commenting on the reopening of some branches, Ali Al-Mulla, Head of Branches, National Bank of Kuwait, said: "We are committed to meet our customers' needs under all circumstances,

and with the gradual return to normal life we re-opened 19 branches and work in line with our digital channels to provide top-notch banking services to our customers, while following the instructions of the concerned authorities and taking all the precautionary measures to ensure the safety of both our customers and employees."

"During the exceptional circumstances we are going through, not only we continued to provide our banking services to meet our customers' needs 24/7 through our digital channels, but we also enhanced those channels to ensure quick and easy banking services to our customers," he added.

Al-Mulla affirmed that NBK was also keen to enrich customers' banking experience during the full lockdown, by providing them with a mobile branch for the first time in Kuwait, which reached customers at their doorsteps and helped them with their banking transactions.

Al-Mulla Concluded: "We hope that the current health situation comes to

an end soon, so we can return to serving our customers in all our branches across Kuwait. We also pray for the Almighty Allah to protect everyone from all harm."

NBK continues to provide banking services through its ITM at Kuwait International Airport Branch T4, as well as through NBK ATMs and CDMs for cash deposit and withdrawal available all over the country, comprising 327 ATMs, including more than 100 CDMs. Customers can also reach the bank through its various channels including, NBK Contact Center on 1801801 and NBK WhatsApp on the same number, or through the bank's social media platforms @nbkgroup, where all inquiries are answered. Furthermore, the bank shares information and guidance related to all aspects of current circumstances on its social media accounts, as well as entertainment content suitable for different age groups with various interesting topics ranging from cooking to home workouts and training sessions, given by several experts in multiple fields.

another outbreak," the report said. The Palestinian economy, which has long faced Israeli constraints on the movement of people and goods, grew by only 1 percent in 2019, the World Bank said.

Israel has cited security concerns for such restrictions in territory it captured in the 1967 Middle East war. The bank praised "decisive action" by the Palestinian Authority to try to halt the spread of infection, including a state of emergency declared in March - and recently eased - that closed off several major Palestinian cities. But, the bank said, the COVID-19 outbreak would likely deepen unemployment, especially in the West Bank where a large number of workers had lost their jobs in the tourism industry.

It cited 13.7 percent unemployment in the West Bank in the fourth quarter of 2019 and a figure of 42.7 percent in the Hamas Islamist-run Gaza Strip, whose borders are tightly controlled by Israel and Egypt. West Bank health authorities have reported 388 cases of coronavirus, with two deaths. In Gaza, there have been 61 confirmed cases and 1 death. — Reuters

## Iraq crude sales slump in May, but revenues up

**BAGHDAD:** Iraq sold fewer than 100 million barrels of crude in May, its oil ministry announced Monday, but recovering prices saw it rake in more revenues than the previous month. The OPEC cartel's second-biggest crude producer has been left reeling by the recent worldwide crash in oil prices and a flood of cheap crude from Saudi Arabia.

In May, Iraq sold 99.5 million barrels of crude oil at an average price of \$21, earning \$2.09 billion for the month. In April, it had sold more barrels — 103.1 million—but the record-low average price of \$13.80 per barrel earned it just \$1.4 billion.

Experts had warned that even if prices recovered, buyers had been stocking up on inexpensive oil in recent months and would not need to buy as much crude as summer began. OPEC agreed in April to introduce production cuts in May and June to try to revive prices, and Iraq will have to cut around one million barrels a day for both months.

Low revenues have been catastrophic for Iraq, which relies on oil sales to fund more than 90 percent of its budget. Each month, it needs about \$4.5 billion to pay salaries, pensions, welfare handouts and other government expenses.

The government is the country's biggest employer, with at least four million people on its payroll and another four million who receive pensions or social benefits. As part of its efforts to slash expenses, the cabinet announced this week that it was exploring cuts to the gross incomes of senior-grade public employees. It had already decided to borrow internally to cover salaries for the month of April, senior officials told AFP.

They said the government was considering taking on more internal and external debt, printing currency, drawing down foreign reserves and requesting budget support from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Iraq had already asked the international oil companies which produce its oil to cut down on their expenses, which are reimbursed quarterly by the Iraqi government. — AFP

## Equities extend gains on hopes of easing crisis

**HONG KONG:** The easing of lockdowns around the world and signs that economies are slowly recovering provided further impetus for stock markets yesterday but traders remain on edge over China-US tensions and growing unrest across several large American cities.

Donald Trump's decision not to impose strict sanctions on Beijing over its Hong Kong security law allowed investors to get June off to a healthy start, while a slowdown in virus infections and deaths globally continues to keep the mood positive.

Europe pressed ahead with a further loosening of measures, with schools, pools, pubs and tourist sites reopening—despite fears of a second wave of infections—providing hope that shattered economies can begin to rebuild. Data showing improvements in factory activity in some countries, particularly badly hit Italy, also gave traders hope.

"May's data suggested the worst of the contraction may be behind us, but we see a bumpy restart in coming months," BlackRock Investment Institute strategists said in a report. Tokyo

and Seoul rose more than one percent after data showed South Korea's economy shrank less than first expected in the first quarter, while a Hong Kong rally of 1.1 percent extended Monday's more than three percent rise.

Shanghai added 0.2 percent, Mumbai jumped 0.9 percent and Sydney put on 0.3 percent, with Taipei 0.4 percent higher. Kuala Lumpur, Manila and Wellington piled on more than one percent and Jakarta rallied more than two percent. Singapore rose more than two percent as the city began easing its own shutdown measures.

In early trade, London rose 0.2 percent and Paris climbed 0.8 percent even after the French government said the economy is expected to shrink 11 percent this year—worse than a previous forecast of eight percent.

Frankfurt soared more than two percent. Investors appeared to brush off news that China had ordered its state-run agricultural firms to temporarily halt buying some US farm goods, which raised questions about the impact on the countries' trade pact signed in January. "Digging a little deeper, private companies were not issued the same orders and the exercise... appears to be more a shot across the bows of the US over Hong Kong, and not an imminent threat of withdrawal from the US-China trade agreement," said OANDA's Jeffrey Halley. — AFP



TOKYO: A pedestrian wearing a face mask walks past an electric quotation board displaying the Nikkei 225 Index on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo. — AFP



Business

# US manufacturing activity crawls off an 11-year low

## Construction spending falls 2.9% in April

WASHINGTON: US manufacturing activity eased off an 11-year low in May, the strongest sign yet that the worst of the economic downturn was behind as businesses reopen, though the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis could take years because of high unemployment.

The promising signs of stabilization in manufacturing reported by the Institute for Supply Management on Monday are a welcome respite as the country braces for data on Friday expected to show the worst unemployment rate since World War Two. Rampant joblessness will lead to tepid demand and economic growth. "Today's report on the manufacturing sector represents good news that hints the economy is turning the corner as the states reopened in May," said Chris Rupkey, chief economist at MUFJ in New York. "It will not be a quick recovery for sure, but at least the worst is over."



### New orders, employment measures up

The ISM said its index of national factory activity rose to a reading of 43.1 last month from 41.5 in April, which was the lowest level since April 2009. A reading below 50 indicates contraction in manufacturing, which accounts for 11 percent of the US economy. May marked the third straight monthly contraction.

Still, the first increase in the ISM index since January mirrored improvements in regional manufacturing surveys in May and suggested April was the nadir for economic activity. A survey on Monday from data firm IHS Markit also showed stabilization in manufacturing conditions in May. The ISM also viewed May

as the "transition month," but cautioned that "demand remains uncertain."

The improvement was not uniform. Disruptions to the supply chain and social distancing are limiting transportation equipment manufacturers' ability to restart production. Food, beverage and tobacco industries were overwhelmed, nothing that increased demand "stressed our production capabilities."

The ISM's forward-looking new orders sub-index rose to a reading of 31.8 in May from 27.1 in April, which was the lowest since December 2008. Despite the slight improvement last month, new orders at current levels suggest business investment could continue to shrink. The COVID-19 crisis has undercut corporate profits, which declined in the first quarter at rates last seen during the 2007-09 Great Recession. Business investment has contracted for four straight quarters.

Stocks on Wall Street were higher, though caution reigned amid country-wide protests over race relations and a flare-up in tensions between Washington and Beijing. The dollar fell against a basket of currencies. US Treasury prices slipped.

### Bottom reached

The economy contracted at a 5 percent annualized rate in the first quarter, the worst performance since the 2007-09 recession. Gross domestic product is expected to decline at a rate as sharp as 40 percent in the second quarter, which would be the biggest contraction in output since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The ISM's measure of factory employment advanced to a reading of 32.1 in May after plunging to 27.5 in the prior month, which was the lowest since February 1949. About 21.4 million jobs were lost in March and April. The Labor Department is expected to report on Friday that at least another 8 million were lost in May, with the unemployment rate rocketing to 19.7 percent, according to a Reuters survey of economists. That would be the highest since the government started tracking the series in 1948, and up from 14.7 percent in April.



In this file photo, employees work on Boeing 737 MAX airplanes at the Boeing Renton Factory in Renton, Washington. US manufacturers are seeing the first hints of a tentative recovery but conditions for the industry were nonetheless terrible in May, according to an industry survey.—AFP

"Manufacturers are being squeezed by both a collapse in demand and disrupted supply chains," said James Knightley, chief international economist at ING in New York. "With profitability under immense pressure firms are increasingly looking to cut costs, which will limit the ability of the US economy to rebound quickly."

A separate report from the Commerce Department on Monday showed construction spending dropped 2.9 percent in April, the largest decrease since October 2018, after being unchanged in March.

Economists had forecast construction spending declining 6.5 percent in April. The construction sector has fared better than other segments of the economy as some large projects were likely put in place months before the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, many states regarded the industry as essential business, when restaurants and other social gathering venues were shuttered in mid-March to slow the spread of COVID-19. The industry is also being supported by near record low interest rates. In April, spending on private sector construction projects dropped 3.0 percent. Outlays on homebuilding tumbled 4.5 percent. Spending on nonresidential structures, which include manufacturing plant and mining exploration, shafts and wells, decreased 1.3 percent. Investment in public construction projects fell 2.5 percent in April.

"Construction spending can be a somewhat lagging indicator, as outlays each month in part reflect projects started in prior months," said Nancy Vanden Houten, a senior US economist at Oxford Economics in New York. — Reuters

Regional Market Trends – May 2020			
Equity	Last close	May %	2020 %
S&P GCC	95.9	1.3%	-17.4%
Saudi Arabia (TASI)	7,213.0	1.4%	-14.0%
Qatar (QE Index)	8,844.7	0.9%	-15.2%
Abu Dhabi (ADI)	4,141.6	-2.1%	-18.4%
Kuwait (All Share PR Index)	4,995.6	0.4%	-20.5%
Dubai (DFMGI)	1,945.1	-4.0%	-29.6%
Bahrain (BAX)	1,269.6	-3.1%	-21.2%
Oman (Muscat SM)	3,544.6	0.1%	-11.0%
Commodities			
IPE Brent(\$)	37.8	49.7	-42.7
Gold(\$)	1,726	2.8	13.8

## Oil price up 50% as restrictions ease: Markaz

KUWAIT: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" recently released its Monthly Markets Review report for the month of May 2020. Markaz report stated that, GCC markets moved up during May, gaining 1.3 percent the month after a sharp rebound in April. Oil markets continued their recovery, clawing back some of their losses for the year.

Kuwait markets were positive, with the Kuwait All Share index registering gains of 0.4 percent in May. Economic activity continued to take a hit as Kuwait's government imposed a 20-day total curfew from May 10th to May 30th in an attempt to curb the spread of COVID-19. However, the restrictions were eased at the end of the month, making Kuwait the third GCC country after the UAE and Saudi Arabia to ease restrictions. The government and the Central Bank continued to enact measures to support the economy as domestic banks allocated KD 2 billion to the soft loan portfolio, which is expected to be granted to SMEs, companies and clients affected by the virus outbreak. Meanwhile, Central Bank of Kuwait has asked Kuwait Finance House to reassess its acquisition of Ahli United Bank (AUB), causing AUB's shares listed in Boursa Kuwait to fall by 9.2 percent for the month. Among sectors, Basic materials was the top gainer among Kuwaiti equities, gaining 5.5 percent, while Oil and gas sector was the top loser, falling by 4.9 percent.

### Regional bourses rise

Regionally, the S&P GCC composite index rose by 1.3 percent, with Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and Oman registering gains. Saudi Arabia's Tadawul index increased by 1.4 percent for the month followed by Qatar whose index gained 0.9 percent. Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Bahrain lost 2.1 percent, 4.0 percent, and 3.1 percent respectively. Global rating agency Fitch said that GCC countries are expected to post fiscal deficits of 15 percent-25 percent of GDP in 2020, with

only Qatar's deficit staying in the single digits at 8 percent of GDP. Saudi Arabia took steps to ease the impact of low oil prices on its budget by announcing that it would be suspending cost of living allowance from June 1, and increase value added tax (VAT) to 15 percent (from 5 percent) from July 1. However, the UAE authorities said that it does not have plans to raise its VAT rate beyond 5 percent. Oman announced an additional cut on its budget by 5 percent during its latest announcement in May, adding to its earlier announced cut of 10 percent.

Markaz report also stated that among the GCC Blue Chip companies, SABIC was the top gainer for the month, increasing by 14.6 percent. Meanwhile, First Abu Dhabi Bank lost 4.0 percent for the month. The bank had earlier announced that it has put discussions to acquire the Egyptian assets of Lebanon's Bank Audi on hold due to tough market conditions.

The performance of Global equity markets was positive for the second consecutive month, with the MSCI World Index gaining 4.6 percent in May. US equities (S&P 500) gained by 4.5 percent for the month despite its GDP shrinking 4.8 percent in Q1 2020 on a year-on-year basis. The US markets are now down by just 5.8 percent on a year-to-date basis, which is a much lesser decline than most global markets despite the country's unemployment rate touching its highest since the Great Depression. The UK (FTSE 100 index) markets also stayed positive, gaining 3.0 percent for the month. The European Union revealed details of its Economic Stimulus Plan through which it would issue EUR 750 billion worth bonds. EUR 500 billion would be distributed to member countries as grants while EUR 250 billion will be available for loans. The plan is pending for approval by parliaments of member nations. Emerging markets were flat for the month, with the MSCI EM increasing mildly by 0.6 percent. Oil prices closed at \$37.8 per barrel at the end of May 2020, which translates to a monthly gain of 49.7 percent. The volatile commodity surged during the month as several countries eased their lockdown measures. Saudi Arabia also announced that it would reduce its crude oil production further by 1 million barrels per day from June 2020.

## French economy could contract 11% in 2020

PARIS: The French economy is set to contract 11 percent this year due to the coronavirus crisis and more hard days lie ahead until things bounce back next year, Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said yesterday.

France imposed one of the Europe's strictest lockdowns in mid-March and only began removing restrictions on May 11. Cafes, bars and restaurants were only allowed to reopen for regular business yesterday.

"We were hard hit by the virus, we took effective measures to protect French people's health but the economy practically ground to a halt for three months," Le Maire told RTL radio. "We're going to pay for it with growth,"



MUNICH: In this file photo, planes of the German airline Lufthansa are parked at the "Franz-Josef-Strauss" airport in Munich, southern Germany. Coronavirus-hit Lufthansa inched closer to securing a nine-billion-euro bailout from the German government.—AFP

## Ailing Lufthansa inches closer to state bailout

FRANKFURT: Coronavirus-hit Lufthansa inched closer to securing a nine-billion-euro bailout from the German government after the airline's supervisory board approved the rescue plan on Monday.

The group will now ask shareholders to back the \$10-billion deal in an online meeting on June 25, the company said in a statement. Like its rivals, the Lufthansa group—which also includes Swiss, Brussels and Austrian Airlines—has been battered by the coronavirus pandemic that has brought global air travel to a near standstill.

Lufthansa's management board gave the proposed rescue deal its blessing on Friday, despite controversy over conditions imposed by the European Commission that will force the German group to give up prized takeoff and landing slots. "After intensive discussion, we have come to the conclusion to agree to the executive board's proposal. We recommend that our shareholders follow this path," said supervisory board chairman Karl-Ludwig Kley. "It must be clearly stated, however, that Lufthansa is facing a very difficult road ahead."

In Germany, a company's supervisory

board oversees the work of the management board which runs the business day to day. The bailout will see the German government take a 20-percent stake in the group, with an option to claim a further five percent plus one share to block hostile takeovers.

That would make the federal government Lufthansa's biggest shareholder. On top of a total 5.7 billion euros in extra capital and 300 million euros to buy the shares at face value, public investment bank KfW will lend Lufthansa another three billion euros. The company would agree to pay back much of the capital plus interest, while granting the state two seats on its supervisory board. As well as requiring the green light from shareholders, the deal still needs to be signed off by European competition authorities too.

"Stabilizing our Lufthansa is not an end in itself. Together with the German government, it must be our goal to defend our leading position in global aviation," Lufthansa CEO Carsten Spohr said in the statement. With the airline industry bracing for a slow recovery, Spohr has warned the group likely has 100 too many planes and, in turn, 10,000 superfluous positions out of almost 140,000 jobs worldwide.

Lufthansa management will hold talks with union representatives on how "the impact of this development can be softened in the most socially acceptable way possible". Spohr said. Lufthansa is not the only airline turning to state aid to survive.—AFP



FLINS, France: Employees, wearing protective face masks, work on the automobile assembly line of Renault ZOE cars at the Renault automobile factory in Flins.—Reuters

## Carmakers in France see recovery signs

PARIS: New car sales in France plunged over 50 percent in May due to the coronavirus lockdown, industry figures showed Monday, but automakers noted the first signs of a recovery in the industry.

Figures from Spain, another major market, painted a similar picture, of an industry inching back slowly after devastating losses in March and April. In France, all non-essential businesses, including auto dealers, were closed from March 17 to May 11, in a bid to slow the spread of COVID-19.

The measure pushed down auto sales 72 percent in March and almost 90 percent in April, reflecting a worldwide trend. Renault announced on Friday it would cut nearly 15,000 jobs, including 4,600 at its core French operations, to try to steer out of a cash crunch exacerbated by the crisis.

But despite the 50.3 percent fall in May, the first signs of a recovery have emerged, the French Auto Manufacturers' Association (CCFA) said. "We saw a clear recovery at the end of the month, that is to say that the entire distribution and delivery system as well as the orders were unblocked," said CCFA spokesman Francois Roudier.

"The figure at the start of the month was very low, very close to the previous month, but progressively with the reopening of auto dealers, the deliveries, the distribution and also the orders have recovered," he told AFP. But the outlook remains "very unclear for the first time in years," he said.

For the whole of 2020, the industry sees a drop of between 20 and 30 percent, but these figures "are to be taken cautiously as we still lack a lot of information," particularly concerning the recovery, Roudier said. New car sales in Spain plunged 73 percent in May compared with a year earlier but picked up from April as the country tried to get back to a semblance of normality.

For May, some 34,337 vehicles were sold in the country, up from just 4,163 in April as the government imposed one of the tightest lockdowns in Europe, industry group ANFAC said. Restrictions are being lifted in phases, with all expected to be gone by end-June.

"The figures reflect the re-opening of dealerships," ANFAC said in a statement, also noting that they still represented the second worst performance on record after that of April.

In May 2019, some 125,600 cars were sold in Spain. At the same time, the May 2020 figures do not necessarily mark a turnaround because some of them were orders previously made and only now being delivered, the dealerships group GANVAM said, warning of a likely worse fall again in June. After the April figures came out, ANFAC said it expected auto sales to be down 40-45 percent over the full year. — AFP



# Virus buffets largest Arctic expedition

**BERLIN:** The multinational team on the biggest Arctic research mission ever undertaken was prepared for problems from polar bear attacks to major snowstorms or even issues with building a runway on ice.

But never did they imagine that a pandemic might sweep across the world, posing a threat to their mission. "We have many many different scenarios, alternative plans in store," Markus Rex, who leads the MOSAIC mission, told AFP by phone on his way to Spitsbergen, the main island on the archipelago of Svalbard.

"But to have a global pandemic of this scale, that was something we did not expect... We had to develop new plans very quickly." With borders slamming shut as governments sought to limit transmission of the coronavirus, the team out on the mission was all but cut off.

A team had been due to be flown in April to relieve the scientists on the ice, but the plan had to be rethought. After two months of delay, a new crew is finally en route to Spitsbergen on two vessels, which will then meet up with the icebreaker Polarstern to allow the newcomers to disembark and the current team to come onboard.

Among the group heading out to the field is mission chief Rex himself, a climatologist and physicist.

## Keeping the virus out

The 390-day expedition began in September, with the icebreaker belonging to Germany's Alfred Wegener polar and marine institute departing to great fanfare from Norway. The mission aims to study the atmosphere, ocean, sea ice, ecosystem and natural processes—looking to

build a picture of how climate change is affecting the region and the entire world. Some 600 experts are involved in the biggest research project on the Arctic. At the end of February, the icebreaker's drift took it to just 156 kilometers from the North Pole—never before had a ship ventured so far north during the Arctic winter.

Experts from about a dozen countries were meant to fly to the Polarstern from Svalbard in April. But the closure of borders had grounded available planes. After several hurdles, the team decided to bring the scientists as well as supplies by research ships to Spitsbergen.

The Polarstern will interrupt its research for several weeks to pick up the new crew. But figuring out the logistics of the complicated personnel transfer was one thing, "our second difficulty: ensure that the virus does not get into the expedition," said Rex.

So crew members were put on a strict 14-day quarantine in Bremerhaven before they set off on the two research vessels. Two hotels were exclusively booked out for that purpose.

"The doors were not open, there was no contact to anyone else during the quarantine and so we were sure that the virus would not be introduced into the group during the quarantine too. Food was placed before the door," said Rex.

To entertain themselves, the confined scientists sang the Beatles' "Yellow Submarine" from their windows, according to the Sueddeutsche Zeitung. "Everyone was tested three times," said Rex, relieved that the mission on which he has spent 11 years of his life can continue. On board the Polarstern, which has



The multinational team on the biggest Arctic research mission boarding the "RV Maria S Merian" ship in Bremerhaven, northwestern Germany. — AFP

already endured 150 days of polar nights and temperatures as low as -39.5 degrees Celsius, scientists have seen the pandemic roll out from a distance. "Many of them have families and tried to stay in as close contact as possible with them by satellite telephone," said Torsten Kanzow, who is currently on the ice-breaker.

Thankfully, the team had no problems

with their food supplies—which are sufficient to last a few months. If all goes well with the personnel transfer, Rex noted that at the end, there should not be too much impact on their research, beyond a short interruption on collection of some measurements while the Polarstern is on the way to meet up with the two research ships.

"There are automatic measuring devices at the research camp that are sending new data to us daily, that we're eagerly looking at every day."

"In an expedition that lasts 13 months, it's still fine to bear with an interruption of some measurements," said Rex. The expedition will draw to an end on October 12. —AFP

# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times  
248 33 199

## OPHTHALMOLOGY

These services include, but are not limited to, the below:

- Filler injections
- Phacoemulsification (non-suture cataract surgery)
- LASIK and laser vision corrective surgeries
- Retinal eye examination
- Retina treatment
- Diagnosing and treating diabetic eye problems (such as diabetic retinopathy)
- Eyelid lift
- Eyelid fat removal
- Eyelid fat transfer
- Blepharoplasty
- Eyebrow lift
- Botox injections
- Lens transplant



مستشفى طبية  
TAIBA HOSPITAL

1808088 taibahospital.com  
f t i taibahospital

## OPHTHALMOLOGY



Dr. Hatem Al-Kandari  
Consultant Ophthalmologist

مستشفى طبية  
TAIBA HOSPITAL

1808088 taibahospital.com  
f t i taibahospital

To advertise on this Page



Call: 24833199 ext:101,102

To advertise on this Page

Call: 24833199 ext:101,102 or Direct line: 24835616 / 24835617  
or email: ads@kuwaittimes.com

**Dr. Rany Essam Mitwally**  
Senior Registrar

**Dr. Ahmed Hosni Abd Elhamid**  
Consultant

**Dr. Abeer Khattab**  
Specialist

**Opthalmology Services**

Cataract Surgery   Glaucoma   Retina   General Opthalmology   Follow-Up All Treatments

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA @hadclinicw

Tel: 1828282  
Whatsapp: Us  
+965-6000 2184

**WELCOME**

**Dr. Tammam Abou Ali**  
Consultant ENT, Head & Neck, Facial Plastic Surgeon.

Fellowship of the royal college of surgeons in UK and Ireland.  
10 years work experience in Zain Hospital MOH Kuwait.  
Ex Head of ENT department in Farwanya Hospital MOH Kuwait.  
10 years work experience in UK and Ireland.

Endoscopic Sinus Surgery

Septoplasty and turbinate reduction surgery by laser or RF

Snoring and OSAP Surgery

Rhinoplasty with open and closed techniques

Microscopic Middle Ear Surgery and Tympanoplasty

Salivary gland and parotid surgery

Thyroid and parathyroid surgery

Micro laryngeal surgery

1 888 883  
www.qmc-kuwait.com

qmc Kuwait

**Our Doctors Provide care For the entire Family**

Book your appointments today!

**Dr. Kiran Turaka**  
Ophthalmologist

**Dr. Zareena Zahir**  
Ophthalmologist

**Dr. Hasan Khan**  
Senior Cardiologist

**Dr. P. Seshendra Nath**  
Orthopedic Consultant (AUSTRALIA)  
Specialised in Neck, Shoulder Hip and Knee

50721507  
24551555  
www.exircenterkw.com

**EXIR MEDICAL SUBSPECIALITIES CENTER**  
Block No.4 Jahra - Kuwait

Tel: 24568857 / 24588859 info@exircenterkw.com www.exircenterkw.com



# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times  
248 33 199

**DR. MOHAMMAD AL HAJRY**  
Canadian Board of Otolaryngology  
Head & Neck Surgery and Facial Plastics.  
Fellow of Royal College of Surgeons-Canada  
A rare Subspecialty in Microscopic Ear Surgery, Cochlear implant & Ear diseases

- ◆ Diagnosis/Treatment of General Ears, Nose, and Throat conditions in adults & pediatrics
- ◆ Minimally Invasive Endoscopic sinus surgery including Balloon sinuplasty
- ◆ Minimally Invasive Microscopic & Endoscopic Ear surgery
- ◆ Diagnosis & treatment of Otolaryngology and Audiology (Hearing loss, Tinnitus & balance disorders)
- ◆ Facial Plastic and reconstructive surgeries (Rhinoplasty, Otoplasty, Fillers & Botox injections)
- ◆ Diagnosis & treatment of snoring & obstructive sleep apnea in clinic without surgery
- ◆ Diagnosis & Treatment of voice and swallowing disorders.
- ◆ Diagnosis & Treatment of Head and Neck benign & malignant tumors.

**Salmiya, Belajat Street, Tel: 1881122**

@Malhajry

**DR. FAHAD S BUHAIMED**  
Consultant Cosmetic Dermatologist & Hair Transplant, NY

**ACADAMIC CERTIFICATES:**

- o Dermatology board certified.
- o Fellowship training program in cosmetic dermatology and hair transplant, New York, USA.
- o Member of American cosmetic dermatology society.
- o Referee reviewer of International journal of Dermatology.

**SPECIALIZED IN:**

- o Dermatology & Cosmetic Treatments.
- o Laser Treatments.
- o Hair Transplant & Restoration.
- o Body & Face Contouring.
- o Injectable Fillers & Botox.

SHARQ, Ahmad Alalaber st., Building B8, Floor 13.  
Tel.: (+965) 22060777  
@DrFahadmed, @Renovabbb, @dardanabbb  
Email: drfahadmed@beautybeyond.com.kw  
www.beautybeyond.com.kw

BEAUTY & BEYOND

**To advertise on this Page**

**Call: 24833199 ext:101,102**  
**or Direct line: 24835616 / 24835617**  
**or email: ads@kuwaittimes.com**

**Dr. Ahmad Alaeddine**  
Head of Cardiology departmenta  
at Dar Al Shifa hospital

- Consultant Interventional and conventional cardiologist.
- Specialised in the Diagnosis and treatment of all adult cardiac diseases, including those cases that need urgent intervention in Cath lab (primary angioplasty).

**مستشفى دار الشفاء**  
Dar Al Shifa Hospital  
Tele:1802 555

daralshifa

**DR KHALED ALMERRI**  
Consultant Interventional Cardiology  
Department: Heart & Vascular Center

**Specialized in:**

- 1-Diagnostic and therapeutic cardiac catheterization (Angiography and Angioplasty). Aortic valve implantation.
- 2- Diagnosis and treatment of coronary artery diseases
- 3- Diagnosis and treatment of heart failure, cardiomyopathies and valvular diseases.
- 4-Diagnosis and treatment of high blood pressure and high cholesterol.
- 5- Diagnosis and treatment of syncope, palpitations and cardiac arrhythmias.
- 6- Non-invasive diagnostic procedures echocardiography, exercise stress test, and 24 hour blood pressure and Holter monitoring

**alsalam.int.hospital**

**Dr. Hamoud Abdullah Alarouj**  
ENT Consultant, Laryngologist

- ◆ Kuwait Board of Otolaryngology.
- ◆ Laryngology Fellowship, McGill University- Canada.
- ◆ Fellow of the European Board of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck surgery.
- ◆ Member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery.
- ◆ Member of the British Laryngological Association.
- ◆ Member of the European Laryngological Society.
- ◆ Member of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery.

**Experienced In:**

- Management of benign and malignant vocal cord lesions.
- Vocal cord augmentation.
- Diagnosis and treatment of spasmodic dysphonia.
- Adenotonsillectomy using latest techniques.
- Myringotomy and ventilation tube insertion.
- Surgery for the deviated nasal septum.
- Endoscopic sinus surgery.
- Diagnosis and treatment of allergic rhinitis.
- Tympanoplasty.
- Diagnosis and treatment of vertigo.
- Thyroid surgery
- Diagnosis and treatment of snoring.

**2536 0000**  
www.royalehayat.com

**مستشفى زوال الحياه**  
ROYALE HAYAT HOSPITAL

**IC**  
INTERNATIONAL CLINIC  
INTERNATIONAL CLINIC  
INTERNATIONAL CLINIC

**American Board Certified in General Surgery**  
**Member of the Society of American Gastrointestinal & Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)**  
**Higher specialization in Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary surgery & Organ Transplantation**  
**Member of many prestigious surgical societies.**

- ◆ Day case surgeries
- ◆ Diagnosis, treatment and follow up of all surgical emergencies
- ◆ Surgery for morbid obesity (sleeve, gastric bypass)
- ◆ Hernia repair
- ◆ Surgery for reflux disease
- ◆ Minor surgeries (lipoma, sebaceous cyst, ingrowing nail)
- ◆ Hemorrhoids, fistula & anal fissure surgeries
- ◆ Breast surgeries
- ◆ Thyroid & adrenal surgeries
- ◆ Cholecystectomy & laparoscopic appendectomy
- ◆ Liver, pancreas & bile ducts surgeries

**Dr. Hani Haider**  
General Surgery Consultant

http://www.international-clinic.com **Tel: 1886677**

ic\_kwt

**Scope of Clinical Practice:**

- ◆ General & Laparoscopic Surgery
- ◆ Single Port Surgery
- ◆ Treatment of Colo-Rectal Diseases, including Colorectal Cancer
- ◆ Surgical Treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Abscess
- ◆ Treatment of Perianal Fistula & Complex Perianal Fistula (complications)
- ◆ VAAFT Procedure (Treatment of Fistula through Fatuscope)
- ◆ Colonoscopy & Gastroscopy
- ◆ Stomach Balloon insertion & removal
- ◆ Bariatric Surgery – Lap Sleeve Gastrectomy
- ◆ Gallstones & Abdominal Hernias Surgery
- ◆ Colonic Hydrotherapy & Fecal Incontinence Treatment
- ◆ Laparoscopic mini bypass
- ◆ Transanal minimally invasive surgery

**Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:**

- ◆ American Board of General Surgery
- ◆ Fellow of American College of Surgery
- ◆ Canadian Board of General Surgery
- ◆ Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada
- ◆ American Board of Colo – Rectal Surgery
- ◆ American Board of Surgical Critical Care

**Dr. Abdullah Al Haddad**  
Surgery Department  
Consultant General Surgery, Laparoscopic & Colo – Rectal Surgeon

**مستشفى دار الشفاء**  
Dar Al Shifa Hospital  
Tele:1802 555

daralshifa  
Email: aalhaddad@daralshifa.com

**DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM**  
Consultant Pediatrician

Consultant Pediatrician-Canadian & American  
Board in Pediatrics-Canadian  
Board in Pediatric Emergency

**Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368**

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St.1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B

**DR. WALEED S BUHAIMED**  
Consultant of General Surgery  
Laparoscopic and Bariatric Surgery

**Academic Certificates – Training**

- ◆ Kuwait Board of General Surgery.
- ◆ (IFSO) member .
- ◆ Faculty member of (BEST).
- ◆ Member of Kuwait Surgical Association.

**Scope of clinical Practice.**

- ◆ Bariatric surgeries.
- ◆ Gallbladder stones surgeries.
- ◆ Abdominal wall and hernia surgeries.
- ◆ G.I. surgeries.
- ◆ Thyroid and para - thyroid surgeries.
- ◆ Anal surgeries.

email: wbuhaimed@gmail.com **Tel.: 965 22269411/ Mob.: 965 99212228**

Jabriya, 4th Ring Road, Block 1A Floor 9 - Clover Center Mazaya Building



## Lifestyle | Gossip



## Eminem issues rallying call to Detroit citizens

**E**minem has issued a rallying cry to the people of Detroit amid the coronavirus pandemic. The 47-year-old rap star has called on the city's population to remain strong and united in the midst of the health crisis, describing Detroit as a "state of mind". The chart-topping rapper - who lives in the city - said during the 'Everybody vs. COVID-19' live stream: "Detroit isn't just a city: it's also a feeling, a hustle, a state of mind. But mostly, Detroit is a city where we fight for what we believe in, and we don't take s\*\*t just lying down.

"COVID-19 is no different. So we've got some work to do in order to stay safe. One way is that we have to be counted - and the census is your way to do just that. So this month, we've got to bring the city together, man." Meanwhile, Eminem recently donated pots of "Mom's Spaghetti" to healthcare workers at the Henry Ford Health System Hospital in Detroit. The music star's generosity was revealed via a post on the medical facility's Instagram account. The post read: "Our #HealthcareHeroes 'lost themselves' in the delicious Mom's Spaghetti donated by Detroit's very

own, @eminem. "Thank you for providing a special meal for our team members! (sic)" The spaghetti pots featured Shady logos at the bottom and were labelled with the words "Thank you Frontline Caregivers". The name 'Mom's Spaghetti' comes from the lyrics to Eminem's 2002 track 'Lose Yourself'. On the hit record, Eminem - who is among the best-selling music artists of all time - raps: "His palms are sweaty, knees weak, arms are heavy / there's vomit on his sweater already - mom's spaghetti."

## Queen Elizabeth's former chef compares Buckingham Palace to Downton Abbey

**Q**ueen Elizabeth's former chef has compared Buckingham Palace to 'Downton Abbey'. Darren McGrady worked at the British monarch's London residence between 1982 and 1993 and admits that the living arrangements resembled that of Julian Fellowes' period drama, as male and female staff were segregated. Speaking to Insider, the 58-year-old chef said: "I had a room at the palace. When I lived there, it was roomed very much like a show called 'Downton Abbey'. "We had the male kitchen wing, the female kitchen wing, the footmen's floor, the housemaids' floor, and you weren't allowed on the different floors." Darren explained that staff would find themselves in "serious trouble" if they were caught breaking the rules. He explained: "If you were a chef or a footman and you were trying to sneak up to the housemaids'

floor and you got caught, you were in serious trouble. Everyone was segregated, it was the done thing. "We were part of the Victorian era. You couldn't even begin to imagine single males and single females being on the same floor together." McGrady also compared living at Buckingham Palace was like a "hotel" as they are provided with meals and have their rooms cleaned. He said: "Being a servant there, we had our own room but you never even made your own bed in the morning. Each floor had its own cleaning lady that would come in and make the beds, change the towels, give you soap. "It was like a hotel, an institution. You can see why people stayed there for 30 years or more, because you were given everything you needed. What you were paid was just pocket money."



## 'We felt love win': Bindi Irwin describes wedding day

**B**indi Irwin says her family and friends "encouraged" her to get married despite being unable to attend due to the coronavirus pandemic. The 21-year-old conservationist and her husband Chandler Powell had to change their "entire wedding" earlier this year when the global health crisis meant they were unable to invite any guests, and Bindi has now said she received plenty of "love and support" from those who were supposed to attend. Posting a picture on Instagram which was taken on her wedding day in April, she wrote: "This moment. My favourite wedding day photograph. This isn't the fairytale image capturing the 'perfect' wedding day feeling. In fact, it's quite the opposite. This picture was taken after we had to change our entire wedding. We decided not to have wedding guests due to the global crisis for everyone's health and safety. Our family and friends couldn't be there to celebrate with us. However, they all encouraged us to continue on and get married. From their love and support, we felt love win. (sic)" And Bindi also claimed that even her scaled back wedding didn't go to plan, as paparazzi flew over her home in Australia Zoo, and she was forced to move to a different part of the zoo to continue the ceremony. She added: "On our wedding day we were finally about to get married and the paparazzi flew over us in a helicopter scaring our wildlife. We had to leave our stunning wedding venue on the African Savannah for their safety. I said goodbye to the place I had dreamed of getting married for so many years. "At that moment I remembered the filming barn where I'd spent much of my life with my family working on 'Crocodile Hunter' and 'Bindi The Jungle Girl'. I knew we could make it work and our zoo crew helped us to move everything inside. I watched love win. (sic)" When things became too overwhelming, Bindi credits her husband Chandler with reminding her "love always wins". Concluding her lengthy caption, she wrote: "At one point I sat on a chair in the corner doing my best not to think about how overwhelming things seemed. I missed the people who couldn't be there, my dad, Chandler's family, our dear friends, my family. "Chandler stopped what he was doing and sat next to me. I asked him to list me happy things. He proceeded to remind me that love ALWAYS wins. That's when this picture was taken. "Despite everything, we got married and I'll forever be grateful. Sure, things weren't perfect but that's life. Life is messy and beautiful and meant to be felt. We were overcoming great obstacles to prove that unconditional love is the most important foundation. Our wedding day wasn't what we planned but it was an extraordinary starting point for our marriage to bloom. (sic)"



## Naomi Campbell follows a 'clean vegetarian' diet

**T**he 50-year-old supermodel describes herself as an ital, according to her personal chef Sean John, which is a Jamaican word for a healthy diet that sees her cut out products including dairy, chicken, and gluten. John said: "I have cooked for her for over 10 years. She has her own stuff at home, but I prepare one really good meal a day, and it's super clean and really healthy .??. She's an ital, which is a Jamaican word for clean vegetarian style, like Bob Marley rasta talk. And when she travels private, I prepare those meals, too. She doesn't



eat plane food." The Jamaican chef has been preparing meals for Naomi throughout the coronavirus pandemic to keep up her clean diet, and says the model is keen on adding spices to food. Speaking to Page Six, he added: "She has to have flavour. You can't just put salt and pepper in it. I don't do that anyway, but she knows! There's got to be some spice and herbs. She's all about making it soulful and flavourful." Meanwhile, Naomi recently celebrated her 50th birthday, and said she is "embracing" the age milestone. She said: "I embrace turning 50. I feel blessed and grateful to be here, living and breathing." Naomi couldn't celebrate with her friends and family because of the coronavirus pandemic, but she has been reflecting on this time of uncertainty and hopes the global health crisis will make everyone more "compassionate and kind". She explained: "None of us are perfect. You're trying to better yourself each day and what's important in times like this is knowing who is there for you. "I hope that what we're going through brings us back to compassion and kindness. "We will come out of this stronger than ever. I feel optimistic about that."

## Hailey Bieber

### says conversation surrounding racism is 'healthy'

**H**ailey Bieber says it's "healthy" to discuss important topics such as racism. The 23-year-old model believes people are often "nervous" about saying the "wrong thing" when it comes to speaking out about serious topics, but thinks conversation is "so healthy" so that others can "respectfully" correct those who do say the wrong thing. She said: "People get nervous to say the wrong thing, and I think this conversation is so healthy because it's not about saying the wrong thing. Even if we do say the wrong thing, getting corrected in love and respect and saying, 'I'm telling you this because we respect each other and I want you to understand.' " And her husband Justin Bieber agreed, saying he too has been scared to speak up in the past, but now feels "shame" about staying silent. He added: "I've been feeling shame in the sense of like, Why did it take these men being killed for me to almost take a blanket over my eyes. Why now? I do feel bad when it comes to that." The couple spoke as



they chatted to political advocate and commentator Angela Rye during an Instagram livestream, where they discussed the recent death of George Floyd - who died after a police officer knelt on his neck for almost nine minutes - and the protests that have ensued as a result. Posting the chat on Instagram Hailey wrote in the caption: "This week we had the pleasure of meeting and speaking with @AngelaRye. As a white woman, I know I am privileged, and I didn't always understand what that really meant. I will never understand what it's like to be racially profiled and targeted and wake up everyday uncertain if I could lose my life because of the color of my skin. "Through this conversation with Angela I really just wanted to learn, to ask questions even if I thought they were the wrong question. I want to know better so I can do better and I will not stop asking these questions and having these conversations. I want to keep learning how to be an ally, and I refuse to keep walking through life being ignorant. #BlackLivesMatter (sic)"

## Heigl struggles to 'explain the unexplainable' to her black daughter after Floyd's death

**K**atherine Heigl thinks talking to her daughter about racism will "break a piece of her beautiful divine spirit". The 41-year-old actress adopted her eight-year-old daughter Adalaide at birth in 2012, and has said she is struggling to find the words to properly inform her of the protests currently taking place across America following the untimely death of George Floyd. George died last week after a police officer - who has since been arrested on charges of third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter, and sacked from the force - knelt on his neck for almost nine minutes, and Katherine says she doesn't know how to explain that to her young daughter. Writing on Instagram, the 'Ugly Truth' star said: "I can't sleep. And when I do I wake with a single thought in my head. How will I tell Adalaide? How will I explain the unexplainable? How can I protect her? How can I break a piece of her beautiful divine spirit to do so? "I can't sleep. I lay in my bed in the dark and weep for every mother of a beautiful divine black child who has to extinguish a piece of their beloved baby's spirit to try to keep them alive in a country that has too many sleeping soundly. Eyes squeezed shut. Images and cries and pleas and pain banished from their minds. White bubbles strong and intact. But I lay awake. Finally. Painfully. (sic)" Katherine - who also has adopted daughter Naleigh, 11, and biological son Joshua, three, with her husband Josh Kelley - went on to say she feels "hopeless", but knows she must speak out for the sake of her brood. She added: "My white bubble though always with me

now begins to bleed. Because I have a black daughter. Because I have a Korean daughter. Because I have a Korean sister and nephews and niece. It has taken me far too long to truly internalize the reality of the abhorrent, evil despicable truth of racism. "And now I weep. Because what should have changed by now, by then, forever ago still is. Hopelessness is seeping in. Fear that there is nothing I can do, like a slow moving poison, is spreading through me. Then I look at my daughters. My sister. My nephews and niece. George Floyd. Ahmaud Arbery. Breonna Taylor. The hundreds, thousands millions more we haven't even heard about. I look and the fear turns to something else. The sorrow warms and then bursts into flames of rage. (sic)"—BangShowbiz







This photo shows Moe Myint May Thu (right) and her mother Honey Cho cooking while filming a video at their house in Yangon.—AFP photos



Moe Myint May Thu (left) and her mother Honey Cho filming a cooking video at their house in Yangon.



Moe Myint May Thu (left) and her mother Honey Cho filming a cooking video at their house in Yangon.



Moe Myint May Thu (right) and her mother Honey Cho taking a break while filming a cooking video at their house in Yangon.



Young chef Moe Myint May Thu filming a cooking video at home in Yangon.

## ‘Little Chef’ charms Myanmar with lockdown cooking classes

From boiled catfish soup to spicy fried frog, an eight-year-old in pyjamas and a chef’s hat is delighting Myanmar with her culinary prowess in a nation still being told to stay at home due to the coronavirus pandemic. Moe Myint May Thu’s mother posted a video online at the end of April showing off her daughter’s skills as the youngster threw together some spicy fried prawns. With her wide gap-toothed grin, the video has bounced across social media and brought stardom to the child along with an online moniker: “Little Chef”.

She now sells dishes to order — and is counting the dividends. “I just love cooking,” she tells AFP, during a break from the kitchen in her family’s Yangon flat. “It’s made us happy cooking together in the lockdown,” she says, adding she wants to translate her childhood passion into a career when she grows up. In her most popular video, which has nearly 200,000 views, the young star wears a unicorn-themed T-shirt as she gives instructions on how to make Myanmar break-

fast favourite Mohingya, concocted with boiled catfish. Moe Myint May Thu has mastered 15 dishes, including tomato fish paste curry, pork stew and spicy fried frog.

Each meal sells for a flat-rate of 10,000 kyat (\$7.20) and is delivered by the family at the end of each day, the whole operation under the guidance of the experienced hands of her social influencer mum, Honey Cho. The business venture is clearly paying off. One posted video shows the youngster feeding a pile of 10,000 kyat notes into her musical moneybox, cash she hopes to put towards a puppy. “It makes me very happy to see so many people from Myanmar and other countries sharing her videos,” says her mum, adding that her daughter’s self-confidence has increased.

The celebrity chef’s clips were initially posted on her mum’s social media pages, but have now gone live on her own Facebook account, gaining 8,000 likes in just four days. “She is so adorable that I keep losing attention and have to watch her videos again,” fan Pohnt Pohnt comments. Moe Myint



May Thu plans to keep cooking until school starts in August, two months later than planned due to the coronavirus pandemic. Commercial capital Yangon is returning to normal despite authorities still urging people to stay at home. Myanmar has recorded 228 cases of the virus with six deaths.—AFP

Moe Myint May Thu (left) and her mother Honey Cho filming a cooking video at their house in Yangon.

## Opera returns to Vienna with hotel ‘window concert’

Deserted by tourists, a hotel in Vienna gave itself a temporary one-night-only makeover, turning itself into an outdoor concert hall. The guest bedrooms, which have stood empty during the coronavirus lockdown, were transformed into opera boxes for an evening, and the hotel courtyard into a stage to create a rare moment of joy in the city of music on Saturday. Two opera singers and a string ensemble were invited to play at the Hotel Zeitgeist. As they performed in the courtyard, the spectators looked on from the windows of 40 or so rooms which they had rented for the evening.

And they approved, showering applause on to the head of the tuxedoed conductor and his elegant soprano Monika Medek. Paid bookings for the ‘win-

dow concert’ were sold out in three days, hotel director Andreas Purtscher told AFP. Purtscher said the concert was intended to give the artists the opportunity to perform again and ‘to help people get out, to find a sense of normality in their contact with others’. He hoped it would ‘remove some of the fear associated with the period of restrictions’.

### More concerts planned

Since mid-April, Austria has lifted many of the restrictions taken to combat the spread of the new coronavirus but cultural life is still at a standstill because of the ban on gatherings of more than 100 people. For artists, ‘work opportunities disappeared overnight,’ Purtscher said. He plans to hold at least

three more window concerts before August.

Most of the artists programmed at the classical music halls that make the Austrian capital world-famous are freelancers, now deprived of income with the cancellation of their engagements. Vienna hotels, deserted by tourists and business travellers, are expecting an occupancy rate of less than 10 percent for June, according to the city’s chamber of commerce, Purtscher said he is expecting the difficult period to last ‘for at least a year’ before the sector returns to normal activity.—AFP



This file photo shows a view of the Metropolitan Opera’s box office at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City. —AFP



## Musicians provide ‘medicine for the soul’ across Lithuania

Hundreds of bands took their music to the streets of Lithuania on Monday to lift people’s spirits as the Baltic EU member allowed public gatherings again after months of coronavirus lockdown. From a military orchestra to pop and folk singers, some 400 bands performed 15-minute sets in cities and towns across the country of 2.8 million people in the government-sponsored initiative. The widespread merriment called to mind the so-called Singing Revolution, which helped Lithuania and its fellow Baltic states Estonia and Latvia break free from the crumbling Soviet Union. Modestas Barkauskas, chief conductor of the Vilnius St. Christopher Chamber Orchestra, said he wanted to strike a note of optimism with four classical music pieces played in the capital’s business district.

‘Our orchestra is extremely happy to meet and make music again,’ he told dozens of onlookers after his black-clad musicians performed a piece by Austrian composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. ‘We want to share our joy with you because music is medicine for the soul.’ Sure enough, Vilnius resident Ona Krimenekiene told AFP that the brief concert, which she stumbled across accidentally, ‘boosted my mood.’ ‘I feel really good now,’ the 57-year-old told AFP. Lithuania has by now eased most of the social and business restrictions that it imposed starting mid-March to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus.

On Monday, the government gave the green light to public gatherings of up to 300 people and, alongside fellow Baltic state Estonia, stopped requiring quarantine on travel from more than 20 European countries. The government said the music campaign was intended ‘to show gratitude to the Lithuanian people for their successful efforts in overcoming the first wave of COVID-19’. ‘Our strong coronavirus response reminds me of the Singing Revolution 30 years ago,’ government spokesman Marius Gurskas told AFP. The opposition, however, dismissed the campaign as a public relations stunt ahead of the October general election.

‘The government is trying to quell possible public dissatisfaction,’ opposition leader Gabrielius Landsbergis told AFP. Lithuania reported just three new cases of the coronavirus on Monday, bringing total confirmed cases to 1,676, including 70 deaths—much lower than in most other EU states. Baltic neighbour Latvia, which still requires foreign travellers to undergo quarantine, on Monday reported no new coronavirus infections for the first time since the pandemic erupted. —AFP

## Coronavirus claims Bollywood composer Wajid Khan at 42

Wajid Khan, one of the top composers of Bollywood dance songs, has died at the age of 42 after contracting coronavirus, media reports said Monday. Khan, who had been suffering from a kidney ailment, passed away in Mumbai on Sunday after suffering cardiac arrest, his brother told Press Trust of India news agency, adding that he had tested positive for the virus. The first death in Bollywood to be attributed to the pan-

demic sent shockwaves through the industry, which is still reeling from the loss of two luminaries, Irrfan Khan and Rishi Kapoor, in April. Khan was part of the musical duo Sajid-Wajid who got their Bollywood break in 1998 when they composed the songs for superstar Salman Khan’s hit film “Pyaar Kiya To Darna Kya” (“Why Fear Anything if You are in Love”). They became his favoured composers, collaborating on films such as the 2007 comedy “Partner”,

the 2009 action blockbuster “Wanted” and 2010’s top grosser “Dabangg” (“Fearless”).

The superstar was among a string of Bollywood names who paid tribute to the composer, tweeting that he would “always love, respect, remember n miss u as a person n ur talent”. Bollywood legend Amitabh Bachchan said he was “shocked at the passing of Wajid Khan” and hailed his “bright smiling talent”. Top actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas

tweeted: “The one thing I will always remember is Wajid bhai’s laugh. Always smiling. Gone too soon.” Sajid-Wajid’s foot-tapping numbers like “Munni badnaam hui” (“Munni lost her reputation”) and “Do you wanna partner” became a staple of Indian wedding parties. The duo also appeared on TV talent shows, where they mentored aspiring performers.





Aerial view shows protestors gathered on Monday near a makeshift memorial in honor of George Floyd, marking the one-week anniversary of his death in Minneapolis. — AFP

## Facebook in turmoil over

Continued from Page 1

who share his view. At the root of the discord is Twitter's unprecedented intervention last week when it tagged two Trump tweets about mail-in ballots with messages urging people to "get the facts."

Zuckerberg reacted by telling Fox News that private social media platforms "shouldn't be the arbiter of truth of everything that people say online." Trump retweeted the interview. On Friday, Twitter responded once again to a Trump tweet, this time after he used the platform to warn protesters outraged by the death at police hands of an unarmed black man that "when the looting starts, the shooting starts." Twitter covered up the tweet with a message warning it "violated Twitter Rules about glorifying violence." Viewers had to click on the message to see the underlying tweet.

The message also was posted on Facebook, but Zuckerberg decided to let it stand unchallenged. "I've been struggling with how to respond to the President's tweets and posts all day," he wrote Friday in a post. "Personally, I have a visceral negative reaction to this kind of divisive and inflammatory rhetoric." But, Zuckerberg went on to say that "our position is that we should enable as much expression as possible unless it will cause imminent risk of specific harms or dangers spelled out in clear policies."

Twitter and Facebook both have in place systems to combat disinformation and dangerous content — appeals to hatred, harassment, incitement to violence and the like. But Facebook exempts political personalities and candidates from these restrictions. Zuckerberg's position has not gone down well with many of his employees. "I don't know what to do, but

I know doing nothing is not acceptable," Jason Stirman, a member of Facebook's research and development team, wrote on Twitter.

Other Facebook employees spoke out on Sunday. David Gillis, a member of the design team who specializes in product safety and integrity, said he believed Trump's looting and shooting tweet "encourages extra-judicial violence and racism." "While I understand why we chose to stay squarely within the four corners of our violence and incitement policy, I think it would have been right for us to make a 'spirit of the policy' exception that took more context into account," he wrote.

Nate Butler, a Facebook product designer, added: "I need to be clear — FB is on the wrong side of this and I can't support their stance. Doing nothing isn't Being Bold. Many of us feel this way." To make matters worse, US media revealed Sunday that Zuckerberg and Trump spoke by telephone on Friday. The conversation was "productive", unnamed sources told the Axios news outlet and CNBC. Facebook would neither confirm nor deny the reports.

The call "destroys" the idea that Facebook is a "neutral arbiter", said Evelyn Douek, a researcher at Harvard Law School. Like other experts, she questioned whether Facebook's new oversight board, formed last month to render independent judgments on content, will have the clout to intervene. On Saturday, the board offered assurances it was aware there were "many significant issues related to online content" that people want it to consider.

Facebook, meanwhile, is directly affected by Trump's counter-attack against Twitter. The president signed a decree Thursday attacking one of the legal pillars of the US internet, Section 230, which shields digital platforms from lawsuits linked to content posted by third parties while giving them the freedom to intervene as they please to police the exchanges. — AFP

the killing where they chanted, knelt and prayed. Floyd, 46, had been accused of trying to buy cigarettes with a counterfeit bill.

The autopsy revived demands for the arrest of three other police officers who stood guard for Chauvin as Floyd lay dying. Chauvin has been charged with third degree murder and is due to appear in court June 8. More than 40 cities have imposed curfews after consecutive nights of tension. More looting was taking place in New York on Monday night, an AFP reporter saw, with stores including Best Buy and Nike damaged. Police said they had arrested "hundreds" across the city.

After widespread looting in Manhattan, New York mayor Bill de Blasio said a curfew would be imposed from 8:00 pm Tuesday, three hours earlier than Monday's. "We support peaceful protest in this city. But right now it's time to go home," de Blasio tweeted.

In Los Angeles, where the National Guard were deployed at Hollywood landmarks such as the Dolby Theatre, some looting was also reported, though protests were largely peaceful. "Deep down inside us, we've had enough," said 30-year-old Jessica Hubbert, a protester.

Trump spent most of the weekend inside the White House tweeting attacks on political rivals and the media. In a leaked conference call Monday, he told state governors they were "going to look like a bunch of jerks" if they were too soft. The governor of Illinois, J B Pritzker, is heard saying he was "extraordinarily concerned" by the president's "inflammatory" rhetoric. Biden, for his part, met Monday with black leaders at a church in his home of Wilmington, Delaware and promised to form a police oversight commission in his first 100 days as president. — AFP

especially social distancing.

The Cabinet also asked the Central Agency for Information Technology to establish a special platform that would manage people's visits to government departments when they reopen to ensure social distancing. Mazrem reiterated that isolating a number of residential areas was entirely based on health considerations and to ensure the safety of people.

The National Democratic Alliance meanwhile criticized the government for hiding the names of influential people allegedly implicated in high-profile money laundering and corruption cases related to the Malaysian sovereign fund and illicit activities in North Korea. The government has already referred the issue to the public prosecution for criminal investigations, but the alliance said the government has continued to hide the main names in the issue, accusing the government move of lacking transparency.

## Indonesia pulls out of hajj over coronavirus fear

JAKARTA: Indonesia is pulling out of the annual Islamic pilgrimage to Makkah over coronavirus fears, the religious affairs ministry said Tuesday, removing the largest contingent of worshippers. More than 220,000 people from the world's biggest Muslim-majority country were set to take part in this year's hajj, which all Muslims must perform at least once in their lives if able.

The global pandemic has plunged the ritual into doubt, but Riyadh has yet to announce a final decision on whether it will go ahead with the end-of-July celebration. On Tuesday, Indonesia said it was pulling out of the pilgrimage, which last year drew about 2.5 million Muslims to Saudi Arabia from across the globe. "This was

a very bitter and difficult decision," religious affairs minister Fachrul Razi told a televised press briefing. "But we have a responsibility to protect our pilgrims and hajj workers."

Last month, Indonesia pressed Riyadh to announce its decision and President Joko Widodo later held a telephone call with Saudi Arabia's King Salman on the matter, Razi said. Jakarta had considered allowing half the usual number of pilgrims to travel in order to limit the risk, but instead opted to keep them all at home, he added.

The hajj is a key revenue earner for the kingdom but risks becoming a major source of contagion if millions flock to Makkah's religious sites. Indonesia's decision was a disappointment for some who have been on a pilgrimage waiting list for years. "I knew this was a possibility, but now that it's official I can't help but be heartbroken — I've been waiting for years," 37-year-old civil servant Ria Taurisnawati told AFP as she sobbed. "All my preparations were done, the clothes were ready and I got the necessary vaccination. But God has another plan," she added. — AFP

## Qatar autonomy drive stoked by...

Continued from Page 1

Many are earmarked for export to what Qatar deems "friendly countries". "We thought it would be the perfect time to try to seize the moment to... ramp up production needs," Nasser Hassan Al-Naimi, Barzan's managing director, said of the pandemic.

Saudi Arabia, along with the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain, abruptly cut diplomatic, economic and travel ties with Doha in June 2017, insisting Qatar was too close to Iran and funding radical Islamist movements. Qatar fiercely rejected those allegations and refused to budge on 13 demands made by its allies-turned-adversaries, including the closure of the Doha-based Al Jazeera news network and shutting a Turkish military base in the emirate.

At the end of April, Naimi oversaw a military airlift from the United States of manufacturing equipment, which will initially be used to build ventilators before later being repurposed to produce military gear. "There was a five-year strategy to bring in these machines over time, but now you've got it all at once," Naimi said at the glistening factory in a science park on the outskirts of Doha.

The operation was reminiscent of an airlift that flew in cattle, mostly from the US, to meet demand for dairy products in the first days of what Doha calls "the blockade". Gas-rich Qatar's ostracism by the Gulf's key economic players propelled a self-sufficiency drive involving stockpiling food and setting up vegetable farms, in a country once entirely dependent on imports.

Despite a flurry of positive signs at the end of last year and a round of shuttle diplomacy that saw the Qatari foreign minister visit Saudi Arabia for talks, the freeze shows no sign of thawing. The blockade "worked as a catalyst and got us to where we are today," Naimi said. "It has been a blessing in disguise and allowed us to realize our true potential and make sure that everything that we need strategically... is manufactured here."

Despite the shock of the embargo, Qatar's economy

## Gulf crisis sees new 'fake news'...

Continued from Page 1

Many of the accounts amplifying the rumors had profile images of the Saudi leadership, mentioned them in their handles and retweeted or liked material featuring the royal family or gave their location as inside the kingdom. Regional experts agree the facts indicate the campaigns originated from within Saudi Arabia, although observers differ on the extent of top-level involvement.

Doha-based academic Marc Owen Jones, who has been studying anti-Qatar disinformation since before the regional isolation effort began in June 2017, puts the blame squarely at Riyadh's door. Many of the accounts involved in spreading the unrest rumors in May proclaimed ties to Saudi Arabia. "Anyone spreading this news is technically breaking Saudi law, it's illegal to spread rumors," Owen Jones of Qatar's Hamad bin Khalifa University told AFP.

The initial coup claim in May was followed by tweets and news stories from pro-Saudi news sources that Qatari dissidents were openly challenging the regime. But they were based on falsehoods. "Hubbub on social media gives it the illusion that it's a grassroots piece of campaigning, and then that's picked up by the legacy media," Jones said.

Jones said the publication of quotes falsely credit-

has proved more resilient than those of its Gulf rivals — the International Monetary Fund forecasts it will be one of only a few countries worldwide to run a budget surplus in 2020.

Managers are tight-lipped on the ventilator project's costs, which David Roberts, an assistant professor at King's College London, believes "will likely be frighteningly expensive". Although medics are still evaluating the machines' effectiveness in treating COVID-19 patients, Barzan says five countries had expressed interest in the ventilators that Qatar is now pushing out at scale.

Demand for the machines comes amid anticipation of a possible second peak in infections as lockdowns are lifted, or another wave during the northern hemisphere's winter. "In an era of COVID, we are all seeing that obtaining supplies of key items of equipment can be difficult. So a limited domestic indigenous capability makes sense," Roberts said.

Alongside using defense manufacturing capabilities developed under the embargo to respond to the health crisis, Qatar has also leaned on food security steps it took after its adversaries cut shipments. At vast warehouses in the desert five key staples, including rice, cooking oil and sugar, are stacked high to help prevent empty shelves — seen in Qatar immediately after its neighbors severed ties, and witnessed globally amid pandemic panic-buying.

"We have been keen to increase the stockpile of commodities that can't be grown in Qatar to meet the challenge of any epidemic like the coronavirus crisis," said commerce ministry official Jassim bin Jabor bin Hassan Al-Thani. Stockpiles of rice should last eight months, sugar for seven months and cooking oil for three months, he said. Doha said in December it would grow its strategic stockpile to six months' supply of 22 essential items for three million people.

Qatar came top for food security in the Middle East and 13th globally in the latest Global Food Security Index rankings, compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit. "If you just back up... 10 years, everyone was talking about the Khaleej (Gulf) community," said Tobias Borck, an associate fellow at the Royal United Services Institute. "Qatar never really needed to be that self-sufficient, but the crisis created this moment of nationalism and of showing what they can do." — AFP

ed to Qatar's emir "gave a believable pretext to launch the crisis and frame Qatar as a transgressor". His three-dimensional visualizations of suspect posts and apparently automated accounts highlight the vast scale of the current Twitter campaign against Qatar.

David Patrikarakos, an expert on social media in conflict, said that Riyadh was "becoming quite a big information disinformation actor". "Given the issues between them, it's not surprising to see them ramp up the disinformation campaign against Qatar," he said.

The issue of fake news and disinformation has surged to the fore in recent years with allegations of Russian interference in US politics. Coronavirus misinformation and Twitter's tagging of a tweet by Trump as glorifying violence has intensified the debate around tech companies' responsibility for content. Jones said social media firms had developed "a very informal opaque system" for countries facing campaigns like the one aimed at Qatar.

The Qatari authorities have responded cautiously, refraining so far from calling publicly for action from the social media giants. "The first disinformation campaign back in 2017 was unprecedented — nobody had expected such a coordinated disinformation campaign in this way before," Qatar's Government Communications Office told AFP. "But now, in Qatar and internationally, people have gotten used to these sorts of campaigns and no longer take this type of disinformation campaign seriously." Such campaigns were "damaging the reputations of the governments" orchestrating them, it added, stopping short of calling out any countries by name. — AFP

## Assembly to discuss coronavirus...

Continued from Page 1

The banking association immediately announced that bank branches that operated before May 10 will reopen to serve customers daily from 9 am until 1 pm.

Mazrem said that the Cabinet also assigned Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC) to set up three medical halls at the fairground in Meshref for the treatment of coronavirus cases. He said the Cabinet emphasized that the plan to return to normal life, which the government launched two days ago in five phases, is conditional to people observing health guidelines announced by the ministry of health,



Stars

Daily SuDoku

2			5		1			
		9			6		7	
	8				9	2		3
	9							6
	1		9		7		2	
7							4	
5		7	1					8
	6		2			4		
			8		5			7

hard

Yesterday's Solution

2	6	1	8	3	5	9	4	7
8	4	5	7	6	9	2	1	3
7	9	3	4	1	2	8	6	5
1	5	7	6	2	8	4	3	9
9	2	6	1	4	3	7	5	8
3	8	4	5	9	7	1	2	6
5	3	2	9	7	1	6	8	4
6	1	9	3	8	4	5	7	2
4	7	8	2	5	6	3	9	1

medium

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today you might need to execute some paper-work regarding money, Aries. Bills might need to be paid, deposits made, or checks collected. Minor incidents could interrupt you, causing some frustration. Communication of all kinds, including those with people close to you, might go awry during the day. It doesn't change the positive turn your life is taking. Keep at it.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

A small financial windfall might have you in a bit of a quandary about how to spend it, Libra. You could have a bill you particularly want to pay, but you might also want to treat yourself to a minor luxury of some kind. The best option now might be to indulge yourself a little. You've been working hard, and unless you're behind on your bills, you deserve a little treat. Go for it.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Today you might be feeling particularly warm and loving toward a romantic partner, and the feeling is likely reciprocated. You could have trouble reaching each other, Taurus. Phone messages may not be received, or perhaps the person has something important to do. Eventually the two of you will speak, even if you aren't able to do what you want before tomorrow.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Communication with those closest to you might prove difficult today, Scorpio. You might end up playing endless phone tag. This can be a bit distressing, because you're feeling especially warm and loving toward them right now. You might even worry that perhaps they're angry and don't want to talk to you. This isn't the case. Keep trying. You'll eventually reach them and receive the response you want.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Ideas for creative, artistic, or service-oriented work might be coming thick and fast, although you could be torn between different possibilities, Gemini. All your ideas seem workable, yet you feel you should settle on one for the moment. It might be a good idea to ask the advice of others. Even if you don't do exactly what they suggest, the advice might show you new options. Hang in there.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Today you might work on an artistic project of some kind. You'll put in a lot of effort, Sagittarius, yet the results may not turn out to be exactly what you wanted. This could result in many revisions. Eventually, you're going to have to stop. It's possible to revise and correct too much. Whatever you're working on, try to remain objective and not get too caught up in unrealistic expectations.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your enthusiasm for group activities and social events is high, Cancer. You might want to discuss your ideas with others. However, you could have trouble reaching people you need to speak with. This can be frustrating, but your enthusiasm isn't likely to flag because of it. Keep trying. Eventually you'll accomplish your goal. Whatever you plan today is likely to be gratifying even if the process is difficult.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Although you should be feeling especially close to friends, lovers, and family, Capricorn, you might find it hard to communicate with them today. Perhaps they have troubles they prefer to keep private and you're confused, wondering if they're upset with you. Chances are they aren't. However, they probably need to work things out for themselves. Be patient. Try to understand. They may share their problems with you tomorrow.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You might be expecting some visitors to your home, Leo, and looking forward to it. However, your plans could be frustrated in some way through miscommunication, undelivered messages, delays due to traffic, or other obstacles. Don't let this dim your enthusiasm. Whatever you're trying to do will eventually come to fruition in spite of temporary frustrations. Don't give up. Enjoy your evening.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

A desire to do some redecorating, perhaps in anticipation of hosting a future social event, might prove frustrating today. You probably have some definite ideas, Aquarius, but can't find the materials you need to produce the results you want. Whatever you're planning, it might be a good idea to phone around in advance and see what resources are available. It could save you some frustration.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

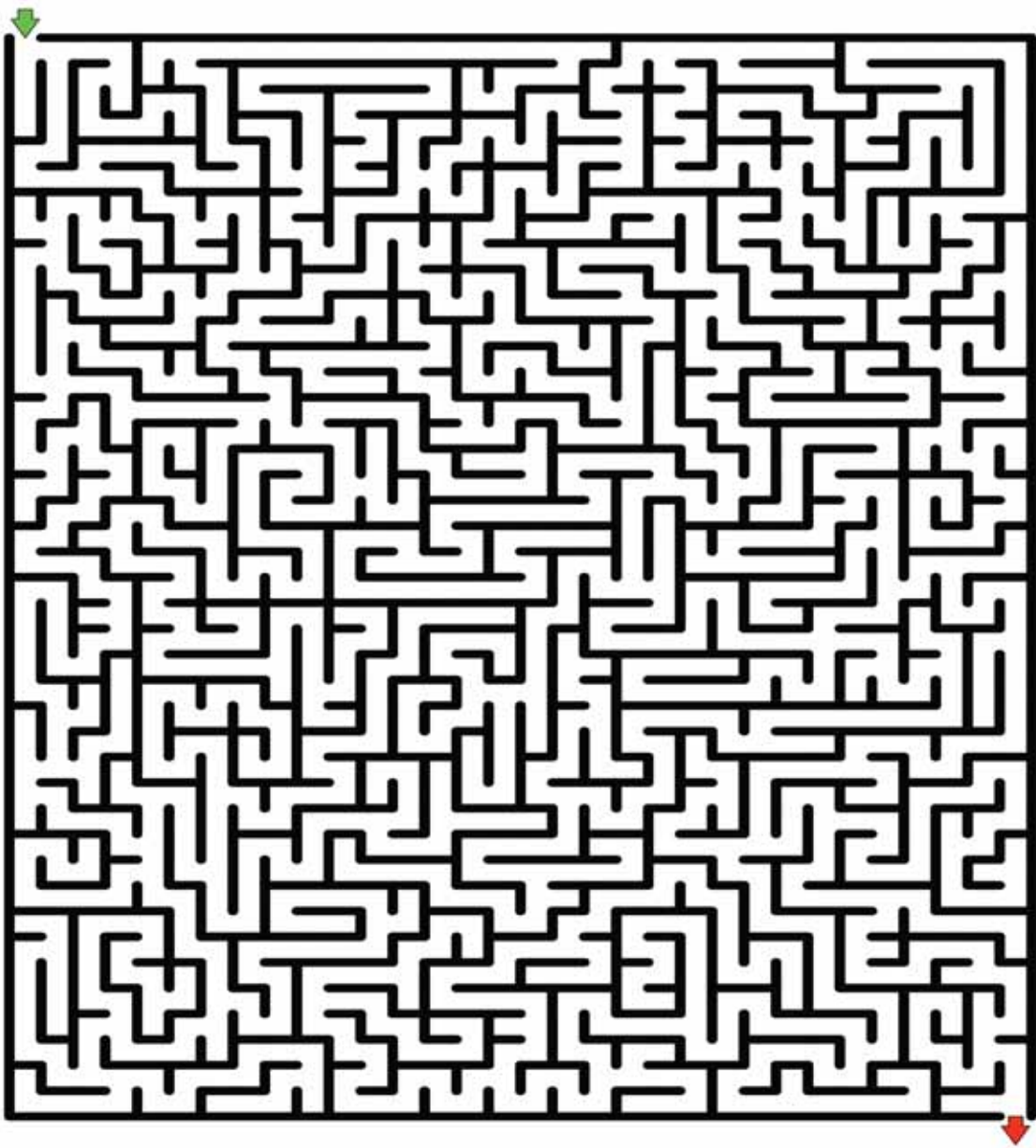
Today you might feel a powerful need to write down your thoughts, Virgo, but they could prove a bit too amorphous for you to put into words. You might also have difficulty making contact with friends or loved ones. You may keep missing each other. Getting to where you want to go could prove frustrating. In spite of small irritations, this should be an enjoyable day. Hang in there.



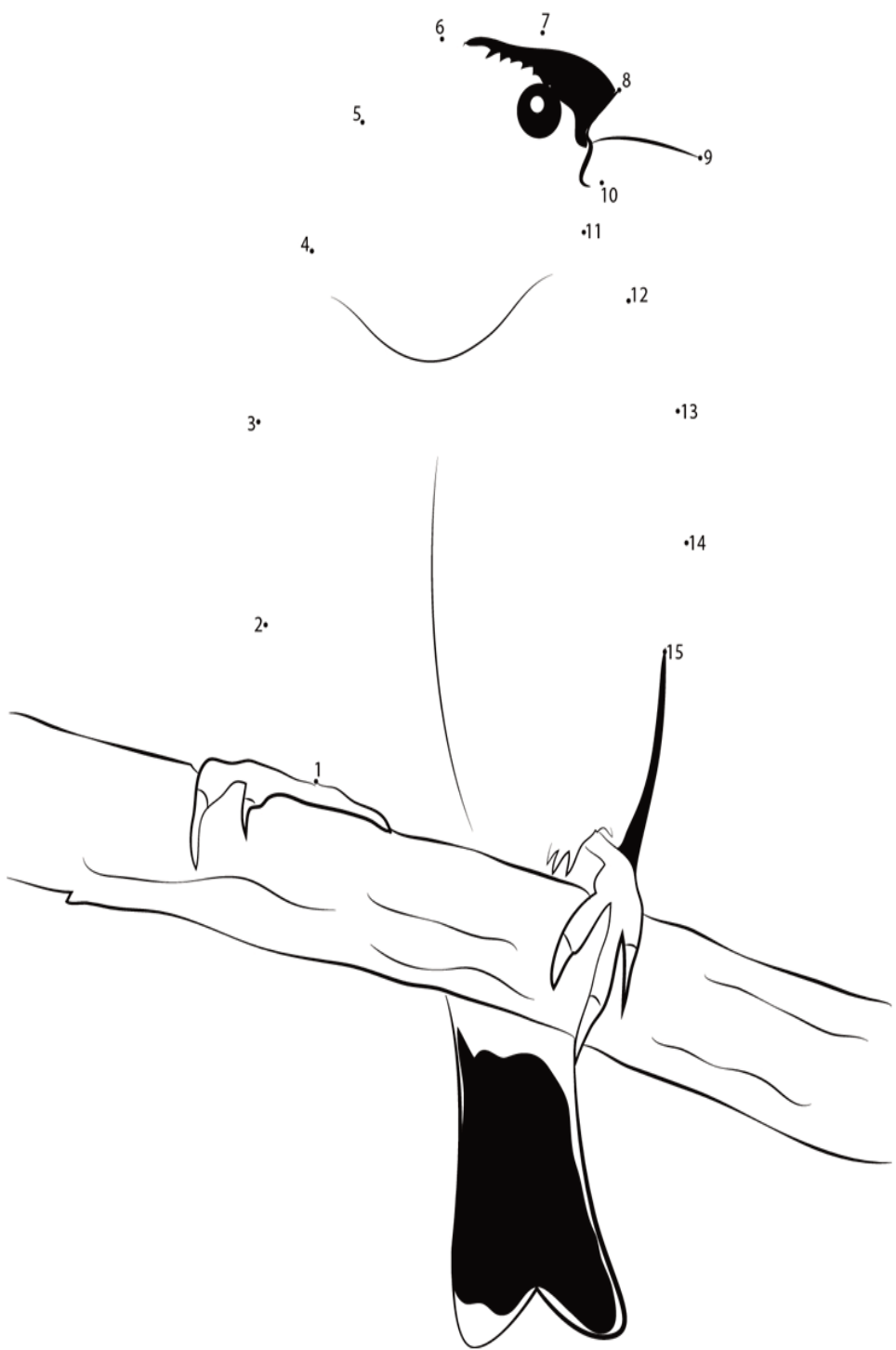
Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Travel could be on your mind. You're probably excited about the possibility of a future vacation. You might need to finalize some arrangements today but find it difficult to reach people you need to speak to. This is frustrating, Pisces, but it shouldn't lessen your enthusiasm. Keep trying. You'll eventually reach the appropriate person and finish whatever you're trying to accomplish. Hang in there.

Find the way



Join the dots



Word Search



Hockey Word Search

S	D	A	Q	V	X	T	H	V	H	E	Q	P	B	S	W	H	C	J
D	K	C	E	H	C	Y	D	O	B	X	Q	S	A	L	G	K	U	C
R	I	N	O	B	M	A	Z	F	G	T	H	V	L	P	N	N	C	E
A	R	D	P	B	D	S	A	I	F	D	E	J	I	V	I	I	R	N
O	P	E	N	A	L	T	Y	S	H	O	T	H	P	M	H	R	E	T
B	Q	O	H	B	S	B	U	T	T	E	N	D	I	N	G	U	A	E
V	Q	Z	S	M	E	T	C	T	P	F	R	H	W	N	U	R	S	R
Z	L	D	U	Z	D	O	I	X	H	B	A	R	I	E	O	K	E	T
T	C	Y	R	G	I	E	R	C	J	G	E	C	P	E	R	V	U	H
S	B	D	N	H	S	J	M	F	K	P	I	Y	E	Z	K	O	J	Z
P	Q	I	A	U	F	E	J	A	E	H	G	L	U	O	S	E	X	B
E	W	B	M	P	F	D	B	E	G	I	A	E	D	S	F	A	D	R
A	X	H	D	T	O	R	K	N	Z	F	Z	N	A	E	U	F	I	E
R	L	O	D	Y	A	L	P	R	E	W	O	P	D	N	R	N	P	A
I	W	O	O	V	A	Y	H	N	I	Q	U	Y	Z	L	H	O	U	K
N	I	K	F	O	K	C	I	R	T	T	A	H	A	T	I	O	C	A
G	J	I	G	J	Q	L	T	F	I	H	S	Q	K	L	W	N	K	W
Y	P	N	E	U	T	R	A	L	Z	O	N	E	K	E	E	Z	G	A
U	K	G	L	Y	L	X	B	G	K	D	R	B	T	X	B	D	Z	Y



BOARDS  
BODY CHECK  
BREAKAWAY  
BUTT ENDING  
CENTER  
CREASE  
DEKE  
DELAY OF GAME

FACE OFF  
GOALKEEPER  
HAT TRICK  
HOOKING  
ICING  
LINE  
NEUTRAL ZONE  
ODD MAN RUSH

OFFSIDES  
PASS OUT  
PENALTY SHOT  
POWER PLAY  
PUCK  
RED LIGHT  
RINK  
ROUGHING

SAVE  
SHIFT  
SPEARING  
STICKHANDLING  
WING  
ZAMBONI



## Sports

Photo of the day



Kriss Kyle performs in Denmark in 2019. —Photo taken from www.redbullcontentpool.com

Gronkowski loses  
WWE 24/7 belt  
after record run

**LAS VEGAS:** Rob Gronkowski's record reign as WWE's 24/7 champ is over after nearly two months.

Gronkowski, who recently came out of retirement to resume his NFL career with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, was pinned Monday by Ron "R-Truth" Killings on the "WWE Raw" show.

The former New England Patriots tight end had claimed the 24/7 belt at WrestleMania 36 on April 5 when he pinned Mojo Rawley.

In the video shown Monday night, Gronkowski was set to film a TikTok dance video in a front yard, with a friend holding a cell phone to film him. Gronkowski questioned the presence of an unknown gardener in a hat and facemask before starting his dance routine.

As Gronkowski's companion took off his sweatshirt to reveal a WWE referee uniform, R-Truth took Gronkowski by surprise, pulling him down from behind and pinning him before grabbing the 24/7 belt.

After R-Truth clicked his heels and ran away with the belt, Gronkowski shouted, "Seriously?"

His friend/referee replied, "I'm serious, man. You got a new career started. C'mon. Let's go. You're with the Bucs now. C'mon, let's do this."

Gronkowski, 31, held the 24/7 belt longer than anyone in a single stretch since the competition was initiated in May 2019. There have been 36 champions, with the belt changing hands 97 times. R-Truth has been the champion 36 times, and Rawley is second on the list with seven reigns.

The list of 24/7 champions includes basketball player Enes Kanter, race car driver Kyle Busch and musician Marshmello. —Reuters

World champion Hamilton's attack on  
'white-dominated' F1 draws support

## 'We all have a voice to speak up for what's right'

**LONDON:** World champion Lewis Hamilton drew a rapid positive response from many of his rivals after accusing the "biggest of stars" in "white-dominated" Formula One of failing to speak out against racism.

The Mercedes driver warned: "I know who you are and I see you" as he accused his fellow drivers of "staying silent" following the death of George Floyd, an unarmed black man, during his arrest in Minneapolis.

The videotaped incident has triggered unrest in several cities and led to an outpouring of condemnation from figures including Michael Jordan and Serena Williams.

"I see those of you who are staying silent, some of you the biggest of stars yet you stay silent in the midst of injustice," Hamilton wrote on Instagram.

"I would have thought by now you would see why this happens and say something about it but you can't stand alongside us. Just know I know who you are and I see you."

Hamilton's team responded with a statement of support. "We stand with you Lewis," Mercedes posted on Instagram. "Tolerance is an elementary principle of our team."

Several drivers also reacted, some addressing Hamilton, others finding their voice about Floyd. "To be completely honest, I felt out of place and uncomfortable sharing my thoughts on social media," tweeted Charles Leclerc, a 22-year old

Monegasque who drives for Ferrari. "And I was completely wrong."

## STAND TOGETHER

Leclerc drew a response from Williams driver George Russell. "We all have a voice to speak up for what's right – and until now I didn't know how to use mine in this situation. To echo @charles\_leclerc's words, I just felt out of place sharing my thoughts on these atrocities publicly," wrote the 22-year-old Briton.

Alex Albon, a 24-year old British driver with Thai roots, also said he had felt uncomfortable speaking

out. "Truthfully I have been quite hesitant having a voice around George Floyd's death. I grew up in a very privileged way, shielded from racism," the Red Bull driver wrote. "It's never too late to change and to address what's wrong, this is about justice and to stand up for racial equality."

Hamilton's call for stars to speak out seemed to strike a chord with Lando Norris. "I have fans and followers," the 20-year-old Briton who drives for McLaren wrote. "I have power through this to lead and inspire so many. But we also stand for what's right."

Nicholas Latifi, a 24-year-old Canadian of Iranian origin who drives for Williams, posted "This has to stop" with a link to a petition and JusticeforGeorge and BlackLivesMatter hashtags.

Two 30-year-old veterans Australian Daniel

few breaths in.

"It wasn't too bad though, it's manageable and it's the sort of thing that in a week you won't even notice it."

The 2,000 Guineas, on June 6 at Newmarket, will be the first of the flat-racing season's "Classic" races. Earlier in the day, pigeon racing enjoyed a brief moment in the spotlight. More than 4,000 birds belonging to members of the Barnsley Federation of Racing Pigeons in the north of England were released from a park ahead of a 90-mile sprint. Organiser John Greenshield, 72, said the restart came earlier than many expected and so many of the birds are far from "match fit".

But he said the return of racing would be a blessing for many in his community and was "like putting oxygen back into the area".

Snooker also made a return on Monday, with reigning world champion Judd Trump recording a 3-0 win over David Grace in the opening match of the Championship League.

The televised tournament, taking place in the central English town of Milton Keynes, is the first snooker event since the Gibraltar Open in March.

Matches were held behind closed doors and players had to use hand sanitiser before the first frame, while following social distancing guidelines during the contest.

World number one Trump said: "It's all been a bit strange to be honest. It's brilliant to have snooker back on TV and everyone involved has done an amazing job to sort off be the first sport back."

Trump revealed he was tested for the virus on Sunday afternoon, with players having to stay in their rooms until 1030GMT on Monday. —AFP



Lewis Hamilton

Ricciardo and Mexican Sergio Perez did not refer to Hamilton in their posts.

"What happened to George Floyd and what continues to happen in today's society is a disgrace," said the Red Bull driver. The Racing Point

man tweeted a video of a non-violent American sheriff and added the Blacklivesmatter hashtag. Carlos Sainz, the 25-year-old Spanish McLaren driver and Antonio Giovinazzi, a 26-year-old Italian who drives for Alfa Romeo, also condemned racism. —AFP

Racing leads the  
way as elite sport  
returns to Britain

**LONDON:** Horse racing resumed in England on Monday as professional sport got under way again following the easing of coronavirus lockdown restrictions.

Elite sport in Britain has been in a deep freeze since March but the government on Saturday approved the return of domestic competitive action behind closed doors from June 1.

Premier League football is scheduled to restart on June 17, while cricket chiefs still hope to stage a full international programme during the summer.

Racing has a head start in its attempts to grab the attention of fans starved of live sport, but it looks very different from when it departed before lockdown.

At Newcastle, in northeast England, there were no spectators to watch the 10 flat races while trainers, jockeys and grooms wore masks.

Zodiakos won the first race on English soil for 76 days as the 22-1 shot edged out stablemate Al Ozzdi on the line.

"That has blown away the cobwebs," Zodiakos's jockey Jimmy Sullivan told Sky Sports.

"In this heat today, riding in the mask, it is very warm and after pulling up I pulled it down a little just to get a

Australia want  
to host Rugby  
Championship 'hub'

**MELBOURNE:** Rugby Australia is in talks with the government about allowing New Zealand, South Africa and Argentina's teams to enter the country and be based in a "hub" for a condensed Rugby Championship later in the year.

After a two-month lockdown to contain the spread of COVID-19, Australian authorities have allowed sports to restart domestic competition but international fixtures remain in doubt due to travel curbs and border controls.

"We're exploring with the Australian government whether that can be a bubble here in Australia and we fly in all of the SANZAAR partners and they are in a training bubble and then we can quarantine effectively and play a competition," RA interim CEO Rob Clarke told reporters in Sydney yesterday.

SANZAAR, comprised of partner rugby unions in Australia, New Zealand, South

Africa and Argentina, is the governing body of the four-nation Rugby Championship and Super Rugby.

Australian and New Zealand officials have spoken for weeks of opening up a "trans-Tasman bubble" of restriction-free travel between the two countries, which have reduced COVID-19 infections to a trickle.

New Zealand Rugby did not provide immediate comment when contacted by Reuters.

Clarke confirmed RA was trying to extend the annual Bledisloe Cup series between the Wallabies and All Blacks to four tests from the usual three.

"It's a great product, gains a lot of attention and we feel at least a four-game series is something we can work into the calendar this year to work for them and us," Clarke said.

RA said on Monday it would lay off a third of its full-time staff along with dozens of contractors and casual workers to cope with financial pressures brought by COVID-19.

Clarke said RA's high performance programmes would not be affected. "A key part of our financial underpinning is a successful Wallabies," he said.

"It's not everything, but it's certainly key so we'll be protecting that as much as possible." —Reuters



## Sports

# What future for sport and sponsors after the coronavirus lockdown?

## Sport is facing the ‘mother of all wake-up calls’

**LONDON:** Global sport is facing the “mother of all wake-up calls” as it emerges from the coronavirus lockdown, with uncertainty over what the landscape for participants and sponsors will look like.

Former head of Olympic marketing Michael Payne believes that although “it will be very painful pulling through it”, sport will nevertheless emerge “healthier and stronger”.

While a leading advertising industry figure warns it will be “nip and tuck” for the organisers of the rearranged Euro 2021 football championships and the Tokyo Olympics, former Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone has told AFP the ordinary fan will just be glad to have the diversion of live sport again.

Apart from a few exceptions — the sideshows of football in Belarus or racing in Hong Kong and Australia — sport has been at a standstill since mid-March as the coronavirus pandemic swept the globe, claiming more than 370,000 lives. Only now is it edging back to action.

Payne, who was widely credited with transforming the finances of the International Olympic Committee through sponsorship, said such an unexpected crisis had caught sport woefully unprepared.

“Whether it’s international sports federations, football clubs or F1 teams, many were living way beyond their financial means,” he said in an interview with AFP.

“Very few bodies or organisations had funds set aside for a rainy day. “This has been the mother of all wake-up calls.” The 62-year-old Irishman says to learn lessons he always draws on the biggest crisis he experienced — the Olympic Salt Lake City scandal in 1999.

For three months he went to work wondering whether the IOC would see the day out. “Top business leaders at the time told me a measure of lead-

ership is how you take advantage of a crisis so ultimately you will come through stronger,” he said.

“It was very painful at the time but eventually I look back and say a lot of good came out of that.”

Payne says similar leadership — and tough and unpopular decisions — are required now. “Major changes can and will need to be driven through that perhaps would not otherwise have been able to be pushed through if everyone was sitting in their comfort zone.

“What might have been previously politically unacceptable could now be possible. Sport will be leaner and stronger for it.”

Football clubs will need to rein in their spending as money from ticket sales “will take quite a while to come back”.

“In the interim, clubs, event organisers and federations are going to require some serious financial engineering to manage the business,” he said.

### “ Nip and tuck ”

#### DISTANCING

Should spectators be allowed to attend events, one consequence of coronavirus is likely to be strict social-distancing measures being imposed if the Olympics and Euro

2020 take place next year.

Martin Sorrell, the British founder of advertising giant WPP, who sits on the IOC Communications Commission, says the Tokyo organisers are in a race against the clock.

“I think it will be nip and tuck because you have to plan it so far ahead, from now really, and make adjustments which is for something very complex.”

“Same thing for Euro 2021,” he added. “Will the organisers be right to play it behind closed doors or reduce audience participation?”

Terrence Burns, a former IOC marketing executive who since leaving his role has been pivotal in five successful Olympic bid city campaigns, says



**CHELLES:** French skateboarder, street category, Charlotte Hym practices as she prepares for the qualifications for the Olympics Games at the Cosanostra skatepark on May 29, 2020 in Chelles, near Paris during the second phase of the easing of lockdown measures announced by the French Prime Minister amid the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) pandemic. —AFP

imposing restrictions on spectators would rob major events of “part of their mystique and appeal”.

Burns is upbeat about the future for sponsors but expects them to choose projects more carefully. “Sports will always be a major component of marketing and promotional strategy for brands because of its emotive efficacy,” he said.

“Having said that, I expect the ‘sponsor universe’ not necessarily to shrink, but certainly to become more prudent and more exacting as it looks ahead where to spend its money.

“This means sports will have to work harder, in some cases re-invent themselves, to attract sponsorship dollars that in the past were more of a sure thing.”

#### FANS DESPERATE

Ecclestone, who ran F1 for decades, says the ordinary fan’s wish is rather simpler. “At the moment what has the family to talk about but coronavirus?” he told AFP.

“It is hardly very uplifting and something you want to discuss, but people do discuss how it is affecting them or the best way to avoid getting it.”

While “none of us have a clue” about the science of the virus “people do have knowledgeable opinions on sport, who their favourite competitors are or who will win. “As soon as it returns in that respect, the better for people’s morale.” —AFP

## Rodgers reveals family snub over Celtic exit

**LONDON:** Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers claims he has been shunned by some of his family since quitting Celtic to return to the Premier League.

Former Liverpool boss Rodgers infuriated Hoops fans when he left the Scottish champions to take charge at the Foxes in February 2019.

With several of Rodgers’ relatives supporting the Glasgow side, the 47-year-old has revealed he felt the cold shoulder closer to home as well.

Speaking to the Beautiful Game Podcast, Rodgers said: “I had family who were just distraught I left Celtic, just couldn’t believe it.

“I have relations that haven’t spoken to me since the day I left Celtic. “Because it meant so much to them.

And if you carry on like that too much, you’ll never do anything.

“But I had some unforgettable memories at Celtic that will live with me for a lifetime, that I still think about now and I then came into my next experience.”

Celtic went on to clinch a third consecutive domestic treble under Neil Lennon in the months after Rodgers left.

The Northern Irishman believes his move came at the right time for both himself and Celtic because they were in such a strong position.

“We had won the League Cup, eight points clear, and the team is in a good position in the Scottish Cup as well. If it was one point, I couldn’t leave,” Rodgers said.

“But when I spoke with my staff and took the ultimate decision, I felt the team was in a good place, there’s a mentality now within the team and you feel, not just with hindsight, the club could continue - go and win the treble again.



**Brendan Rodgers**

“There will be fors and against that but ultimately you have to be unsentimental in football life because this is a

business. When you have to make decisions, you have to be unsentimental.” —AFP

## Las Palmas ‘safe’ for fans to attend games on restart

**MADRID:** Las Palmas president Miguel Angel Ramirez says the second tier club is looking at allowing fans to attend matches as the Canary Islands, where the club is based, is now a “safe destination” with the COVID-19 pandemic under control. Spanish soccer resumes this month after the novel coronavirus outbreak suspended the season

in March, with the top flight La Liga and Segunda division restarting on June 11 and June 12 respectively.

La Liga said matches until the end of the season will take place without spectators but Ramirez said they were conferring with the relevant authorities on whether fans could be allowed to attend the game when they host Girona on June 13.

“The Canary Islands is a safe destination, Gran Canaria is a safe destination. We can become the only stadium in the major leagues to play again with the public in the stands,” Ramirez told the club’s radio channel.

“We will comply with everything that the authorities ask us and we’ll be able to announce next week if Las Palmas fans will be able to enter the stadium

to cheer on their team against Girona.”

Spain was one of Europe’s worst-hit countries in the outbreak with over 285,000 cases and 27,127 deaths, but they reported no new coronavirus deaths for the first time in months on Monday.

La Liga also said it is working on a protocol for fans to return to stadiums when the time is right.

“La Liga has spent a couple of weeks preparing a general protocol for fans to return to stadiums, which must then be adapted to each stadium and according to the percentage of capacity allowed,” it told Reuters.

“The return to stadiums will depend on the competent health authorities, but we want to work and be ready for the moment when we can return with fans.” —Reuters

#### ‘SIGNAL OF HOPE’

Games will be played behind closed doors and adhering to a strict health protocol, whereby the entire group must go into a training camp retreat for two weeks in the case of a positive test for Covid-19. Italian football federation president Gabriele Gravina said Monday he hoped that a small number of fans will be able to attend matches before the season finishes.

“It is my heartfelt wish to be able to see a small presence in stadium for the end of the championship,” said Gravina.

“It seems unthinkable that in a stadium with 60,000 seats, there is no space for a minimal percentage of spectators who can attend the match with all necessary precautions.

“Certainly it is premature today but with the resumption of the championship, there could be a new little signal of hope for our country.”

The Italian federation outlined in a 40-page document earlier on Monday the guidelines for the resumption of competition, with a maximum of number of 300 people allowed in the stadium. —AFP

## Torino and Parma kicks off Serie A return on June 20

**MILAN:** Serie A will return after a three-month coronavirus-enforced absence on June 20 with Torino hosting Parma in the first of four postponed matches on the opening weekend, the Italian league confirmed on Monday.

The championship will resume with fixtures were called off when Italian sports was suspended on March 9 because of the coronavirus.

The first match will be 15th-placed Torino versus ninth-ranked Parma at 7.30 pm (1730GMT) on June 20 followed by Hellas Verona, in eighth, versus Cagliari, in 12th, at 9.45pm.

The following day fourth-placed Atalanta will host mid-table Sassuolo at 7.30 pm while Inter Milan, in third, will be at home against relegation-threatened Sampdoria at 9.45 pm.

## Spurs coach Popovich calls for change

**LOS ANGELES:** San Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich has called out President Donald Trump for a lack of leadership in the face of nationwide unrest set off by the killing of unarmed African American George Floyd last week.

Popovich, a longtime critic of Trump, spoke Sunday to weekly magazine “The Nation,” saying unresolved issues of police violence and racism in America had set the stage for the violence that has raged in numerous cities and towns for three straight nights. “The thing that strikes me is that we all see this police violence and racism and we’ve seen it all before but nothing changes,” Popovich said.

“That’s why these protests have been so explosive. But without leadership and an understanding of what the problem is, there will never be change. And white Americans have avoided reckoning with this problem forever because it’s been our privilege to be able to avoid it. That also has to change,” Popovich said that Trump was “not just divisive. He’s a destroyer.

“I’m appalled that we have a leader who can’t say ‘Black Lives Matter,’” Popovich said. “In the end, what we have is a fool in place of a president, while the person who really runs the country, Senator Mitch McConnell, destroys the United States for generations to come.”

Popovich was among numerous NBA head coaches and assistant coaches who signed a statement from the National Basketball Coaches Association saying they felt duty bound to speak out for those who don’t feel they can. “The events of the past few weeks — police brutality, racial profiling and the weaponization of racism are shameful, inhumane and intolerable. As a diverse group of leaders, we have a responsibility to stand up and speak out for those who don’t have a voice — and to stand up and speak out for those who don’t feel it is safe to do so,” the statement said. ESPN reported that the NBPA had established a committee of current and former coaches who will work with local leaders and law enforcement for change following Floyd’s death, which came after a white Minneapolis policeman knelt on his neck for several minutes.

An official autopsy report released Monday by the Hennepin County medical examiner in Minneapolis said that Floyd died in a homicide involving “neck compression.”

That report came after a lawyer for Floyd’s family said an independent autopsy found he died of asphyxiation from sustained pressure.

“In other words, he was murdered,” tweeted Golden State Warriors coach Steve Kerr, who has along with Popovich has been tapped to serve on the committee along with Atlanta Hawks coach Lloyd Pierce, former New York Knicks coach David Fizdale and former coach Steve Van Gundy, according to ESPN. —AFP



**18** World champion Hamilton's attack on 'white-dominated' F1 draws support



**19** What future for sport and sponsors after the coronavirus lockdown?



**19** Rodgers reveals family snub over Celtic exit



## Leipzig 'back on course' with Cologne win

'We wanted the three points, we succeeded'



COLOGNE: Cologne's German defender Rafael Czichos, Leipzig's French defender Dayot Upamecano and Leipzig's Czech forward Patrik Schick vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match FC Cologne vs RB Leipzig, in Cologne on June 1, 2020. —AFP

**BERLIN:** RB Leipzig returned to third place in the Bundesliga with an entertaining 4-2 victory at Cologne on Monday. Jhon Cordoba claimed the early advantage for the home side but Leipzig scored four in 37 minutes, including Timo Werner's 31st in all competitions, to climb back above Borussia Moenchengladbach and Bayer Leverkusen in the hunt for a Champions League place.

"We wanted the three points, we succeeded. But it is annoying that we fell behind early and wasted a few chances," Leipzig's managing director Oliver Mintzlaff told broadcaster DAZN. "We are back on course for the Champions League which is our goal, but the pressure is great. Everyone has to go all in, be totally focused and focused," he added.

The hosts' boss Markus Gisdol made four changes from Wednesday's loss at Hoffenheim, starting Rafael

Czichos in place of suspended Sebastian Bournauw, red carded in the defeat. Leipzig's Julian Nagelsmann

switched both his wing-backs from Wednesday's draw to Hertha Berlin as Angelino, on loan from Manchester City, and French youth international Nordi Mukiele started.

The home side took the early lead as Cordoba poached for his 10th home goal of the campaign. Midfielder Elvis Rexhepcaj's effort deflected onto the far post and the Colombian finished from the rebound after seven minutes. The sides were level 13 minutes later as Schick headed home Angelino's cross to start the flutter of goals.

Things went from bad to worse for Gisdol's men four minutes later as Cordoba was forced off with an injury and replaced by Anthony Modeste. Leipzig's took the lead eight minutes from the break as Christopher Nkunku claimed his first goal since January.

Austria midfielder Konrad Laimer played a clever ball into the box and former Paris Saint-Germain attacker Nkunku dinked his finish over the on-rushing Timo Horn.

Leipzig went further ahead three minutes into the second-half as Werner, who has been linked with a move to Premier League leaders Liverpool, raced

clear in a rapid counter-attack and beat Horn with a side-footed finish.

Cologne hit back four minutes later as Leipzig failed to clear outside their area and Modeste curled home a shot.

Leipzig's two-goal lead was re-established less than two minutes later as Spain midfielder Dani Olmo scored his first goal since joining Leipzig in January with a curling shot of his own from the edge of the box.

Substitute Modeste seemed to have won the chance to reduce the advantage with 18 minutes left but was denied a penalty by VAR after Lucas Klostermann's tackle.

With two minutes remaining Modeste then wasted a one-on-one with Peter Gulasci and Nagelsmann's Leipzig held on for three points. —AFP



### Wasted a few chances

## Sancho not booked for Floyd protest, slogans reviewed

**DORTMUND:** Borussia Dortmund winger Jadon Sancho was not booked for his protest against the death of American George Floyd by a policeman but because he removed his shirt during the game, the German Football Association (DFB) clarified on Monday.

Sancho removed his shirt during a goal celebration to reveal an undershirt with a message "Justice for George Floyd" — an American black man who died in Minneapolis after a white policeman knelt on his neck.

While Sancho was booked by the referee, his team mate Achraf Hakimi was not and the DFB said it was because the Moroccan did not remove his shirt and only lifted it to show the handwritten slogan.

Law 12 written by soccer's rule-making

body IFAB states that players will be cautioned for "removing the shirt or covering the head with the shirt".

"This is clearly defined as illegal conduct as per Law 12 and does not have anything to do with any political message," Lutz Michael Froehlich, the sporting director of elite referees at the DFB, said in a statement <https://www.dfb.de/en/news/detail/why-the-dfb-control-body-is-reviewing-justice-for-george-messages-216011>.

"It is hardly possible for referees to register political, religious or personal slogans, messages or images during a game."

However, the DFB said it was reviewing Sancho and Hakimi's case as well as Schalke's Weston McKennie, who wore an armband with the slogan "Justice for George".

IFAB laws state equipment must not have any political, religious or personal slogans, statements or images. "Part of these examinations is to ascertain whether during matches and on the pitch are the right place for these actions," DFB vice president Rainer Koch said, adding that he respected and understood the players' actions.

"The game itself should remain free of political statements or messages of any kind... There are of course opportunities before and after the match for these kinds of things. We'll have to wait and see whether sanctions are required in these instances." Borussia Moenchengladbach's Marcus Thuram took a knee to honour Floyd after scoring but the DFB said it was "open to interpretation" and was not against the rules. — Reuters

## Mayweather offers to cover funeral costs for Floyd

**NEW YORK:** Boxing great Floyd Mayweather has offered to cover the funeral expenses for George Floyd, the 46-year-old African-American man whose death while in police custody in Minneapolis prompted protests across the United States.

The former five-division world champion's promotional company, Mayweather Productions, confirmed on Twitter that he had made the offer, and several local media reports have said the family have accepted.

Mayweather Productions and the boxer's agency have yet to respond to a request for comment. Derek Chauvin, the 44-year-old Minneapolis police of-

ficer who knelt on Floyd, has been arrested on third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter charges. Three other officers involved in the arrest had not been charged.

The incident has prompted an outcry across the United States and abroad, with numerous pro athletes and leagues speaking out, including NBA great Michael Jordan and golf's 15-times major champion Tiger Woods.

Steve Bisciotti, the owner of the NFL's Baltimore Ravens, pledged \$1 million for social justice reform and said a group of former and current players would decide which organisations benefit. —Reuters