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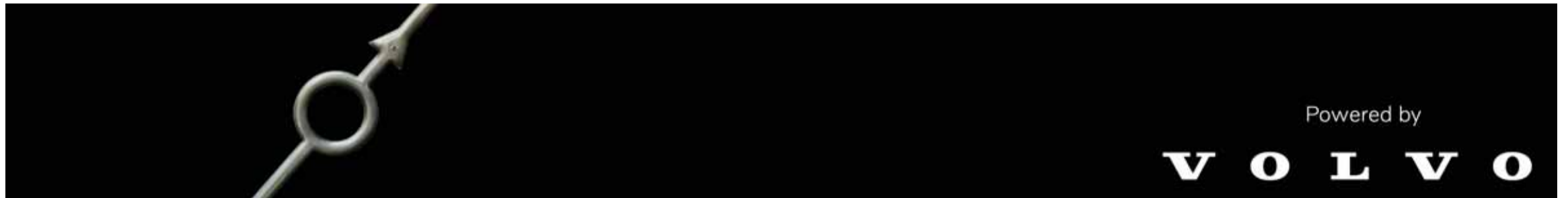
9 From hummus to high-tech: Israel CEOs seek 'friends', deals in UAE



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16 Steelers edge Ravens to stay perfect, best start since '78



Amir hails contributions of Kuwait's armed forces

Defense ministry on the forefront of fight against COVID-19



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is received by Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah yesterday during the Amir's visit to the defense ministry's Lt Gen (retired) Ahmad Khaled Al-Sabah Hall. — KUNA

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday expressed great appreciation of the armed forces that are in a constant state of willingness to sacrifice their lives for the sake of Kuwait, its independence and sovereignty. The army has proven over the years that it is the nation's protective shield against invaders and aggressors, so they deserve the pride and love of the nation and citizens, HH the Amir said during a visit to the defense ministry's Lt Gen (retired) Ahmad Khaled Al-Sabah Hall.

HH the Amir also praised the army's recent contributions in implementing precautionary measures to combat the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, as they are always the best help and support despite the risks of infection. The Kuwaiti army did not delay or hesitate in carrying out its national duty, Sheikh Nawaf said. They participated actively in Arab defense battles in the Sinai and Golan, he added.

HH the Amir reaffirmed keenness to

enhance the efficiency and capabilities of the armed forces and enable them to carry out their sacred duty to protect the homeland, "as they will always remain at the forefront of our priorities".

Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude to HH the Amir for this visit on behalf of employees of the ministry of defense. "The ministry's employees will continue to pledge loyalty to this nation and to your leadership," the minister said.

Since the launch of government efforts under the current health conditions, the defense ministry has been working round-the-clock and with the efforts of its employees to offer support through the formation of forces and specialized work teams working side by side with various official bodies to ensure the implementation of government decisions and procedures as required, Sheikh Ahmad added.

Continued on Page 2

News in brief



'Baby Shark' most-watched video

SEOUL: The wildly infectious and relentlessly repetitive children's song "Baby Shark" became the most-watched YouTube video yesterday. The South Korea-produced "Baby Shark Dance" clocked up over seven billion views on YouTube at around 0400 GMT yesterday, dethroning Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee's "Despacito" as the most-watched video on the platform. — AFP



Whale tail saves Dutch train

SPIJKENISSE, Netherlands: A runaway Dutch metro train was saved from disaster yesterday after it smashed through a stop barrier but then came to rest on a giant sculpture of a whale's tail. The driver of the train, which had no passengers on board, was unharmed in the fluke incident. In a twist of fate, the fortuitously positioned artwork is called "Saved by the Whale's Tail". — AFP

COVID immunity for 6 months?

LONDON: A small but key UK study has found that "cellular immunity" to the pandemic SARS-CoV-2 virus is present after six months in people who had mild or asymptomatic COVID-19 - suggesting they might have some level of protection for at least that time. Scientists presenting the findings, said they were "reassuring" but did not mean people cannot in rare cases be infected twice. — Reuters

Ghanem registers; Sheetan appoints six new officials

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Thirty-two candidates including three women registered yesterday to contest the Dec 5 National Assembly elections, raising the total number of candidates with just two days left for registration to 333, including 28 women. Marzouq Al-Ghanem, who

has been the speaker of the house since 2013, yesterday filed his nomination papers from the second constituency, and will certainly bid to retain his top post.

Other MPs who registered yesterday were Omar Al-Tabtabaei from the second electoral district, Abdullah Al-Kandari from the third constituency and Faraj Al-Arbeed from the fourth constituency. Registration of candidates closes on Nov 4, while withdrawals will continue until seven days before election day. Only one candidate has withdrawn so far. The ministry of interior has banned election gatherings and erecting tents by candidates because of the coronavirus pandemic as the country continues to record a high number of new cases.

Continued on Page 2

Fears of chaos, rigging on eve of US election

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden fought yesterday through the eve of an election threatened by legal chaos and fears of violence after Trump, down in the polls and with only hours to go, pushed hard to discredit the US voting process. Today, the world will witness a country more divided and angry than at any time since the Vietnam War era of the 1970s.

All over central Washington, businesses boarded up windows in expectation of unrest and NBC News reported that a new "unscalable" fence was planned around the White House, which has been

behind growing layers of fortifications since a summer of anti-racism protests. While the Trump administration warned of leftwing extremists causing havoc, the president's supporters made their own show of force, driving in caravans of flag-bedecked pick-up trucks and blocking roads around the country.

The FBI said it was investigating an incident in Texas where Trump supporters in trucks swarmed around a Biden campaign bus while it was on a highway. Today is formally Election Day, but in reality it marks only the culmination of a drawn-out election month. With a huge expansion in mail-in voting to safeguard against the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 95 million people are estimated to have already cast ballots, highlighting the raw passion in what is turning into a referendum on the norm-shattering Republican's first term.

After four rollercoaster years, about half the country sees Trump, 74, as a historic threat whose

Two children rescued days after quake

BAYRAKLI, Turkey: Rescuers pulled two children from the rubble in a town in Turkey yesterday, delivering hope nearly three days after a major earthquake hit the Aegean, killing 93 people and ruining dozens of buildings. Three-year-old Elif Perincek was rescued 65 hours after the 7.0-magnitude quake left a trail of destruction in western Turkey and eastern Greece on Friday, Turkey's AFAD emergency authority said.

Local media showed a video of a little girl wrapped up in a foil blanket quickly taken to safety in the coastal town of Bayrakli - the hardest hit by the disaster - as rescue workers broke into applause. Hours later, Turkish state television showed images of the girl, her right eye closed by a purple bruise, waving to the camera from her hospital bed, a doll resting on her chest.

Muammer Celik, a fireman who found and saved Elif, told AFP he thought the toddler was dead when he saw her lying on her back, covered by white dust. "I asked for a body bag. I wanted to wipe the dust from her face and put out my hand towards her - and then suddenly she grabbed my thumb," he recalled.

Continued on Page 2



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem files his candidacy at the election department yesterday. — KUNA



Joe Biden



Donald Trump

nationalist policies, coarse manners and alleged corruption have strained the United States to breaking point. And the other half - evidenced in the raucous Trump rallies and chants of "we love you" - sees in him a unique champion battling

Continued on Page 2



IZMIR, Turkey: A handout picture shows Elif Perincek, a three-year-old survivor, holding the thumb of a rescue worker as she is carried out of a collapsed building yesterday. — AFP

Local

Kuwait's Amir visits Defense Ministry



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah visited yesterday the Defense Ministry's Lt Gen (retired) Ahmad Khaled Al-Sabah Hall, where he met with top ministry officials and senior army commanders.

Two children rescued days...

Continued from Page 1

"We froze. We were crying with joy," Celik said. "We forgot everything in that moment!"

A photo of Elif holding Celik's hand went viral in Turkey. The fireman said she did not let go until she was taken to a tent for safety nearby. Elif was the 106th person pulled out alive from collapsed buildings in Bayrakli and surrounding towns and cities in western Turkey. Her mother and three siblings were pulled out on Saturday night, although her rescued brother later died, the TRT state broadcaster said.

AFAD also reported the rescue of 14-year-old Idil Sirin in Bayrakli, 58 hours after the quake hit. But the Sirin family's joy was brief as the lifeless body of Idil's sister, Ipek, was found, the Hurriyet newspaper reported. "I can't hear any sounds from my sister, she's dead," Idil told rescuers as she was being pulled out, Hurriyet said.

Turkey's toll from the quake is continuing to rise, with AFAD reporting 91 dead. Nearly 1,000

people were injured and more than 150 were still in hospital. Turkish Health Minister Fahrettin Koca tweeted that 10 of the wounded were in intensive care, including three in a critical condition. Two teenagers were also killed on their way home from school on the Greek island of Samos, near the epicentre of the quake.

Racing against time, rescue workers were pressing ahead with their desperate search for survivors in western Turkey more than 72 hours after disaster struck. "Can anyone hear me," one rescue worker cried through a megaphone down into the rubble. "If you can, hit something or scream," he called as a drone hovered overhead scanning the rubble.

Thousands of residents, including those with destroyed homes, spent a third night outside in tents in Bayrakli and in nearby Bornova, many fearing the risk of aftershocks. Turkish authorities registered 1,286 repeat tremors by yesterday afternoon - including 43 above magnitude four - complicating the rescuers' works and raising the threat of further damage. Launching an investigation into why 58 buildings were either heavily damaged or completely destroyed, Turkish police detained nine people - including contractors - in connection with the quake, state news agency Anadolu said. — AFP

Amir hails contributions...

Continued from Page 1

The army participated in implementing the Cabinet's decision to impose the curfew, in addition to the process of transporting medical personnel and equipment via Kuwaiti air force aircraft, he said. They also participated in the citizens' evacuation

Ghanem registers; Sheetan appoints

Continued from Page 1

Candidate Mubarak Al-Arw, a lawyer contesting the polls for the first time, said if elected, he will push for the Assembly to approve the controversial law challenging judges. He said he will file proposals to amend the election system and the law governing the Audit Bureau. These laws will boost the Assembly's supervisory role, he said.

An interior ministry committee is currently

plan from abroad and support the health ministry with the necessary medical personnel, establishing and equipping health quarantines and other tasks and duties required by such exceptional circumstances, Sheikh Ahmad added.

Maj Gen Mohammad Abdullah Al-Kandari, Assistant Chief of the General Staff of the Operations and Planning Authority, provided an explanation of the military system, the general position of the Kuwaiti army and the high combat competence to enhance the tasks of the men of the armed forces to protect the homeland and their permanent readiness to sacrifice their lives for Kuwait. — KUNA

reviewing the credentials of candidates to establish if they fulfill the requirements of the law. The committee has the right to bar candidates from fighting the polls, while candidates can challenge such decisions in court.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Barrak Al-Sheetan yesterday appointed new senior ministry officials after the ministry undersecretary and five other officials resigned last week. Aseel Al-Saad Al-Munifi was given the role of undersecretary alongside her current position as assistant undersecretary for budgetary affairs, a statement on the ministry's Twitter account said. The six ministry employees wrote in a letter on Wednesday they were resigning in protest at a staff reshuffle at the ministry this year and policy differences. The finance minister accepted the resignations.

Biden leading, but battlegrounds tight

WASHINGTON: Democrat Joe Biden leads in the national polls and most of the battleground states going into Election Day but President Donald Trump is insisting they're wrong and he'll repeat his upset victory of 2016. Biden, the 77-year-old former vice president, has enjoyed a solid lead over Trump, 74, in the national polls for months, at times reaching double digits.

But US presidential elections are not decided by the popular vote. They are won in the 538-member Electoral College, where each state has a number of electoral votes equivalent to its representation in the House and Senate. And the electoral votes of battleground states such as Florida and Pennsylvania could determine the winner of today's battle for the White House. Here is a look at the latest national polls and polls in key battleground states:

An average of national polls by the RealClearPolitics (RCP) website gives Biden a 6.7 point lead over Trump - 51 percent to 44.3 percent. That is roughly in line with the averages of other leading outlets such as FiveThirtyEight.com, which has Biden up by 8.5 points nationally. Biden's lead nation-

ally is more than double that of Hillary Clinton going into the 2016 election, when the polls were relatively accurate concerning the popular vote, which she won while losing in the Electoral College.

In Florida, Biden has a one-point lead over Trump, according to the RCP average of state polls. A Siena College/New York Times poll has Biden up by three points in the Sunshine State but a Washington Post/ABC News poll has the Republican incumbent up by two points. Trump won Florida and its 29 electoral votes in 2016 and winning the state again is seen as crucial to his hopes of victory.

In Pennsylvania, Biden has a 4.3-point lead, according to the RCP average of polls in the Keystone State, which has 20 electoral votes. Trump won Pennsylvania by just 44,000 votes in 2016 and his reelection hopes could hang on taking the state again.

Michigan and Wisconsin are two Midwestern states Trump won narrowly in 2016 but the RCP averages have him trailing in both this time. According to the RCP averages, Biden is up by 5.1 points in Michigan, which has 16 electoral votes, and by 6.6 points in Wisconsin, which has 10 electoral votes.

The battleground states of Arizona and North Carolina, both of which Trump won in 2016, are also being closely watched. According to the RCP averages, Biden has a one-point lead in Arizona, which has 11 electoral votes, while Trump leads by 0.6 points in North Carolina, which has 15 electoral votes. — AFP

Fears of chaos, rigging on eve...

Continued from Page 1

for the working class and a bulwark against rapidly advancing liberal social values.

Biden, who is polling ahead in almost every one of the swing states that tip elections, was closing up his startlingly low key campaign with socially distanced events in Ohio and Pennsylvania, the fiercest battleground of them all. Pop superstar Lady Gaga joined the 77-year-old, while former president Barack Obama was lending his own political star power by rallying for Biden in Florida and Georgia - a steady Republican state targeted by the Democrats.

Trump, who mocks Biden's modestly attended events as proof that the opinion polls must be wrong, was capping his closing surge of 14 rallies in three days with visits to North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan. The last rally was in Grand Rapids - the site where Trump delivered the final speech of his victorious 2016 campaign and where he hopes he will once more spark an upset.

No election in living memory has taken place amid such tension, combining the coronavirus pan-

dem, violent street protests, a record shift to mail-in ballots and, increasingly, Trump's unprecedented attempts to discredit the functioning of US democracy. The president, who for months has been falsely claiming that mail-in votes will lead to mass fraud, upped the ante in the last few days by suggesting that he will push to disqualify votes that arrive after today - a practice which is legal in several of the key states, provided that the ballots are postmarked in time.

Together with Republican attempts to get a court to throw out more than 100,000 ballots in Texas and other aggressive legal measures, Trump's hostility to the election rules is raising fears that he will try to declare premature victory or refuse to accept defeat. Because mail-in ballots are thought to be more likely to come from Democrats, while in-person voting today is more likely to be Republican, the initial vote tally on election night itself may lean to Trump, while subsequent counting could in theory swing it back to Biden.

The Axios news site reported Sunday that Trump has told confidants he will declare victory right away if it looked like he was ahead. Trump called it a "false report" but repeated his argument that "I don't think it's fair that we have to wait for a long period of time after the election". And he has stated that he will challenge the validity of ballots in Pennsylvania immediately. "As soon as that election is over, we're going in with our lawyers," he said Sunday. — AFP

Local

Cabinet authorizes Kuwait Transparency Society to supervise parliament elections

Govt reiterates need for 'utmost caution' to curb COVID-19 spread

KUWAIT: The Cabinet has authorized the Kuwait Transparency Society to oversee the upcoming December 5 parliamentary elections as part of an amendment of the National Assembly elections' law. The move comes "in line with the new circumstances in the Kuwaiti society ... (and) aspirations for more democracy, transparency and equal opportunities amongst candidates, and to provide further transparency and integrity that should be available in the electoral process procedures." Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh said after the Cabinet's weekly meeting, held at Seif Palace yesterday and chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. This comes after the routine formation of the supreme national elections commission, tasked with supervising and overseeing the voting process.

occurrence of these attacks is a "blatant violation of international charters and laws and a flagrant threat to the security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its brotherly people" as well as being a "direct threat to international peace and security." These acts "undermine the stability of the region, requiring the international community, especially the Security Council, to assume its responsibilities in curbing these criminal acts and putting an end to them." The Cabinet underlined full solidarity with



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah (center) chairs the Cabinet's weekly meeting yesterday. —KUNA

Kuwait condemns Nice's 'heinous terrorist crime'

Saudi Arabia and support of Riyadh in all the measures it takes to preserve its security and stability.

'Heinous crime'

Furthermore, the Cabinet expressed Kuwait's strong condemnation of the "heinous terrorist crime" that took place last Thursday in Nice, France, which resulted in the killing and wounding of a number of innocent people, expressing sin-

cere condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims and wishes for a speedy recovery for the injured. Kuwait underlines its "principled and firm stance" against all forms of terrorism, extremism and violence, which are rejected by all divine religions and human values and criminalized by international laws and norms, the ministers reiterated. They went on to call for the need to double international efforts to reject practices that generate hatred among peoples and feed extremism and terrorism.

The Cabinet also expressed "sadness and deep

regret" over the news of the earthquake that struck the Turkish city of Izmir recently, which left dozens killed and injured as well as causing severe damage to property and infrastructure. The ministers expressed their sincere condolences and sympathy to the Turkish government, the president and people, particularly the families of the victims. The Cabinet also expressed its condemnation of yesterday's bombing at the headquarters of Afghanistan's Kunduz province governor, praying for mercy on the souls of the victims and a speedy recovery for those injured. — KUNA

COVID-19 situation

Amid a briefing on the country's COVID-19 pandemic situation, Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah reiterated the need to maintain the "utmost caution" and to curb the spread of the disease. Saleh said after the talks. Ministers went on to urge the importance for the public alike to continue adhering to public health guidelines.

In regards to regional and international diplomacy, ministers expressed their "strong condemnation and denunciation" of the Houthi militia's continued targeting of civilian areas in Saudi Arabia by drone attacks. The Cabinet explained that the increasing

Pakistani Ambassador praises KRCS' efforts

KUWAIT: Ambassador of Pakistan to Kuwait Syed Sajjad Haider praised yesterday the Kuwait Red Crescent Society's (KRCS) efforts in providing aid to poverty and disaster stricken countries all over the world. After the meeting with Chairman of KRCS Dr Hilal Al-Sayer, Ambassador Haider stated that Pakistan was grateful to Kuwait's humanitarian position in assisting their country due to floods that hit Pakistan lately. During the meeting, the Pakistani Ambassador made note of KRCS' "generous efforts" and "history in saving people in several countries worldwide." Meanwhile, Dr Sayer welcomed the Ambassador's visit, pointing out that KRCS was always eager to extend a helping hand to those afflicted by natural and man-made disasters. — KUNA

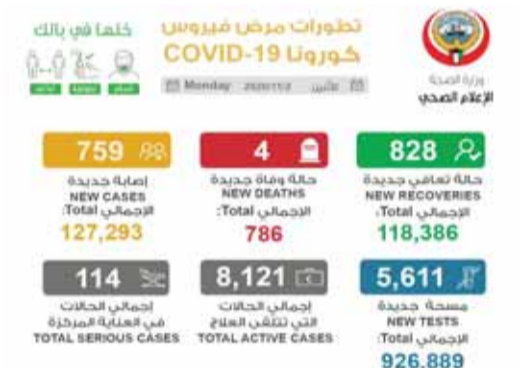


KUWAIT: Ambassador of Pakistan to Kuwait Syed Sajjad Haider meets Chairman of KRCS Dr Hilal Al-Sayer. — KUNA



Ambassador of Pakistan to Kuwait Syed Sajjad Haider is seen during his visit to the Kuwait Red Crescent Society.

Kuwait reports 759 new COVID cases, four deaths



KUWAIT: Kuwait registered 759 new coronavirus (COVID-19) infections yesterday, raising the total to 127,293, the Ministry of Health announced. Deaths reached 786 with the addition of four fatalities. Official spokesperson of the Ministry of Health Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad said that there were 114 patients receiving treatment at intensive care units. Those still receiving treatment amounted to 8,121. Health authorities conducted 5,611 swab tests in the past 24 hours, raising the whole count to 926,889. Earlier, the ministry announced that 828 patients recovered from COVID-19 in the past 24 hours, bringing total recoveries to 118,386. — KUNA

Ooredoo, CAF Cafe promote breast cancer awareness

KUWAIT: As part of its continuous corporate social responsibility initiatives, Ooredoo Telecom, the first to introduce innovative digital services in Kuwait, partnered with CAF Cafe, a socially driven company that captivates the art of social interaction through its community, have honored the breast cancer awareness month by distributing complimentary coffee all day long for customers who visited CAF Cafe at Crystal Tower branch on October 22, 2020.



Mijbil Alayoub

Pink stands for strong, accordingly, pink coffee sleeves with inspirational quotes were distributed with every coffee offered by CAF Cafe team to draw attention to early screening and commemorate this special month. "Until today, breast cancer is proven to be one of the leading causes of death. Thus, and as community supporters, it falls under our responsibility to remind women and men to do regular screening, checkups, and increase their awareness level about its symptoms and causes," said Mijbil Alayoub, Senior Director, Corporate Communications - Ooredoo Kuwait.

ABK, Global Med partner for prostate cancer awareness

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced its partnership with Global Med Clinic, to raise awareness of prostate cancer during the month of November. To encourage testing during this month, ABK male cardholders can get a Prostate Cancer Indicator Test (Total PSA & Free PSA) at Global Med Clinic for only KD 20, a 40 percent discount off the standard cost.

Stay safe. Stay home. Stay informed.



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News in brief

120 expat employees to be terminated?

KUWAIT: Minister of Public Works Dr Rana Al-Fares plans to terminate the contracts of 120 expatriate employees by mid-November, Al-Rai Arabic daily reported yesterday, quoting unnamed sources. The terminations are part of a 'Kuwaitization' process through which the ministry plans to replace all of its non-Kuwaiti manpower with Kuwaiti employees by March 2021, the sources explained.

Rainy season

KUWAIT: Meteorologist Issa Ramadan said yesterday that the rain season is predicted to start after November 11, 2020, and increase after the 13th of the same month. The weather is expected to be cloudy this weekend, he further predicted.

KD 8,000 in trash

KUWAIT: Detectives are investigating the claims of an Egyptian man who told police that he threw away KD 8,000 in cash by mistake. A security source said that the man told officers that he cashed a check for KD 8,000, then put the money in a garbage bag, which he later threw in a Jabriya dumpster, mistaking it for another trash bag. The man said that he searched the dumpster but could not find the money, as it turned out that a garbage truck had already taken the bags away.

Subsidized food hot item in Kuwait's makeshift markets

'Tamween' foodstuff only option for some low-income earners

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti authorities are cracking down on the illegal export of subsidized foodstuff to countries in the region. The subsidized foodstuff, known locally as 'tamween' goods, include rice, milk powder, oil and other necessities. These are prized commodities on the black market in Kuwait as well.

Subsidized rice, milk, sugar, lentils and cooking oil can be found in large quantities at illicit makeshift markets in Kuwait's impoverished areas. In places like Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, especially on weekends, one can find the subsidized items on sale. On a recent visit to one such makeshift market, Kuwait Times did not find subsidized milk powder, but on asking the vendors, they said: "Yes we have it, but because of the police, there's no display here." A Bangladeshi then led this reporter to a car parked nearby.

"In the past days, there were many policemen here searching for tamween goods, and they took all the stocks of sellers here," said a vegetable vendor, who sells at the makeshift market almost every day from 3 pm to 7 pm. "I work in a ministry near Mirqab from 7 am to 2 pm. To earn more money, I sell vegetables here in the evening," he said.

For the very lowest income earners in Kuwait, buying from makeshift markets that often sell tamween foodstuff is their only option. "My house is a few steps away, so I normally buy fruits and vegetables from here. Sometimes I buy milk powder or cooking oil too," a customer told Kuwait Times. There are at least three makeshift markets in Jleeb, whose customers are mostly people from nearby areas. A makeshift market near a mosque in Hasawi sells used clothing to kitchenware, as well as tamween products.



KUWAIT: People shop at makeshift markets in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh yesterday. — Photos by Ben Garcia

Rice, sugar and lentils from subsidized stores are often repacked or portioned by sellers. "We decided to repack to avoid police detection," a vendor explained. Some citizens who receive tamween food-

stuff hand it to their domestic helpers as charity, while other Kuwaitis sell their shares. According to a vendor, tamween foodstuff sold on the black market usually comes from citizens who sell the products at a cut-price rate to expatriates. "From last month, hawkers are very careful in selling tamween products; that is why you cannot see them displaying it, but you can ask and they will get it for you," he said.

A Sri Lankan woman who supplies subsidized milk powder, rice and cooking oil to some of her coworkers said she has not been getting supplies for weeks now. "I used to get the goods from a Bangladeshi in Sulaibikhat, but not anymore. Now the ministry is very strict." She added she used to buy a can of milk powder for KD 2 and sell it for KD 2.5. In October, the ministry of commerce and industry closed some companies specialized in shipping food supplies after they were found to be exporting tamween foodstuff, which is against the law. Arrests of tamween food sellers also take place regularly, including raids on makeshift markets by police patrols.



Vendors on alert due to crackdowns

stuff hand it to their domestic helpers as charity, while other Kuwaitis sell their shares. According to a



Illegal domestic help services thrive during pandemic

KUWAIT: Informed sources revealed that some fake domestic help offices in Kuwait are taking advantage of the current situation by employing helpers returned to them without transferring their residencies to Kuwaiti citizens who employ them in their houses, amidst rising suspicions of human trafficking by these offices.

"What is happening is akin to slavery by bogus offices that bend the law and provide services that cost up to KD 400 per month, taking advantage of very low supply of household help and families' needs by imposing a royalty on top of the helper's salary," the sources said in a report published in Al-Rai Arabic newspaper yesterday. Meanwhile, there were 30,000 transfers of residencies of helpers during the pandemic, besides having bogus offices taking advantage of the 60,000 helpers in violation of the law, most of whom are women, said the sources who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The sources said the offices stipulate that any citizen who needs a domestic helper to accept her on a monthly basis. The helper receives a salary of KD 100-120, while the office gets KD 150-200, according to the agreement between the two parties. This may cost a family up to KD 320, said the sources, adding that that some of the offices are bogus and benefit from hiring out helpers in violation to the maximum, as bringing helpers from abroad is on hold. Meanwhile, office owners said some contracting

companies circumvent the law by taking advantage of having a building cleaning license. They provide domestic helpers for up to KD 450 per month. Head of the Domestic Help Offices Union Khalid Al-Dakhnan warned that offices advertising the availability of daily and monthly helpers "are bogus and carrying out something illegal," adding that "this activity is not licensed and not allowed."

He said these offices should not be patronized because they may provide sick helpers and others who might commit crimes and escape. But he admitted citizens might be compelled to use their services due to the current circumstances. "All those who participate in harboring absconding helpers will face legal action and are complicit in this illegal act. We inform authorities about these bogus offices because the entry of helpers into Kuwaiti homes in this fashion may cause problems, and is considered an illegal act," Dakhnan said.

Meanwhile, security sources said the total number of domestic helpers in the country is around 670,000 persons of both genders, adding the coronavirus, departure of many helpers, inability of some of them to return due to the expiry of their residencies and others who do not want to return have added to the crisis.

The sources said the number of violating domestic helpers is nearly 60,000 - mostly females - and after entry visas were suspended due to the pandemic, some bogus offices started hiring out domestic helpers at high rates that may reach KD 250 a month, though previously salaries were no more than KD 180. Most of these workers are in violation of the residency law or absconders. This has caused the market to have heated competition among Kuwaitis looking for help online or through offices that are supplying domestic helpers for very high prices that may reach KD 3,000.

16.5 kg shabu hidden in fish shipment



KUWAIT: Air customs officers confiscated 16.5 kilograms of shabu (methamphetamine) that were hidden in a fish shipment coming from Iran, the Kuwait General Administration of Customs said yesterday. One suspect was arrested in coordination with the interior ministry on charges of attempting to smuggle the drugs, the customs department explained.

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Thousands take part in anti-France rally

Inaccurate claims persist as US election day approaches

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LONDON: A pedestrian wearing a mask because of the coronavirus pandemic walks past Tower Bridge on Sunday as England prepares to enter into a second lockdown in an effort to stem soaring infections. — AFP

COVID curbs prompt pushback

Iran reports record high number of COVID deaths

LONDON: A wave of COVID curbs has stirred resistance across Europe, with the right-wing British politician who helped force a referendum on Brexit harnessing popular anger at a new lockdown by recasting his Brexit Party under a new banner. The United Kingdom, which has the highest official death toll in Europe from COVID-19, is grappling with more than 20,000 new coronavirus cases a day and scientists have warned the "worst case" scenario of 80,000 dead could be exceeded.

Cast by his supporters as the godfather of the movement to quit the European Union, Brexit Party founder Nigel Farage said Johnson had terrified the United Kingdom into submission over the coronavirus with a second lockdown. "The single most pressing issue is the government's woeful response to coronavirus," Farage and Brexit Party chairman Richard Tice said in a joint article in *The Daily Telegraph*, announcing his Reform UK party.

"Ministers have lost touch with a nation divided between the terrified and the furious. The debate over

how to respond to COVID is becoming even more toxic than that over Brexit." Instead of a lockdown, Farage, who as head of the Brexit party whipped up popular opposition to immigration, proposed targeting those most at risk, like the sick and the elderly, but said ordinary people should not be criminalised for trying to live normal lives such as meeting family for Christmas.

France, Germany, Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands and other countries have announced new curbs on movement and gatherings as infections surge and hospitals and intensive care units fill up. Small shopkeepers in France have complained about being forced to close while supermarkets are allowed to sell "non-essential goods" such as shoes, clothes, beauty products and flowers because they also sell food.

'Dramatic situation'

Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said yesterday supermarkets will face the same limits on selling non-essential goods but shopowners are not allowed to

challenge government lockdown rules. German Chancellor Angela Merkel last week denounced populists who argue that the coronavirus is harmless as dangerous and irresponsible. "We are in a dramatic situation at the start of the cold season. It affects us all, without exception," Merkel told the Bundestag (lower house of parliament), adding new restrictions to reduce social contact were "necessary and proportionate". Police in the Spanish capital, Madrid, on Sunday raided 81 illegal parties, 18 drinking sessions known in Spain as "botellones", and 10 bars which broke COVID curbs.

Iran, the Middle East country worst hit by COVID, reported a record 440 deaths in the past 24 hours, pushing the death toll up to 35,738 as a ban on travel in and out of major cities came into force. Protests flared against new COVID restrictions across Italy last week, with violence reported in Milan and Turin. More than 46.37 million people have been infected globally and 1,198,168 have died from the respiratory disease, according to a Reuters tally. The United States, which

holds a highly polarised presidential election on Tuesday, leads the world with more than 9 million cases and 230,700 deaths.

World shares recovered from one-month lows yesterday as strengthening factory data in China and Europe offset news of new virus lockdowns, while investors prepared for more volatility arising from the US election. US President Donald Trump has continually downplayed the virus, mocking Democratic challenger Joe Biden for wearing a mask and social distancing at campaign rallies, a tactic which enlivens his base supporters but infuriates his opponents.

Trump has also ridiculed his top coronavirus task force adviser, Anthony Fauci, who has contradicted Trump's assertions that the US fight against the virus is "rounding the turn". "We're in for a whole lot of hurt. It's not a good situation," Fauci told *The Washington Post* on Friday. "All the stars are aligned in the wrong place as you go into the fall and winter season, with people congregating at home indoors. You could not possibly be positioned more poorly." — Reuters

16 dead as typhoon batters Philippines

MANILA: The most powerful typhoon this year destroyed tens of thousands of homes and killed at least 16 people, officials said yesterday, as communications to the worst-hit areas remained cut off. Catanduanes Island and nearby Albay province on the most populous island of Luzon bore the brunt of Typhoon Goni which was packing maximum sustained wind speeds of 225 kilometres (140 miles) per hour when it slammed into the east coast on Sunday.

Ferocious winds and torrential rain toppled power lines, triggered flooding and sparked landslides that engulfed houses as Goni swept across the southern part of Luzon. It lost intensity as it skirted the sprawling capital of Manila and headed out to the South China Sea. "We are horrified by the devastation caused by this typhoon in many areas including Catanduanes island and Albay," Philippines Red Cross chief Richard Gordon said in a statement.

"Up to 90 percent of homes have been badly damaged or destroyed in

some areas. This typhoon has smashed into people's lives and livelihoods on top of the relentless physical, emotional and economic toll of COVID-19." Hundreds of thousands of people fled their homes ahead of the typhoon and many of them remain in evacuation centres as authorities scramble to restore power and telecommunications services in the hardest-hit areas.

Ten deaths were recorded in Albay province, but provincial disaster chief Cedric Daep said without pre-emptive evacuations "thousands would have died". "We have extensive damage to infrastructure and housing," Daep said. "Many people are hungry. They had already suffered from Covid due to the loss of jobs and dislocation. Some don't even have kitchen utensils."

Three of the victims were caught in landslides of volcanic ash that police said engulfed numerous houses in two adjacent villages near the active Mayon volcano. Another three are still missing. The mayor of Guinobatan, where the villages are located, told local media that around 147 homes had been swamped and some were now unlivable. Goni was ranked as a "super typhoon" when it made landfall on Catanduanes where at least six people died and authorities estimate most houses and infrastructure were damaged or destroyed. "We are severely affected here," provincial Governor Joseph Cua told a government briefing.—AFP



AGADIR, Morocco: Haidar, a farmer, walks among orange trees dried out by drought on Morocco's southern plains in the country's agricultural heartland on Oct 22, 2020. — AFP

Drought casts shadow over prime Moroccan farming land

AGADIR: Parched fields stretch as far as the eye can see on plains overlooking Agadir in southwestern Morocco, as precious water resources are diverted from the drought-hit agricultural heartland to households. "These trees are nearly 20 years old—they're dead, there is no longer any water," sighed Ahmed Driouch, a farmer, his withered orange trees testament to three years of intensifying drought.

For the past three years, the region has been struggling with a drought that exacerbated water resources and prompted authorities to make a painful choice. They have increasingly resorted to diverting water from dams in the region to residential areas, depriving farms of irrigation to provide a drinkable supply to nearly a million Moroccans.

"I don't understand why they haven't sought another way of providing drinking water, other than by marginalizing farmers," lamented Driouch. Water levels in reservoirs stood at an average of 37 percent of capacity across Morocco at the end of October, down from nearly 46 percent a year ago. Around Agadir, the coastal capital of the Souss-Massa region, water levels are even lower, spelling disaster for citrus fruits and seasonal vegetables.

"The shortfall in surface water is 94 percent," said Abdelhamid Aslikh, head of the region's water reserves agency. "We have never seen anything like this... it's worrying." Shortages are so severe that Agadir's tap water is cut off to households overnight - a measure that has reduced wastage to a degree, according to Aslikh. He said the authorities have also forbidden "irrigation of golf courses and hotel gardens with drinkable water" in Agadir, and encouraged the use of treated waste-water as an alternative.

Some 60 kilometers from Agadir, the Abdelmoumen dam—normally popular with local bathers—has run almost dry. Weeds have sprung up, while the famous argan trees that dot the foothills of the nearby Lesser Atlas mountains have lost their lustre. The dam has not irrigated agricultural land since 2017. On the other side of the mountains, olive groves are parched, aside from the few that are served by wells. Without irrigation via the dams, farmers have little choice but to await rare rains, or to exhaust a water table that has been increasingly overexploited in recent years. Water drawn from wells is in any case "salty" and therefore unsuitable for many crops, said another farmer, Abderrahmane.—AFP

WHO chief Tedros in self-quarantine

GENEVA: The World Health Organization chief said late Sunday that he was self-quarantining after someone he had been in contact with tested positive for COVID-19, but stressed he had no symptoms. "I have been identified as a contact of someone who has tested positive for #COVID19," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a tweet. "I am well and without symptoms but will self-quarantine over the coming days, in line with @WHO protocols, and work from home," he added. Tedros has been at the forefront of the United Nations health agency's efforts to battle the pandemic. COVID-19 has claimed nearly 1.2 million lives and infected over 46 million people worldwide since emerging in China late last year.

'Suppress the virus'

Tedros stressed on Twitter that "it is critically important that we all comply with health guidance." "This is how we will break chains of #COVID19 transmission, suppress the virus, and protect health systems." The 55-year-old former Ethiopian minister of health and foreign affairs has for months reiterated that each person has a role to play in halting the spread of the virus.

The WHO urges all individuals to be careful about hand-washing, wearing masks and keeping a distance, while it calls on authorities at various levels to work to find, isolate, test and care for cases, then trace and quarantine their contacts. His comments came as there is growing anger and exasperation over new coronavirus curbs as several European nations wound back the clocks to the spring with fresh lockdowns and restrictions aimed at halting galloping infections and deaths. European governments are desperate to stem the worrying spike in infections.—AFP



Tedros Ghebreyesus



BATANGAS CITY, Philippines: A resident shovels mud from a neighborhood street following flooding yesterday after supertyphoon Goni made landfall in the Philippines. — AFP

International

Inaccurate claims persist as US election day approaches

Misleading claims from Trump and Biden

WASHINGTON: As the US awaits election day today, misleading claims from President Donald Trump and his opponent Joe Biden are circulating on hot-button issues including the Covid-19 pandemic, the economy and healthcare. AFP examines inaccurate claims from both candidates below.

'Super predators'

Trump claimed in tweets on Sunday that Biden called young Black men "super predators." But it was Hillary Clinton, not Biden, who used the phrase in the 1990s. At the final presidential debate last month, Biden maintained that he did not say "super predators." He did, however, warn of criminal "predators" when making a speech on the Senate floor to push for a 1994 crime bill.

Two million lives saved

Trump and campaign staffers have repeatedly said at rallies, town halls and during interviews that his government's response to the novel coronavirus pandemic "saved over two million lives." The claim relates to a March 2020 paper from Imperial College London that explored how the virus could spread under different response levels. The paper said that "in the (unlikely) absence of any control measures or spontaneous changes in individual behavior," deaths could peak at 2.2 million in the United States. As of 1100 GMT on November 1, 230,556 deaths from 9,127,109 cases had been recorded in the US. But Trump's pandemic response did not save two million people who were expected to die; it rather avoided an unlikely worst-case scenario in which no action was taken.

Coronavirus 'hoax'

Biden and his campaign team claimed in an ad that Trump called the novel coronavirus a "hoax." The video, posted on Twitter on September 15, 2020, shows a clip of Trump at a rally at the beginning of the pandemic at

which he says "the coronavirus...and this is their new hoax." It then contrasts that with a recording in which the president privately called the virus a "killer."

However, the video from a rally in North Charleston, South Carolina on February 28, 2020, was misleadingly edited. "Now the Democrats are politicizing the coronavirus," Trump said, before describing Democratic criticism of his response to the pandemic as "their new hoax." "One of my people came up to me and said, 'Mr President, they tried to beat you on Russia, Russia, Russia.' That didn't work out too well. They couldn't do it. They tried the impeachment hoax," he said. "They tried anything, they tried it over and over... And this is their new hoax."

Job creation

"We've created a record 11.4 million American jobs since May," Trump said during a speech to the New York Economic Club on October 14, 2020. The president often mentions this figure at rallies, heralding a statistical bounce that followed the reopening of the US economy. However, he usually does not mention that 22 million jobs had previously been lost as local governments across the country imposed lockdowns to combat the spread of the coronavirus. Many people who registered for unemployment due to business closures went back to work, as opposed to new jobs being created. Weekly applications for jobless benefits remain higher than the worst of the 2008-2010 global financial crisis, and about 23 million people continue to receive some form of government unemployment support.

Health insurance

"They have 180 million people, families under what he wants to do, which will basically be socialized medicine—you won't even have a choice—they want to terminate 180 million plans," Trump said during the final presidential debate on October 22. He repeated the comments in an interview on CBS's "60 minutes."

Biden accused of calling Black men 'super predators'



New Zealand gets tattooed Maori FM and gay deputy PM

WELLINGTON: Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern unveiled what she called an "incredibly diverse" cabinet yesterday that includes New Zealand's first openly gay deputy prime minister and a foreign minister with a Maori facial tattoo. The centre-left leader revamped her ministerial line-up in the wake of a landslide election victory, saying her second-term priorities were responding to Covid-19 and promoting economic recovery.

Ardern appointed Grant Robertson as deputy prime minister, making him the first openly gay person to hold the role. Women and the Maori community are also strongly represented in the 20-member cabinet, including new Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta, who has a moko kauae—a traditional female Maori tattoo on the chin. While expressing pride at her cabinet's diversity, Ardern also said appointments were made on merit. "It is both a cabinet with huge merit and talent, which also happens to be incredibly diverse," the 40-year-old said.

Colombia's former rebels march over murders

BOGOTA: Around 2,000 former FARC guerrillas rallied in the Colombian capital Sunday to protest the murder of 236 ex-combatants since signing a 2016 peace agreement. Members of the former rebel movement turned political party arrived in Bogota after completing a 200-kilometer march from the southern town of Mesetas. "We are mobilizing to demand respect for our lives and also for compliance with the peace agreement," FARC Senator Victoria Sandino told AFP, faced with what she called a "genocide against the signatories" of the 2016 peace agreement that ended a half-century of conflict.

Sandino holds one of 10 Congress seats reserved for FARC under the peace deal, when the bulk of the movement laid down its weapons. The march began in Mesetas on October 21, following the killing of two local ex-FARC combatants days before. Two more ex-rebels

"I think it's an important point to make—these are individuals who have been promoted for what they bring to the cabinet, they also reflect the New Zealand that elected them," Robertson, 49, has long acted as Ardern's right-hand man—he controlled the government's purse strings as finance minister during her first term and was chief strategist of her election campaign. The deputy's role—which he will hold along with the finance and infrastructure portfolios—formalises his position and will see him become acting prime minister when Ardern is overseas.

'Fantastic relationships'

Asked about the significance of having a gay man as her second in command, Ardern said Robertson was selected for his leadership abilities, not how he identified. "One of the amazing things about New Zealand is that we are often in a space where these questions become secondary," she said. Mahuta, the first woman to become New Zealand foreign minister, was elected to parliament in 1996 but got the traditional tattoo in 2016 at the urging of her daughter.

The distinctive decoration is unique to her, although it has design elements specific to her iwi, or tribe. The male moko covers the entire face. At the time, Mahuta said the tattoo was a way to both honour her ancestors and reduce

were killed on October 24 as the delegation continued towards Bogota, in what Rodrigo Granda, one of the negotiators of the agreement and a leader of the party, described as "a low blow to peace."

'State responsibility'

On Sunday, the ex-rebels marched to Bolivar Square in the historic center of Bogota, converging with two other delegations from the south and north of the country to demand a meeting with right-wing President Ivan Duque. Duque came to power in 2018 vowing to modify the peace agreement made by his predecessor Juan Manuel Santos, which he considered too lenient on former rebels accused of atrocities. However, Congress has rejected the move. The marchers banged drums, blew trumpets and waved banners, including one with the slogan, "Duque: we did not sign the peace deal to be killed." "We are asking the president to meet with us so that we can talk about the challenges facing the Colombian state in guaranteeing the safety of its citizens," said Pastor Alape, a prominent FARC party leader.

According to the FARC, 236 signatories of the peace deal have been killed since it was signed. "There is a state responsibility in these crimes," said Alape, adding that the killings have been motivated by

The number of fires typically fall in October as the Amazon approaches the rainy season. But Brazil's National Institute of Space Research (INPE) on Sunday recorded 17,326 fires in the Amazon in October, more than double the number seen in the same month in 2019. Satellite imagery showed close to 100,000 fires in the first 10 months of 2020, more than were seen in the whole of last year. The INPE also detected almost 3,000 individual fires in the Pantanal, a new monthly record since data collection began in 1998.

The region - 23 percent of which is estimated to have gone up in smoke this year - has seen a record-breaking 21,115 fires so far this year, more than double the number registered in all of 2019. Experts and environmental NGOs blame the worsening fires on Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro, a climate change skeptic who supports opening both regions to logging and farming. Some fires are the result of burning to prepare the land for livestock, despite a 120-day ban on the practice imposed in July.



TAMPA: Supporters wearing Proud Boy clothing wave to the camera during a Make America Great Again campaign rally on Oct 29, 2020. —AFP

The number refers to the 180 million Americans covered by private insurance from their employers or purchased for themselves, according to 2019 American Community Survey figures aggregated by health policy organization KFF. However, Biden's plan is to build on the existing Affordable Care Act, known as Obamacare, "instead of starting from scratch and getting rid of private insurance." He wants to create a new public option for coverage like Medicare, to lower costs associated with healthcare, while keeping private options currently in place available.

Pre-existing conditions

Biden has warned at several rallies that Trump's efforts to do away with the Affordable Care Act "will take pro-

tections away from pre-existing conditions for over a hundred million people." A 2017 report from the Department of Health estimated that up to 133 million people fell into that category. A report from health consulting firm Avalere found that 102 million individuals have a pre-existing condition and are not on Medicare or Medicaid. However, individuals with pre-existing conditions whose health insurance is covered by their employers already have some protections under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. In 2019, 55.4 percent of Americans were covered under their employer's insurance, according to the Census American Community Survey, while 5.9 percent purchased private health care, according to KFF. —AFP

News in brief

Gunmen kill 19 students

KABUL: Gunmen attacked Kabul University's campus yesterday, killing at least 19 students and trading fire with security forces, a senior Afghan government source and witnesses said. The attackers were targeting students and fired on them as they fled in the Afghan capital, one witness said. "They were shooting at every student they saw," Fathullah Moradi told Reuters, saying he had managed to escape through one of the university's gates with a group of friends. The Taliban said their fighters were not involved in the assault. No other group immediately claimed responsibility. Witnesses said the attack followed an explosion in the area. "At least 19 killed many others wounded," the senior government official said on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to speak to media. Several attackers had entered the campus and were fighting with security forces, interior ministry spokesman Tariq Arian said. —Reuters

Belarus protesters detained

MINSK: About 300 people were detained in the Belarusian capital Minsk at a weekend opposition rally against the re-election of President Alexander Lukashenko, the interior ministry said yesterday. Tens of thousands of protesters marched from central Minsk to a Soviet-era execution site on Sunday in the latest protest against 66-year-old Lukashenko's claim to victory in an August presidential vote. "Some 300 people were detained in Minsk and the Minsk region for breaking laws on mass gatherings," the Belarusian interior ministry said on its Telegram channel. It said law enforcement officers used stun grenades and rubber bullets to disperse the protesters. For nearly three months, protesters have been talking to the streets on Sundays to voice their opposition to the results of the election which government critics say were rigged. —AFP

Prince William 'caught COVID'

LONDON: Prince William, second-in-line to the British throne, contracted coronavirus in April but kept his diagnosis secret, media reported yesterday. The Sun newspaper said the Duke of Cambridge, 38, was diagnosed shortly after his father, heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles, announced he had caught the virus in late March. But he did not make the diagnosis public "because he didn't want to alarm the nation", the tabloid said. The BBC also reported the story, quoting a palace source. William's Kensington Palace office would not confirm the reports when contacted by AFP but also did not deny they were true. "There were important things going on and I didn't want to worry anyone", the prince was reported to have told a guest at an engagement, adding he was "determined it should be business as usual". —AFP

Fire burns down tents

SAMOS: A fire broke out early yesterday in the refugee camp on earthquake hit Greece's Samos island burning down 15 tents, the Migration Ministry said. The blaze started at 4:00 am local time and 21 firemen with seven vehicles battled for four hours to bring it under control. There were no reports of injuries. According to official figures, 4,200 people are sheltered at the Samos refugee camp where late September two more fires had broken out as a result of arson. The south-Aegean island of Samos was hit by a powerful earthquake that shook the region on Friday and caused the death of two teenagers and severe damage to buildings. Sixty-nine people died in western Turkey. —AFP



SYDNEY: This file photo taken on Feb 28, 2020 shows New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern (right) and New Zealand's then-Minister of Maori Development and Local Government Nanaia Mahuta posing for photographs at Admiralty House. —AFP

stigma surrounding an aspect of Maori culture that many New Zealanders have associated with crime and gangs. "She's someone who builds fantastic relationships very, very quickly and that is one of the key jobs in a foreign affairs role," Ardern said of her new chief diplomat. —AFP



BOGOTA: Former FARC guerrilla members take part in a demonstration demanding peace accords to be respected in front of the Colombian Supreme Court on Sunday. —AFP

"intolerance in the speeches of government officials, and the president of the republic himself." The government says drug-trafficking organizations are behind most of the killings, as they fight a turf war over the production and export of cocaine through Central America to the United States. —AFP

"With deforestation rates increasing in recent years, warnings by researchers were ignored by the government: deforestation and fire go together," said Mariana Napolitano, the head of the science program at World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Brazil. "After deforesting the jungle, the offenders set fires to clean up the accumulated organic material... at the end of the month, with the arrival of the rains, the pace of the fires seems to be slowing down, but we can hardly depend on climate factors," she said. "What happened in the dry season in the Amazon and Pantanal cannot be repeated." Climate change has also played a role in the fires, with a team of international researchers warning this year that rising global temperatures posed a "critical threat" to the Pantanal's delicate ecosystem. President Bolsonaro has denounced a campaign of "disinformation" about the Pantanal and the Amazon, even blaming local indigenous people and activists for setting the fires. —AFP

International

Tens of thousands take part in anti-France rally in Bangladesh

End ties with France in 24 hours, Islamist group tells govt

DHAKA: More than 50,000 people took part yesterday in the biggest demonstration yet in Bangladesh over French President Emmanuel Macron's defense of the right to publish cartoons of the Prophet. The rally which started at Bangladesh's biggest mosque was stopped from getting close to the French embassy where security has been stepped up amid mounting tensions over Macron's comments.

The march was more than two kilometers long and crowds-ignoring coronavirus social distancing rules-carried effigies of Macron, caricatures and a fake coffin for the French president. Police estimated some 50,000 people took part in the third major anti-France protest in the past week while organizers said there were more than 100,000.

End ties with France

Bangladesh's biggest Islamist group urged government to cut diplomatic ties with France within 24 hours, as police stopped thousands of its supporters from marching towards the French embassy. "We are giving an ultimatum to the government to end diplomatic ties with France within 24 hours," said Junayed Babunagari, head of Hefazat-e-Islam. "If our demands are not met, we will announce our next course of action," he shouted as mostly unmasked protesters wearing white prayers caps cheered him on.

Protesters chanted "We are all soldiers of the prophet", "We are not afraid of bullets or bombs" and "Macron, you are in danger." They burned one

effigy of the French leader. Police put up a barbed wire barricade across a major road to stop the demonstrators getting close to Dhaka's embassy district and the event broke up without trouble. Demonstrations have been held in many Muslim majority countries after Macron defended France's freedom of speech laws, in the wake of the killing of a teacher who had shown caricatures of the Muslim prophet to his class. Islam forbids any depictions of Mohammed.

Around 3,000 people also demonstrated yesterday outside the French embassy in Jakarta in Indonesia-the world's biggest Muslim majority nation-according to police. Protesters burned pictures of Macron and waved placards emblazoned with a shoeprint on his face and others depicting the French leader with devil horns. Yesterday's rally in Bangladesh was called by Hefazat-i-Islami, one of the biggest radical Muslim political groups in the country of 168 million people.

Organizers said police had prevented thousands of others from joining the rally by stopping buses, trucks, and cars from entering the capital.

Junaid Babunagari, the firebrand deputy chief of Hefazat, called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to make the Bangladesh parliament condemn Macron. "I call on traders to throw away French products. I ask the UN to take stern action against France," he told the rally. Bangladesh's government has so far not commented on France or the protests. Other Hefazat leaders said Macron must apologize to



DHAKA: Protesters display placards during an anti-France demonstration yesterday. —AFP

Muslims around the world. The South Asian country has seen other giant rallies after the publication of cartoons of the prophet Mohammed by Danish newspapers.

Islamist groups in Bangladesh, including Hefazat, have demanded blasphemy laws in the country that would allow for the death sentence in serious cases. A 2013 rally in Dhaka by thousands

of Hefazat supporters demanding a blasphemy law ended in unrest in which more than 50 people were killed. Between 2013 and 2016, nearly a dozen secular activists and bloggers were killed by Islamist extremists in Bangladesh after they were accused of defaming Islam. Militants also staged an attack on a Dhaka cafe in 2016 in which 17 foreigners were killed. —Agencies

Thai king declares 'love' for all after months of protests

BANGKOK: King Maha Vajiralongkorn called Thailand the "land of compromise" in unprecedented comments Sunday, during which the once-unapproachable monarch declared "love" for all Thais after months of protests calling for reform to the monarchy. The 68-year-old ruler sits at the apex of Thai power, and comments to the media are rare due to protocols dictating formalities with the royal family. Societal taboos also prohibit Thais from speaking to-or questioning-the monarch, who is protected from criticism thanks to a draconian royal defamation law with a broad legal interpretation.

But the once-untouchable institution faces unprecedented challenges from a growing pro-democracy movement, some of whose leaders are demanding reforms to the monarchy, including for

the law's abolition. On Sunday, royal devotion was on display as thousands wearing yellow shirts-the royal color-waited near the Grand Palace clutching portraits of King Vajiralongkorn and Queen Suthida. Zigzagging through the crowd to greet supporters, the monarch was stopped by a reporter with Britain's Channel 4 who asked him about protesters calling for reform.

"We love them all the same," he told the reporter repeatedly according to a clip posted on Channel 4's official Twitter account. When asked if there is room for compromise, he said: "Thailand is the land of compromise." As Vajiralongkorn moved through the crowd, royalists chanted, "We will live loyally, die faithfully" and "Long live the King!" The ultra-wealthy monarch is supported by the kingdom's military and billionaire clans, wielding unparalleled influence across every aspect of Thai society.

He spends long periods of time in Germany, but has been in Thailand in recent weeks to mark a Buddhist holiday and the anniversary of his father's death. The visit has coincided with non-stop demonstrations from mostly young activists, who have staged guerilla rallies drawing thousands to Bangkok's



BANGKOK: Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn and Queen Suthida greet supporters outside the Grand Palace on Sunday after presiding over a religious ceremony at a Buddhist temple inside the palace. —AFP

most traffic-clogged intersections as a show of defiance. While the movement is leaderless, they are united in their demand for the removal of Premier Prayut Chan-O-Cha, a former military chief who came to power after staging a coup in 2014. —AFP

French schools hold minute's silence in for slain teacher

PARIS: Schools across France held a minute's silence yesterday in memory of Samuel Paty who was beheaded by a Chechen teenager who wanted to avenge his use of cartoons mocking the Prophet Muhammad during a class on freedom of expression. With France at its highest security level following further attacks since Paty's killing, some 12 million pupils returned to school for the first time since the 47-year-old was slain in broad daylight on the eve of a two-week school holiday.

President Emmanuel Macron cast the killing as an attack on French values and the Republic itself. But his insistence that France will not compromise on basic freedoms of belief and expression has provoked outcry among Muslims worldwide. "The idea of terrorism is to create hatred," Macron

wrote in a message to schoolchildren on social media. "We will pull through this together." Pupils stood in silence at 11 am and teachers reminded them of their rights and duties in a "free democracy". Prime Minister Jean Castex marked the tribute alongside staff at the Le Bois d'Aulne college where Paty taught. Police guarded the gates of the high school, which remains closed to pupils until today.

Macron has described Paty as a "quiet hero" dedicated to instilling the values of the Republic in his pupils and the embodiment of France's "desire to break the will of the terrorists". Teachers across France read a letter written to their profession by Jean Jaures in which the 19th century politician set out their role in nurturing young citizens. "They will be citizens and they must know what a free democracy is, what rights confers on them, what duties the sovereignty of the nation imposes on them," Jaures wrote.

France has deployed extra soldiers to protect places of worship and schools following further attacks since Paty's killing, including in a church in Nice and against a priest in Lyon. Paty's macabre



BISCHWILLER, France: Pupils of an elementary school observe a minute of silence yesterday to pay tribute to slain history teacher Samuel Paty. —AFP

murder convulsed secular France, where the separation of church and state is fiercely defended by many. It also exposed the fault lines cleaving a country where some Muslims see the government's use of secular laws as a tool to suppress their expression of religious beliefs. —Reuters

Pakistan's PM vows to make contested region full province

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has angered India after declaring that part of the contested Kashmir region will provisionally become a full province of Pakistan. Pakistan has administered the area now known as Gilgit-Baltistan since shortly after the country's birth in 1947, but New Delhi asserts the mountainous territory bordering China and Afghanistan is an integral part of Kashmir that it claims belongs to India.

"We have decided to grant provisional provincial status to Gilgit-Baltistan, which was a long-standing demand here," Khan said in a speech in Gilgit city Sunday. The move comes after New Delhi last year imposed direct rule over Indian-administered Kashmir, upending a decades-long status quo and drawing strong condemnation from Islamabad. Khan, who was speaking ahead of local elections slated for November 15, did not provide a time-

line for the move. China has spent years building infrastructure projects in Gilgit-Baltistan, home to an estimated 1.3 million people, including a long stretch of the Karakoram Highway, a key component to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Khan said the modern and well-maintained road had brought important progress to Gilgit-Baltistan and the move to make the area a province would help "uplift backward areas and poor segments of society". Any change in status would require a constitutional amendment. If finalised, it would make Gilgit-Baltistan Pakistan's fifth province. New Delhi condemned Khan's announcement, saying it would "bring material changes to a part of Indian territory". "Such attempts by Pakistan, intended to camouflage its illegal occupation, cannot hide the grave human rights violations, exploitation and denial of freedom for over seven decades to the people residing in these Pakistan-occupied territories," Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman Shri Anurag Srivastava said in a statement. India and Pakistan each control parts of Kashmir and both countries accuse the other of illegal occupations. —AFP

Japan's pledge boosts hopes of ammonia backers

TOKYO: Japan's pledge to become carbon-neutral by 2050 is offering hope to industry heavyweights pushing ammonia as the fuel of the future-but critics say the corrosive gas is still far from a clear-cut clean energy. Burning ammonia, unlike fossil fuels, does not emit planet-warming carbon dioxide, and it is easier to transport than liquid hydrogen, also touted as a potential source of green fuel.

That has attracted the interest of a consortium of major Japanese firms, keen to launch large-scale imports into the country, which has few fossil fuel reserves and limited nuclear capacity since the Fukushima disaster. "Ammonia is the cheapest and most viable option" for Japan, Shigeru Muraki, executive vice-president and representative director of the Green Ammonia Consortium, told AFP. Formed last year, the consortium groups 70 major Japanese firms who hope to use

ammonia first at coal power stations and eventually at gas plants too. The hunt for greener fuels has new urgency after Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga in October set a 2050 deadline for the world's third-largest economy-still heavily coal dependent-to reach carbon neutrality. Muraki believes ammonia could generate a tenth of Japan's electricity needs "before 2040." But whether the gas can provide a silver bullet depends a lot on future technological innovations, not least because most currently available methods for producing ammonia themselves emit carbon dioxide.

Ammonia-composed of hydrogen and nitrogen-is already produced en masse from fossil fuels and exported worldwide to make fertilizer. It maintains a liquid state at around -33 degrees Celsius (-27.4 degrees Fahrenheit), meaning it is much simpler and cheaper to transport than liquid hydrogen at -253 degrees Celsius. In eco terms, the holy grail is "green" ammonia, manufactured with chemical reactions involving water, air and sustainable electricity. It is 100 percent renewable and carbon-free, according to the Royal Society, an independent scientific organization. —AFP

News in brief

Snowden eyes Russia citizenship

MOSCOW: Fugitive US whistleblower Edward Snowden said yesterday he had applied for Russian citizenship but would keep his US nationality. The former American intelligence contractor, who revealed in 2013 that the US government was spying on its citizens, has been living in exile in Russia since the revelations. Snowden's tweet comes weeks after he was granted permanent residency in the country, and just days after his partner Lindsay Mills announced she was pregnant. He tweeted: "After years of separation from our parents, my wife and I have no desire to be separated from our son." The 37-year-old said that "in this era of pandemics and closed borders, we're applying for dual US-Russian citizenship". Moscow only recently relaxed its strict citizenship laws to allow individuals to hold Russian passports without rejecting their original nationalities. —AFP

'Mr Brexit' launches party

LONDON: Nigel Farage, the driving force behind Brexit, yesterday relaunched his political party as "Reform UK", with a main focus to oppose the government's coronavirus lockdowns. The former leader of the UK Independence Party launched the Brexit Party 21 months ago to increase pressure on the government of then-prime minister Theresa May to deliver Brexit. With Britain having left the European Union in January, the party retreated into the shadows, but the government's handling of the coronavirus pandemic and the imposition of a second lockdown has spurred Farage to relaunch his party. "While we are still keeping a close eye on Brexit, it is time to redirect our energies," he wrote in the Sunday Telegraph. "The single most pressing issue is the government's woeful response to coronavirus. The 'strategy' has been to terrify the nation into submission, coupled with a barrage of lockdowns, rules, regulations and threats. —AFP

Myung-bak goes back to jail

SEOUL: Former South Korean president Lee Myung-bak headed to prison yesterday after a Seoul court upheld a 17-year term on corruption charges. It is effectively a life sentence: unless he is pardoned or paroled, the 78-year-old will not leave jail until 2036, when he would be 95. He left his residence in southern Seoul in a black car, passing a throng of journalists and former aides, but did not say anything and was not visible through the vehicle's darkened windows. The scene illustrated the polarization of South Korean politics: one of Lee's supporters held a sign reading "President Lee saved the economy and raised the national profile", and others saluted him with clenched fists. But only a few steps away on the other side of a police line stood a man with a different message: "Apologize to the people". —AFP

Tanzania oppn leader arrested

DAR ES SALAAM: Tanzanian police have arrested the chairman of the main opposition party Chadema as well as other top leaders, ahead of planned protests against an election the party said was rigged. Chadema and fellow opposition party ACT-Wazalendo rejected results which saw President John Magufuli win a second term with 84 percent of results and his ruling party take 97 percent of seats in parliament. Chadema chairman Freeman Mbowe had called for countrywide protests starting Monday as well as fresh elections. "We have arrested Mbowe, he is in our hands," said Dar es Salaam police chief Lazaro Mambosasa, adding six other top members of the party were also under arrest. "On top of these protests which we banned, they wanted to incite the vandalisation of buildings, burn petrol stations, markets and public transport vehicles," he said. —AFP

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020

KFH achieved KD 101.2m net profit until end of Q3 2020: Al-Marzouq

Earnings per share reached 13.31 fils

KUWAIT: Chairman of Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq said that KFH has, by the grace of Allah, reported net profit of KD 101.2 million until end of Q3 of 2020 for KFH shareholders; a decrease of 46.9 percent compared to the same period last year.

Net financing income until end of Q3 of 2020 reached KD 450.5 million; an increase of 13.9 percent compared to the same period last year. Net operating income until end of Q3 of 2020 reached KD 401.8 million i.e., a growth increase of 2.2 percent compared to the same period last year.

Cost to income ratio dropped to reach 35.5 percent until end of Q3 of 2020, compared to 36.1 percent for the same period last year. Earnings per share until end of Q3 of 2020 reached 13.31 fils; a decrease of 47.1 percent compared to the same period last year. Shareholders' equity reached KD 1.9 billion until end of Q3 of 2020. Total assets rose to reach KD 21.0 billion, i.e. an increase of KD 1.6 billion or 8.1 percent compared to end of last year 2019. Financing portfolio until end of Q3 of 2020 reached KD 10.1 billion, i.e. an increase of KD 794 million or 8.5 percent compared to end of last year 2019.

Investment in Sukuk until end of Q3 of 2020 reached KD 3.2 billion; an increase of KD 928 million i.e., a growth of 40.5 percent compared to end of last year 2019. Depositors' accounts reached KD 14.9 billion i.e., an increase of KD 1.4 billion or 10.0 percent compared to the end of last year. In addition, the capital adequacy ratio reached 16.25 percent which is above the minimum required limit. This percentage confirms the solid financial position of KFH.

Precautionary provisions and quality of financings

Al-Marzouq added in a press release that in spite of the negative economic consequences of Coronavirus, the recent financial results confirm the successful strategy of KFH, its solid financial position and high professionalism in handling the exceptional conditions. This



Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq

has been achieved because of the conservative policy and the efficiency of KFH's prudent approach to risk management.

He said that profit rates fell in the first nine months of 2020 because of the additional precautionary provisions taken by KFH to maintain good levels of asset quality and build solid buffers against crises.

High creditworthiness

He pointed out that "KFH" enjoys high creditworthiness and a robust capital base, stressing the continuous focus on core banking activity, improving asset quality and developing the human element to achieve sustainable growth of all the bank's financial indicators and offering banking services of high quality and excellence. Al-Marzouq praised the success of offering quality banking services without interruption during the full shut down in the country because of the pandemic.

Financing mega-projects and supporting the

development plan

Al-Marzouq emphasized the leading role of "KFH" in supporting the national economy, financing mega-projects and contributing to the development plans and projects in Kuwait and the region. He praised the efforts of financing vital companies and sectors including energy, water, power, infrastructure and construction, as well as supporting SMEs.

Al-Marzouq lauded KFH recent success in leading the arrangement and marketing of the KD 400 million Islamic tranche, as well as an agent of the Islamic banks in a mega KD 1 billion syndicated credit facility for KPC to fund its capital expenditure in cooperation with Kuwaiti banks where KFH contributed KD 304 million in financing.

Prominent role in Sukuk market

Al-Marzouq stressed the active role of "KFH" in Sukuk issuance for many local and international banks as well as governments, noting that KFH Group led KD 150 million Sukuk to Warba bank, the first Kuwaiti Dinar-denominated Sukuk issuance. In addition, KFH was involved in arranging deals including \$750 million Sukuk for Boubyan, \$500 million Sukuk for Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company ("Mumtalakat"), \$500 million Sukuk for First Abu Dhabi Bank, \$1 billion Sukuk for Dubai Islamic Bank, \$500 million Sukuk for Sharjah Islamic Bank and \$50 million Sukuk for (KFH-Turkey). He added that KFH occupied first place in the IILM Sukuk program which supplied liquidity of an excess of \$9 billion, across 29 Sukuk issuances.

Noticeable progress in digital transformation

Al-Marzouq added that "KFH" has made a marked progress in the digital transformation strategy, adopting the state-of-the-art technological financial services "FinTech" and applying AI and robotic technology in banking transactions.

He pointed out that "KFH" succeeded in offering

several digital services on the mobile app KFHonline and on various alternative channels including KFH Go smart branches in several areas of Kuwait. This helps enhance the customer's digital experience and lead digital development in the banking industry.

Harmonious group performance

Al-Marzouq stressed that the most important elements in KFH strength lie in the success of the strategy of harmonious performance between the Group banks in Turkey, Germany, Bahrain, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia. He pointed out their distinction in offering digital solutions, banking and financing products to meet customers' expectations.

Gratitude and appreciation

Al-Marzouq thanked shareholders and customers on their trust and support and also thanked the regulatory authorities, praising the efforts of the executive management and employees for their outstanding performance despite the circumstances. He confirmed that KFH would continue its strategy to lead the international development of Islamic financial services, and become the most trusted and sustainably most profitable sharia-compliant bank in the world, and to deliver superior innovation and customer service excellence while protecting and enhancing the interests of all its stakeholders.

Congratulations to His Highness the Amir and to his faithful Crown Prince

In his name and on behalf of board members and all employees of KFH Group, Al-Marzouq extended heartfelt congratulations to HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, may Allah protect him, and to HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, may Allah protect him, beseeching Almighty Allah to grant them success and guide their steps towards what is good for Kuwait and its honorable people and for the Arab and Islamic nations.

بيت التمويل الكويتي
Kuwait Finance House

Praise be to Allah

Financial Results up to the End of Third Quarter of 2020

		30/09/2020	30/09/2019	%
Net Financing Income	"KD Million"	450.5	395.6	13.9
Net Operating Income	"KD Million"	401.8	393.0	2.2
Net Profit for Shareholders	"KD Million"	101.2	190.5	(46.9)
Earnings per Share	"Fils"	13.31	25.15	(47.1)

		30/09/2020	31/12/2019	%
Financing Receivables	"KD Million"	10,130	9,337	8.5
Total Assets	"KD Million"	20,961	19,391	8.1
Depositors' Accounts	"KD Million"	14,914	13,553	10.0

Business

From hummus to high-tech: Israel CEOs seek 'friends', deals in UAE

13 business leaders join 4-day UAE trip

DUBAI: If you had asked Israeli businessman Yehonatan Ben Hamozeg earlier this year where he'd be pitching his palm tree saving technology in October, there was no chance he would have said the United Arab Emirates. But after a surprise US-backed normalization agreement between the UAE and Israel, the soft-spoken, grey-haired entrepreneur found himself doing just that in a Dubai hotel last week.

Ben Hamozeg is the founder and chief executive of Agrint, a company that uses seismic sensors to detect insects that eat—and destroy—palm trees from the inside. He was one of the 13 business leaders who joined a four-day trip to the UAE organized by Jerusalem Venture Partners (JVP), a venture capitalist firm. Before normalization, there had been discreet links between the Gulf nation and Israel's flourishing high-tech sector.

But after the deal brokered by US President Donald Trump, who is seeking re-election today, those links have come to the surface and are poised to expand. "We're learning, we're opening our eyes, friendships and personal ties are being formed," said JVP founder Erel Margalit, who led the Israeli delegation.

Charismatic and gregarious, Margalit is one of Israel's top venture capitalists, having backed more than 150 technology start-ups. He insisted the UAE's potential for Israel's economy is vast, both in terms of direct partnerships in the financial, tech and food sectors, but also as a portal to Arab markets still cut off from the Jewish state.

"Israel can now work with the region rather than being closed to it. For us, it's a huge opportunity," he said. "We want to use this breakthrough to start a new chapter in the region."

'Out of the shadows'

With the shroud of secrecy over UAE-Israeli business ties lifted, the delegation, counting several Israeli and foreign reporters, arrived in Dubai by private jet and was welcomed with kosher food and Hebrew signs. A Palestinian businessman from east Jerusalem, a former Mossad spymaster

turned businessman, and a desert crop expert—three men who worked with the UAE for years—travelled alongside the 13 CEOs, and were key players in setting up the meetings.

The group was mixed openly with Emirati business leaders and government officials at a posh hotel in Dubai's financial district and across the city. Alongside networking events—some complicated by coronavirus restrictions—the delegates held private meetings with potential partners, with sight-seeing sprinkled between events.

Mohamad Mandeel, chief operating officer of Abu Dhabi's Royal Strategic Partners, cited a high-protein chickpea powder made by Israeli firm InnovoPro to illustrate the potential for regional cooperation. "If I bring a Dutch company and tell them hummus, they'd say - what the hell is this," Mandeel, who wore the traditional white Emirati robe, said using the Arabic word for chickpeas.

Israeli firms, he said, could make strong partners because they understand the Middle East, including the quest for food security in an often challenging agricultural environment.

They could also be a bridge to peace between the nations.

"I always believe that the economy will drive politics," he said. "So you move the economy and things will come after positively." Before normalization, Israeli Ronen Yehoshua was already doing business in Dubai, but his Morphisec cyber-security firm was represented by a third party.

Now it can "move out of the shadows into the light", he said. For him, being in the UAE also meant he could finally discover the local market. "Only when you reach a place can you really get a better and deeper understanding of it," he said.

Arshi Ayub Zaveri, chief executive of the Dubai-based Trust with Trade, said blockchain technology developed by "the wonderful minds that are in Israel" marked an attractive opportunity.

"At the end of the day we've been the traditional asset owners, oil, or any other commodities.

Ryanair said traffic nosedived around 80 percent to 17.1 million passengers in the reporting period, compared with 86 million a year earlier.

Revenues tanked 78 percent to 1.2 billion euros, almost all of which were earned in the second quarter following a "successful" return to service at the start of July. However, the aviation sector is now reeling once more from a deadly second wave of coronavirus, which has sparked renewed travel restrictions, quarantine rules and lockdowns.

Ryanair announced earlier this month that it would slash more flights this winter and temporarily shut bases in Cork and Shannon in Ireland, and Toulouse in France. The group expects to slash its November-March winter capacity from 60 percent to "at least" 40 percent of the prior year.

'Hugely challenging year'

Turning to the outlook, Ryanair said yesterday that it would not provide annual earnings guidance due to the uncertain path of the virus—but warned it would be a "hugely challenging year" for the group.

"Given the current COVID-19 uncertainty, Ryanair cannot provide full-year profit after tax guidance at this time," it said. "The group expects to carry approximately 38 million passengers in

Biden victory and a market rally.

"People are positioning themselves according to what they believe an outcome may be," said Chris Brankin, chief executive at TD Ameritrade in Singapore, who noted a "hint of skepticism" among his clients around polls putting Biden ahead. "They're not mass exiting positions ... it's more of a risk pause," he said. "And all eyes are on Tuesday." He said the chance of a Donald Trump win was partly reflected in a small reduction of exposure to Chinese companies and buying of oil major Exxon Mobil Corp.

Chinese companies are considered vulnerable to Sino-US tension if the less-predictable Trump is re-elected. Energy companies could benefit from lower taxes. Other brokers reported similar caution. In Australia, retail broker CommSec said there had been recent buying of Betashares' BEAR ETF, which gains when stocks fall, and of options protecting against falls. IG Markets said clients were long U.S.



The rock lobster is being checked for trace elements of minerals and metals, he told ABC television. The seafood had already been tested before leaving, he added, questioning why the action was being taken against Australian rock lobster. On Sunday, the Seafood Trade Advisory Group said most Australian exporters had stopped sending lobster to China because of the risk of delays from the stepped-up import inspections. "To mitigate this risk, a decision has been made by the majority of exporters to stop sending shipments to China until more is known about the new process," it said. —Reuters



DUBAI: In this file photo taken on October 27, 2020, Erel Margalit, founder and chairman of Jerusalem Venture Partners (JVP), visits the Dubai Financial Market (DFM) with members of Israeli high-tech delegation. —AFP

We'd like to see how we can tokenize that digitally on a proper format," she said. "I'm hopeful that we see a time where it becomes normal for us to list each other's companies on our exchanges," said Zaveri, also an advisory to the royal family.

Friends first, business after

While Margalit's delegation was seeking business partners, he stressed that private sector deals were a proven method of solidifying peace among nations. En route to Dubai, he told the delegation: "You are Israel's true emissaries." "I respect the politicians for leading a process and making a peace deal," he said. "Now we need to

bring the content."

InnovoPro chief executive Taly Nechushtan, whose product had caught the attention of the Emirati Mandeel, said her powder, which can be used to make foods including ice cream and vegan burgers, was attractive in a world "looking for alternatives". Opening a UAE plant could provide the domestic market a sustainable protein, but also the opportunity to become a regional "production portal", she said. While Nechushtan's whirlwind visit was packed with meetings, she said it was premature to talk about deals. "We came here to make friends; business will follow," she said. "We're not worried." —AFP

Irish airline Ryanair sinks into H1 loss

LONDON: Irish no-frills airline Ryanair said yesterday that it sank into the red in the first half of its financial year due to the coronavirus fallout and warned of more losses to come. Ryanair suffered a loss after tax of 197 million euros (\$229 million) in the six months to September, which contrasted with a year-earlier net profit of 1.15 billion euros, it said in a results statement. The Dublin-based carrier warned that it "expects to record higher losses" in the second half of the current 2020-21 fiscal year, despite falling costs and a stronger balance sheet. "COVID-19 grounded the group's entire fleet from mid-March to the end of June as EU governments imposed flight or travel bans and widespread population lockdowns," the airline said.

The COVID-19 pandemic decimated demand for air travel and sparked major economic turmoil which has left global airlines fighting for survival.

'All eyes on Tuesday' as even risk-hungry retail traders pause

SINGAPORE/BANGKOK: Asia's retail traders are trimming exposure to China before today's US election, lifting short bets on US stocks and keeping cash on hand, brokerages say, as even some of the most risk-tolerant investors turn cautious.

Novices, who took up trading during lockdowns, have led aggressive buying this year when many Wall Street advisors urged caution. UBS analysts reckon, at least in Southeast Asia, that they are now a big enough force to move markets. Their brokers say they are getting ready for short-term risks, despite a consensus favoring a Joe

Australian lobster, timber halted by Chinese customs

SYDNEY/BEIJING: Australia has stopped sending rock lobster to its biggest market, China, after the latter imposed new customs inspections on the live seafood, an industry group and the Australian government said. China has also halted imports of timber from northeastern Queensland state, Australian media said, and banned barley shipments from Australia-based grain exporter Emerald Grain, owned by Japan's Sumitomo Corp.

The halt comes amid a deterioration in ties between the two countries, fuelling concern in Australia that the live seafood trade will be the latest sector targeted by Beijing for trade reprisals.

Australia had "serious concerns" about the inspections that began on Friday, its agriculture minister, David Littleproud, said, adding that officials were working to get clarification from Beijing.



In this file photo taken on August 20, 2020 Ryanair aircraft are pictured at Stansted airport, northeast of London. —AFP

2020/2021, although this guidance could be further revised downwards" in the event of more travel restrictions and lockdowns over the winter period. The rest of the year would be "significantly" impacted by a host of factors, including Brexit uncertainty, airline pricing, fuel costs, competition from existing and new carriers, government actions—and the willingness of passengers to travel, the airline added. —AFP



dollars in case a contested outcome caused market turmoil. "Right now, I'm holding 30 percent in stocks and the rest in cash ready for investment," said Watchara Kaewsawang, a large Thai investor. "I've delayed my investment to wait and see on the US elections and our home politics." —Reuters

Norway's Equinor aims for carbon neutral by 2050

OSLO: Norwegian oil giant Equinor said yesterday it aimed to reach "net-zero" carbon emissions by 2050 but it still plans to increase its oil and gas production in the short term. The company, 67-percent-owned by the Norwegian state, said the target "includes emissions from production and final consumption of energy," such as in cars and aircraft. "Equinor is committed to being a leader in the energy transition," Anders Opedal, who took over the CEO chair on Monday, said in a statement. "It is a sound business strategy to ensure long-term competitiveness during a period of profound changes in the energy systems as society moves towards net zero," Opedal added. In February, Equinor had promised carbon neutrality for its operations outside Norway by 2030 and a reduction to "near zero" of its emissions in Norway, where most of its activities are based, by 2050. —AFP

Pandemic, taxes lure Argentines to stable Uruguay

BUENOS AIRES/MONTEVIDEO: Maximo Andrieu, 69, is getting ready to turn his back on Argentina and start a new life in neighboring Uruguay, long a bastion of laid-back stability that is luring Argentines tired of political upheaval and economic turmoil. That attraction has been burnished this year. Uruguay has reported around 879 coronavirus infections per 1 million people, one of the lowest levels in Latin America, according to a Reuters tally. Argentina, by contrast, has recorded over 25,000 cases per 1 million people, and has also been battered by economic, debt and currency crises.

Andrieu, who runs his own business, has been worried about rising taxes as Argentina's Peronist government looks to cover a deep fiscal shortfall, with the government proposing a 'wealth tax' and increasingly strict currency controls. "Argentina has a long history of institutional failures and an aimless direction. So I see less and less future," said Andrieu, adding that Uruguay offered "stability and quality of life."

Detailed migration figures were unavailable but at least 2,000 Argentines - a higher level than usual - have requested fiscal residence in Uruguay in recent months, Uruguayan senator Jorge Gandini, from the ruling National Party, told Reuters. The trend represents a challenge for Argentina. On the one hand, it needs desperately to raise funds. But it also wants to avoid a 'brain drain' of talent and entrepreneurs out of the country - the kind of people it needs to help spur a growth revival.

Uruguay, under new center-right President Luis Lacalle Pou, has looked to attract those same people. Argentina's smaller neighbor, with a population of just 3.5 million, already has one of the highest levels of gross domestic product per capita in the region. The Uruguayan government this year relaxed requirements for residency, lowering the amount of investment needed in real estate from \$1.6 million to just over \$328,000. In addition, it offers a 10-year 'tax holiday' for foreigners.

"What we are looking for here is for them to come and stay to spend, invest, and eventually attract their companies," Gandini said.

Tax pressure

Martin Caranta, a tax specialist and partner at Lisicki Litvin in Buenos Aires, said that moves to raise taxes in Argentina had created greater pressure on the middle class. "A lot of people got tired of that pressure and decided to go elsewhere," he said. Since a sharp market crash last year, he said the number of enquiries he had received from people looking to reduce their tax burden and asking about possible moves to Uruguay had jumped, accelerating further during the pandemic.

Argentina has been mired in its latest economic crisis since mid-2018, when former center-right President Mauricio Macri was in charge. That crisis led to a sovereign default earlier this year, followed by a huge debt restructuring.

President Alberto Fernandez, a center-left Peronist who took office last December, has tightened capital controls amid tumbling foreign currency reserves, with a huge gap between the official peso-dollar rate and the black market. —Reuters

Business

Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons wins three prestigious awards from Toyota

In recognition of commitment towards excellent customer care

KUWAIT: Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons has received three prestigious awards from Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC) for their outstanding achievement and excellent teamwork:

1. Toyota Marketing Award for Excellence (Vehicle)
2. Toyota Marketing Award Overall
3. Customer Delight Excellence Award

The award program is a platform where Toyota Motor Corporation confirms that the distributor activities are aligned with their goal of "always better cars" and "always better service."

Al-Sayer Board of Directors, Faisal Bader Al-Sayer, Chairman, Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer, CEO along with Bengt Schultz, COO congratulated business heads including Martin Aherne Business Director Toyota Group Sales, Ibrahim Al-Fouzan Business Director Toyota Group Service Division, Desmond Lew Business Director Parts, Accessories and Group Logistics along with all their team members for this spectacular achievement.

According to Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer "The Toyota Way consist of 5 elements, Challenge, Kaizen, Genchi Genbutsu, Teamwork, and Respect. Daily practice of Toyota Way by each team member brought the remarkable achievement to MNSS. Such achievement is a solid foundation to build on

success going forward, is a great inspiration in such unprecedented times and tough market challenges in 2020 to work even stronger together to keep delivering best in town service".

Winning the Customer Delight Excellence Award for 2019 marked Group's achievement for 12 consecutive years, Toyota Kuwait one of the few distributors worldwide ever to achieve this. With the aim of providing always better service, to become the most admired dealer in town, distributors across the globe are continuously implementing various activities which are being evaluated through the Customer Delight Excellence Award program by TMC. The award program expresses the appreciation for distributors' outstanding activities to enhance overall customer service competency.

"Toyota is making ever better cars - for peace of mind ownership experience. Thank you, Our valued customers for your trust and unlimited support. The achievement of this great award reassures our commitment and consistent effort to provide best customer service despite tough market conditions" commented Bengt Schultz.

Al-Sayer is always passionate to deliver outstanding customer service, treating employees and customers like family, continuously working together to put a smile on the face of every customer.



KUWAIT: Chairman Faisal Bader Al-Sayer and CEO Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer with business heads

Going forward each year is an opportunity building on previous years of achievements in outstanding customer service by providing exceptional service to our customers, we are always in fore-front to

improve our Toyota operations through current network of five showrooms, six service centers, which includes the recently opened Fahaheel Service Center as well as 16 spare Parts branches.

Gulf Bank announces winners of Al-Danah weekly draw

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its weekly Al-Danah draw on 1st November 2020 announcing the names of the winners for the week of 25 - 29 October 2020. The weekly draw consists of five winners who receive KD 1,000 each, every week.

The winners this week are:

- Noureyah Saad Abdullah Al-Shabal
- Muneerah Abdulaziz Abdul Mohsen Almkhezeem
- Neda Hamid Moheisen Al
- Marzooq Mohamed Jawad Abulhasan
- Ali Malek Raheem Aashti

KFAS, Huawei release whitepaper on ICT talent development

KUWAIT: In collaboration with Huawei Kuwait, the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) has published a new whitepaper on ICT talent development as a means to stimulate technology innovation for the benefit of society, research, and enterprises.

The whitepaper, titled "Huawei Kuwait ICT Talent Development 2020", analyzes the current ICT talent situation in Kuwait, addresses the existing gaps, and shares insight on Huawei Kuwait's Talent Enabling Program (K-TEP), which aims to provide more academic resources to the community while stimulating ICT interest among the youth of the country.

As economies are accelerating growth by

Al-Danah is now offering its biggest prize yet, with an annual draw prize of KD 1,500,000. The annual draw will be held on 14 January 2021. Gulf Bank encourages customers to increase their chances of winning with Al-Danah by depositing more into their Gulf Bank accounts using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's online and mobile banking services.

Al-Danah offers a number of unique services to customers, including the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card, which allows account holders to deposit money into their accounts at their convenience. Account holders can also calculate their chances of winning the draws through the 'Al-Danah Chances' calculator available on the Gulf Bank website and app. Furthermore, loyal Al-Danah customers are rewarded with loyalty chances. Loyalty chances are the total chances accumulated from the previous year, which are added to the customer's

investing strategically in ICT capabilities and their digital transformation journeys, the gap between technology advancements and talents still exists. The whitepaper notes it is challenging for Kuwaiti companies to find skilled employees in the ICT field, based on an executive opinion survey by the World Economic Forum. This is due to the lack of ICT educational resources and hands-on experience available to students. Furthermore, according to the "The Future of Jobs" report by the World Economic Forum, 91% of Kuwait's nationals are employed in sectors that are at high risk of disruption by new technologies development.

To that end, Huawei Kuwait's Talent Enabling Program (K-TEP) provides various educational resources to university students to reduce the talent gap, stimulate interest in the ICT field, and offer support to the government on its digital transformation roadmap. Layla Al-Musawi, Program Manager, KFAS, said, "It is essential that we understand the needs and opportunities in the marketplace to best support the next generation of leaders within an increasingly digital society.

chances the following year. Therefore, the total chances earned by Al-Danah customers in 2019, have been added to their 2020 chances, and the same process will take place in 2021, and so on. Terms and conditions apply.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD200 to open an account and the same amount should be maintained for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD 200 at any given time, a KD2 fee will be charged to their account monthly until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the weekly draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2020 quarterly and yearly draws, customers must meet the required hold period for each draw.

Our partnership with Huawei will help stimulate the advancement of technology and encourage more youth to embrace careers in the sector. Through such ventures, we can bridge the gap between academic knowledge and hands-on experience to create a society in which everyone benefits from technological progress."

Rico Lin, CEO of Huawei Kuwait, added, "Local talent development is a vital element to Kuwait's digital transformation vision. As the demand for ICT knowledge continues to grow, it will also create more job opportunities, building a positive cycle that extends from universities to the workforce."

Huawei and KFAS signed a comprehensive talent development agreement in April of this year. The latest whitepaper marks a milestone for the success of the partnership, and the benefits it has for local youth. KFAS and Huawei also recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to launch a set of talent programs, with the aim to equip the next generation of ICT leaders in Kuwait with the necessary skills to succeed in different fields.

Controversial, but ambitious: Japan's hydrogen project

TOKYO: Japan's new 2050 deadline for carbon neutrality has thrown a spotlight on its efforts to find new, greener fuel options, including an ambitious but controversial liquid hydrogen venture. The Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain (HESC) is a joint Japanese-Australian project intended to produce plentiful, affordable fuel for Japan. Here are some questions and answers about the venture:

Why hydrogen?

Japan has few fossil fuel resources, and relies heavily on imported liquefied natural gas (LNG), coal and nuclear power, which has been curtailed since the Fukushima disaster. The mountainous, natural disaster-prone country is struggling to ramp up its renewable energy production, and is therefore investigating a variety of fuel alternatives.

It has invested heavily in hydrogen, which produces only steam and no carbon dioxide when burnt, making it the focus of some interest.

Japan currently produces hydrogen domestically, in liquid and compressed gas forms, mostly from natural gas and oil. It uses it in microfuel cells for residential buildings, experimental power plants and fuel cell vehicles, but production domestically is limited and expensive.

What is HESC?

The Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain is an experiment to see whether Japan

can establish a durable supply of liquid hydrogen from Australia, to be burned to generate electricity. The hydrogen will be produced and liquefied in the Australian state of Victoria, where it will be extracted from a type of coal known as lignite.

This so-called brown coal currently effectively lacks a market, making it a potentially attractive, cheaper alternative to domestic hydrogen production for Japan, despite the extra costs of bringing it 9,000 kilometers (5,600 miles) by sea. The project's pilot phase, partially funded by Japanese and Australian authorities, has received investment of around Aus\$500 million (\$350 million).

How will it work?

From next year, a site on an artificial island near Kobe in western Japan will become the pilot terminus for the world's first ship designed to transport liquid hydrogen, a Japan-built vessel called the Suiso Frontier. For now, the imposing spherical tank 19 meters (60 feet) in diameter on the site is being used to store domestically produced liquid hydrogen. If the tests are successful by 2022 or 2023, the project will be extended and will enter a commercial phase after 2030. A new terminus in Japan will then be built, along with larger ships.

But the process is complicated: to be transported by sea as a liquid, hydrogen needs to be cooled to -253 degrees Celsius (-423.4 degrees



Japan's new 2050 deadline for carbon neutrality has thrown a spotlight on its efforts to find new, greener fuel options, including an ambitious but controversial liquid hydrogen venture.

Fahrenheit) — an expensive process that uses a lot of energy.

Is hydrogen really green?

Hydrogen's green credentials depends largely on how it is produced. Green hydrogen can be manufactured by electrolysis of water, using electricity obtained through renewable energy.

But every ton of hydrogen produced from coal emits 20 tons of carbon dioxide, more than double the CO2 emissions created when hydrogen is produced from natural gas. Comparing the emissions from producing hydrogen to those from burning coal is complicated, experts say, but they agree that it won't be considered environmentally friendly unless produced renewably.

HESC backers insist it can be environmentally viable if not renewable-through carbon capture programs. One Australian initiative, called CarbonNet, would see the captured CO2 buried under the seabed near Victoria. For HESC backers like Motohiko Nishimura

of Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Japan's 2050 carbon-neutral deadline "will have a great positive impact" on the project. But not everyone in Japanese industry is convinced, including Shigeru Muraki, an executive at Tokyo Gas, who favors investment in ammonia fuel instead.

"Even with carbon capture and storage methods, it can't be considered as green hydrogen," he said, referring to the HESC project. He sees green hydrogen produced from renewable sources as likely to become price competitive with time. And environmentalists like Nicholas Aberle, from the campaign group Environment Victoria, are deeply skeptical. They fear "a situation in which coal-to-hydrogen can only be made commercial without (carbon capture), and we can see greedy companies trying to push ahead despite the climate impacts," he said. Commercial-scale hydrogen production from coal without carbon-capture would be "climate vandalism," he said. — AFP

CBK bonds and related Tawarruq

KUWAIT: The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced the most recent issues of CBK bonds and related Tawarruq at a total value of KD 240 million for 3 months with a rate of return at 1.125 percent.

Lulu Hypermarket launches 'Hello Winter' promotion

KUWAIT: LuLu Hypermarket, the premier lifestyle shopping destination, prepares its valued customers for the winter season with its 'Hello Winter' promotion, an offering of trendy comfortable winter wear at special prices. The promotion, available in all its outlets, includes a diverse and exciting range of winter clothing and accessories guaranteed to keep customers warm. Everything from fashionable winter garments to comfy footwear, and designed to provide warmth and style during the cold winter months, are on offer during the promotion period.

Discover quality winter-wear at unbeatable prices from popular brands such as Cortigiani, De Backers, Marco Donatelli, Eten, John Louis, Tom Smith and Sports Inc during the promotion period. Among the hot-selling items on offer are a number of stylish jackets, sweaters and winter clothing accessories that combine affordability with style. Also, the wide range of winter-wear choices for children, including collections that are fun and casual, allow kids to make a fashion statement at very special rates.

Lulu Hypermarket has a loyal and passionate customer base that continues to grow year after year. The secret to this strong brand adherence lies in the hypermarket's steadfast commitment to offer shoppers the widest range of high-quality products, from around the world, at very competitive prices, and in an ambience that provides for an enjoyable shopping experience.

Fines, pandemic slash Westpac profit by 66%

SYDNEY: Australia's Westpac bank suffered a 66 percent plunge in net profits in fiscal 2020, hammered by the coronavirus economic downturn and a record fine for breaches of money-laundering laws, it said yesterday. "2020 has been a particularly challenging year and our financial result is disappointing," Westpac CEO Peter King said in releasing the results for the year ending June 30.

The bank reported statutory net profit of Aus\$2.29 billion (US\$1.6 billion), down 66 percent from the previous year, and cash earnings of Aus\$2.6 billion (US\$1.8 billion), down 62 percent.

King said the bank's earnings had been "significantly impacted" by the recession and a record US\$900 million fine for 23 million breaches of money-laundering laws. The bank increased provisions for bad debts and costs related to adapting operations due to the coronavirus from Aus\$2.2 billion to \$6.2 billion. It said Aus\$16.6 billion in home loans were in deferral as borrowers struggled with the impact of the recession, though this was down from a high of \$54.7 billion earlier in the pandemic.

King said the bank had turned the corner on the worst impacts of the pandemic and expected economic growth to improve through 2021 and 2022. "While economic conditions will still be challenging, Westpac is well placed to continue to support customers through this difficult time," he said. — AFP

Classifieds

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Rather hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate south easterly wind with speed of 06 - 28 km/h.

BY NIGHT: Fair and Humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to light variable wind with speed of 08 - 26 km/h with a chance for fog forming over some areas.

WEATHER WARNING			Drop in Visibility	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 02/11/2020 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	33 °C	22 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	34 °C	16 °C		
ABDALY	35 °C	17 °C		
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C		
JAHRA	35 °C	19 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	- °C	- °C		
SALMIYAH	31 °C	25 °C		
AHMADI	- °C	- °C		
NUWAISIB	34 °C	18 °C		
WAFRA	35 °C	19 °C		
SALMY	33 °C	18 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST

DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	11/03	Rather hot and Humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for fog forming at night	35 °C	16 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 28 km/h
Wednesday	11/04	Rather hot and Humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for fog forming at night	34 °C	17 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 30 km/h
Thursday	11/05	Rather hot and Humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for fog forming at night and	34 °C	16 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 30 km/h
Friday	11/06	Rather hot and Partly cloudy and Humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for fog	33 °C	15 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 32 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:41
Sunrise	06:02
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:39
Sunset	17:02
Isha	18:20

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	34 °C
MIN. Temp.	16 °C
MAX. RH	91 %
MIN. RH	18 %
MAX. Wind	SE 28 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

All times are local time unless otherwise stated. UP:0

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

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- Experience in Cardiac Machine or any clinical experience will be an advantage.

Interested candidates can send their resumes to humanresouces3419@yahoo.com

REQUIRED

TECHNICAL SUPERVISOR

Please send your CV to the following e-mail: alaams2020@gmail.com

LOST

I, Faheem Jamshed S/o Jamshed Amjad Ishrat, resident of Kuwait announce that my HSSC certificate bearing roll no. 580690 of the year 2007 issued by Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Islamabad has been lost. Whoever finds it, please send it to the address Salmiya, Essa Al Qatami St., Lane 24,

Building 5, Apartment 1 or contact +965 99488251. (C 5809) 2-11-2020

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shaikh Hassan Bathusha Azhikottayil Kunhimon, holder of Indian passport no. M5457545 issued at Kuwait on 03.03.2015 hereby change my name to Shaikh Hassan Bathusha. (C 5808) 29-10-2020

Word Search

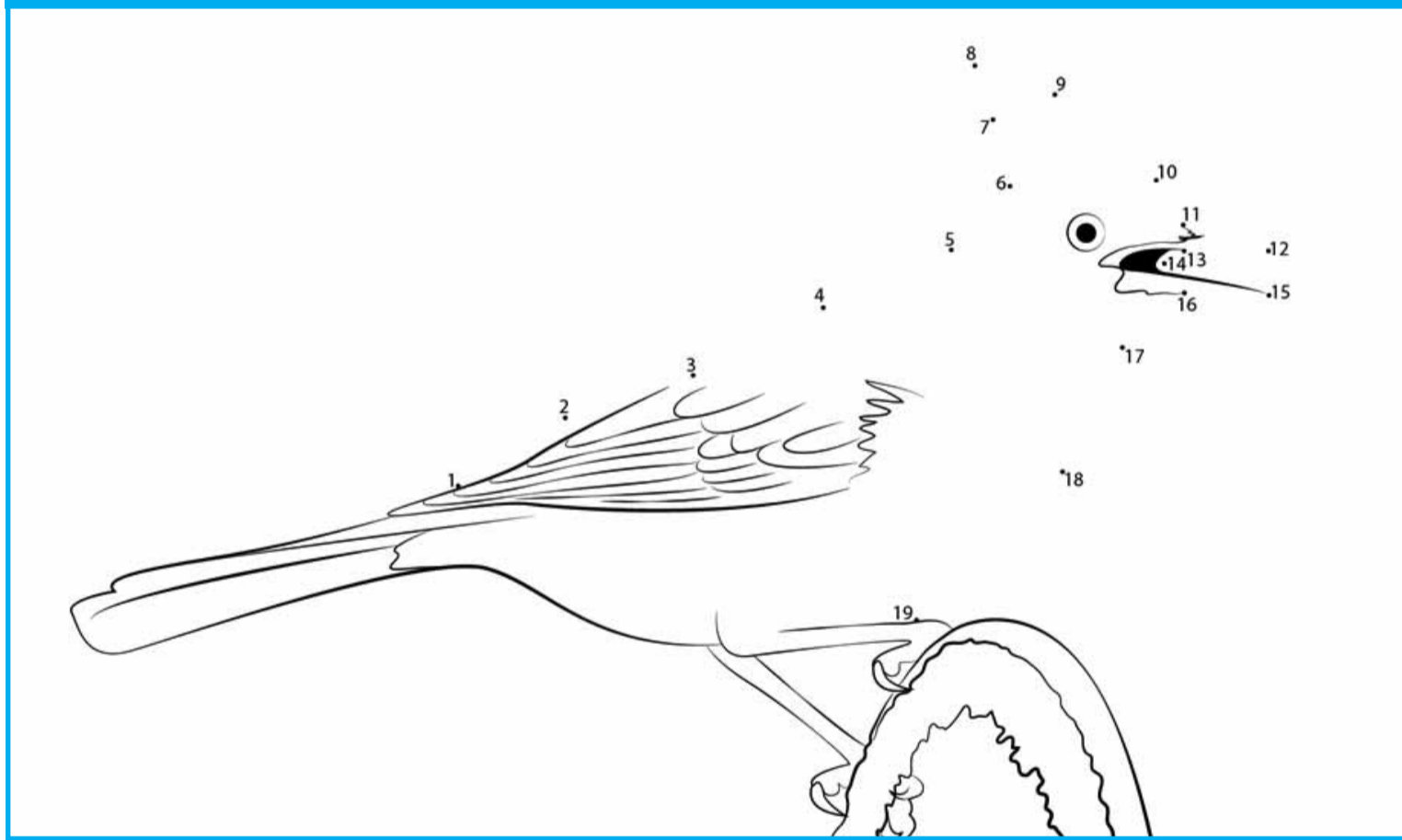
A Trip To The Beach Word Search

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

- ALOE VERA
- BATHING SUIT
- BEACH BALL
- BEACH CHAIR
- BUCKET
- BUG SPRAY
- CHAPSTICK
- COOLER
- FRISBEE
- GOGGLES
- GOOD BOOK
- HAT
- SANDALS
- SARONG
- SHORTS
- SHOVEL
- SNACKS
- SNORKEL
- SUNGLASSES
- SUNSCREEN
- TANK TOP
- TENT
- TOTE BAG
- TOWEL
- UMBRELLA



Join the Dots



STAR TRACK

Aries (March 21-April 19)
 You're entering a period of doubt, especially about your love life. You like your relationships and feelings to be clear. You may think a lot about your relationships over the next few days. Are you sure you've chosen the right person? Are his or her feelings sincere? Could you live without this person? The next two months will bring you the answers. Don't forget, no one is perfect.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)
 Cancer, you see new horizons. It's possible that the changes you've been going through lately aren't completely finished. You may even have a hard time keeping yourself from running away from it all. Your rebirth will only be complete after you clearly define your desires. Use today to think about what you want. Things aren't completely clear.

Libra (September 23-October 22)
 Libra, the people around you sometimes have a hard time understanding where you're going. You're living in an imaginary world that has little to do with reality. If you decide to stay home and lie around the house, you will have no problems. If you have to go to work, try to be as clear as possible with others. If you don't, your proposals could fall on deaf ears.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)
 It's very possible that you will want to take a step back today in order to take a closer look at your relationships. Your address book is full of names. Your phone rings off the hook. You receive tons of texts and emails every day. Yet isn't it funny that you feel alone? It's time to get rid of the superficial relationships and concentrate on those that really mean something to you.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)
 For a month you may have had problems communicating with the people close to you, Taurus. This is nothing to worry about, yet it might make you feel off balance. This is a great day to settle conflicts from the last month or make your feelings clear to other people. Don't be afraid to play "truth or dare." Honesty is the best policy. Dare them to be honest with you.

Leo (July 23-August 22)
 Leo, you hide your emotional needs from others. You need to be able to trust someone in order to share your feeling. They have to guess at your deepest secrets. Today you could save a lot of time in your love life if you just tell your partner what you want out of your relationship or even what you'd like to change about it. Talk about it. Your partner is listening.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21)
 You may have doubts over the next few days, Scorpio. Don't make any important decisions about your future during this relatively unproductive period. If someone in your professional or personal life asks you to make more of a commitment, you may be tempted to put on the brakes without really knowing why. Wait a while before answering this kind of question.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)
 If you feel you've been looking to the past lately, Aquarius, it's in order to liberate yourself from it. You may feel like revisiting your childhood or rekindling certain relationships with old friends. But the planets are making you a bit too romantic, and the reality of things will disappoint you. Looking backward isn't the best way to move toward the future. Nostalgia isn't what it used to be!

Gemini (May 21-June 20)
 Gemini, you tend to live your life vicariously through your partner. Today you may come to the realization that this isn't healthy for you. You may realize that you give more of yourself than you get back, draining you of energy. In fact, you're almost completely out. Be selfish today. You need to do something for you for once, and it's about time!

Virgo (August 23-September 22)
 Today you may want to change some of the moral and social values that get in the way of relationships. After surmounting these kinds of obstacles yourself, and watching others struggle with them, you've decided that it's time to do away with them once and for all. Just be careful to respect the private lives of the people close to you. Not everyone is as open-minded as you are!

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)
 What are you afraid of, Sagittarius? Is it contact with other people? It's as if an invisible rope were holding you back from getting close to people, or worse, pulling you back. What's this about? You're going through a period that's closely linked to your past. A failed relationship still haunts you and casts its shadow on the current one. Get rid of the skeletons in your closet!

Pisces (February 19-March 20)
 Sometimes your relationships are like magnets, Pisces. When you want to get close, the other person tries to get away from you. When you take a step back, he or she runs back into your life. Human nature is complex. Right now, you're probably taking a step back, although you haven't given up completely. This rest will give you time to think about which side of you is the most magnetic.

Lifestyle | Features



In this file photo US actor Johnny Depp (second right) leaves with members of his team including lawyer Adam Waldman (left) after day eight of his libel trial against News Group Newspapers (NGN) at the High Court in London.

Depp loses UK libel case on 'wife beater' claims

Hollywood star Johnny Depp yesterday lost a libel lawsuit against British newspaper The Sun for branding him a "wife-beater" in a case that laid bare his chaotic lifestyle and shattered his global reputation. Judge Andrew Nicol dismissed the 57-year-old's claim at the High Court in London, saying the article had been proven to be "substantially true". "Although he has proved the necessary elements of his cause of action in libel, the defendants (News Group Newspapers Ltd) have shown that what they published in the meaning which I have held the words to bear was substantially true," he added.

The Sun welcomed the ruling, saying it had "stood up and campaigned for the victims of domestic abuse for over 20 years". "Domestic abuse victims must never be silenced and we thank the judge for his careful consideration and thank Amber Heard for her courage in giving evidence to the court," it added. The "Pirates of the Caribbean" actor sued NGN and the author of the article over claims he was violent to Heard during their volatile two-year marriage. The case was dubbed "the biggest English libel trial of the 21st century" and the legal odds had appeared to be stacked in Depp's favor.

England's ancient defamation law puts the burden of proof on the media and remains one of the strictest in the Western world. NGN relied on the defense of truth, arguing it had a valid basis for the 2018 story by detailing 14 alleged instances of Depp abusing Heard. But Depp brought the action because he said The Sun's allegations had done a "disservice" to the #MeToo movement it was trying to support, his lawyer David Sherborne said. His client was "cited in the same breath as disgraced film mogul Harvey Weinstein", he

added. "That is why he has come here to clear his name."

Heard said she stood by her testimony and put her faith in British justice, even though she had not instigated proceedings. Legal experts considered Depp had no choice but to sue, as in the current era, accusations of domestic violence would do more damage to his career than details of his substance abuse.

ces found in the couple's marital bed, which Depp said was left there as a sick joke by either Heard or one of her friends. Depp admitted laughing about it when a friend texted him photos of the faeces with the inscription "Amber Turd".

But despite Heard blaming the incident on the couple's pet dog, Depp said he knew then that his marriage was effectively finished. The judge also forced Depp to face days of withering



In this file photo Actors Johnny Depp (left) and Amber Heard attend the Los Angeles Premiere of "The Danish Girl", in Westwood, California.

Excruciating detail

The 16 days of proceedings in July, which both parties attended, exposed the couple's troubled relationship in excruciatingly minute detail. Depp released a graphic photo showing a severed fingertip that he claimed Heard caused by throwing a vodka bottle at him during a violent row. Heard, a 34-year-old model and actress, claimed Depp injured his fingertip, which was later reattached, when he smashed a telephone into the wall during the argument. Depp admitted writing a message to Heard on the wall and floor with flowing blood, and then dipping his finger into a can of paint to continue writing when the bleeding stopped. Another episode involved fae-

cross-examination in which the star admitted to only hazily remembering some events because he was high on drugs. Depp vehemently rejected accusations he hurt Heard while battling a drug addiction over a three-year span that ended with her 2016 decision to get a restraining order and file for divorce. He and his legal team branded Heard a manipulative fantasist who made up the allegations for money and personal fame to destroy his life. Heard, for her part, said she loved the sober Depp but he became a "monster" after days-long binges on powerful prescription and other drugs.— AFP



This photo shows gardeners preparing to climb up the tower of the Angkor Wat temple to remove tree saplings growing on the temple's exterior in Siem Reap province.— AFP photos



Tourists walking past the Angkor Wat temple in Siem Reap province.

SAVING ANGKOR WAT: CAMBODIA'S NINJA GARDENERS TAME JUNGLE GROWTH

Stacking a ladder against the towering spires of Cambodia's archaeological marvel Angkor Wat, Chhoeurm Try gingerly scales the temple's exterior to hack away foliage before it damages the ancient facade. The 50-year-old is part of a crack team of gardeners ensuring the kingdom's most valued heritage site is not strangled by overgrown tree saplings sprouting from the sandstone's cracks. For two decades, Chhoeurm Try has made the treacherous climbs barefoot up to Angkor Wat's central tower, which rises 65 meters high (213 feet) above the archaeological complex in the northern city of Siem Reap. "If we make a mistake, we will not survive," he tells AFP after returning to the ground. But he soldiers on, aware that the fight to hack away tough roots is an ongoing battle against nature. "When the sapling trees grow bigger, their roots go deep and cause the stones to fall apart," he says.

Preserving the dozens of temples at Angkor Archaeological Park is a delicate year-round job taken on by the 30-member team. The world heritage site contains monuments dating from the 9th to 15th century, and was Cambodia's most popular tourist destination before the coronavirus pandemic seized up global travel. "We love and want to preserve the temples," Chhoeurm Try says. "If we don't preserve them... the younger generation

would not get a chance to see them."

No safety gear

With just blue hard hats as their only safety precaution, the gardening team are used to performing their duties under the gaze of visiting tourists. "When local and international tourists see us climb up the temples, it seems scary to them and they think there is a lack of technique," says team leader Ngin Thy. But using ropes or climbing gear is out of the question, as it could damage the fragile stone work, while scaffolding would take weeks to build and pull down. "It could cause problems for them instead," Ngin Thy tells AFP. "It is safer for them to just carry a pair of scissors and go straight for the sapling trees."

There are also tight sections in certain temples that require workers to crawl through, navigating their way around jutting sculptures as they attempt not to unnecessarily come into contact with the friezes. "At temples with brick work, the job is even more difficult," Chhoeurm Try says, recounting a near miss a few years ago when a brick fell on his head and cracked his helmet into two. A handful of local tourists and Buddhist monks gaze up in awe admiring the gardeners' teamwork. "They are so brave," tourist Roth Veasna says, holding his breath while watching a worker scale a ladder as his colleagues grip it tightly.

Untamed once, manicured now

Leaving the temples unmanicured



Tourists visiting the Angkor Wat temple.

SEAN CONNERY WIDOW REVEALS HE HAD SUFFERED FROM DEMENTIA

Iconic Scottish actor Sean Connery, who has died at the age of 90, suffered from dementia in his final years, his widow Micheline Roquebrune revealed on Sunday. Connery, famous for playing the original on-screen James Bond, passed away at his home in the Bahamas, prompting an outpouring of tributes. He died peacefully in his sleep surrounded by family members, his widow Micheline Roquebrune told the Mail on Sunday. "I was with him all the time and he just slipped away," the 91-year-old told the newspaper. "He had dementia and it took its toll on him. He got his final wish to slip away without any fuss. "It was no life for him. He was not able to express himself latterly." Connery will be honored in a private funeral ceremony, with a memorial event to be held later, according to a publicist.

The actor, who was knighted in 2000, won numerous awards during his decades-spanning career encompassing an array of big-screen hits, including an Oscar, three Golden Globes and two Bafta awards. But it was his smooth, Scottish-accented portrayal of the suave licensed-to-kill spy 007 that earned him lasting worldwide fame and adoration. The first actor to utter the unforgettable "Bond, James Bond", Connery made six official films as novelist Ian Fleming's creation, giving what many still consider to be the definitive portrayal. Former 007 actor Pierce Brosnan joined the flood of weekend tributes to the Scottish actor, who he said "led the way for us all who followed in your iconic foot steps".

"You were my greatest James Bond as a boy, and as a man who became James Bond himself, you cast a long shadow of cinematic splendor that will live on forever," Brosnan added. Meanwhile US President Donald Trump, like Connery a golf fanatic, took to Twitter to praise the big-screen star after he passed "on to even greener fairways". "He was quite a guy, and a tough character," Trump added, claiming Connery had once helped one of his Scottish developments win approval by saying "let him build the damn thing". "He was so highly regarded & respected in Scotland and beyond that years of future turmoil was avoided."

'Model of a man'

Connery, born in Edinburgh in 1930, married French artist Roquebrune in 1974, a year after he divorced first wife Diane Cilento. The couple first met in Morocco in 1970. They had lived outside his native Britain for decades, pre-



In this file photo taken on December 07, 2004 British actor Sean Connery and his wife, Micheline Roquebrune, arrive for the presentation of "Alexandre," directed by Oliver Stone, during the 44th International Film Festival in Marrakesh.— AFP

viously owning a home in the Spanish resort of Marbella and then in the Bahamas. In one of the last photographs said to have been taken of the 007 legend, and published by the Mail on Sunday, Connery can be seen clasping the hand of a smiling Roquebrune.

The picture was taken on the pair's 45th wedding anniversary on May 6, according to the paper. "He was gorgeous and we had a wonderful life together," the Tunisian-born widow said. "He was a model of a man. It is going to be very hard without him, I know that. But it could not last forever and he went peacefully."— AFP

Iraq's ancient 'palm climbers' struggle for survival

Under the autumn Iraqi sun, Abbas Abbud expertly scrambles up the ragged trunk of the palm tree. His mission? Picking the juicy dates overhead, and keeping this ancient profession alive. At 48, he is the last of several generations of "palm climbers," the nickname given to the community that has harvested southern Iraq's date palms for the past 6,000 years. But decades of back-to-back wars, climate change and little support for farming communities have turned Iraq's iconic date palms and their harvesters into a rare breed. "We spend more than ten days on one palm field, but in recent years the numbers of trees and fields have decreased, affecting our jobs," says Abbud. Every year, from October to December, he climbs into a harness, machete in hand, to slash dates from palms up to 23 meters (75 feet) tall.

Cutting one palm earns him a mere 2,000 Iraqi dinars, or less than two US dollars. With poverty rates expected to reach 40 percent this year, Abbud can't afford to skip the date season in Iraq's farming heartland of Diwaniyah province. One of his biggest clients is the Kariz family, which owns some 4,000 palms of different varieties. "Ever since I can remember, we've had vast date fields," says Herban Kariz, 69, the family patriarch. He strolls through rows of palms, under which workers have placed large stretches of tarp to catch the bouquets of yellow and caramel-colored dates cut from tree tops. "We always held reunions for the harvest-it's been a family tradition since childhood," he tells AFP.

Under former dictator Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi state purchased dates from farmers at a price higher than the market rates, then packaged, marketed and exported them as far afield as the United States. The era is remembered as the golden age of Iraq's date industry. Today, palms number less than half of the 30 million that dotted the country just two decades ago, says Mohammed Kashash, the head of Diwaniyah's farming cooperatives. He blames the virtually ceaseless armed conflicts in Iraq, a struggling economy and insufficient government support. "As the state doesn't support us, production and sales are down," Kashash tells AFP.— AFP

Lifestyle | Features

SOUTH KOREAN COMEDIAN FOUND DEAD WITH HER MOTHER

A prominent South Korean comedian was found dead at her home in Seoul yesterday alongside her mother, multiple reports said. The bodies of Park Ji-sun, 36, and her mother were found by police, Yonhap news agency reported. Park was reportedly being treated for an unspecified illness and the Seoul Shinmun newspaper cited a police

officer as saying there were "no signs of outside intrusion or murder".
Suicide is a chronic social problem in highly competitive South Korea and the leading cause of death for people aged between 10 and 39, according to government data. More than 13,700 people took their own lives last year. Park was a graduate of the elite Korea University,

where she studied education, but charmed audiences with her down-to-earth and self-deprecating humor-often light-heartedly playing the role of a woman repeatedly rejected on a date.
"I am lucky as a comedian that I can use my face to make people laugh," she said in an interview with the Hankyoreh newspaper. Several South Korean

celebrities have killed themselves in recent years, among them K-pop singers Goo Hara and Sulli, both of whom had been subjected to vicious cyber-bullying, and Kim Jong-hyun of the boyband Shinee. — AFP



An undated photo released by South Korea's Yonhap news agency shows late comedian Park Ji-sun. — AFP

Bad Romance: Lady Gaga in Twitter feud with Trump campaign

Music superstar Lady Gaga got into an unlikely Twitter feud Sunday with President Donald Trump's reelection campaign after they accused her of being anti-fracking. Democratic challenger Joe Biden announced that Gaga would appear with him at a drive-in rally in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a state crucial to clinching victory on November 3. Trump's team responded immediately, slamming the joint appearance. "Nothing exposes Joe Biden's disdain for the forgotten working men and women of Pennsylvania like campaigning with anti-fracking activist Lady Gaga," campaign communications director Tim Murtaugh said in a statement posted to Twitter.
"This desperate effort to drum up enthusiasm for his lackluster candidacy is actually a sharp stick in the eye for 600,000 Pennsylvanians who work in the fracking industry," Murtaugh said, adding that Biden has "repeatedly promised left-wing activists" he will end fracking should he take office. Fracking-gas and oil extraction from deep underground rock using an injection of water and chemicals-boomed in the mid-2000s thanks to new technology. By 2014, it made the US the world's biggest oil and gas producer.



In this file photo US singer-songwriter Lady Gaga accepting the award for Artist of the Year during the 2020 MTV Video Music Awards. — AFP

But its costs are high: the drilling triggers earthquakes, while research links its air emissions and water contamination to myriad health problems. It also contributes to global warming when methane leaks out from drilling wells and becomes a highly potent greenhouse gas. Biden favors prohibiting new fracking on public lands and transitioning the country to renewables, but has said he would not eliminate fracking entirely. Lady Gaga clapped back at Murtaugh, tweeting: "HEY TIM HEY @realDonaldTrump SO HAPPY IM GLAD TO BE LIVING RENT FREE in your HEAD. #BidenHarris."
The Oscar-winner attached an image of Murtaugh's statement, decorated with animated stickers that said "LOL" and "Vote Biden," as well as the message, "Heeey Donald... #WINNING (also, what is a fracking?) keep your jobs PA... We (heart emoji) You."
Murtaugh thanked Gaga for sharing the statement with her 82 million followers, saying he hoped "lots of folks in PA see this." "Next time @ me," he added, referring to Twitter's method of tagging people in posts. But there was only love for Gaga in the rest of the comments, where fans jokingly urged her to "END HIM" and "GET HIM QUEEN." Murtaugh doubled down shortly after, tweeting, "Now that we have your attention, Google 'Lady Gaga fracking.'" But many remained unbothered, with one Twitter user joking, "Yes, the first thing I think of when I think of Gaga is her views on fracking." —AFP

YEMEN'S ANCIENT 'MANHATTAN OF THE DESERT' RISKS COLLAPSE

Dubbed the "Manhattan of the desert" for its centuries-old skyscrapers, Yemen's ancient city of Shibam escaped damage in the civil war-but faces collapse from disrepair amid rains and floods. Against a backdrop of cliffs looking like America's Grand Canyon, the UNESCO-listed World Heritage site is strategically built on a rocky spur high above the river valley of Wadi Hadramawt, in the arid centre of Yemen. Some of the hundreds of fantastical sun-dried mud-brick towers soar seven stories high, many dating back to the 16th century, all crammed inside a traditional fortified wall built for protection.



The UN describes the city, once an oasis stop for the camel caravans on the spice and incense routes across southern Arabia, as "one of the oldest and best examples of urban planning based on the principle of vertical construction." But Shibam is struggling. The mud-brick constructions need constant repair, but Yemen's economy has collapsed in the brutal civil war raging since 2014, creating what the UN describes as the world's worst humanitarian crisis. "The city looks

like it was hit by a disaster-without precedent," said Abdulwahab Jaber, a local official in the town, 480 kilometers (300 miles) east of the capital Sanaa. Jaber said at least four towers have been completely destroyed and 15 others damaged in recent floods, which have killed scores of people across Yemen.

Victim of conflict

The sun-baked earth walls are crumbling. Hassan Aidid, head of the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen, said that the roofs and the exterior of the mud towers had sustained the most damage. "Residents of the city have been unable to restore them because of the war and the difficult situation in which they live," Aidid told AFP. Yemen is gripped by a war between Iran-backed Huthi rebels-who control the capital-and a beleaguered government supported by a Saudi-led military coalition.

Shibam is controlled by the internationally-recognized government, but while it has largely been spared direct conflict, it has not escaped the effects of the war. The fighting has almost completely halted public spending. The city, with its densely-packed tower houses and alleyways often too narrow for cars, was put on the UNESCO heritage list in 1982 — but in 2015 it was also added to the "List of World Heritage in Danger." It came shortly after the Saudi-led military coalition joined the war to support the government against the Huthi rebels.

Restoration slow

Aidid said an emergency response plan in cooperation with UNESCO is underway, with approximately 40 build-



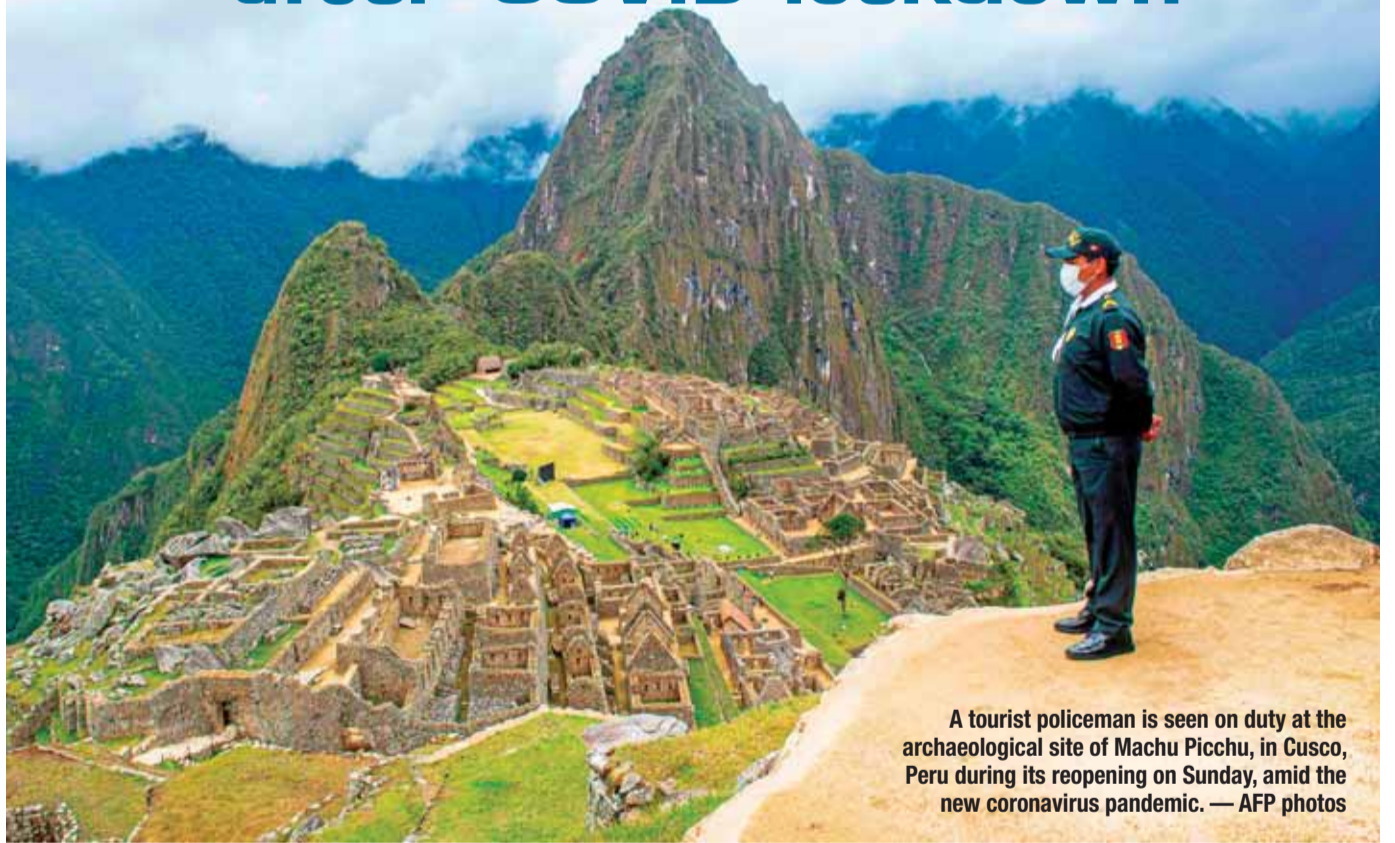
Aerial pictures shows views of Shibam City in Yemen's central Hadramawt governorate. —AFP photos

ings being restored at a cost of \$194,000. Private donors have also offered to help, including a Saudi businessman who donated approximately \$54,000, Aidid said. But while restoration plans are going ahead, helped by some funding from the European Union, they are not going fast enough, said Barak Baswitine, head of the association of mud-brick architecture in Shibam. "There have been some difficulties," he said. "The work is slow due to lack of local skilled manpower that meets the standards."

Shibam is one of three historical sites that bear witness to the mud-brick archi-

tektural past of the Hadramawt region in Yemen. Those irreplaceable ancient sites, representing Yemen's unique historical heritage, are also under threat. Some 20 kilometers east of Shibam is one of the world's largest mud-brick towers, the Seiyun Palace, which is at risk of collapse as heavy rains and years of neglect take their toll. The third is the city of Tarim, about 40 kilometers east from the city, and known for its 365 mosques-including Al-Mehdar, which has the tallest minaret in Yemen. — AFP

Peru's Machu Picchu reopens after COVID lockdown



A tourist policeman is seen on duty at the archaeological site of Machu Picchu, in Cusco, Peru during its reopening on Sunday, amid the new coronavirus pandemic. — AFP photos

The Inca citadel of Machu Picchu, the crown jewel of Peru's tourist sites, reopened Sunday with an ancient ritual after a nearly eight-month lockdown due to the novel coronavirus pandemic. For safety reasons, however, only 675 tourists will be able to access the site per day, just 30 percent of the number of visitors pre-pandemic. Under a fine drizzle and multicolored lights, an Inca ritual was held Sunday evening to thank the gods for the citadel's reopening. "Today, Machu Picchu opens. It opens with (health and safety) protocols, it opens to say that we are reactivating ourselves but with responsibility and great prudence, because we see everything happening in the world" with the pandemic, Foreign Trade and Tourism Minister Rocio Barrios said in a speech.

The first train of tourists, along with an AFP team, had arrived Sunday morning at Machu Picchu Pueblo, the village closest to the citadel, after a 90-minute journey along the Urubamba River from the ancient Inca village of Ollantaytambo. Opening Machu Picchu to the world shows "that we Peruvians are resilient," Barrios told AFP. The number of coronavirus cases has been steadily decreasing in Peru, and tourists will be expected to maintain social distancing. The coronavirus lockdown has been a body blow to the tens of thousands of people who make their living from the country's tourism industry, especially those in the mountainous Cusco region where the stone citadel is located.

Scores of hotels, restaurants and tourism-related businesses throughout the region went bankrupt by the time a strict mandatory virus lockdown that lasted more than 100 days was lifted in July. Taxi driver Eberth Hancoo, who works at the airport of the city of Cusco, the former capital of the Inca empire,

was among those affected. "The situation has been very bad, because Cusco depends on tourism," he told AFP. Before the pandemic there were 80 hotels of various types in Ollantaytambo, a town with an imposing Inca stone fortress located at the end of the road from Cusco to Machu Picchu.

"At least half of them have gone bankrupt," said Joaquin Randall, head

of the local hotel and restaurant association. "The formal hotels that pay taxes have been able to access government aid," he told AFP - but not so for the myriad of informal hotels in the area, many of them geared towards backpackers. Machu Picchu, which means old mountain in Quechua, is the most enduring legacy of the Inca empire that ruled a large swathe of western South America for 100 years before the

Spanish conquest in the 16th century. The ruins of the Inca settlement, abandoned and overgrown by vegetation, were rediscovered in 1911 by the American explorer Hiram Bingham. In 1983, UNESCO declared Machu Picchu a World Heritage Site. — AFP



View of the archaeological site of Machu Picchu, in Cusco, Peru during its reopening ceremony.



A Folkloric dancer is seen at the archaeological site of Machu Picchu.

Sports

Photo of the Day



Red Bull Skydive Team performs in Almaty, Kazakhstan. — Photo taken from www.redbullcontentpool.com

Morgan and Cummins star as Kolkata push Royals out of IPL

Dhoni vows to return; CSK end Punjab's play-off hopes

DUBAI: Pat Cummins claimed four wickets and skipper Eoin Morgan scored 68 as Kolkata Knight Riders knocked Rajasthan Royals out of the Indian Premier League with a 60-run win on Sunday. Kolkata ended the league phase with their seventh win this season to have a chance of reaching the play-offs while Royals are set to finish bottom of the eight-team table.

Morgan hit his first half-century of the campaign to propel Kolkata to 191 for seven and Cummins then returned figures of 4-34 as Royals managed just 131 for nine in 20 overs in Dubai. Kolkata, who moved to fourth spot and improved their net run-rate with a big win, now await their fate which depends on the results of the last two league matches in the coming two days.

"I don't think we could have done anything more today. So whatever happens from here is up to the Gods," Morgan said. Morgan led the charge for the two-time champions with his best IPL score as he took the attack to the opposition with five fours and six sixes in his 35-ball knock. West Indies all-rounder Andre Russell played a crucial cameo of 25 off 11 balls. Cummins, who scored 15 with the bat, once again justified his IPL price tag of \$2.17 m—the most expensive foreign player for the 2020 season—as he

struck crucial blows.

The Australian quick, who took 12 wickets in 14 games, got Robin Uthappa in the first over and struck twice in his next to send in-form Ben Stokes, for 18, and skipper Steve Smith, for four, trudging back to the pavilion. "Earlier I put a lot of pressure on myself after that first game when I didn't bowl well. The longer the tournament has gone I have bowled better and better," said Cummins. "The great thing about IPL is there are so many other games on and so many great bowlers on display so there is a lot to learn from."

Fast bowler Shivam Mavi and spinner Varun Chakravarthy supported Cummins as they took two wickets each. Holders Mumbai Indians have already secured a play-off place with one match to go. Royal Challengers Bangalore, Delhi Capitals, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Kolkata are fighting it out for the next three spots. Virat Kohli's Bangalore took on Delhi yesterday followed by Hyderabad clashing with Mumbai today.

Dhoni vows return

Meanwhile, skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni vowed Sunday to return for Chennai Super Kings in next year's Indian Premier League, after his team

ended Kings XI Punjab's play-off hopes in both sides' final game of the season. But the 39-year-old said the team—which has many over-35s including Shane Watson and Faf du Plessis—would need an overhaul before going into next season, scheduled for April-May.

And coach Stephen Fleming said it would be a "great challenge" to rebuild the team—dubbed "Dad's army" in the media—for the upcoming season. Three-time IPL winners Chennai were the first of the eight teams to drop out of contention, raising doubts about captain Dhoni's future with the franchise. But they signed off their campaign with three successive triumphs, including this comprehensive nine-wicket victory in Abu Dhabi.

Punjab, who had been rooted to the foot of the table for much of the tournament, ended with back-to-back defeats after a five-match winning streak had got KL Rahul's men back into contention. Veteran wicketkeeper-batsman Dhoni, who ended his international career in August, assured fans ahead of the match that he would return in the yellow jersey. "Definitely not," Dhoni said at the toss when he was asked by former New Zealand pace-man Danny Morrison if the game against Punjab was his last for Chennai. — Agencies

stc sponsors Kuwait Football Association and league 2020-2021

KUWAIT: Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced the continuation of its sponsorship for the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) and its soccer tournaments for the season 2020/2021.

The official partnership announcement took place at stc's Headquarters at Olympia Tower, in the presence of the President of KFA, Sheikh Ahmed Youssef Al-Sabah and stc's CEO Engineer Maziad Bin Nasser AlHarbi, and executives from both parties. The competitions for the upcoming



CEO Engineer Maziad Bin Nasser AlHarbi

season includes the Kuwait Premier League (also known as stc Premier League), the Amir Cup, the Crown Prince Cup, the Super Cup and the Ranking Cup.

On this occasion, Al-Sabah commented: "We are delighted to continue this partnership with one of the leading companies in Kuwait and the region in telecommunications and digital solutions. Our objective is to continue building the local sports scene, while spreading the spirit of challenge and good sportsmanship amongst all the Kuwaiti football clubs with stc's support."

On his part, AlHarbi commented, "Following the successful outcome witnessed throughout the previous seasons and our sponsorship since 2013, stc is once again proud to continue its cooperation with KFA by sponsoring the upcoming season. Through our role, we aim to ensure the successful outcome of the coming league by engaging our professional team and resources side by side with the KFA. Our support towards the local sports community stems from our firm belief in the added value and benefits such initiatives bring to the community and the younger generation."

For more details, customers can follow stc's official social media platforms, visit one of stc's branches, download the my stc application, visit www.stc.com.kw or contact the customer service center on 102 for around-the-clock assistance.



Gay wins playoff to end PGA drought



SOUTHAMPTON: Brian Gay of the United States celebrates with the trophy after winning during a playoff in the final round of the Bermuda Championship on November 01, 2020. — AFP

MIAMI: Brian Gay sank a 10-foot birdie putt on the first playoff hole Sunday to defeat fellow American Wyndham Clark and win the Bermuda Championship to snap a seven-year US PGA win drought. In his 602nd tour appearance, the 48-year-old world number 328 captured his first US PGA title since the 2013 Humana Challenge for his fifth triumph overall.

"This is absolutely insane," Gay said. "I've been playing awful since Covid. It has been a struggle, working hard, coming back." Gay fired a seven-under par 64 and Clark shot 65 in the final round to leave them level atop the leaderboard on 15-under 269 after 72 holes at Port Royal Golf Course in Southampton. After a clutch tap-in birdie at 18 on the 72nd hole in tournament play to match Clark for the lead, Gay dropped his approach in the playoff 10 feet from the cup and sank the clutch putt.

Clark rolled his eight-foot birdie bid past the hole moments later and Gay had the victory. "I had been third here (last year) so I had some good feelings coming into this," Gay said. "I know I have the game to compete out here. It's easy to have doubt creep in there. There are some great players out here. A lot of them are my daughter's age. 'It feels really good to win out here.'" American Ollie Schniederjans, playing on a sponsor exemption, was third on 271 followed by compatriots Stewart Cink, Doc Redman and Denny McCarthy and Australian Matt Jones on 272.

World number 183 Clark, 26, birdied five of the first seven holes and seized a three-stroke lead on the back nine before Gay charged late with seven birdies in a 10-hole span. Gay's other PGA titles came at the 2008 Mayakoba Classic, 2009 Heritage Classic and 2009 St. Jude Classic. Clark settled for his best-ever PGA finish. "I'm pretty bummed. I would have liked to have won," Clark said. "I'm disappointed... I had chances. I just didn't capitalize." — AFP

News in brief

Roma continue impressive start

ROME: AS Roma continued their impressive start to the season when Leonardo Spinazzola and Pedro gave them a 2-0 win over Fiorentina in Serie A on Sunday. Spinazzola put Roma ahead with a 'Route One' goal in the 12th minute. Goalkeeper Antonio Mirante sent a long clearance upfield which flew over Fiorentina's back line and Spinazzola raced away, cut inside a defender and fired a low shot into the net. Henrikh Mkhitaryan set up the second in the 70th minute with a low cross for Pedro which the Spaniard tapped into the net from close range. Roma, who have 11 points from six games, are unbeaten on the pitch in all competitions this season although they were penalized with a 3-0 defeat by Verona—a game that ended 0-0 - for irregularly fielding Amadou Diawara. —Reuters

Real's Militao tests positive

MADRID: Real Madrid defender Eder Militao has contracted coronavirus on the eve of the Champions League group stage tie with Inter Milan, the Spanish giants said yesterday. Brazil's 22-year-old centre-back, who has featured three times in the league and in Europe this, returned the result after tests on Sunday. "All the other players and the technical staff from the first team, as well as all the employees of the club who work directly with them, tested negative in that same test," Real said in a statement. "The club would like to confirm once again that everyone, with the exception of Eder Militao, tested negative in the antigen tests carried out that same morning." According to UEFA's guidelines Militao must return a negative test at least six hours before kick-off to be able to feature against Inter in the Spanish capital today. —AFP

Rublev wins fifth ATP title

VIENNA: Andrey Rublev eased to victory over Lorenzo Sonego on Sunday in the Vienna final to win his fifth ATP title of the season and secure a spot at the Tour Finals in London. The Russian cruised to a 6-4, 6-4 win in under an hour and a quarter and has won more ATP tournaments this season than any other player. "This tournament is really special for me because my grandma was also Austrian, so I have Austrian blood," Rublev, who reached both the US and French Open quarter-finals this year, said. "It's a really special title for me." He will make his debut at the season-ending Tour Finals, which start on November 15, being held in London for the final time. "I'm happy that I will compete in London for the first time. I'm really looking forward (to it)," Rublev added. —AFP

Rafael Nadal back in Paris

PARIS: Rafael Nadal said on Sunday that he "is not worried" about his history of injury withdrawals at the Paris Masters ahead of his latest bid to win the event for the first time, just three weeks after his 13th French Open title. This will only be Nadal's eighth appearance in the tournament at Bercy Arena, situated less than 14km across Paris from Roland Garros, and he has reached the final just once. His last two visits have ended in injury, last year before a semi-final against Denis Shapovalov, and in 2017 ahead of a quarter-final with Filip Krajinovic. "I am here to play my best and not to think about injuries, hopefully not," said the 34-year-old. "When I go to a tournament, I just focus on trying to play my best tennis. Not worry about if I got injured in the past that can happen again." —AFP

Crew edge Union 2-1

LOS ANGELES: Krisztian Nemeth scored in the 84th minute to give the Columbus Crew a 2-1 victory on Sunday over visiting Philadelphia, denying the Union a chance to clinch the Major League Soccer regular-season crown. Only seconds after entering the match as a substitute for Gyasi Zardes, Hungarian forward Nemeth tapped in a right-wing pass from Luis Diaz, finding the net on his first touch of the game. That proved to be the decider as the Crew improved to third in the Eastern Conference at 11-5-5. Philadelphia's league-best mark slid to 13-4 with five drawn. Brazilian midfielder Artur scored in the 37th minute, firing into the lower left corner to give Columbus a 1-0 lead. Dutch midfielder Jamiro Monteiro hit the equalizer for the Union from the penalty spot in the 57th minute. That followed a foul in the area on Philadelphia's Sergio Santos by the Crew's Jonathan Mensah. — AFP

Djokovic stays at top

PARIS: Novak Djokovic remains top of the world rankings despite his surprise defeat to lucky loser Lorenzo Sonego in Vienna last week, the ATP announced yesterday. Djokovic made his return to the court in Austria having not played since Roland Garros and has now spent 293 weeks as the world's best player, edging closer to Roger Federer's record of 310. The Serb 17-time Grand Slam winner is virtually guaranteed to equal Pete Sampras's record of securing a year-ending top ranking for the sixth time with second-placed Rafael Nadal unlikely to play at Sofia this month. Italian Sonego rises to a career-best of 32nd after inflicting on Djokovic the worst three-set loss of his career. This week, Nadal is in action at the Paris Masters and said on Sunday he was not worried about injuries which have ended his last two visits to the tournament. — AFP

Sports

Paulinho sends Cannavaro's Evergrande into title decider

Jiangsu end Oscar's 'China title' hopes after chaotic clash

SHANGHAI: Former Barcelona and Tottenham Hotspur star Paulinho scored twice in the second half yesterday to send reigning champions Guangzhou Evergrande into a title decider with Jiangsu Suning in the Chinese Super League. The Brazilian international midfielder, 32, was the difference in a 3-1 victory over Beijing Guoan in their semi-final second leg, the first leg having ended 0-0. The coronavirus-disrupted CSL will be decided over two legs, on November 8 and 12, in front of what could be as many as 10,000 spectators in Suzhou.

Fabio Cannavaro's Evergrande took the lead in the first half with a goal made in Brazil. Brazil-born winger Fernando, who has been naturalized to play for China, won a penalty and Anderson Talisca fired into the net. Both were then involved in the 56th minute, teeing up compatriot Paulinho to curl the ball into the net via the underside of Beijing's crossbar. Striker Zhang Yuning halved the deficit, but Paulinho swept home with nine minutes left to keep alive Evergrande's hopes of retaining their crown.

The culmination of China's top league has been revamped into a two-legged knockout competition because of time lost to the coronavirus and it produced some chaotic ties at the top and bottom. Substitute Luo Jing hit a sumptuous winner in extra time as 10-man Jiangsu stunned Oscar's Shanghai SIPG 3-2 on aggregate to book their place in the championship final. Level 1-1 after the first leg, midfielder Yang Shiyuan scored a 25th-minute volley to put Shanghai ahead.

In a bad-tempered affair, Jiangsu went down to 10 men just before the hour when Abduhamit Abdugheni was sent off following a VAR referral for raking his studs down the base of Oscar's spine. The attacking midfielder, an Asian-record 60-million-euro purchase from Chelsea in 2017, limped off injured minutes later with what appeared to be a hamstring problem. Jiangsu deservedly hit back to force extra time and Luo then struck the winner with a curler from outside the box in the 107th minute to end the title hopes of Vitor Pereira's SIPG, who were champions in 2018. "We played with quality until the loss of Oscar and after the injury we lost the spirit, we lost the quality," said the Portuguese coach.

Three see red

All CSL matches are taking place in Suzhou or Dalian and players are in two secure "bubbles" to thwart coronavirus, although a small number of spectators are now allowed after China successfully got to grips with the health alert. There was also drama in Dalian in the fight to avoid relegation. Jordi Cruyff's Shenzhen FC defeated Shijiazhuang Ever Bright 3-2 on aggregate to retain their place in the CSL next season. Ever Bright will play Wuhan Zall in the relegation decider after Wuhan lost on penalties to Qingdao Huanghai, in an encounter which saw three players sent off. The loser of the relegation final will be demoted and the winner will need to contest a play-off against the team that finishes second in China's second division. —AFP



SUZHOU: Guangzhou Evergrande's He Chao (center-bottom) falls as he clashes with Beijing Guoan's Cedric Bakambu during their Chinese Super League football match (CSL) in Suzhou yesterday. —AFP

Unbeaten Lille held by stubborn 10-man Lyon

PARIS: Lille lost ground on Ligue 1 leaders Paris Saint-Germain after a 1-1 draw at home to 10-man Lyon on Sunday but kept their unbeaten record this season intact. Jonathan Bamba curled in a fine 20-yard strike to give Lille the lead but Zeki Celik's own goal just before half-time brought Lyon level. The visitors played most of the second half a man down after Brazilian defender Marcelo was shown a second yellow card for a foul on Bamba but Lille could not take advantage. "The first yellow was very harsh," said Lyon coach Rudi Garcia.

"Quite frankly, it killed the match. I would like to have seen 95 minutes against Lille with 11 against 11. I'm not going to say what I think... I'm very annoyed because it became difficult afterwards." Lille stayed second but fell two points back of PSG while Lyon moved up to sixth after a fifth draw in nine outings this term. Bamba notched his fourth goal of the cam-

paigned with a terrific first-time effort after an inviting lay-off from Turkey international Burak Yilmaz. The goal came moments after Mike Maignan stood tall at the other end to deny Karl Toko Ekambi after the Cameroon striker was played clean through.

Lyon goalkeeper Anthony Lopes pawed away a long-range shot from Yilmaz and Bamba then fizzed just over, but OL equalized when Houssein Aouar's drive smacked Celik in the chest and flew past Maignan. The dismissal of Marcelo five minutes into the second half prompted Garcia to withdraw Aouar for centre-back Djamel Belamri, the Algerian Africa Cup of Nations winner who joined Lyon last month on a free transfer. Lille were unable to transform their sustained pressure into a winning goal and were held to a second consecutive draw.

Earlier, Germany international Kevin Volland scored his first goals for Monaco since signing for the club in September as Niko Kovac's side thrashed Bordeaux 4-0. Monaco struck three times in as many minutes through Wissam Ben Yedder, Gelson Martins and Volland in the first half to take control at the Stade Louis II. Volland then grabbed another in the second half as Monaco won for just the second time in six matches to



NORD: Lille's French midfielder Benjamin Andre (left) fights for the ball against Lyon's French midfielder Houssein Aouar (right) during the French L1 football match between Lille LOSC and Olympique Lyonnais at the Pierre-Mauroy Stadium in Villeneuve d'Ascq on November 1, 2020. —AFP

climb up to eighth place. France forward Ben Yedder crashed home a spot-kick on 27 minutes after his header was handled by Pablo, with a penalty awarded despite the ball looping over Benoit Costil and into the net following the deflection.

Martins grabbed his first goal since serving a six-month ban for pushing a referee last season when he lunged at

the far post to poke in a Ruben Aguilar cross. And former Bayer Leverkusen forward Volland promptly headed in from a Ben Yedder delivery to end his drought following his 11 million-euro (\$13 million) move from Germany. The 28-year-old tapped in a second on 57 minutes as Martins slid the ball across goal for his unmarked team-mate. —AFP

Super Bale sends Spurs into second

LONDON: Jose Mourinho praised Gareth Bale's patience to wait for his chance to shine after coming off the bench to score the winner in a 2-1 victory over Brighton that lifted Spurs up to second in the Premier League. Bale is yet to start in the league during his second spell at the club he left for a world record fee to join Real Madrid in 2013. But the 31-year-old showed his ruthlessness in front of goal remains with a powerful header 17 minutes from slip to ensure Mourinho's men did not slip up in a controversial encounter at the Tottenham Hotspur stadium.

"Gareth Bale is very stable, very mature, he knows his body better than anyone," said Mourinho. "We know where we want to go and he's with us on that journey." The Welshman's intervention lessened the furor over Brighton's equalizer, scored by Tariq Lamptey. Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg looked to have

been clearly fouled by Solly March before the ball was worked to Lamptey, who produced a clinical finish into the far corner for his first goal for the club.

However, referee Graham Scott stood by his original decision not to award a Tottenham free-kick after reviewing the incident on the pitchside monitor. "Probably the referee should go to the press conference and explain. He had time to go to the screen so only he can explain why it is a goal," added Mourinho. The equalizer balanced up the dubious calls as Spurs led at half-time thanks to Harry Kane's first-half penalty, while Brighton were denied a spot-kick.

Kane was bundled over by former England teammate Adam Lallana, but after Scott initially awarded a free-kick on the edge of the box, he was instructed by VAR that the foul took place inside the box. There was less doubt over the result of the spot-kick as the in-form Kane coolly dispatched his 199th Tottenham goal. It was a familiar story for Brighton as their winless run stretched to six games despite going on to enjoy the better of the game for long spells. Graham Potter could not believe his luck when



LONDON: Tottenham Hotspurs Welsh midfielder Gareth Bale (center) scores his team's second goal past Brighton's Spanish goalkeeper Robert Sanchez during the English Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Brighton on November 1, 2020. Tottenham won the game 2-1. —AFP

a pull on Leandro Trossard by Matt Doherty was not punished with a penalty at the other end.

Mourinho was then left cursing the officiating as for the first time in the Premier League this season a referee stood by his initial call after seeing replays of an incident for the Brighton equalizer. Erik Lamela fired a long-

range effort off the post as Spurs were suddenly jolted into looking for a winner.

The Argentine was replaced by Bale 20 minutes from time and the substitute took just three minutes to make his impact when he met his former Madrid teammate Sergio Reguilon's inch-perfect cross. —AFP

Unbeaten Leverkusen beat Freiburg; Hertha held on Matteo debut

BERLIN: Arsenal loanee Matteo Guendouzi made his Bundesliga debut on Sunday as Hertha Berlin were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Wolfsburg, while Bayer Leverkusen came from behind to beat Freiburg. Guendouzi replaced fellow Frenchman Lucas Tousart just before the hour mark and was booked for dissent in stoppage time in his first competitive appearance since June.

The curly-haired midfielder joined Hertha on loan in October having fallen out of favor at Arsenal, but was forced to delay his return to action after testing positive for coronavirus. He finally made his debut in Berlin's empty Olympic stadium on Sunday, helping Hertha to end a four-game losing streak and pick up their first point since the opening weekend. "It's not an easy situation, but we have to stay positive. We have a lot of new players in the side, and we need to get to know each other on the pitch," Hertha midfielder Vladimir Darida told Sky.

Matheus Cunha gave Hertha the lead after less than six minutes, squeezing a low shot inside the post from the edge of the area despite slipping on the turf as he struck the ball. Ridle Baku leveled the scores with a sweetly struck shot on 20 minutes, smashing the ball into the roof of the net from 18 yards out to score his first goal for Wolfsburg since joining the club in October. Earlier Sunday, Argentina striker Lucas Alario continued his fine run of form with two crucial first-half goals as Bayer Leverkusen saw off Freiburg 4-2.

After a disastrous first half-hour for Leverkusen, Alario struck twice before the break to turn the game on its head and fire his team back into the top four. "It was a strange match in which we started badly. Normally you can't turn games like that around, but Lucas's goals really helped us," said Leverkusen coach Peter Bosz. The Argentine now has seven goals from eight games in all competitions, and has found the net in each of his last three league appearances. Leverkusen, meanwhile, remain the only Bundesliga team yet to be beaten after the first six games of the season.

Freiburg took the lead on just three minutes, Lucas Hoeler latching onto a 50-yard through ball from Lukas Kuebler and flicking the ball past Leverkusen keeper Lukas Hradecky. Leverkusen were bracing themselves for a long afternoon when Sven Bender was shown a red card for a trip on Hoeler in front of goal, but the decision was reversed by VAR. Having ridden their luck in the first half-hour, Leverkusen ruthlessly took their chances from then on, with Alario turning the game on its head with two quick goals before half-time. —AFP

Ruthless Real Sociedad march on with fourth La Liga win in a row

MADRID: Sizzling Real Sociedad thrashed Celta Vigo 4-1 away on Sunday for a fourth consecutive La Liga victory, which returned them to the top of the standings. David Silva scored his first goal for Sociedad by heading home midway through the first half, while Spain forward Mikel Oyarzabal added the second soon after, following up his own shot which had come off the post. Willian Jose further stretched the visitors' lead early in the second half, tapping in a cross from

Cristian Portu, who had chased down Celta defender Jeison Murillo to win the ball back by the penalty area.

Iago Aspas scored for the struggling hosts from the penalty spot later on but Brazilian forward Willian Jose struck again soon after, rounding off another big win for Sociedad to ease the pain of Thursday's Europa League defeat to Napoli. The victory took Sociedad top of the table on 17 points from eight games, one ahead of second-placed Real Madrid who have a game in hand. The Basques also lead the scoring charts with 18 goals, netting 14 times in the last four games.

Celta, who had defender Jose Fontan sent off in added time for a second booking, are 17th on six points. Also on Sunday, Valencia drew 2-2 at home to Getafe in a frenetic, ill-tempered match

which featured three late goals, including an equaliser in the 100th minute, plus two red cards. Valencia, who had Thierry Correia sent off early in the second half for two bookings, were leading 1-0 through a first-half goal from Yunus Musah until the 87th minute, when Cucho Hernandez levelled for Getafe.

Angel Rodriguez grabbed what looked to be the winner for Getafe but the drama was far from over and Valencia were awarded a penalty when Damian Suarez tangled with Carlos Soler, leading to Suarez being sent off and Soler converting from the spot. The last-gasp equaliser averted a fourth consecutive defeat for Valencia but still left them 13th. Getafe are eighth on 11 points. Elsewhere, Real Betis beat Elche 3-1 at home while Granada drew 1-1 at home to Levante. —Reuters



Matches on TV (Local Timings)

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE		
Lokomotiv Moscow v Atletico de Madrid	beIN Sports HD 1	20:55
Shakhtar Donetsk v Borussia M'gladbach	beIN Sports HD 2	20:55
Red Bull Salzburg v FC Bayern Munich	beIN Sports HD 5	23:00
Real Madrid CF v Internazionale Milano	beIN Sports HD 1	23:00
Manchester City v Olympiacos Piraeus	beIN Sports HD 2	23:00
Porto v Olympique Marseille	beIN Sports HD 6	23:00
FC Midtjylland v Ajax	beIN Sports HD 3	23:00
Atalanta v Liverpool	beIN Sports HD 4	23:00

15 Paulinho sends Cannavaro's Evergrande into title decider



15 Unbeaten Lille held by stubborn 10-man Lyon



15 Bale heads winner as Spurs go second with win over Brighton



CHICAGO: Nick Foles #9 of the Chicago Bears is sacked by David Onyemata #93 of the New Orleans Saints at Soldier Field on November 01, 2020 in Chicago, Illinois. The Saints defeated the Bears 26-23 in overtime. —AFP

Steelers edge Ravens to stay perfect

Colts overpower Lions; Chiefs down Jets

NEW YORK: The Pittsburgh Steelers remained the NFL's lone undefeated team by rebounding from a lackluster offensive first half on the road and outlasting the depleted Baltimore Ravens 28-24 in an AFC North battle Sunday. Ben Roethlisberger found Chase Claypool on the right edge of the end zone from 8 yards out with 7:29 remaining for what proved to be the winning touchdown. The bad news wasn't limited to the score for the Ravens (5-2), whose All-Pro left tackle, Ronnie Stanley, was carted off the field in the first quarter with a broken left ankle.

Right guard Tyre Phillips also left the game with an ankle injury. In addition, linebacker Matthew Judon was ejected for intentional contact with an official during a skirmish in the second quarter. The Steelers improved to 7-0 as Roethlisberger finished 21-of-32 for 182 yards - 158 of them coming in the second half, after the Steelers were outgained in the first half 254-64 and trailed 17-7. Baltimore's Lamar Jackson completed 13 of 28 passes for 208 yards and two touchdowns, with two interceptions. He also rushed for 65 yards.

Broncos 31, Chargers 30

Drew Lock passed for 248 yards and three touchdowns, the last one to K.J.Hamler as time expired, as host Denver rallied to beat Los Angeles. DaeSean Hamilton had four catches for 82 yards and a touchdown, Albert Okwuegbunam had another TD reception, and Phillip Lindsay ran for 83 yards and a score for Denver (3-4). Lock was 26-for-41 passing as the Broncos came back from a 24-3 third-quarter deficit. Justin Herbert finished 29-for-43 passing for 278 yards and three touchdowns for the Chargers (2-5), with Mike Williams catching five passes for 99 yards and a score and Keenan Allen nine receptions for 67 yards and a touchdown.

Saints 26, Bears 23

Drew Brees threw two touchdown passes, Wil Lutz made four field goals, and New Orleans won its fourth consecutive game by beating host Chicago in overtime. Lutz's fourth field goal, a 35-yarder with 1:36 left, ended the game on the third overall possession of overtime. Brees completed 31 of 41 for 280 yards and threw a 16-yard touchdown to Jared Cook and a 20-yarder to Tayson Hill as the Saints improved to 5-2. Nick Foles completed 28 of 41 for 272 yards and two touchdowns but also threw an interception as the Bears (5-3) lost their second consecutive game.

Bills 24, Patriots 21

Tyler Bass kicked a 28-yard field goal with 4:06 left, and host Buffalo recovered a late fumble to beat New England, handing the Patriots their fourth consecutive loss. New England (2-5) was driving for at least the potential tying score, but quarterback Cam Newton fumbled on second-and-10 from the Buffalo 19. The Bills' Dean Marlowe recovered the ball at the 13 with 31 seconds left. Zack Moss rushed for two touchdowns for Buffalo (6-2), which leads the AFC East and expanded its advantage on third-place New England. The Bills snapped a seven-game losing streak to the Patriots, who have won the AFC East in each of the past 11 seasons. The Patriots' skid is their longest since 2002. They are 2-5 for the first time since 2000, coach Bill Belichick's first season in New England.

Raiders 16, Browns 6

Derek Carr tossed the go-ahead touchdown pass in the fourth quarter and Josh Jacobs rushed for 128 yards to lead visiting Las Vegas to a defeat of host Cleveland during chilly and windy conditions. Daniel Carlson connected on field goals of 29, 33 and 24 yards in a contest that featured sleet and snow flurries and was played with steady winds of 35 mph, with gusts reaching 50 mph. Carr completed 15 of 24 passes for 112 yards and rushed for 41 yards on six carries for Las Vegas (4-3). Jacobs had 31 carries in his first 100-yard game of the season. Cody Parkey kicked field goals of 41 and 38 yards for Cleveland (5-3). Baker Mayfield completed 12 of 25 passes for 122 yards, while Kareem Hunt led the ground game with 66 yards on 14 carries. Jarvis Landry finished with four catches for 52 yards.

Colts 41, Lions 21

Philip Rivers threw two of his three first-half touchdown passes to Nyheim Hines as visiting Indianapolis rolled to a win over Detroit. Rivers passed for 262 yards and Jordan Wilkins led Indianapolis' rushing attack with 89 yards on 20 carries. The Colts (5-2) had 11 different receivers catch at least one pass. Matthew Stafford passed for 336 yards and three touchdowns for Detroit (3-4), but he also had an interception returned for a touchdown and lost a fumble.

Chiefs 35, Jets 9

Patrick Mahomes passed for 416 yards, going 31-for-42 with five touchdowns, as

Kansas City blasted visiting New York. The victory was the 229th of Chiefs coach Andy Reid's career (including playoffs), tying legendary Green Bay coach Curly Lambeau for fifth on the all-time NFL list. The Chiefs (7-1) led 21-9 at halftime, extending that when Mahomes completed passes on all six plays of an 83-yard scoring march in the third quarter. He connected with Demarcus Robinson for a 26-yard touchdown for the 28-9 lead. Playing his second game since he was released by the Jets and acquired by the Chiefs, two-time All-Pro running back Le'Veon Bell gained 7 yards on six rushing attempts and caught three passes for 31 yards. The Jets (0-8) remained the only winless NFL team, and saw their string of quarters without a touchdown extended to six while they generated just 221 total yards.

Vikings 28, Packers 22

Dalvin Cook ran for 163 yards and scored four touchdowns, including three on the ground, to lead Minnesota at NFC North-leading Green Bay, snapping the Packers' eight-game winning streak in the division. Back in the lineup for the first time since suffering a groin injury in a Week 5 loss at Seattle, Cook scored on runs of 21 yards and 1 yard twice, and took a screen pass 50 yards for a score as he gained 226 yards from scrimmage for the Vikings (2-5), who were solid on both sides of the ball following their bye week. The Packers (5-2) lost for the second time in three games as Minnesota pulled out to a 28-14 third-quarter lead and held on. Aaron Rodgers was 27-for-41 passing for 291 yards and three touchdowns. He pulled the Packers to within six with 2:42 to go, but when they got the ball back in the final minute, DJ Wonnun preserved the Vikings' victory by sacking Rodgers and forcing a fumble.

Bengals 31, Titans 20

Rookie quarterback Joe Burrow threw for 249 yards and two touchdowns as Cincinnati pulled off one of the biggest upsets of Week 8, stopping visiting Tennessee. Burrow completed 26 of 37 passes with no interceptions, leading Cincinnati (2-5-1) to its best performance of the year. The Bengals were outgained 441-367, but toppled the AFC South leaders by committing no turnovers and coming up with key defensive stops to frustrate Tennessee, which allowed at least 27 points for the fifth time in six games. Derrick Henry rushed for 112 yards and a touchdown for the



PHILADELPHIA: Duke Riley #50 of the Philadelphia Eagles tackles Ezekiel Elliott #21 of the Dallas Cowboys in the first quarter of the game at Lincoln Financial Field on November 01, 2020. —AFP

Titans (5-2), who lost their second straight game after a 5-0 start. Ryan Tannehill hit on 18 of 30 throws for 233 yards with two scores and an interception, while Corey Davis grabbed eight passes for 128 yards and a touchdown.

Dolphins 28, Rams 17

Rookie first-round pick Tua Tagovailoa won in his first NFL start. Jakeem Grant scored on an 88-yard punt return, and Miami's defense forced four first-half turnovers as the host Dolphins beat Los Angeles. Miami (4-3), which has won three straight games, scored 28 consecutive first-half points to take an insurmountable 28-7 lead, thanks in large part to four turnovers (two interceptions, two fumbles) by Rams quarterback Jared Goff. While Goff-a fifth-year pro-made rookie-type mistakes for the Rams (5-3), Tagovailoa showed relative poise after an early fumble. He completed 12 of 22 passes for 93 yards and one touchdown, with no interceptions, while Goff was 35-of-61 for 355 yards and one touchdown.

Seahawks 37, 49ers 27

Russell Wilson threw four touchdown passes, and Seattle's beleaguered defense

was steady for three quarters as the Seahawks defeated visiting San Francisco. Wilson completed 27 of 37 passes for 261 yards as the Seahawks (6-1) bounced back from a 37-34 overtime loss last weekend at Arizona to maintain their spot atop the NFC West. The 49ers (4-4), the defending NFC champions, suffered their first road loss of the season in four tries and remained in last place in the division.

Eagles 23, Cowboys 9

Carson Wentz threw two touchdown passes and Rodney McLeod returned a fumble for a score as host Philadelphia defeated Dallas. Travis Fulgham and Jalen Reagor caught touchdown passes for the Eagles (3-4-1), who have won three of their past five games. Wentz completed 15 of 27 passes for 123 yards but committed four turnovers-two interceptions, two fumbles. He has thrown an NFL-worst 12 interceptions this season. Rookie Ben DiNucci, a third-stringer pressed into action because of injuries, was 21-of-40 passing for 180 yards with a long gain of just 15 in his first NFL start for Dallas (2-6), which lost its third straight game. Greg Zuerlein kicked three field goals for the Cowboys. —Reuters