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# 'Milestone' COVID vaccine proves to be 90% effective

Trump, Biden hail breakthrough • Global virus cases soar past 50m

## Amir hails efforts of National Guard



KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is welcomed by National Guard Undersecretary Lt Gen Hashem Al-Rifai and senior commanders during his visit to the headquarters of the National Guard yesterday. — KUNA (See Page 3)

WASHINGTON: One of the teams racing to develop a coronavirus vaccine announced yesterday its drug had shown 90 percent effectiveness against the illness, sending stock markets soaring and raising hopes of an end to draconian restrictions on movement. US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer said tests involving more than 40,000 people had provided results that were a "critical milestone" in the search for a vaccine, as global infections soared passed 50 million - almost one-fifth of them in the United States.

Stock markets had already jumped after Joe Biden was called as the winner of the US presidential election at the weekend, and accelerated rapidly on the vaccine news. An effective vaccine is seen as the best hope to break the cycle of virus surges followed by severe restrictions across much of the world since the COVID-19 first emerged in China late last year. Tens of millions of people in Europe are currently living under restrictions preventing them from leaving their homes, and millions of business owners are enduring forced shutdowns.

Lockdowns and other restrictions have shredded the global economy but with few other tools at their disposal to protect vulnerable populations, politicians have felt their hands forced. "We are a significant step closer to providing people around the world with a much-needed breakthrough to help bring an end to this global health crisis," Pfizer

chairman and CEO Albert Bourla said in a statement.

The drug, being developed jointly with German firm BioNTech, is one of more than 40 candidate vaccines, but no other has yet made similar claims about its effectiveness. The companies said they could pass the final hurdles for a US rollout later this month, and could supply up to 50 million doses globally this year and up to 1.3 billion next year. A spokesman for Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that Britain has procured 40 million doses, with 10 million set to be available by year's end.

The scientific community reacted positively to the news, with top US expert Anthony Fauci describing the results as "extraordinary". But others pointed out that no information had yet been disclosed about the ages of the participants in the trial. "If a vaccine is to reduce severe disease and death, and thus enable the population at large to return to their normal day-to-day lives, it will need to be effective in older and elderly members of our society," said Eleanor Riley of the University of Edinburgh.

Outgoing US President Donald Trump was among the first to react, writing on Twitter: "STOCK MARKET UP BIG, VACCINE COMING SOON. REPORT 90% EFFECTIVE. SUCH GREAT NEWS!" Biden quickly followed, congratulating "the brilliant women and men who helped produce this breakthrough".

Continued on Page 2

## News in brief

### Adjust status or leave: MoI

KUWAIT: The interior ministry yesterday called on holders of expired visit visas or residencies to amend their status or leave the country before Nov 30 to avoid legal consequences. It urged employers to amend the status of their employees through the ministry's website or at residency affairs departments. The ministry indicated it will initiate legal procedures after the expiry of the Nov 30 deadline and will deport violators, preventing them from returning to the country. — KUNA

### Hyperloop carries first passengers

LOS ANGELES: The Virgin Hyperloop made its first journey carrying passengers Sunday, in a test the company claimed represented a major step forward for the "groundbreaking" technology capable of transporting people at 1,000 km an hour. But until Sunday, the technology had not been tested with people on board. Two Virgin employees made the 500-m journey in a two-person vehicle in just 15 seconds at a test site in the Nevada desert. — AFP (See Page 9)

### Iran daily infections top 10,000

TEHRAN: Iran's daily novel coronavirus infections crossed the 10,000 mark yesterday, the health ministry announced, setting a new record as fatalities remained close to their all-time high level. The latest official figure of 10,463 positive COVID-19 cases in a 24-hour period takes Iran's coronavirus caseload to 692,949. The virus also claimed 458 lives in the past day, raising the country's overall number of fatalities to 38,749. The previous fatality record of 459 came on Sunday. — AFP

### Russian chopper shot down

MOSCOW: A Russian military helicopter was shot down yesterday in Armenia near the border with Azerbaijan, the defense ministry in Moscow said, killing two crewmembers. The ministry said the Mi-24 helicopter was hit by a man-portable air defense system. A third person was injured and evacuated, it said. — AFP

## Hopefuls use media, online services to reach out to voters

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Close to 400 candidates vying for the 50 National Assembly seats in next month's general election are using the media and online serv-

ices extensively to reach out to voters amid a total ban on traditional gatherings and campaigns. Many candidates are resorting to lengthy interviews on local television stations to promote their election manifestos and promises in a bid to win the backing of voters in the five constituencies.

They have also resorted to the local press and online services like Twitter to broadcast live their virtual election diwanis, in which candidates highlight their views on various pressing issues to attract the attention of voters. The interior ministry has slapped a total ban on election gatherings, erecting tents and holding rallies as

part of measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Local media reported yesterday that the ministry referred an unnamed candidate to the public prosecution for hosting a gathering of female voters in his constituency. The ministry has not officially confirmed the news. In their virtual election campaigns, candidates have raised a host of issues including debt relief for Kuwaiti citizens, resolving the problem of stateless people or bedoons and preventing vote-buying practices, among others.

Continued on Page 2

## Trump won't concede, Biden gets working

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump was still refusing to concede his election loss yesterday, but Democrat Joe Biden plowed ahead anyway with the first meeting of a parallel coronavirus taskforce, initiating an awkward and potentially volatile transition period. Traditionally, Trump would by now not only have accepted the results of Tuesday's election but started assisting the

incoming administration before the Jan 20 handover. Construction has already begun along Pennsylvania Avenue for the ceremonies.

However, the next weeks threaten to push the United States into unprecedented new tension after the already bitter election. Trump is loudly claiming the election was stolen, despite all-but completed vote counts across the 50 states showing Biden with an insurmountable lead. No proof has been provided for allegations of significant irregularities that Trump's team insists occurred.

Biden, whose winning bid was in part based on his promise of steady leadership in the coronavirus crisis,

Continued on Page 2

## Fatimid-era coins found in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM: Archeologists have discovered four pure gold coins in Jerusalem's Old City that were minted more than 1,000 years ago, a rare find from that era in the region. The Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) said the coins were unearthed during excavation work near the Western Wall. The coins, contained in a small jug, "were in excellent preservation and were immediately identifiable even without cleaning", IAA specialist Robert Kool

said in a statement.

The coins date from the 940s to the 970s, "a time of radical political change" in Jerusalem and the surrounding region, Kool added. During that period, the ruling Abbasid caliphate, which was headquartered in Baghdad, lost control of Jerusalem to its rival, the Fatimid dynasty of North Africa, which fell in the 12th century.

"This is the first time in fifty years that a gold cache from the Fatimid period has been discovered in Jerusalem's Old City," Kool said. Israeli excavators last uncovered gold from the Fatimid period shortly after the 1967 Six-Day War, which saw Israel seize control of east Jerusalem from Jordan, before annexing it. — AFP



WILMINGTON, Delaware: US President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris receive a briefing from the transition COVID-19 advisory board yesterday. — AFP



JERUSALEM: An archaeologist shows four pure gold coins discovered in a small pottery jug in the Old City of Jerusalem yesterday. — AFP



## Local

# Amir, Crown Prince meet Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah have separately received His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-

Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at Seif Palace yesterday. In other news, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent yesterday a cable of congratulations to Luis Alberto Arce on the occasion of his



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

election as President of Bolivia, and a similar cable to Wavel Ramkalawan on the occasion of his election as President of the Seychelles. His Highness the Amir wished them good health, best of luck and for bilateral ties to fur-

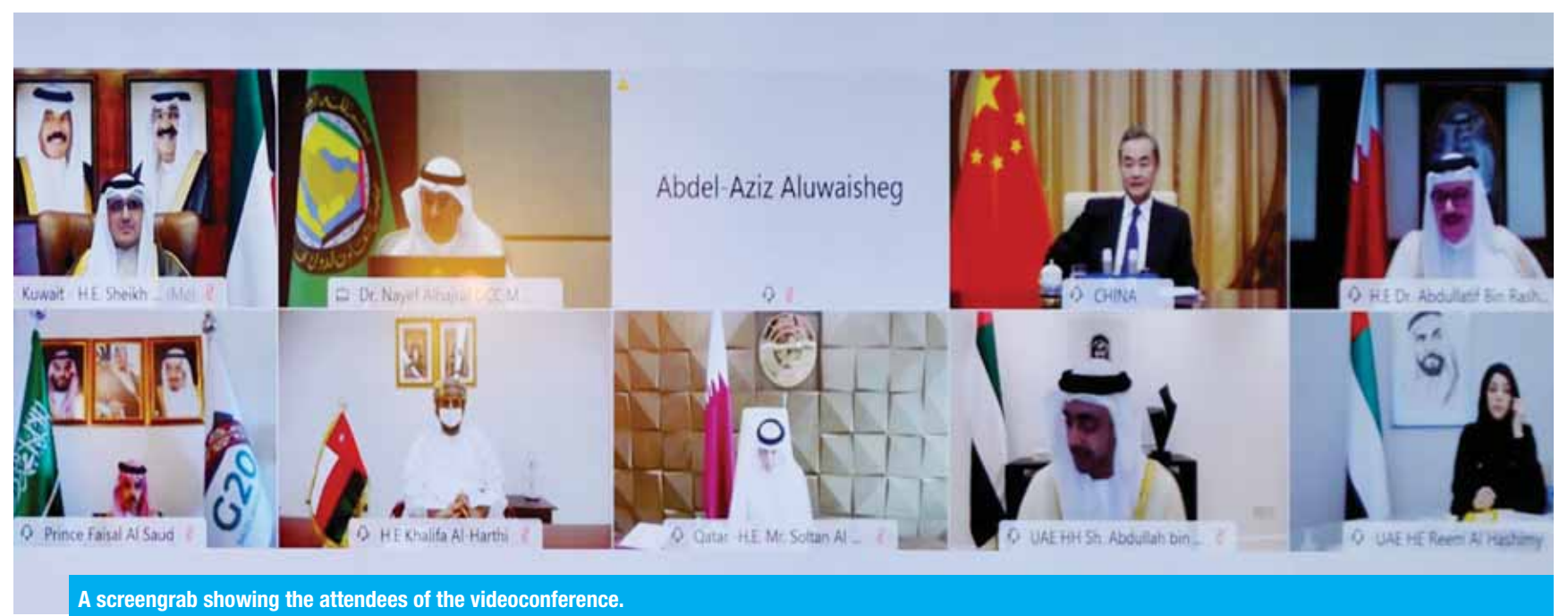
ther develop. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables of congratulations. — KUNA

## Kuwait participates in China-GCC virtual ministerial meeting



KUWAIT: Foreign Minister and Acting Information Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah attends the videoconference. — KUNA photos

KUWAIT: Foreign Minister and Acting Information Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah headed the Kuwaiti delegation that attended the China-Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) tenth ministerial meeting, held via videoconference yesterday. The meeting dealt with the close partnership that bind the



A screenshot showing the attendees of the videoconference.

GCC countries with the People's Republic of China, frameworks for enhancing joint cooperation between them in various important areas. The meeting also tackled future prospects in support of the common interests between the two sides, in addition to discussing the most prominent developments on the regional and

international arenas, especially those related to confronting COVID-19. During the meeting, the Foreign Minister delivered a speech in which he considered this meeting an opportunity for consultation and coordination of various world issues, especially those issues related to facing the outbreak of the pandemic. He also

stressed the need to increase coordination to address the tragic situations in Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Libya and Lebanon and to discuss the Palestine issue and the peace process in the Middle East. The Kuwaiti delegation to the meeting also included number of Foreign Ministry senior officials. — KUNA

## Hopefuls use media, online services to...

Continued from Page 1

Yousef Al-Gharabally, contesting from the first district, lent strong support to a popular campaign that has been going on for the past two years, pressing the government to forgive almost one billion dinars in personal loans of Kuwaiti citizens. Gharabally called the campaign a pillar of national action to resolve the biggest popular problem, "which has worsened because of an unfair government and a compromising assembly".

Former MP Mohammad Tana, fighting for a seat in the fourth constituency, accused the government of being "miserly" towards Kuwaiti citizens and "generous" when it comes to supporting merchants. The candidate claimed that the government is refusing to forgive the debt of Kuwaitis, which is less than one billion dinars, but has readily provided some KD

2.5 billion in support to wealthy merchants.

New candidate Khaled Al-Munaye from the third constituency warned voters against those who buy voters, saying that candidates who buy votes and spend lavishly on their campaigns will not care for voters but those who financed their campaigns. Adel Ashkanani from the first district claimed that the outgoing Assembly failed miserably and achieved less than 20 percent of its goals. Former MP Khalil Al-Saleh, bidding for re-election from the first district, said priority for public sector jobs should be given to children of Kuwaiti women married to foreigners, ahead of expats.

MP Saleh Ashour from the first constituency called for resolving the decades-old plight of bedoons by naturalizing the children of bedoons who died while fighting in the Kuwaiti army, besides holders of high degrees and those employed in the military. He said the mother of US Vice President-elect Kamala Harris is Indian and her father hails from Jamaica, but she became the vice president of the United States, while "our government has failed to grant citizenship to bedoon martyrs and their children and those in the military".

not been widely accepted outside of Russia.

The vaccine news will be of particular relief to people in Europe - the current focal point of the pandemic and the region subject to the most widespread restrictions. Italy was edging closer to a full lockdown, with experts warning of a drastic situation in hospitals. "I am afraid there is no doubt that the situation is largely out of control," said Massimo Galli, head of the infectious diseases department at Milan's Sacco hospital.

And the grim news kept on coming elsewhere, with Russia surpassed its record for daily infections again yesterday, testing the government's resolve after it said it would not impose a new lockdown. Hungary is now one of the hardest-hit countries in terms of deaths proportionate to its population, and the government announced new national restrictions to come into force Wednesday.

In France, which has imposed nationwide stay-at-home orders and is clocking more than 40,000 cases a day, the central bank revised its expectations of the damage wrought by the curbs. "Before the second wave, we thought the recession would be a little less than nine percent, we think today that for 2020 as a whole it will be between nine and 10 percent," Banque de France chief Francois Villeroy de Galhau said.

Before the vaccine news emerged, the World Health Organization (WHO) once again warned against complacency over a disease that has killed more than 1.25 million people across the planet. "We might be tired of COVID-19. But it is not tired of us," said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. — Agencies



WILMINGTON, Delaware: US President-elect Joe Biden delivers remarks as US Vice President-elect Kamala Harris listens yesterday. — AFP

## Trump won't concede, Biden...

Continued from Page 1

was meeting for the first time with his pandemic taskforce in his hometown of Wilmington. Tellingly, this coincided with the White House's own coronavirus task force meeting planned for later in the day. Biden was also expected to deliver his first public remarks since a victory speech delivered Saturday after the preliminary results showed him with a convincing majority over Trump.

"Dealing with the coronavirus pandemic is one of the most important battles our administration will face, and I will be informed by science and by experts," Biden said in a statement announcing his task force of respected scientists. The announcement of his new group came as US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech announced that a jointly developed vaccine had so far proven 90 percent effective in preventing infections in trials.

Biden welcomed this, while cautioning it would be "many more months" before mass vaccination was possible and urging Americans to wear masks - something he says he wants to mandate nationally once in office. Trump, whose handling of the pandemic has

been erratic - and often running contrary to scientific advice - also welcomed the news, which gave an immediate boost to stock prices on Wall Street.

Beyond COVID, the Biden team said the president-elect and his vice president-elect Kamala Harris "will hold briefings with transition advisors" in the afternoon. However, with Trump digging in his feet, it is far from clear how much the incoming administration will be able to do as the clock ticks down to inauguration day.

Trump, backed for now by a significant number of senior Republicans, is insisting on multiple court challenges to vote counts and allegations of fraud. While no credible proof had been put forward of any incident that could have changed the result, the legal wrangles could take days if not weeks to sort out. In the meantime, Biden's team is reportedly being denied the usual taxpayer-funded transition package that would help it get ready. This includes office space in Washington and millions of dollars in funding.

The Trump-appointed head of the General Services Administration, a bureaucracy running government buildings, had yet to sign off on the assistance. The GSA's freeze on cooperation rippled through to the Department of Defense, which said it was holding off from contact with Biden's team. "DOD has had no contact with transition teams from either campaign and will not until notified by the GSA Administrator," a Pentagon official said. — AFP



Local

# Amir highlights National Guard's role in supporting Kuwait's fight against COVID

Sheikh Nawaf vows to support National Guard 'to enable it fulfill its national duty'



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah poses for a group photo with senior Kuwait National Guard commanders during a visit to the National Guard's headquarters yesterday. — Amiri Diwan photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah signs the guestbook.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah delivers his speech.



National Guard Undersecretary Lieutenant General Hashem Al-Rifai delivers his speech.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday visited the headquarters of the Kuwait National Guard General Chairmanship, where he was welcomed by the National Guard Undersecretary Lieutenant General Hashem Al-Rifai and senior commanders. His Highness the Amir addressed the chiefs, officers and personnel, lauding them for proving that they are examples to be followed with respect to law abidance. He also recalled the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his support for the national security institutions, affirming that he would follow in his footsteps at this level. "While I express appreciation for the National Guard and the personnel, I note my pride of the honorable national march of His Highness the gracious Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Salem Al-Sabah, the Chairman of the National Guard, and I beseech Allah Almighty to bestow upon him speedy recovery and all health and wellbeing," His Highness the

Amir Sheikh Nawaf stated. He commended the eminent role of His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince, for the tangible efforts he had exerted during his service in the National Guard, where he sought to upgrade this national military institution.

Moreover, he expressed satisfaction for the National Guard's effective role and close back-up for the army, police and civilians in responding to the novel coronavirus crisis and taking precautions to curb the disease's spread, appreciating their unstoppable work to ensure continuity of operating vital installations during the lockdown as well as their

skilful and meticulous role in this regard — such is the deeply-rooted patriotic spirit among the Kuwaitis in the face of any challenges. "As we highly admire the enormous efforts of the National Guard, we affirm our keenness on pursuing the support for this national entity to enable it fulfill the national duty in the best possible manner, beseeching Allah Almighty to guard us all for the goodness and service of our precious homeland, Kuwait," His Highness the Amir added.

Meanwhile, the National Guard Undersecretary expressed satisfaction on behalf of His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali and the personnel for His Highness the Amir's visit to the headquarters, also

remembering the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, affirming allegiance to Sheikh Nawaf and vowing unlimited devotion for action and service for the homeland. Lt Gen Rifai also pledged to remain "on the path of sacrifices and faithfulness and utter devotion for Kuwait," also underscoring the National Guard's notable role in the fight against the coronavirus. He also wished His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali rapid recuperation. Upon his departure from the headquarters, His Highness the Amir made some short remarks, wishing that His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali could have been able to be present with the other personnel on the occasion, urging the personnel to persevere and act as a single person. His Highness the Amir was accompanied during the visit by President of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Mubarak Al-Faisal Al-Saud Al-Sabah and the head of Amiri Protocol, Sheikh Khaled Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah. — KUNA



## Amir visits National Guard headquarters

## Kuwait reports 735 new COVID cases, five deaths

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health announced yesterday registering 735 new coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in the past 24 hours, raising the total to 132,478. Deaths reached 816 with the addition of five fatalities. The ministry also announced that 738 patients have recovered within the same period, raising the total number of recoveries to 123,314. Official spokesperson of the Ministry of Health Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad said that there were 120 patients receiving treatment at intensive care units, while those still receiving treatment amounted to 8,348. Health authorities conducted 5,659 swab tests in the past 24 hours, raising the whole count to 971,489. — KUNA



Stay safe. Stay home. Stay informed.





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#### News in brief

#### GCC talks 'ongoing'

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's efforts to resolve the Gulf dispute are ongoing and did not stop, Al-Qabas reported quoting government sources. Communications aiming at reconciling views are ongoing, which is the main reason for delaying the end of the dispute, the sources added. Kuwait is continuing its moves with support and coordination with the US, the source said adding that no other parties will be involved to resolve the dispute. They said there is a Kuwaiti, Gulf and American interest to contain the dispute in order to face challenges in the region and changes around the world, and maintain the "Gulf entity."

#### Crimes against children

**KUWAIT:** Head of the child protection department Lt Col Saud Al-Aamer said 845 cases of crimes against children were sent to the prosecution since the passing of the child protection law in 2015. Sexual, physical and psychological crimes are mostly committed against children, he said in statements to Al-Jarida. He added that the new child protection law contributed to the protection of children and enabled them to inform authorities about abuse. He said many court rulings were issued due to such complaints against parents and individuals, including a 15-year jail sentence against a father who assaulted his daughter. He said family breakups negatively affect children, while child negligence cases are on the rise.

# Pandemic exposed management unable to face challenges, says candidate Omar

## Parliament hopeful believes Kuwait in 'worst situation'

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** Jamal Al-Omar is an independent candidate contesting the Dec 5 National Assembly elections from the third constituency. He has been running in elections since 1999 and was elected several times, but didn't succeed in reaching the parliament during the previous elections in 2016.

"The last parliament was an experience for citizens after the application of the one-vote election law. This resulted in having new, politically inexperienced MPs, so the general performance of the parliament was weak and people were not satisfied. The decline in performance is reflected in the present elections," he told Kuwait Times.

"I believe there will be a correction during this election to have a strong parliament that can face local and regional political challenges. We have entered a new era of political work that is expressed in appointing new officials in key positions, such as the judicial council, Amiri Diwan, security institutions and regulatory bodies," said Omar.

#### Worst situation

According to him, today we are facing the worst political and economic situation in Kuwait. "The pandemic amplified the impact of the already bad management that is not able to face challenges. Kuwait is now ranked high on the Corruption Perceptions Index, ranked low in the quality of education, and low in economic classification due to bad governmental management. I believe in voter awareness that will be reflected on the day of elections on December 5, 2020," he pointed out.

Kuwait's challenges are not different from other countries. "Even before the pandemic, we suffered from a general decline in state institutions - the pandemic exacerbated the problem and revealed the poor management of the government in all fields. The health issue was its priority, yet the results of health precautions were not satisfactory and cost hundreds of millions of dinars due to floundering health procedures compared to other countries around the world. This was reflected on the economy," Omar stated.

"The government was not able to study this situation and find solutions for all the problems through a clear strategy. Until today, there is no

committee to deal with these problems, except for some reactions to what's published on social media. This failure and negligence has destroyed the private sector. Even the public sector will be negatively affected by this negligence, and the oil sector is one of the main victims. Infrastructure, water and electricity and public projects were all strongly affected," stressed Omar.

#### Delayed projects

Delays in state oil projects are financially damaging, but the government is not revealing these losses, he alleged. "We have been facing a drop in our financial and economic position during the past six months. This will affect the strength of the currency, cost of borrowing, strength of economy and the cost of insuring these projects. The government won't be able to treat these problems in the future," he said.

"The government emptied the General Reserve Fund and assets became zero, and the value of the Future Generations' Fund has



**KUWAIT:** Candidate Jamal Al-Omar speaks to Kuwait Times. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

#### Squandering of funds

Omar demanded squandering of funds should be stopped. "There are many unnecessary institutions in the country. We are facing an extraordinary situation, so needless bodies should be merged. For instance, there are many identical institutions such as the Public Authority for Roads and Transport and Ministry of Public Works, the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority and Ministry of Communications, Internal Audit Office and State Audit Bureau, and many others, which don't have real results. These are useless bodies that affect our budget," he told Kuwait Times.

"The poor quality of education can be improved by cooperating with advanced schools and educational institutions in Europe and the US, instead of importing teachers from abroad while schools are only operating online. Unfortunately, decisions are based on reactions to a tweet on social media," Omar rued.

"Our economy is losing from the bad decision of the 14-day quarantine. UAE, Turkey, Bahrain and other countries have benefited from these decisions and are making money out of the thousands of passengers staying in their hotels. We need consultants, engineers and other experts for some projects from abroad and they are not able to come to Kuwait due to the health restrictions. Small enterprises are an example of the government's failure during this crisis. The government lost its investments in these projects, while entrepreneurs lost their means of livelihood, along with other people working in these businesses," concluded Omar.



**Govt failure  
destroyed  
private sector**

dropped as it failed to return funds. The government today suggests taking on a public debt of KD 20 billion to pay salaries, which make up 70 percent of this amount. The government doesn't have any other options in the present time to save the economy after it decided to use the profits and savings of oil companies, which affected their financial strength," Omar explained.

"We wonder how we can trust the government if it takes on public debt that it won't spend it the wrong way as it did with other funds. It's not acceptable that the budget is KD 24 billion in these circumstances, while the government is proposing to borrow with the same administration and strategy. Loans will be hard to pay back in the future with low oil production and prices. There should be a clear strategy in spending by eliminating corruption," he noted.

## Salmiya murder suspects arrested

**KUWAIT:** Police arrested a number of suspects accused of killing a person in Salmiya, the Interior Ministry announced yesterday. Hawally detectives had launched a search for the sus-

pects after Mubarak Hospital staff reported the arrival of a person with a deep stab wound. The victim had succumbed to his injuries in the intensive care unit. Detectives were able to identify and arrest the suspects, and found the murder weapon in their possession as they admitted their crime, the ministry said in a statement. The suspects were taken to the proper authorities for further action, as they face premeditated murder charges.

## Fourteen per 100,000 Kuwaitis have prostate cancer

**KUWAIT:** Fourteen out of every 100,000 Kuwaiti men have prostate cancer, the Cancer Awareness Nation (CAN) said yesterday. Meanwhile, 52 out of every 100,000 expatriates have been diagnosed with the disease, CAN Chairman Dr Khaled Al-Saleh said in a statement yesterday as part of a campaign against the disease. More than two cases are registered per week, added Dr Saleh. Prostate cancer is largely linked to old age. Men aged above 50 are advised to undergo the prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test once per year. Dr

Saleh has explained that the disease can be hereditary and some studies suggest that high intakes of sodium may also result in developing the disease. He advised men of the potentials to develop the disease to get the PSA testing which is provided by the Ministry of Health at the country's medical centers and clinics. The disease makes urination difficult, stimulates recurrent feeling of urination or result in emitting blood. The doctors also advises to keep body weight within reason, abstain from smoking and exercise regularly. — KUNA



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**KUWAIT:** Head of the Kuwait Fire Force held a meeting with senior KFF officials yesterday to discuss preparations taken at fire stations around Kuwait for the upcoming rain season, including measures taken to handle potential accidents during rainy weather.





## India's Tata launches faster COVID-19 test as cases rise



STEPANAKERT: A man walks along a street during the ongoing military conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh in the disputed province's capital on Nov 5, 2020. — AFP

# Russia, Turkey keep powder dry

## Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has stoked worries of a wider war

YEREVAN/BAKU: Sensitive to the threat of wider confrontation, Russia and Turkey are for now limiting involvement in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to providing humanitarian assistance and some military aid. Ankara sees its strong backing for Azerbaijan over the fighting with ethnic Armenians in the mountain enclave as part of efforts to boost Turkey's international clout. Moscow is determined to defend its own interests in the South Caucasus.

But neither wants to be sucked into an all-out war, and private military contractors say Moscow and Ankara are largely turning a blind eye to the role of mercenaries - possibly fighting on both sides - to avoid stoking tensions. NATO member Turkey, which has stepped up arms supplies to Azerbaijan in recent years, is likely to refrain from deeper military involvement if its ally continues to advance in Nagorno-Karabakh, military and political analysts said.

Russia, which has a defense pact with Armenia, also has good relations with Azerbaijan and is unlikely to become directly involved militarily unless Azerbaijan launches a deliberate attack on Armenia, they said. "The fundamental question is: does the Kremlin want the return of Nagorno-Karabakh to Azerbaijan?" said Pierre Razoux, academic director at France's Mediterranean Foundation of Strategic Studies.

Thousands are feared killed since fighting flared on Sept 27 in the breakaway territory, which is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan but populated and controlled by ethnic Armenians. Azeri President Ilham Aliyev said on Sunday his country's forces had taken Shusha, the second-largest city in Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenian officials denied this but Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan congratulated his "Azeri brothers" and said he believed Aliyev's statement was "a sign" that Azerbaijan would soon regain control of more territory.

Turkey's support for Azerbaijan has been vital, and

Azerbaijan's superior weaponry and battlefield advances have reduced its incentive to reach a lasting peace deal. Ankara denies its troops are involved in fighting but Aliyev has acknowledged some Turkish F-16 fighter jets remained in Azerbaijan after a military drill this summer, and there are reports of Russian and Turkish drones being used by both sides. Russia is Armenia's main arms supplier though it also sells weapons to Azerbaijan which, like Armenia, was for decades part of the Soviet Union.

### 'All assistance required'

Russia has said it will give "all assistance required" should the conflict spill onto "the territory of Armenia". A Russian private military contractor, speaking to Reuters on condition of anonymity, cited unconfirmed information from a colleague that Russian mercenaries had gone to Nagorno-Karabakh. Alexander Borodai, a former leader of pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine, said a handful of Russian fighters, mostly of Armenian descent, had gone privately to Nagorno-Karabakh but had not stayed long. "They understood quickly that they wouldn't be properly used there," he said.

Moscow and Ankara have cited the presence of foreign fighters as a threat to stability. After Armenia reported two Syrian fighters had been captured, Russia estimated 2,000 mercenaries from the Middle East were fighting, and Erdogan said Armenia was using Kurdish militants. The reports have not been confirmed independently.

Political analyst Fyodor Lukyanov said Russian involvement was unlikely to match the support received by the separatists in eastern Ukraine and that even an "accidental hit" on Armenian territory would not be viewed by Moscow as "aggressive action". Moscow has a pragmatic relationship with Ankara that has overcome past crises and both worry about the security of oil and gas pipelines in Azerbaijan.

But Razoux said deeper Russian involvement would be possible were Azerbaijan to attack Yerevan or Russia's military base in Gyumri, northwest of the capital. "Russia has established a number of outposts along Armenia's borders to make a statement," he said. "But (Russian President Vladimir) Putin has made it equally clear that this protection does not, and never did, extend to where Armenia really wants support right now - in Nagorno-Karabakh."

### More aid flights

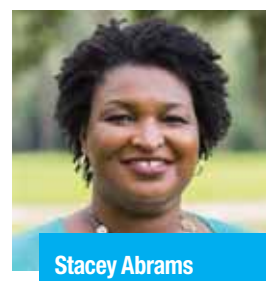
Humanitarian aid deliveries from Russia to Armenia have increased in recent weeks, according to flight tracking data and two Armenian airline operators. An IL-76 military cargo plane previously used by the Armenian postal service and now operated by Atlantis Armenian Airlines had flown almost daily between Russia and Yerevan since early October, the airline said.

On Friday, Reuters reporters saw the plane at Yerevan airport after a flight from Moscow, loaded with three minibuses, four winter tyres and dozens of sacks and boxes marked with red crosses. Labels of many of them identified Armenia's Moscow embassy as the sender. Two Airbus A320 commercial jets operated by Atlantis European airlines have also been delivering humanitarian aid from southern Russia since early October.

On Sept 24, after the joint Turkish-Azeri military drill, flight tracking data showed three Turkish Air Force A400 heavy transport planes making a return trip to the Azeri capital Baku. Turkey's support for Azerbaijan has had "a game-changing effect," said Laurence Broers, Caucasus program director at the Chatham House think-tank. "If the Azerbaijani advance proceeds as it has to date, there won't be a need for further Turkish involvement," he said, adding that Turkey "would probably lend increased support" if Azeri advances stalled. — Reuters

### New American majority

Abrams' gubernatorial race shone a spotlight on voter suppression in the state, after she sued opponent Brian Kemp, also the secretary of state in charge of elections, alleging he used voter roll purges, shuttered precincts, voting equipment failures and late absentee ballots to target Black voters, who lean Democratic. But her push to get more registered Democrats in the state started years before. She co-founded the New Georgia Project in 2014,



Stacey Abrams

a year after the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act, removing safeguards and reducing federal oversight of states. The project identified the "New American Majority - people of color, those 18 to 29 years of age, and unmarried women" as key to Georgia's future. Since 2014, it has registered 500,000 Georgians to vote, a spokesperson said. After the 2018 election, she and former campaign manager Lauren Groh-Wargo also started Fair Fight, an anti-voter suppression group, and sued not just her opponent, but brought voter protection efforts to over a dozen US states.

Abrams' team identified the need to tap into Georgia's pool of Black voters, which make up 33 percent of all registered voters, the largest of any battleground state. But Democrats also need to reach out to about 1.7 million new voters, including young Georgians and those new to the state who are twice as likely to vote Democratic than Republican. Voter turnout in Georgia was more than 74 percent, Kemp's office said this week, boosted by early voting by Black Georgians, up 40% from 2016. "We are experiencing a political revolution at the moment," said James Stevens, 18, a high school student from Roswell in Fulton County. "Younger generations are becoming more diverse and more politically involved. We must keep this state blue to bring real change not only in this state but also in this country." Georgia's Confederate roots are so deep that it is home to the world's largest monument to the generals who lost the US Civil War. But the state's largest city, Atlanta, is a fast-growing hub of Black culture, activism and economic prosperity that has drawn in diverse transplants from around the country, and overseas.—Reuters

## Iraq factions see smoother sailing with Biden at helm

BAGHDAD: Iraq's pro-Tehran factions have welcomed Joe Biden's election as US president, alarming officials and activists in Baghdad who fear a US-Iran de-escalation could empower hardliners in their own country. Baghdad has long been caught in a tug-of-war for influence between its two main allies Washington and Tehran, made even more tense by outgoing US President Donald Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran since 2018. Iraqi factions supported by Tehran are hoping Biden could roll back Trump's policies, which included bombing hardline groups and slapping sanctions on pro-Iran figures. "Trump's era was a very negative one, a period of demolition," said Mohammad Mohyi, spokesman for Kataeb Hezbollah, a hardline pro-Iran faction in Iraq. "We hope the new administration will resolve this, by ending the crisis and withdrawing its troops," he told AFP.

He slammed Trump for "the greatest crime" in January: Killing Iranian commander Qasem Soleimani and top Iraqi commander Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis, who had a key role in founding Kataeb Hezbollah, in a drone strike in Baghdad. Outraged by that targeted attack, Iraq's parliament voted to oust all foreign troops from the country. Trump fired back with threats of crippling sanctions on Iraq.

Many hope there could be change. "Perhaps choosing someone who relies on a policy of coordination could pave the way for cooperation among countries," said Nasr al-Shammari, spokesman for the Iran-aligned Harakat Al-Nujaba. Khamees al-Khanjar, an influential Sunni leader who aligned with Iran in the 2018 elections, agreed. "Biden's win is a new opportunity with the world, to turn a new page towards stability and dialogue," he said. Youssif, an Iraqi blogger who preferred not to give his full name, appeared disturbed by those reactions. "Those politicians, who called the US 'evil' and raised the phrase 'Death to America,' congratulated Biden for winning the presidential election - as if an old friend has won," he told AFP. —AFP

## How Abrams paved the way for a Dem win in 'New Georgia'

WASHINGTON: After Democrat Joe Biden was declared the next US president on Saturday, thousands of celebrants massed outside the White House. One part of the group broke out in a spontaneous chant that wasn't about Biden or his opponent Donald Trump, cheering: "Sta-CEY AAA-brams.....Sta-CEY AAA-brams." Stacey Abrams, 46, a lawyer, entrepreneur, romance novelist and Georgia politician, became a national Democratic figurehead after losing a hard-fought governor's race in 2018 by just 55,000 votes. Now she is being lauded by Democrats, academics, voters and activists around the country for boosting Biden to victory.

Georgia last voted for a Democratic president in 1992, and Biden's lead in the state, as the last ballots are being counted, is just 10,000 votes. While the state is headed to a recount, that isn't expected to change the results dramatically. Years of get-out-the-vote efforts spearheaded by Abrams and a legal onslaught against voter suppression from legions of community groups and activists, are behind the Democratic shift, experts say. Aiding these efforts are seismic changes in the formerly agrarian state's population - it has grown by over 30 percent since 2000, as newcomers flocked in from out of state, including liberal whites and people of color.

"Stacey Abrams made it her business to go out and register people of color," said Andra Gillespie, a professor of political science at Emory University. "She went out and registered thousands of people to vote and then created the tools to help remind them about the election process." Georgia's 16 electoral votes aren't the only prize. The Senate races in the state are so close that they'll go to a run-off in January, and Democrats are going to pour resources into winning, Abrams said Sunday.

If Democrats win both races, they'll control both houses of Congress, and the White House - and could usher in sweeping change on everything from income inequality to climate change in the world's biggest economy.

## Warplanes hit Tigray as Abiy denies 'chaos'

DANSHA, Ethiopia: Ethiopia's air force carried out airstrikes in the northern region of Tigray yesterday, as the prime minister sought to ease mounting concerns that the country is hurtling into civil war. Abiy Ahmed, winner of last year's Nobel Peace Prize, last week launched a military operation in Tigray claiming authorities there had attacked two federal military bases, which they deny. The sudden escalation came after months of tensions between Ethiopia's federal government in Addis Ababa and the semi-autonomous region of Tigray, whose leaders formerly controlled the government.

Several days of airstrikes have taken place, which Abiy previously said were targeting military assets, in what he terms an operation to restore law and order in a region whose leaders he accuses of seeking to destabilize the country. "The air force is currently bombarding selected areas in the region," military official Major General Mohammed Tessema told state media yesterday. He rejected claims by the region's ruling Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) that they had shot down a warplane as "completely false".

Reports from the region are hard to verify because of a total communications blackout. An AFP reporter saw trucks loaded with soldiers heading towards the town of Dansha in Tigray, alleged to be one of the sites where the TPLF attacked a military camp. In the town itself, a base belonging to the army's Northern Command appeared under federal control, with police officers posing for photos at the entrance.

The TPLF has claimed that the command - which has many Tigrayan troops - had fallen under its control. Journalists visiting the base were quickly turned away and forced to leave town because military officials said fighting was occurring nearby, suggesting the area was still contested.

### 'Concerns unfounded'

The international community has expressed concern about the potential for a drawn-out conflict in Africa's second most populous nation, pitting the powerful federal army against the large, battle-hardened military of the Tigray region. "Concerns that Ethiopia will descend into chaos are unfounded and a result of not understanding our context deeply," Abiy wrote on Twitter, adding the operation "will wrap up soon by ending the prevailing impunity."

"Ethiopia is grateful for friends expressing their concern. Our rule-of-law operation is aimed at guaranteeing peace and stability once and for all by bringing perpetrators of instability to justice," Abiy said. Abiy on Friday said airstrikes were aimed at military assets, but urged civilians to reduce mass gatherings to avoid becoming "collateral damage". Meanwhile newly appointed army chief Berhanu Jula said federal forces had captured four towns in western Tigray where much of the fighting has reportedly been concentrated. Reports of dead and wounded soldiers have mounted in the neighboring Amhara region. An AFP tally of numbers given by medical sources and aid workers show over 200 soldiers have been wounded and eight killed. A UN report dated Saturday called on warring parties to allow humanitarian access in Tigray, warning that conflict-related disruptions were "contributing to the worsening of the humanitarian context".—AFP



## International

# Biden win forces Mexico to rebuild complicated US ties

## Trade and immigration remain tricky issues

**MEXICO CITY:** After years of close ties with Donald Trump, Mexico must now reshape its complex relations with the United States under Joe Biden, including on the key issues of trade and immigration. The country's awkward position was underscored by President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's reluctance on Saturday to congratulate Biden while Trump is still mounting a slew of legal challenges. The left-wing populist said he would wait for "all legal issues" in the US presidential election to be resolved. "We don't want to be imprudent. We don't want to act lightly," Lopez Obrador told a news conference.

"We have a very good relationship with the two candidates," he added, as messages of congratulations for Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris poured in from other world leaders. Trump sparked anger during his 2016 election campaign when he branded Mexican migrants "rapists" and drug dealers, and vowed to build a wall across the southern US border. Even so, Lopez Obrador maintained cordial relations with Trump, and experts say that a Biden presidency will bring a different set of challenges for Mexico.

"Trump's anti-Mexican rhetoric is very unpleasant, but in fact there were important agreements," said Miguel Angel Jimenez, analyst at the Mexican Council on Foreign Relations, told AFP.

"The relationship with the Democrats has always been cold and Biden could keep more distance."

### 'Unpleasant situation'

Mexico has previously gained more from Republican administrations, such as the immigration amnesty granted by Ronald Reagan and the NAFTA free trade agreement negotiated under George HW Bush, Jimenez said.

Lopez Obrador's cautious reaction to Biden's win reflects his close relationship with Trump and the fact that the Republican still has weeks left in office, he said.

"It's an unpleasant situation for the Mexican government," Jimenez added.

The Mexican leader chose to visit Trump in the United States in July on his first foreign trip since taking office. Lopez Obrador's close ties with Trump mean his defeat "could be a political setback," said Gabriela Siller, an analyst at Banco Base.

"Biden already omitted Mexico when congratulating Latin American countries celebrating their independence" anniversaries in September, she noted. While Biden is unlikely to make any radical policy announcements concerning Mexico, his victory could still have repercussions, particularly in trade, analysts said.

The renegotiation of the trade agreement between the United States, Canada and Mexico was the climax of a complicated relationship with Trump.

### 'Obstacles in path'

The future of the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which entered into force in July, replacing NAFTA, is a major concern for Mexican authorities as Biden prepares to move into the White House.

"Trump already did what he wanted with Mexico, the risk with him would be less," said Siller. Harris "was an opponent of USMCA and they could put obstacles in its path," she added. The Democrats are expected to demand punctual compliance with labor reform that they requested in return for approving the agreement with the key trading partner, Jimenez said.

In 2019, Trump threatened to slap tariffs on imports from Mexico if it did not stop a wave of Central



**MEXICO CITY:** This picture taken on Sunday in Mexico City shows a collection of Mexican newspaper front pages, headlines featuring the 2020 US general election results. — AFP

American migrants heading overland to the United States. Even if Biden cancels Trump's planned construction of a border wall, strict restrictions against undocumented migration will continue, said Maria Dolores Paris Pombo, an expert at the Colegio de la Frontera Norte in Tijuana in northwest Mexico. He may revive a program put in place by then-president Barack Obama in 2012 to regularize the immigration status of hundreds of thousands of young people, known as "Dreamers,"

who had arrived illegally as children.

Biden has fiercely criticized Trump's efforts to shut down the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). But previous Democratic administrations have also applied laws passed in the late 1990s criminalizing undocumented immigration, Paris Pombo noted. "Barack Obama's administration was tougher in terms of the number of deportations, but without the media impact or levels of Trump's cruelty," she said. — AFP

## For Cuba, any US president will be better than Trump

**HAVANA:** Most Cubans don't know Joe Biden, or what policies he will pursue toward the Communist island, but they are crystal clear on one thing: any US president will be better than Donald Trump. In the presidential election, Trump owed his big win in the US state of Florida in large part to his strident denunciation of leftist governments in Latin America, which resonated loudly and clearly with conservative Cuban-Americans in Miami who loathe the communist government in Havana. But for people living in Cuba, which has been under Communist leadership for six decades, Trump's accusations of Biden's leftist leanings make them smile disbelievingly. "I'm not the type to trust an American president, but given the situation, I prefer the other one over Trump," Pablo Zalvidar, a 57-year-old parking attendant, told AFP.

After a historic rapprochement at the end of 2014 and the policy of openness led by Barack Obama, Trump's arrival in the White House was like a cold shower for Cuba. His reelection would have been "a disaster or an apocalyptic threat" for Cuba, said political expert Jorge Gomez Barata.

In four years, Trump's administration enacted 130 measures to reinforce the US embargo on Cuba, many of which affected the population and the fledgling private sector: restricting on sending money to family in Cuba, suspending US cruises and most direct flights from the US, closing the US consulate in Havana...

### 'Can't stand the sight' of Trump

"Trump, I can't stand the sight of him!" said Aidelvis Blanco, an employee at The Mandarin restaurant, adding that hopefully a Biden victory will "make us feel better." For Oniel Diaz, head of the Auge consulting firm, it's "really good news for the entrepreneur community in Cuba. The private sector was one of the hardest hit by the Trump administration's Cuban policy." But Cubans haven't forgotten: since the 1959 revolution led by Fidel Castro, the island has gone through 12 US presidents and Democrats have historically enacted the toughest policies. The Bay of Pigs invasion, the embargo going into force in 1962 and the missile crisis? All the work of John F. Kennedy (1961-1963). The Helms-Burton law that reinforced the embargo came under Bill Clinton (1993-2001). Biden, though, has a point in his favor: even if he remains unknown on the island, as Obama's vice president, he encouraged collaboration between the two countries in a number of sectors and con-



**HAVANA:** In four years, Trump's administration enacted 130 measures to reinforce the US embargo on Cuba. — Reuters

tributed to family reunification between Cuba and the Cuban diaspora. His election "marks a return to the balance in foreign policy that was the principle of Obama's policy, in which the commitment to support democracy is compatible with political dialogue, the end of isolation and fluidity of relations between the two countries," said Manuel Cuesta Morua, a prominent member of the Cuban opposition.

### Biden is 'an opportunity'

On Sunday, Cuban president Miguel Diaz-Canel struck a tactful tone when he congratulated Biden on his victory, hailing "the new direction" taken by the American people and saying he believes in "the possibility of having a constructive bilateral relation while respecting our differences."

In an interview with online opposition news outlet CiberCuba, Biden promised that, once elected, he would eliminate Trump's restrictions on remittances and travel, which he said have harmed Cubans and separated families. But he warned he will demand the release of all political prisoners—estimated at 100 by NGOs—and defend human rights in Cuba.

According to Jorge Duany, the head of the Cuban Research Institute at Florida International University, Biden won't insist on lifting the embargo. Instead, Duany predicted, his objective will be to free the Cuban people and promote democracy on the island. Duany added, however, that it is not yet clear what commitments or concessions Biden will demand from the government in order to improve relations between Cuba and the US. But Biden is "an opportunity that must be seized," said Gomez Barata, the political specialist, referring to the need for economic reforms. Consultant Diaz agrees: "Biden's arrival in the White House, combined with recent economic measures from the Cuban government to give more space to the private sector, could potentially create a very beneficial situation," he said. — AFP

"With these advantages, of course the (Nuremberg) tribunal was successful," Nancy Combs, law professor at the William and Mary Law School in Virginia, told AFP. The ICC by contrast "must conduct its prosecutions without the benefit of any of these advantages," said Combs.

### 'Extreme' US attitude

Since opening its doors 18 years ago, the ICC has battled to have senior leaders arrested or to prosecute them, including in two cases referred to it by the United Nations Security Council. Former Sudanese president Omar Al-Bashir is still on the run pending an ICC arrest warrant issued in 2010, despite him traveling to other ICC member states who failed to arrest him. Slain Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi's son Seif Al-Islam is still believed to be in the North African country, wanted on a 2011 arrest warrant. In the last six years, the court had to drop a crimes against humanity case against Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta, while former Ivorian president Laurent Gbagbo and Congolese politician Jean-Pierre Bemba were both acquitted on charges.

"ICC prosecutors, like Nuremberg prosecutors want to prosecute high-level leaders but it doesn't have the political backing to gain custody over those suspects or the evidence it needs to convict them," Combs said. However the ICC's biggest headache is that the United States, which was the main backer of

## India's Tata launches faster COVID-19 test

**NEW DELHI:** India's Tata Group launched a COVID-19 test kit yesterday that it says will process results more easily and faster than the RT-PCR method considered the gold standard for detection, at a time when cases are still rising in the country. The nasal swab test, developed jointly by Tata and the government, is also more accurate than the rapid antigen test currently favored in India, the ministry of science and technology said in September. Tata Medical and Diagnostics, the healthcare arm of the cars-to-clothes conglomerate, will begin manufacturing 1 million kits a month at its plant in the southern city of Chennai and can then scale up rapidly, CEO Girish Krishnamurthy told Reuters in an interview.

TataMD CHECK, as the product is called, can return results in 90 minutes and will be sold through hospitals and laboratories from next month with the initial focus being on the home market, Krishnamurthy said. "You don't need big, expensive equipment to do the test, so it becomes more accessible and available, and more labs can start testing," he said.

A process based on artificial intelligence and automation will be used to test swabs, Krishnamurthy said. India's COVID-19 cases have risen by 45,903 to 8.55 million in the past 24 hours, government data showed, with the country's infections lagging only the United States'. Deaths increased by 490 to 126,611. India does more than 1 million COVID-19 tests a day, nearly 60 percent of them using the rapid antigen method that is faster but less accurate.

It wants to increase testing to more than 1.5 million a day, though health experts have warned its heavy reliance on the rapid antigen tests that typically detect the virus around 80 percent to 90 percent of the time could under-report infections. Antigen devices return results in about 15 minutes compared with several hours for the reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) method. "Our aspiration is that this can become a new standard in testing," Krishnamurthy said. — Reuters

the Nuremberg tribunal, has turned against the ICC—and under the Trump administration intensified its attacks on the court. Since its creation, the US has never formally recognized the court's authority, but the White House took the unprecedented step last month of sanctioning ICC chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda and another senior ICC official. At the heart of the dispute are efforts by Bensouda to pursue an investigation into alleged war crimes committed in Afghanistan, which could implicate US soldiers.

"The attitude of the US towards the ICC has fluctuated over time. But the current attitude of the US towards the ICC is very extreme," said Cecily Rose, assistant professor in international law at Leiden University in the Netherlands.

"The highly polarized and divisive character of American domestic politics is very different from the post-WWII era, when the US was a leader with respect to international justice and the Nuremberg trials," she said. "But at the time the US was the 'victor' whereas now it faces the prospect of its own armed services members being investigated and prosecuted by the ICC," she said.

Both Rose and Combs stressed however that the very fact the Allies meted out a "victors' justice" also tarnished the Nuremberg tribunal. "Yes, the ICC is struggling and its inadequacies look all the more stark in comparison to the ostensible triumph of Nuremberg," said Combs. — AFP

## Police in Georgia fire water cannons, tear gas at protesters

**TBILISI:** Police in ex-Soviet Georgia on Sunday fired water cannons and tear gas on thousands of demonstrators who have vowed permanent protests until a snap vote is called as the opposition accused the ruling party of rigging tightly contested parliamentary elections. The ruling Georgian Dream party led by billionaire ex-prime minister Bidzina Ivanishvili—which won the October 31 polls with a two-percent margin—has flatly denied the accusations of electoral fraud.

But all of Georgia's opposition parties have refused to enter the new parliament, sparking fears of another political crisis in the Caucasus nation where elections are often followed by accusations of fraud and mass demonstrations. Live television footage showed riot police intervening in the peaceful protest, firing tear gas and water cannons without warning, after demonstrators threatened to block the building of Georgia's central election commission.

Water cannons were deliberately aiming, from short distance, at journalists covering the protests, leaving a cameraman injured in an eye. Georgia's rights ombudsman Nino Lomjaria called on police "to stop using disproportionate force against demonstrators."

"I urge the illegal gathering's participants to refrain from illegal actions," ruling party leader Irakli Kobakhidze told a late-night press conference. "Criminals will soon be in jail," he said, referring to opposition leaders. On Sunday afternoon, the main thoroughfare of the capital Tbilisi turned into a sea of Georgia's red-and-white five-cross flags as some 45,000 protesters gathered outside parliament, many wearing masks.

Later in the evening, protesters marched several kilometers (miles) across the city towards the central election commission premises. "What Georgian Dream did during the elections amounts to a coup, we will force them to call new polls," said one of the demonstrators, 33-year-old pharmacist Theona Lanchava.

In an unprecedented show of unity before the vote, the country's main opposition force, exiled former president Mikheil Saakashvili's United National Movement (UNM), agreed with smaller opposition groups to form a coalition government if elected. "We demand the replacement of the totally discredited electoral administration and the holding of a fresh vote," one of the UNM's leaders, Salome Samadashvili, told AFP on Sunday. "Our protests will be permanent and will encompass all of Georgia," another UNM leader, Nika Melia, told the rally.

Several thousand opposition supporters also rallied in the Black Sea city of Batumi to call for a new vote.

Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia has said the elections marked an "important milestone in Georgia's democratic development" and criticised the opposition for staging mass rallies during the coronavirus pandemic. "We will not allow some power-thirsty politicians who pursue their narrow political interests to destroy the country," he said in a statement ahead of Sunday's rally. — AFP



**TBILISI:** Riot police officers hold their protective shields as they ready to disperse demonstrators during an opposition rally in Tbilisi on Sunday. — AFP

## 'Child of Nuremberg' cradles flame of international justice

**THE HAGUE:** Seventy-five years after Nazi leaders went on trial at Nuremberg, its spiritual successor the International Criminal Court is facing huge hurdles as it tries to keep the flame of justice alive.

The Nuremberg trials set up in Germany in 1945 after World War II laid the foundation for a global criminal justice system for those accused of the worst atrocities that humankind is capable of. Nuremberg's legacy lives on in the Hague-based ICC, which since 2002 has stood as the world's only permanent, independent court for violations like genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

But it can be easy to overlook the fact that when the victorious Allies put 21 top Nazi leaders in the dock on November 20, 1945, the prosecutors held all the aces, experts say. All the defendants were in custody; the Allies had occupied the country and controlled massive amounts of well-documented evidence. Most of all, the Nuremberg trials were pushed by political will, particularly by the United States, for a proper prosecution of Nazi perpetrators.



International

# From 'love' to 'thug': Biden win to change US-North Korea dynamic

## Washington-Pyongyang summits to be off the agenda for some time

**SEOUL:** Headline-grabbing summits between the leaders of North Korea and the United States will be off the agenda for some time, analysts say, after US president-elect Joe Biden characterized Kim Jong Un a "thug", in contrast to Donald Trump's declarations of love.

Trump's bizarre diplomatic engagement with Pyongyang veered from mutual insults and threats of war to "love letters" and the first ever meeting between a sitting US president and a North Korean leader. The two mercurial men met twice more after their landmark summit in Singapore in 2018, but with no concrete progress in denuclearization efforts.

Now Biden's victory heralds a return to more standard diplomatic norms, analysts say, with his administration wanting to see tangible steps towards denuclearization and progress at a series of working-level negotiations before any made-for-TV summits.

On the campaign trail, Biden said he would not meet with Kim without preconditions and accused Trump of "emboldening" the North Korean leader. In the final presidential debate last month, the Democrat denounced Trump for befriending Kim, likening the North Korean leader to Adolf Hitler.

"He's talked about his good buddy, who's a thug," Biden said of Kim. "That's like saying we had a good relationship with Hitler before he invaded Europe."

### 'Slightly peeved'

For its part, while Pyongyang's state media has yet to mention the election or the result, it has previously excoriated Biden, with the official Korean Central News Agency calling him a "rabid dog" that must be "beaten to death".

According to analysts North Korea saw in Trump's unorthodox approach its best chance of securing a deal that would allow it to keep at least some of its nuclear weapons and intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), both of which are banned under UN Security Council resolutions. Pyongyang will be "slightly peeved by the change in leadership", said former CIA analyst Soo Kim. "The regime is aware the prospects of a top-level meeting with a US leader are going to be slim now," she added.

"We're expecting a more principled, systematic approach to Pyongyang. This likely means less ad hoc interactions and some method to dealing with Kim."

Throughout the process with Trump, Pyongyang has continued to develop and advance its arsenal, displaying an array of new weapons—including a huge new ICBM—at a military parade last month marking the 75th anniversary of its ruling party. It has carried out dozens of missile launches since the collapse of the second Kim-Trump summit in Hanoi in February 2019, but the North has made sure not to cross the US president's red lines of an ICBM or nuclear test.

Pyongyang probably held off testing strategic weapons this year "out of consideration for Trump", said Shin Beom-chul, a researcher at the Korea Research Institute for National Strategy.

"North Korea hoped for Trump's re-election," he said. But Pyongyang has become increasingly frustrated that the vaunted personal relationship between Kim and Trump has not led to an easing of sanctions or other substantive concessions from Washington.

In July, Kim's powerful younger sister said the US appeared to be "hostile" towards the North

suggested the NLD had "won a landslide victory". "We won't only win the 322 seats we need to form a government but we expect to break our 2015 record of 390." In 2015, the NLD won a landslide but was forced by the constitution into an uneasy power-sharing agreement with the military, which controls three key ministries and a quarter of parliamentary seats.

The military-aligned USDP opposition, Myanmar's next biggest party, said it was still collecting information and would not comment. Official confirmation of the overall result is not expected for another few days. Spiralling coronavirus cases did not deter millions from voting on Sunday.

Face masks were compulsory, but crowds ignored strict physical distancing measures at many polling stations at a time when swaths of the country are in a lockdown. Suu Kyi refused to delay the polls and many observers fear the day could have been one huge super-spreader event. But voter Kyaw Min Han, 65, told AFP he had been "very impressed" with the government's organization as well as polling station staff and volunteers. Rights groups slammed the election, however, which saw nearly two million disenfranchised from an electorate of 37 million.

The polls were cancelled in many ethnic minorities in an expected second trial on child sex abuse charges that were subsequently dropped in early 2019.

But the order meant Pell's 2018 convictions for abusing two choirboys in the 1990s—which were overturned in April this year—initially could not be reported in Australia, including on the internet.

In opening the case yesterday, prosecutor Lisa De Ferrari told the Victorian Supreme Court that US-based publications The Daily Beast and The Washington Post were among the first to break the news online. Local media then ran cryptic articles saying they had been barred from reporting on a story of major public interest involving a high-profile Australian. Melbourne's Herald Sun newspaper printed a black front page emblazoned with the word "CENSORED", saying "the world is reading a very important story that is relevant to Victorians".

De Ferrari said the coverage amounted to an "invitation to read" the news about Pell that had been published online by outlets outside Australia. She also tendered as evidence emails between editors at Melbourne-based newspaper The Age debating the merits of publishing an article that explained why they could not report on the story. "I

The brazen violence in this port city of some 3.7 million people hardly makes headlines abroad—Cameroon's far bloodier conflicts in its restive anglophone west and jihadist-troubled Far North region are more newsworthy. The toll of casualties from the gang raids is unknown, but last month alone, at least four districts suffered such attacks.

"They beat up traders, stole goods and people's possessions," a vendor said in the rundown Ndokoti district. "People stampeded. I ran off like everyone else and hurt myself," said another trader, who gave his name as Prince. Angry, fearful and frustrated at what they see as official indifference, locals are taking matters into their own hands.

In the lively Deido district, a raid was recently carried out by two dozen youths mainly armed with knives, according to Nicolas Njoh, general secretary to the chief of the district, which includes several villages. "They smashed up shops. They snatched women's handbags," Njoh says. —AFP



Trump and Kim met twice after their landmark summit in Singapore in 2018.

"no matter how good the relations between the top leaders".

### 'Adverse reaction'

Biden's victory will have "greatly complicated Pyongyang's calculations", said Park Won-gon, a professor of international relations at Handong Global University. North Korea despises Biden for his role in the Obama administration, which adopted a policy of "strategic patience", refusing to engage with Pyongyang unless it offered concessions first, or until the regime collapsed from within.

The North carried out a nuclear test four months

into Obama's first term, but is likely to wait to assess the Biden administration's approach before launching major provocations in a bid to seize the "upper hand", said former CIA analyst Kim. "Kim Jong Un may understand that a poorly timed launch may elicit an adverse reaction from the US and its partners," she said.

Instead, Park suggested, Pyongyang may resort to lower-level actions to try to grab the new US president's attention. "There is a large possibility that Pyongyang will target South Korea," he said. "It could judge that it is safer to create tension on the Korean peninsula." —AFP

## Suu Kyi's party says it won landslide victory

**YANGON:** Aung San Suu Kyi's ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) said yesterday it was confident of winning a landslide victory in Myanmar as official results trickled in following the weekend's coronavirus-disrupted election. Millions lined up for hours to cast their ballots on Sunday—the second national election since the country emerged from outright military rule in 2011.

Nobel laureate Suu Kyi remains a heroine for many in the Bamar majority heartlands, in spite of a global reputation left in tatters by her handling of the Rohingya crisis and widespread disillusionment in many ethnic minority areas. NLD supporters celebrated late into the night on Sunday—and hundreds more drove in convoys north of Yangon yesterday, wearing red and flying the party's fighting peacock flag.

Party spokesman Myo Nyunt told AFP that information from party agents across the country

## Australian media on trial for Pell gag-order breach

**MELBOURNE, Australia:** Australia's biggest news organizations and editorial staff members went on trial yesterday on charges they breached a 2018 gag order on coverage of Cardinal George Pell's now-quashed sex crimes convictions. Several of Rupert Murdoch's News Corp mastheads as well as former Fairfax group newspapers, now owned by broadcaster Nine, are among those who dispute that they breached the court order.

The 18 accused editorial staff members, who include reporters, editors and broadcasters, face potential prison sentences if found guilty of being in contempt of court, while the media companies could be slapped with fines.

All of the accused deny the charges. A judge issued the suppression order in December 2018 to prevent news of Pell's convictions from prejudicing

## Cameroon port city stalked by fears of attacks

**DOUALA, Cameroon:** "We were sitting in a bar that evening when about 60 people burst in," says Appolin Tchanga, a 43-year-old house painter. "I was stabbed with a knife—I came close to death." Changa bears scars on his chest, inflicted when a gang swept through a neighborhood in Douala, Cameroon's economic capital, in June.

Gang violence in the city is on the rise both night and day, with roving bands touting machetes, clubs, knives and even screwdrivers to terrorize and steal. "The problem is rising," said a police officer who asked not to be named. "If nothing is done, they are going to be taking entire districts hostage."



YANGON: Supporters of the National League for Democracy (NLD) party react in front of the party's headquarters in Yangon yesterday as NLD officials said they were confident of a landslide victory in the weekend's election. —AFP

ty areas for "security reasons"—while nearly all of the country's remaining 600,000 Rohingya Muslims have long been stripped of citizenship and rights. "A core principle of elections under international law is universal and equal suffrage and that is not what took place," said Ismail Wolff from Fortify Rights. —AFP



Catholic Cardinal George Pell is seen at County Court in Melbourne. —Reuters

am totally for a free press. However, I believe everyone should have the same legal protection when facing court." The Age's weekday print editor Selma Milovanovic wrote in objection.

In response, then-editor Alex Lavelle said: "There are those who would say that this is more evidence that the MSM (mainstream media) is irrelevant and we don't need them."

"And there are people asking why we aren't reporting on this story." —AFP



DOUALA: Tapa Norbert (left), a shopkeeper at the Ndokoti crossroads, attends to a customer in Douala, Cameroon. Violent gang crime is on the rise both night and day in Douala, where the roving gangs carry machetes, clubs, knives and screwdrivers to do their damage. —AFP

### News in brief

#### Estonia minister resigns

**TALLINN, Estonia:** Estonia's far-right Interior Minister Mart Helme resigned yesterday after his comments about the US election calling Joe Biden a "dirtbag" sparked outrage from government colleagues. Helme told reporters he was stepping down to preserve the governing coalition but added: "You can't muzzle me, no one can muzzle me." "I've done nothing that would endanger Estonian security," he said, after warnings from the defense minister that the Baltic state depends on the US to help guarantee its security. Helme and his son, Finance Minister Martin Helme, respectively the vice-chair and chairman of the EKRE party, made the comments on their Sunday radio show. —AFP

#### Rwanda genocide 'financier'

**THE HAGUE:** A suspected financier of Rwanda's 1994 genocide faces a pre-trial hearing in The Hague tomorrow, a UN tribunal said yesterday. Felicien Kabuga, once one of Rwanda's richest men, is accused of genocide for having helped create a militia group and using his media company to incite people to murder—charges he denies. More than two decades after he was first indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), Kabuga was arrested near Paris on May 16. He was transferred to The Hague in advance of a trial in Tanzania under a UN tribunal that took over responsibility for the Rwandan genocide after the ICTR wound up. —AFP

#### Taiwan not invited to WHO meeting

**TAIPEI:** Taiwan yesterday said Chinese "obstruction" had prevented it from attending a key World Health Organization meeting focused on the coronavirus, accusing the global body of prioritizing politics over health. The self-ruled island of 23 million has seen remarkable success in combatting the pandemic—with only seven deaths and fewer than 600 confirmed cases—as many parts of the world report surging numbers of infections and deaths. But it is frozen out of the WHO by Beijing, which regards Taiwan as its own territory and has vowed to take it by force if necessary. —AFP

#### French students clash with police

**PARIS:** Students outside a high school in Compiègne, north of the French capital, Paris, clashed with police yesterday in protests over health risks posed by schools being open during the novel coronavirus crisis, police unions and media said. The SICP and Officers et Commissaires de Police unions said a police car had been vandalized, while Le Figaro newspaper and local paper Oise Hebdo reported that stones and other objects had been hurled at police. Videos on social media showed a group of youths surrounding a police car outside the Lycee Mireille Grenet school and trying to overturn it, while other videos showed fires burning in the street. —Reuters



# Business

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020

## UK, EU resume crunch Brexit talks

With time running out, leaders scramble to find an agreement

**LONDON:** Britain and the European Union resumed crucial negotiations in London yesterday for a post-Brexit free trade deal, with time running short and both sides saying major obstacles remain.

EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier arrived in the British capital late Sunday before another week of talks with his UK counterpart David Frost, as they scramble to find an agreement. Britain formally left the bloc in January but remains bound by most of its rules until the end of the year under the terms of its divorce. Parliaments in London and Brussels need time to ratify any deal struck, leaving scant time for the two sides to find a compromise on key outstanding issues.

These include establishing rules for competition between British and European companies, oversight mechanism and fishing rights. Barnier said on Twitter the keys to unlocking the door to a deal were "respect of EU autonomy and UK sovereignty" alongside "robust guarantees of free and fair trade" and "stable and reciprocal access to markets and fishing opportunities".

In a weekend phone call, Prime Minister Boris Johnson and European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen acknowledged big differences must be bridged after two weeks of "intense" meetings ended last Wednesday. Von der Leyen vowed both negotiating teams would "continue working hard" while Johnson said they would "redouble efforts to reach a deal".

However, neither side has indicated yet that they are willing to make the compromises needed for a breakthrough. Observers have said an agreement is needed by mid-November to allow for ratification.

### 'Sensible approach'

Britons voted to end decades of EU economic and political integration in 2016 but implementing Brexit has proved immensely difficult ever since. After finally agreeing initial divorce terms last year, the two sides began fraught negotiations over a future free trade deal. They had predicted a draft would need to be finalized by mid-October in order to be ratified by the EU and UK parliaments before the end of the year.

But the coronavirus pandemic strained the already ambitious timetable, while the most divisive issues have stalled the talks for months. Without a deal, Britain would leave the EU single market and customs union on January 1, triggering immediate and significant barriers to cross-Channel trade and business. London and Brussels still insist they would prefer to avoid the economic disruption that this would entail. Environment Secretary George Eustice offered a glimmer of hope that the UK could be ready to show more flexibility over EU access to British waters for fishing crews. "We've always been open to doing a sensible approach looking particularly at agreements that might span a couple, three years for instance," he told Sky News. Britain has been reported to be holding out for annual talks over fisheries access. "Controlled access to our waters has always been a red line for us in these negotiations," Eustice added.

### 'Pause for thought'

A so-called no-deal Brexit could complicate the situation on the island of Ireland, and its politically-sensitive border between UK-ruled Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland. London is currently pushing controversial legislation through parliament to regulate its post-



**LONDON:** Anti-Brexit campaigner Steve Bray holds placards outside a conference center in central London yesterday as talks on an UK-EU trade deal continued. —AFP

Brexit trade with Northern Ireland that would unilaterally rewrite the EU divorce treaty and breach its terms.

Brussels has already initiated legal action over the draft law, which British lawmakers in the upper chamber House of Lords was expected to vote later. Meanwhile leading Democrats in the United States, including Irish-American President-elect Joe Biden, have warned a US-UK trade deal could be compromised if the island

becomes a "casualty" of a "no-deal" Brexit.

Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney said Monday that Biden's election could lead London to "pause for thought" and "ensure that the Irish issues are prioritized". "Joe Biden is a real friend of Ireland," Coveney added, noting he had stressed "the need to prevent a hard border at any point in the future linked to Brexit policy and Brexit negotiations". —AFP

## Turkey leadership overhaul could mark pivot on economy

**ISTANBUL:** The shock departure of Turkey's top two economic policymakers at the weekend sets the stage for an interest rate hike and other moves to halt a record slide in the lira, analysts said, even as political questions hang over the leadership overhaul. With no explanation from President Tayyip Erdogan's government, his son-in-law Berat Albayrak said on Instagram late on Sunday he was stepping down as finance minister after two years for health reasons.

That came after an official notice in the early hours of Saturday that Erdogan had replaced the central bank chief Murat Uysal with a former finance minister. No reason was given for the move, though officials said the currency depreciation was to blame. The lira surged as much as 6 percent against the dollar on Monday in its biggest rally in more than two years. As recently as Friday it touched a new all-time low after shedding 30 percent this year, the worst performer among emerging markets. The plunge has been driven by concerns over the central bank's depleted foreign reserves, costly state interventions in currency markets, and negative real rates - policies that could reverse under the new regime - as well as the risk of Western sanctions over Turkish foreign and defense policies.

Both Erdogan and Albayrak have also publicly urged lower rates - raising further concerns about the central bank's policy independence. Last month it bucked broad expectations for a sharp policy tightening and held its key rate steady at 10.25 percent. Yesterday, the new governor, Naci Agbal, said the bank would focus on lowering high inflation and decisively use all policy tools in a statement that one currency trader described as "market-friendly".

"Agbal has the power and closeness to go and convey the situation directly to the president," said a senior official in Erdogan's AK Party. "It is a difficult post, but steps to stop the rapid rise in the exchange rate must be taken." Win Thin, global head of currency strategy at Brown Brothers Harriman, citing Albayrak's resignation statement, said: "Turkish political risk jumped over the weekend." "The reason given was health, but there is obviously more to this than meets the eye," the New York-based analyst said.

### Economic strain

It remained unclear who would replace Albayrak and the finance ministry declined to comment. It wasn't until early yesterday that sources at the presidency confirmed Albayrak's statement, about 15 hours after he took the unusual step of announcing his departure on Instagram. Erdogan, who would need to approve the resignation, later did not mention Albayrak in an address to Turkish ambassadors. Kemal Kilicdaroglu, leader of the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), said the resignation amounted to a "state crisis" and criticized Erdogan for running the country like a "family company". Turkey, the largest economy in the Middle East, has been hit by two sharp contractions in as many years and its currency has shed some 45 percent since Albayrak took the reins in mid-2018.

Though economic growth is recovering from the coronavirus fallout, inflation is stuck around 12 percent and unemployment is high, especially among youth, and is expected to jump again when a ban on layoffs is lifted. Turkish state banks have sold an estimated \$100 billion in dollar reserves this year to support the beleaguered lira but government data shows such interventions have cooled in recent months, with analysts expecting them to ease further under the new leadership. —AFP

## Stocks, oil prices rocket on virus vaccine hope

**LONDON:** European stock markets and oil prices rocketed yesterday on coronavirus vaccine hopes following successful trials. Already up strongly on Joe Biden's US election win, markets massively accelerated gains after Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech said their vaccine was 90 percent effective in preventing COVID-19 infections. London's benchmark FTSE 100 stocks index surged 4.8 percent in midday deals.

In the eurozone, Frankfurt jumped 5.2 percent and Paris soared 6.6 percent. Dow Jones futures were up 5.4 percent ahead of the Wall Street open. Share prices of airlines led the way, with British Airways parent IAG up more than 25 percent. Air France-KLM and Lufthansa made similar jumps-as the news came as a huge relief to a sector battered by virus travel restrictions.

### 'Spicy cocktail'

"Stock markets surged on some extremely positive news from Pfizer and BioNTech," said Neil Wilson, chief market analyst at Markets.com. "The Dow is now seen up 1,300

points (at the official open). Coming on top of the wave of relief from Joe Biden's victory, it's proving a spicy cocktail for stocks." New York crude advanced 8.9 percent and Brent North Sea oil was up 8.1 percent. The dollar was down versus the euro and pound-and up around 1.5 percent against the yen.

US currency direction was influenced also by expectations of a big spending bill and American interest rates being kept at record lows for the foreseeable future. Gold futures, seen as a safehaven investment, were down two percent.

### Biden effect

Stock markets began rallying Monday as Biden's election win reduced uncertainty and provided hope that the US would finally agree on a stimulus package to prop up the ailing economy. While Democrat Biden has secured enough votes for victory, Republican rival Donald Trump has refused to accept defeat, with legal challenges and recounts looming. Oanda analyst Craig Erlam said Trump's actions are seen by markets "as achieving nothing more than delaying the inevitable".

Stocks already began surging last week as it became apparent that Biden was on course for victory and that Republicans would likely hold the

## EU going ahead with Boeing tariffs against US

**BRUSSELS:** The EU said yesterday it is pushing ahead with tariffs against the US as part of the long-running Boeing-Airbus row, despite hope for a trade truce with Joe Biden's election. The decision is the latest twist in the 16-year trade battle over aircraft subsidies that turned increasingly sour under the protectionist instincts of US President Donald Trump.

Some had suggested Europe might delay the tit-for-tat levies with the victory of Biden, who will replace Trump in January and is seen as more sympathetic to Europe and more of a multilateralist.

"The US has imposed tariffs following the WTO ruling in the Airbus case," said the EU's top trade official, Valdis Dombrovskis ahead of a virtual EU trade

ministers meeting. "Now, we have a WTO ruling also in our Boeing case, allowing us to impose our tariffs and that's what we are doing," EU executive vice president Dombrovskis said.

Instead of hitting the pause button, Dombrovskis urged Washington to pursue a comprehensive deal on aviation subsidies worldwide and to bring the row to a close. "As it has been stated on numbers of occasions from the EU side, we're ready to suspend or withdraw our tariffs anytime when the US suspends or withdraws their tariffs," Dombrovskis said.

### Export powerhouse

He spoke before the EU trade ministers were to discuss how Europeans can better face up to challenges from both the US and China. Reactions in Europe "have shown that there are great expectations after the election victory of Joe Biden," said German Economy Minister Peter Altmaier, an ally of Chancellor Angela Merkel.

"The hope is that the US will return to

## Iran says its oil industry will not yield to US curbs

**DUBAI:** Iran's oil industry will not succumb to sanctions imposed by the United States, the oil minister said yesterday in comments carried by the ministry's SHANA news agency. Tensions between Washington and

Tehran have soared since President Donald Trump withdrew in 2018 from Iran's nuclear accord with six powers and reimposed US sanctions that have squeezed the Islamic Republic's economy.

"Neither are we afraid of sanctions nor does it affect our work, it only strengthens our determination to serve our people," Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh said. As part of the Trump administration's increasing economic pressure on Iran, Washington last



Senate, allowing them to rein in any big regulatory or tax policies. In Asia, Tokyo's main stocks index closed up more than two percent to end at a 29-year high before the seismic Pfizer announcement. Hong Kong, Shanghai, Sydney, Singapore and Seoul all gained more than one percent, while Bangkok rose over two percent.

### Focus on stimulus

Traders are looking to Capitol Hill, hoping for a fresh rescue package for the US economy after lawmakers failed

to hammer out anything ahead of the vote despite months of haggling. "More fiscal support is likely forthcoming," said Invesco strategist Brian Levitt. "While it may not be the outsize fiscal package that the Democrats had envisioned, it will likely be large enough to provide an additional boost to the economic recovery." Analysts said a new stimulus was crucial for helping the economy as coronavirus spreads rapidly through the United States, with almost 10 million people having contracted it there. —AFP



**A Lufthansa's Boeing 747 takes off at Twente Airport in Enschede. —AFP**

multilateral approaches, also in trade," added the minister, whose export powerhouse Germany was the most exposed to Trump's protectionist onslaught against Europe. The tycoon president shocked Europeans early in his presidency by slapping tariffs on EU steel and aluminum, and constantly waved a threat of levies against Germany's world-leading auto industry.

Trump also came after France after it moved to introduce a digital tax on US tech giants, which he said were unfair against the US. Paris agreed to put its plan on hold. The aviation feud long

predates Trump, but Washington quickly embraced the opportunity to impose \$7.5 billion in tariffs against Europeans after being cleared to do so by the WTO. Washington imposed punitive tariffs of 25 percent on iconic EU products such as wine, cheese and olive oil and put a 15-percent tariff on Airbus planes in March.

According to a list of targets seen by AFP, the EU is expected to impose tariffs on aircraft made in the United States, along with tractors, sweet potatoes, peanuts, frozen orange juice, tobacco, ketchup and Pacific salmon. —AFP

month imposed sanctions on Iran's Oil Ministry alongside other entities. Zanganeh was blacklisted by the US Treasury Department.

"These sanctions are a kind of revenge," the minister said. "There is nothing left for the United States to sanction ... the only thing left is probably our services section, like our staff working at the kitchen." US President-elect Joe Biden, a Democrat who was vice president under President Barack Obama when Iran's

nuclear deal was reached, has pledged to rejoin the accord if Iran returns to compliance with it. In retaliation for Washington's "maximum pressure" policy, Tehran has gradually reduced its commitments to the accord. But Iran has said those steps were reversible if Tehran's interests were respected. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday the next US administration should use the opportunity to compensate for Trump's mistakes. —Reuters



## Business

# Face for sale: Leaks and lawsuits blight Russia facial recognition

## Moscow has a surveillance system with more than 105,000 cameras

**TBILISI:** When Anna Kuznetsova saw an ad offering access to Moscow's face recognition cameras, all she had to do was pay 16,000 rubles (\$200) and send a photo of the person she wanted spying on. The 20-year-old - who was acting as a volunteer for a digital rights group investigating leaks in Moscow's pervasive surveillance system - sent over a picture of herself and waited.

Two days later and her phone buzzed. The seller had forwarded the paralegal a detailed list of all the addresses in the Russian capital where she had been spotted by cameras over the previous month, her lawyers said.

"It was really incredible," said Sarkis Darbinyan, a lawyer for Roskomsvoboda, the group behind the investigation. "We got a report of all her movements in Moscow." The incident is now under police investigation. Far from an aberration, the incident is at the center of one of several lawsuits brought in recent months by rights activists against the Russian authorities over their use of face recognition.

The rise of cloud computing and AI technologies have popularized the technology globally, with supporters saying it promises greater security and efficiency. But the backlash is growing, too, as critics say benefits come at the cost of lost privacy and increased surveillance.

### Stalkers and burglars

With more than 105,000 cameras, Moscow boasts one of the world's most comprehensive surveillance systems. It became fully operational this year and authorities say it has cut crime and helped the city enforce coronavirus lockdown restrictions. But rights activists say cameras have been used to monitor political rallies and a lack of clear rules allows for abuse.

Kuznetsova replied to one of several ads offering facial recognition records on Telegram, a popular messaging app, according to her lawyer Ekaterina Abashina, who also works for Roskomsvoboda. Then all it took were a couple of messages, with no questions asked about how the results would be

used or by whom, said Abashina. Kuznetsova was sent 79 snapshots that positively identified her in the city, alongside times and addresses.

Recurring locations gave a clear picture of her home, work and daily habits - handy for anyone with ill intent, be it a burglar or an abusive ex-partner, said Abashina. "Any crazy guy can stalk you using this; criminals can check when and where you go and steal from your apartment or hurt you ... anything can happen," she said. Moscow's Department of Technology (DIT), which manages the surveillance program, said reports of illegal access to the system were rare and sent for investigation.

Neither the Investigative Committee, Russia's version of the FBI, nor the city police force, replied to requests for comment. After the case became public, authorities placed two police officers under investigation for abuse of office and violation of privacy, according to local media, but rights activists said the incident is symptomatic of a far wider problem.

### Surveillance state

Current regulations do not clearly define how and when police can access the cameras nor establish mechanisms for judicial or public oversight, said Darbinyan. "What we have right now is a system that doesn't have any kind of control," he said. Kuznetsova and Roskomsvoboda have filed a suit seeking to pause facial recognition until clear rules are in place, as well as damages, with the case set to be heard in December.

They are not alone. In July, lawyer and activist Alena Popova and opposition politician Vladimir Milov filed a lawsuit with the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) complaining facial recognition was used last year to monitor a rally.

Gathering demonstrators' data violated their right to privacy and freedom of assembly, Popova said, calling it a hallmark of "surveillance states". "With the help of this system, you can control the political opposition," said Popova, whose petition urging a nationwide ban on the technology gar-

cheered Agbal's first public comments.

The central bank "will decisively use all policy tools in pursuit of its price stability objective," he said in a statement that promised better communication and a more transparent and predictable approach.

### Rate hike?

Agbal, a close Erdogan ally, said developments would be monitored until a policy meeting set for Nov. 19 when "necessary policy decisions will be made". The lira strengthened as far as 8.08 against the dollar from a close of 8.5445 on Friday. It stood at 8.1250 at 1022 GMT. It was the biggest one-day rally since the currency rebounded from a record low in August 2018, a month after Albayrak became finance minister. Sekerbank chief economist Gulay Elif Yildirim said Agbal's statement removed uncertainty about the possibility of an emergency policy meeting before Nov 19. "Markets took this as a message that a rate hike step will be taken," she said.

Erdogan has long called publicly for lower rates and last month warned about the "devil's triangle" of interest rates, foreign exchange and inflation - raising further concerns about the central bank's policy independence. The central bank raised rates in September but last month it bucked broad expectations for another policy tightening and held its key rate steady at 10.25 percent, setting off a renewed lira selloff. Agbal briefed Erdogan and

held talks with bank executives, regulators and economists on Sunday, sources told Reuters. The lira also rebounded 5 percent to 9.6 against the euro, having peaked near 10.2 last week.

The reversal follows a 30 percent slide this year to record lows amid the COVID-19 pandemic, as investors worried about falling forex reserves and the central bank's ability to tackle double-digit inflation. In a measure of fading risk, Turkish 5-year credit default swaps dropped below 500 basis points to July levels, while Istanbul's main stock index rallied 3 percent. —Reuters

dogged developers about just how safe the technology would be. One researcher at Sweden's Royal Institute of Technology, argued that the high speeds involved could turn the Hyperloop into a "barf ride." —AFP

and he might have to lay off people. Many of the 300-strong local fishermen's association, Denmark's biggest, catch between 10 and 70 percent of their haul in the British part of the North Sea, reeling in cod, herring and sand eel among others. The "Tina Jeannette", a gleaming 247-tonne trawler, catches its entire haul in the British zone.

Britain left the EU in January, and negotiators have failed so far to agree on how to assign fishing quotas in its waters as it regains its status as an independent coastal state-sparking concern among Europe's fishermen used to plying their trade in the Atlantic, the North Sea and the English Channel.

"The whole value chain is in fact at risk of the negative consequences of a hard Brexit," warns Thyboron harbor captain Jesper Holt Jensen. Here, the entire community would be affected: in the Lemvig municipality that includes the port, five percent of jobs depend on the fishing sector. Failing an agreement, non-British fishermen will not have access to British waters, which could lead to considerable losses: up to



MOSCOW: With more than 105,000 cameras, Moscow boasts one of the world's most comprehensive surveillance systems.

nered more than 100,000 signatures. The DIT said its recordings did not contain any personal data - only images.

Law enforcement officers could apply to access the recordings and use the footage to identify someone by matching facial scans with pictures of wanted people, it said in an emailed statement.

"Giving access to others is illegal and a criminal offence. The DIT, together with the security forces, monitors the situation and, in cases of illegal access ... informs the law enforcement agencies," the department said. The ECHR lawsuits follows a domestic complaint that was dismissed in March, when a Moscow court ruled the city's

facial recognition system did not violate the privacy of its citizens.

### More to come

Despite all the challenges, authorities plan to install still more cameras in Moscow and beyond, according to local media - prompting "serious concern" at Human Rights Watch. Few in Moscow seem to agree. In a September survey by the Levada Centre, an independent Russian pollster, just 7 percent voiced concern about civil rights and democratic freedom. A month earlier, it found about half of Muscovites approved of the technology, saying facial recognition helped fight crime. —Reuters

## Turkish lira surges 6% after minister, CB chief depart

**ANKARA:** Turkey's lira staged its biggest rally in more than two years yesterday, soaring nearly 6 percent after the surprise departure over the weekend of both the finance minister and the central bank governor, whose replacement said he would zero in on inflation. Newly-installed governor Naci Agbal said the central bank would "decisively" use all policy tools to achieve its main goal of price stability. Turkish inflation has held near 12 percent all year, well above a target of around 5 percent.

The currency's gains in volatile trade reversed a slide last week to record lows, as analysts raised expectations for an interest rate hike that could ease pressure on the exchange rate and, in turn, on inflation and the external trade deficit.

The rally followed Finance Minister Berat Albayrak's surprise statement on Sunday that he was resigning for health reasons. A day earlier, President Tayyip Erdogan fired Murat Uysal as central bank governor, replacing him with Agbal, a former finance minister. While the abrupt leadership upheaval raised political questions, investors

## Virgin's Hyperloop carries passengers for the first time

**LOS ANGELES:** The Virgin Hyperloop made its first journey carrying passengers Sunday, in a test the company claimed represented a major step forward for the "groundbreaking" technology capable of transporting people at 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) an hour. The Hyperloop is intended to carry passengers in small pods through a vacuum tube, with proponents arguing it could revolutionize high-speed travel. Virgin says the Hyperloop will be able to reach top speeds of 1,080 kilometers an hour (671 mph) — projecting a 45-minute journey from Los Angeles to San Francisco—and will pro-

## Danish fishermen pin hopes on Brexit deal

**THYBORON, Denmark:** In Thyboron, a port in western Denmark, the sky is grey and overcast and fishermen look just as gloomy as soon as the word Brexit is mentioned.

Almost all of the 2,000 people who live here know a fisherman whose livelihood depends largely on catches in British waters. For several years now, Tamme Bolt's trawler has increasingly fished in British waters, following the fish as they migrate further north in the North Sea.

Bolt, a good-natured fisherman in his 50s who heads a crew of 10, tells AFP that if he no longer has access to British waters, "we will lose one third of our income"



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dogged developers about just how safe the technology would be. One researcher at Sweden's Royal Institute of Technology, argued that the high speeds involved could turn the Hyperloop into a "barf ride." —AFP



In Thyboron, a large part of the fish caught in British waters are turned into fishmeal for fish farms, like at TripleNine, Scandinavia's largest fishmeal and fish oil company.

10 million kroner locally, and a billion kroner (134 million euros) nationwide, estimates Alfred Fisker Hansen, the head of the association. —AFP

## Algeria sees 2021 budget deficit at 13.57% of GDP

**ALGIERS:** Algeria expects its 2021 budget deficit to reach 13.57 percent of gross domestic product, up from a 10.4 percent forecast for this year, after a 10.04 percent rise in public spending and as the pandemic has a deep impact on the oil-reliant economy, a government document seen by Reuters shows. Algeria's economy is predicted to grow by 4 percent next year, against expectations it will shrink 4.6 percent in 2020 after a drop in energy export earnings as the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a decline in fuel use and a sharp fall in oil prices.

A member of the government, who declined to be identified, confirmed the document was genuine. President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, who is in Germany for treatment after he tested positive for the new coronavirus, has announced reform plans to diversify the economy away from oil and gas and to cope with the negative effects of the pandemic.

Next year's improvement in economic growth is based on hopes the country's oil and gas exports, which account for 60 percent of the state budget, will rise by 9.9 percent compared with 2020. But foreign exchange reserves, depleted by high import expenditure, will fall to \$46.84 billion from a \$50.4 billion forecast for the end of this year, the document said. Purchases of goods and services are expected to cost \$28.21 billion, down 19.34 percent from projected 2020 import spending. —Reuters

## German exports rise in Sept as China demand soars

**FRANKFURT:** Germany's exports rose for the fifth straight month in September, official data showed Monday, with China leading recovering demand as many Asian economies put the coronavirus pandemic behind them.

Exports grew 2.3 percent month-on-month, after a 2.4 percent rise in August, federal statistics agency Destatis said in seasonally adjusted figures.

Imports fell 0.1 percent in August. Germany shipped goods abroad worth 109.8 billion euros (\$130.3 billion) and imported goods worth 89 billion euros. The fifth-straight rise follows a plunge in activity in March and April, when virus lockdowns closed factories and businesses. Exports in September were still 3.8 percent down on the same month last year, and 7.7 percent below the pre-crisis level of February 2020.

While the German economy strongly rebounded in the third quarter — growing 8.2 percent after contracting 9.8 percent in the spring — new shutdowns announced by Chancellor Angela Merkel that closed restaurants and cafes, the leisure and cultural sectors, will squeeze consumer spending in November. —AFP



## Business

# ABK-Egypt announces solid results for Q3 2020; net profits EGP 543m

## Net operating profit increased by 39% to reach EGP 987m in Q3 2020

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait - Egypt (ABK-Egypt), one of Egypt's fastest growing banks, announced solid results for the third quarter of 2020, with a net profit of EGP 543 million, representing a 42 percent increase over the corresponding period in 2019. Net operating profit increased by 39 percent over the same period to reach EGP 987 million in Q3 2020. The bank's net interest income also increased by 34 percent over the same period to reach EGP 1.4 billion.

The bank's quarterly results were driven by strong business performance, which saw total assets reaching EGP 39.4 billion at the end of Q3 2020, representing a growth of 11 percent compared to December 2019. Gross Loans witnessed a year to date growth of 15 percent to reach EGP 22.3 billion and customer deposits saw a year to date growth of 19 percent compared to December 2019, to reach EGP 33.7 billion.

Commenting on the results, Ali Marafi, Chairman of ABK-Egypt, said: "This year has been challenging, but the commitment of our dedicated staff to

ensure value for those we support is a source of great pride. Since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, we methodically and prudently tracked and assessed the projected impact on our stakeholders, our operations, and the communities in which we operate. This forward thinking mind-set has fuelled a strategic approach that has seen us succeed. I remain confident in the Bank's resilience to deliver a solid performance under difficult circumstances, and meeting the Bank's priorities for the financial year and beyond, as market conditions improve."

Khaled El-Salawy, CEO & Managing Director of ABK-Egypt, said: "We are fully aware of the difficult conditions that individuals and businesses have been through this year. As part of our dedicated efforts to help our customers in their time of need, we have leveraged our agility to proactively support them as they navigate the economic and social impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. Throughout this period, our bank has remained open and available to assist clients, while ensuring all recommended distancing and hygiene practices are adhered to,



Ali Marafi

Khaled El-Salawy

The growth of 42 percent in our net profit demonstrates the resilience of our primary business, and a strong balance sheet, despite significant ongoing uncertainty. Our continuous investment in technology, enhanced online banking features and a fully integrated business banking platform, empowers our customers to securely access the services they need on our digital channels or at the branch. "As we conclude another positive quarter, I

extend gratitude to our employees for their dedication, loyalty, and determination, which has helped us navigate multiple challenges during this period and come out stronger together. I also express our sincere appreciation to our customers for their continued trust," El Salawy concluded.

ABK-Egypt continues to invest in technology, innovation, and customer service under its 'Simpler Banking' strategy. Through a number of enhancements to its digital offerings, ABK-Egypt has set new benchmarks for the region. The Bank pioneered the Electronic Know-Your-Customer (e-KYC) solution, a fully digital on-boarding process for customers to self-register on the Bank's digital payment & transfer application, 'ABK-Egypt Mobile Wallet'. The Bank's efforts in digital transformation have led to its recent recognition by "International Finance", a premium business magazine, as the 'Most Innovative Bank in Egypt' in 2020. The Bank's Executive Leadership was also recently acknowledged by "Global Finance" for Outstanding Crisis Leadership during 2020.

## Celebrate Diwali with gold coins from Joyalukkas

KUWAIT: Joyalukkas, the world's favorite jeweler that has been adding glitter for over three decades, is now all set to make this a glittering and joyous Diwali for its customers with handful gold coins as gifts. In addition, there is also a special collection of festive jewelry in all the showrooms to make the occasion all the more glittering.

Announcing this in a press release Joy Alukkas, Chairman & MD, Joyalukkas Group said that Diwali is one of the most preferred times to buy gold ornaments. "Traditionally, this is the time of the year when we see an uptake in jewelry sales. For many consumers Diwali is the time to buy gold for their per-

sonal use as well as to give as gifts to their loved ones. I am confident that the upcoming Diwali will encourage people to come out and buy their preferred jewelry from our stores, spread all over the world, since it is an established tradition among Indians to buy gold during this occasion.

It is a well-known fact that gold and gold ornaments are an integral part of Indian tradition and culture. While gold has financial value, gold jewelry also has social value which adds glitter to the whole thing. I would also like to stress on the fact that gold is one of the best investment options at the moment and people should also look at gold from an investment perspective that will give decent returns in the long run," he added.

This Diwali Joyalukkas has launched a special promotion 'Happy Waali Diwali' which is on till the mid of November. Joyalukkas is giving free 1gm 22k gold coin on purchase of Diamond, Polki and Pearl jewelry worth KD 250 and free 0.200 gm 22k gold coin on purchase of gold jewelry worth KD 250 from 12th to

## 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 160 million for six months with a rate of return 1.250 percent.

15th Nov 2020, as part of the promotion. Customers can also sell/exchange their gold jewelry purchased from any jeweler. They can also pay 10 percent advance and get gold rate protection till the end of the promotion period. Overall, this Diwali the valued customers of Joyalukkas will be glitteringly rewarded when they buy gold with handful of gold coins.

## Gulf Bank announces winners of Al-Danah weekly draw

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its weekly Al-Danah draw on 8th November 2020 announcing the names of the winners for the week of 1 - 5 November 2020. The weekly draw consists of five winners who receive KD 1,000 each, every week.

### The winners this week are:

Shahad Fakher Khalil Shaban  
Noora Omar Hamad Almana  
Reema Anwar Mahmoud Awadh (minor)  
Khaleel Ibrahim Mulla Abbas Albuloushi  
Roayah Ahmad Subhi Abdulkareem

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 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 KD 200 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.

## SoftBank says H1 net profit surges more than 4-fold

TOKYO: Japan's SoftBank Group said yesterday its first-half net profit soared 346.7 percent, sealing a strong recovery after a massive annual loss, as tech stocks rally and the firm sheds assets to shore up its finances. Net profit for the six months to September came to 1.88 trillion yen (\$18 billion), up from 421.6 billion yen a year earlier, the conglomerate said.

The profit surge was mainly driven by gains on its investments, which topped two trillion yen for the period. However, it said it would not offer a forecast "as it is difficult to foresee consolidated results due to numerous uncertain factors".

SoftBank reported a nearly \$9 billion net loss in the previous full fiscal year, but quickly returned to the black in the first quarter. Masahiko Ishino, an analyst at Tokai Tokyo Research Institute, said the firm had displayed "a steady performance" in line with robust gains in the global equities markets.

Founder Masayoshi Son has transformed the telecoms company into an investment and tech behemoth with stakes in some of Silicon Valley's hottest start-ups through its \$100 billion Vision Fund.

He has battled opposition to his strategy of pouring money into start-ups-including troubled office-sharing firm WeWork-which some analysts

say are overvalued and lack clear profit models.

Son has insisted that his strategy is sound, and that SoftBank's portfolio is broad enough to weather the storm. The firm said its SoftBank Vision Fund saw strong results thanks to recovering stock markets and increases in portfolio firms where "exits have been decided or have new funding rounds, or (which) are benefiting from the accelerated adoption of digital services during the COVID-19 crisis". The results come after SoftBank launched an aggressive plan to sell up to \$41 billion in assets to finance a stock buy-back and reduce its debt.

It has ended up far surpassing that goal, raising \$56 billion, and said plans for the additional money made have "yet to be determined".

### 'Concern for future waves'

"Given the current concern for future waves of Covid-19, SoftBank Group believes it needs to further enhance cash reserves," the firm said in a statement. In September, it announced an agreement to sell British chip designer Arm to US firm NVIDIA for up to \$40 billion, potentially creating a new giant in the industry.

If approved, the deal will be one of the largest acquisitions in the world this year and propel NVIDIA to the



TOKYO: Pedestrians walk past a SoftBank mobile shop in Tokyo yesterday as SoftBank Group said first-half net profit soared 346.7 percent, sealing a strong recovery after a massive annual loss, as tech stocks rally and the firm sheds assets to shore up its finances. — AFP

forefront of the semiconductor sector. But the sale faces challenges, including securing approval from regulators in Britain, Europe, the United States and China.

Still, SoftBank "has a great track-record of somehow taking its sale of assets to the finish line against all odds", said Amir Anzarvadeh, strategist at Asymmetric Advisors, in a note.

Paired with the recent recovery in tech stocks, SoftBank's asset sale strategy appears to be paying off, analysts said. "Son has walked the talk" by meeting and then exceeding the asset-selling target, Ishino said.

"We are now paying attention to what action he is going to take next, at a time when SoftBank Group is turning into an investment firm," Ishino added. SoftBank shares closed up 5.37 percent at 7,083 yen shortly before the results were announced, having recovered from their March low of 2,687 yen.

Son has struggled to interest investors in a second round of the Vision Fund as he deals with the woes of some of his most high-profile investments, notably WeWork. Once hailed as a dazzling unicorn valued at \$47 billion, the office-sharing start-up has suffered a stunning fall from grace. — AFP

## Oslo refuses Norwegian Air bailout

OSLO: Norway's government refused yesterday to mount another bailout for struggling low-cost carrier Norwegian Air Shuttle which said the "slap in the face" meant its future was uncertain.

"Norwegian asked for help in the billions (of kroner) and the government believes, that in the current situation, this is not the best use of taxpayer money," Commerce and Industry Minister Iselin Nybo said. "Such aid could also be deemed anti-competitive," he added in a statement. Norwegian is ranked third among European low-cost carriers but its future has been clouded for several years as an ambitious expansion program saddled it with a mountain of debt. The coronavirus pandemic only made the problem worse, bringing air travel to a virtual halt and forcing most airlines to seek government help to ride out the crisis.

Norwegian said the government's decision was "very disappointing and feels like a slap in the face for everybody at Norwegian who is fighting for the company when our competitors are receiving billions in funding from their respective governments."



STOCKHOLM: In this file photo, Boeing 737-800 aircraft belonging to budget carrier Norwegian are parked at Stockholm Arlanda Airport. — AFP

"Without support, the way forward has become much more uncertain," airline head Jacob Schram said in a statement. Norwegian got a first bailout earlier this year worth three billion kroner (277 mil-

lion euros) but has repeatedly sought additional aid as it slashes services and jobs in an effort to survive the winter. For the six months to June, the company ran up losses of some 5.4 billion kroner. — AFP

## Japan's Suga signals new stimulus package

TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said the government will do all it can to help the economy recover, signalling his readiness to compile another stimulus package to cushion the blow from the coronavirus pandemic. Laying the groundwork for more spending, private sector members of a key government council urged Suga's administration to put together measures to support the economy, funded by an extra budget of "sufficient size", by the end of the year.

"We'd like to come up with measures to put Japan's economy back on a recovery path by deploying all available means in a timely fashion," Suga told the council's meeting yesterday. In a separate meeting with ruling party executives, Suga said he would instruct his cabinet today to begin work on a third extra budget. Jiji news agency reported. After posting its worst post-war contraction in the second quarter, Japan's economy is expected to have rebounded in the three months through September. But the recovery has been fragile, keeping policymakers under pressure to top up fiscal and monetary support. Although the size of the package has yet to be decided, requests from ruling party lawmakers have ranged between 10 trillion yen (\$96.49 billion) and 30 trillion yen. — Reuters



# Classifieds

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

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 Fax: (+965) 24348714  
[www.met.gov.kw](http://www.met.gov.kw)

## Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

**BY DAY:** Partly cloudy to cloudy and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind with speed of 10 - 35 km/h with a chance for scattered light rain.

**BY NIGHT:** Partly cloudy to cloudy and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate freshening at times south easterly wind to north easterly wind with speed of 12 - 40 km/h with a chance

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 09/11/2020 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	33 °C	27 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	34 °C	23 °C			
ABDALY	34 °C	19 °C			
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C			
JAHRA	34 °C	23 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	32 °C	26 °C			
SALMIYAH	29 °C	26 °C			
AHMADI	- °C	- °C			
NUWAISIB	32 °C	22 °C			
WAFRA	33 °C	22 °C			
SALMY	33 °C	22 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	11/10	Cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	33 °C	23 °C	SE	12 - 42 km/h
Wednesday	11/11	Cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	32 °C	25 °C	SE	15 - 45 km/h
Thursday	11/12	Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	30 °C	25 °C	SE-NE	15 - 45 km/h
Friday	11/13	Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	29 °C	24 °C	NE-SE	15 - 45 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:45
Sunrise	06:07
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:35
Sunset	16:57
Isha	18:16

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	34 °C
MIN. Temp.	24 °C
MAX. RH	88 %
MIN. RH	18 %
MAX. Wind	SE 39 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

## LOST

**I, Kurian T. Mathew**, S/o Tharian Mathew, Kottenkulathu House, Punnackadu P.O., Kozhencherry, Pathanamthitta Dist., PIN 689 652, hereby bring to the notice of the public that my 1st & 2nd, 3rd to 7th semester mark lists with the following Reg. Nos. of Calicut University have been irrecoverably lost while I was travelling by car from Salmiya to Farwaniya and so I am applying to Calicut University for issue of the aforesaid duplicate mark lists.

Semester I & II	Semester III
1) 3034 - Sept. 1984	1) 2036 - June 1985
2) 3121 - May 1985	2) 3158 - Dec. 1985
3) 485 - March 1985	
Semester IV	Semester V
1) 5023 - Oct. 1985	1) 4155 - Nov. 1986
2) 3163 - Oct. 1986 (Imp.)	2) 923 - Apr. 1986
Semester VI	Semester VII
1) 6973 - Nov. 1986	1) 1642 - May 1987
2) 467 - July 1987 (Imp.)	

If anybody has objection to this, please intimate the same to the undersigned as well as the University.  
**KURIAN T. MATHEW (Sd/-) (C5810)**

## CHANGE OF NAME

**I, George Mathew Kizhavaramannil** with permanent address Kizhavaramannil, Thottapuzhassery, presently residing at Kuwait holding Indian passport no. L5937644 to be split my current name as Given name: George Mathew, Surname: Kizhavaramannil for all purpose vide affidavit no. 736/2020 dated 02/11/2020 sworn before K.T. Thomas notary Pathanamthitta, Kerala, India. **(C 5813)**

**I, Shaik Nizam s/o Shaik Yakub Sab**, R/o: Door no. 15/413, Habibullah street, Kadapa city & dist., A.P., 516001, hereby state that my name and date of birth in my passport no. L3856619, were recorded as Shaik Nizamulla & 10-12-1960. My actual & correct name & D.o.B. as per my Pan card are Shaik Nizam & 03-08-1973. **(C 5812) 10-11-2020**

**I, Javid Khan**, Passport No. N5299475 have changed my name from Sadam Hussain to Javid Khan, hereafter in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by the name Javid Khan. **(C5810)**

**I, Shaik Ghouse Mohiddin s/o Shaik M. Mohammed**, holder of Indian passport no. U0467072 issued on 12/03/2020 hereby change my name to M. Mohammed Ghouse. **(C5762) 9-11-2020**

**Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988**

**EMERGENCY 112**

## Word Search

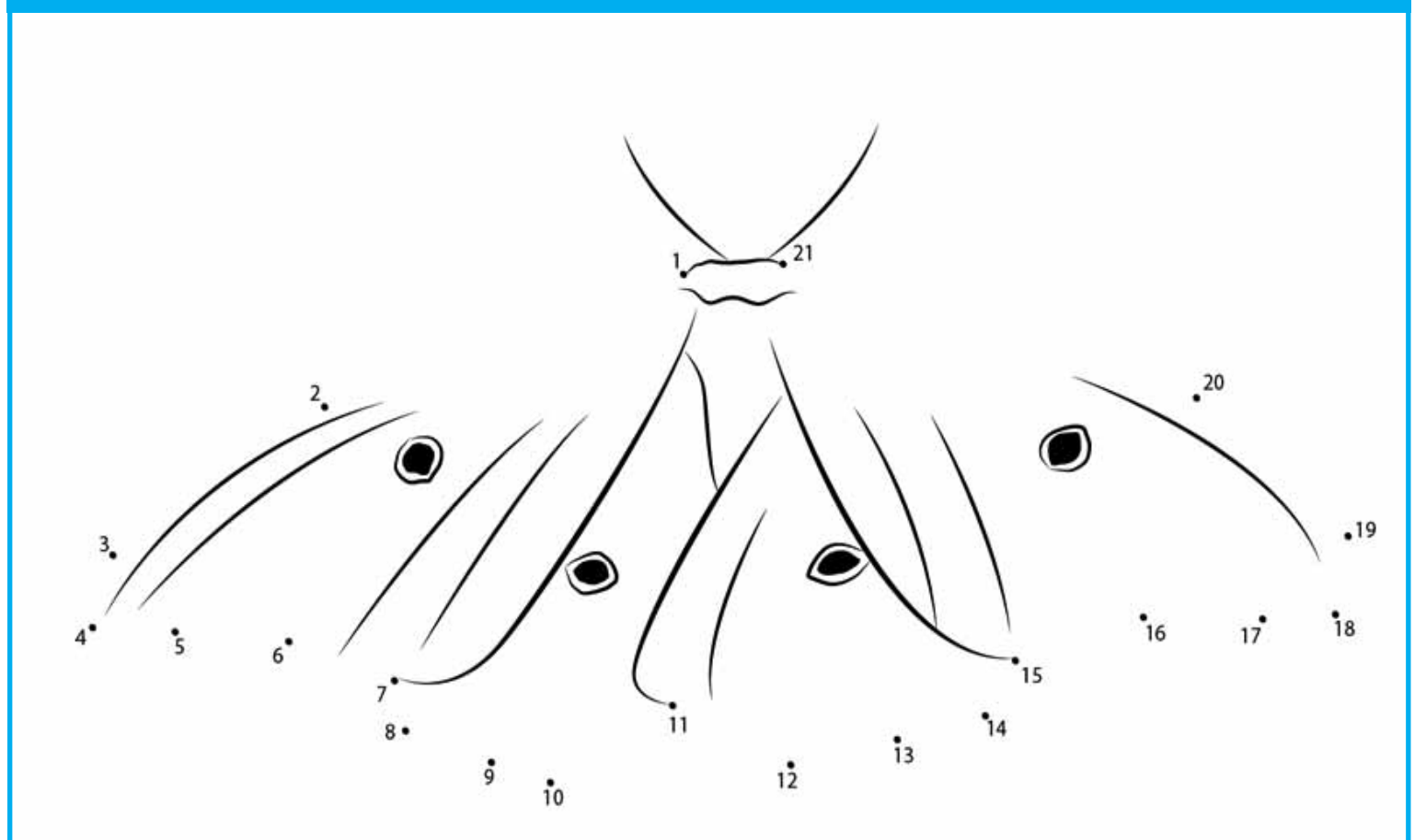
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**TOY STORY**  
Word Search

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

ALIVE	COWBOY	PUPPY
ANDY	DOLL	REX
ANIMATION	FRIENDS	REVALS
ARMY MEN	HAMM	SHERIFF
ASTRONAUT	LIGHTYEAR	SID
BO PEEP	MOVING	SLINKY
BUZZ	MR. POTATO HEAD	TOYS
COMEDY	PIXAR	WOODY

## Join the Dots



## STAR TRACK

<p><b>Aries (March 21-April 19)</b>                      Today you may be feeling a little surer of yourself than usual. You can be fairly shy and reserved. Today you should try and make people a little more aware of you, to take you seriously. It's time that people respected you more, especially the people around you. Try to think of yourself before you think of other people. You're worth it!</p>	<p><b>Cancer (June 21-July 22)</b>                      Cancer, you're someone who needs to have a lot of time to yourself. You often dream of curling up in bed with a good book or going for a bike ride. This is just your natural rhythm. Don't try and ignore it, because doing so could only mean problems for you. Give in from time to time. If you don't, at least use today to think about how you could.</p>	<p><b>Libra (September 23-October 22)</b>                      Here's a day that will be rather calm for you, Libra. Peace has replaced all your soul searching. You feel in contact with life's daily routine, including aspects that you don't always consider like the weather, people's expressions, or small coincidences. You seem to be floating on a cloud. You're going to have a good deal of confidence today!</p>	<p><b>Capricorn (December 22-January 19)</b>                      The last few weeks have been a little too serious for your tastes, but this is good for you every once in a while, Capricorn. You may tend to want to play, which sometimes keeps you from getting your work done. Take today to try and get your daily life organized so you can have time to take care of your responsibilities and have a little fun.</p>
<p><b>Taurus (April 20-May 20)</b>                      This would be an ideal day to think about your personal interests in all areas of your life, Taurus. You've surely noticed that in various relationships you tend not to consider yourself and what you get out of it. The configuration of the planets today can help you concentrate on yourself and think about what you give up in return for your need to please others.</p>	<p><b>Leo (July 23-August 22)</b>                      Even if it's true in general that Leo have strong bodies like you, there are times when it's important that they take care of themselves. This would be an ideal day to be more aware of that fact. It isn't that you're going to have health problems. Rather, the planets are positioned in the middle of abundant activity, suggesting that you'd be wise to take care of your body - your greatest asset.</p>	<p><b>Scorpio (October 23-November 21)</b>                      It's time to get yourself together. You tend to be all over the place. You need to channel your energies into something you really care about. Tell yourself how proud you would be if you could get this done. Don't give up and don't change directions on your way. Stay focused!</p>	<p><b>Aquarius (January 20- February 18)</b>                      Aquarius, you're someone who needs to have a lot of time to yourself. You often dream of curling up in bed with a good book or going for a bike ride. This is just your natural rhythm. Don't try and ignore it, because doing so could only mean problems for you. Give in from time to time. If you don't, at least use today to think about how you could.</p>
<p><b>Gemini (May 21-June 20)</b>                      Gemini, don't be surprised if you meet people who are quite self-centered today. In general, it could be that you have a hard time understanding people who are egotistical and don't participate in activities with others. Today you could try looking at them as if they had something to teach you - the value of living a bit more for yourself and less for others.</p>	<p><b>Virgo (August 23-September 22)</b>                      Today might be a little rough for you, Virgo. It's as if reality were waiting to trip you up. Nothing about you is realistic. If you're still a bit childish or irresponsible, today may be rather hard on you. It's nothing serious, so don't worry. However, if you feel as though your back is to the wall, don't react. Try to calmly accept what's happening to you.</p>	<p><b>Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)</b>                      Today you should think about your overdependence on money and material possessions, Sagittarius. Don't you think you spend too much of your precious time thinking about money and where you're going to find it? Are you careful with your money? Do you stick to or even have a budget? These are important questions, and this is a good day to find the answers.</p>	<p><b>Pisces (February 19-March 20)</b>                      This will be a great day for you, Pisces. Everything you touch will seem to turn to gold. The day's events will fall right into place. You will take pleasure in being calm and efficient. But what you may not realize is that this could happen every day. Take the time to see what's going right today in order to make it happen again tomorrow!</p>



## Lifestyle | Features



This photo shows Bian Lichun (center), founder of the Liucundao Business School, talking to students during a home organizing class in Beijing. — AFP photos



This photo shows home organizers arranging the luxury wardrobe of client Chen Rui in Beijing.



This photo shows Bian Lichun (top right), founder of the Liucundao Business School, teaching a home organizing class in Beijing.

## CHINA'S LUXURY SHOPPERS CALL IN THE TIDY TEAMS

The discovery of a Burberry jacket she does not recall buying proved to Chen Rui that she was right to have brought in experts to manage her out-of-control luxury wardrobe. "How did you find this?" the 32-year-old asked the crack team of "home organizers" who unearthed the jacket from a heap of clothes pulled from her closet

for an idea about the state of Chinese consumer sentiment.

In the era of the couch-shopper, however, there is also a downside to chasing fashion. Housewife Chen says her walk-in closet, which brims with brands from Louis Vuitton and Chanel to Prada and Gucci, used to cause frequent arguments with her husband. "I

organizing school called Liucundao, which teaches the art of bringing order to the chaos of China's rich shoppers. School founder Bian Lichun said there were now more than 3,000 professionals in the emerging industry, which state broadcaster CCTV has projected could reach 100 billion yuan (\$14.9 billion) this year in terms of market turnover.

But unlike the advice of Japanese guru Marie Kondo-whose world-famous decluttering ethic has inspired millions to tidy up-Bian and her team never persuade clients to throw things away, or ask them to buy less. Instead, they teach "the way to retain", Bian says, through storage and canny design-such as extra-thin coathangers. "There is nothing useless in the world." Bian founded her company ten years ago after seeing a gap in the market for the upwardly mobile classes. "People used to think that we are cleaners-but now they respect us very much," Bian says of what is now seen as an essential service to some of their clients. "We even know how many pairs of underwear they have... and we have created a good life for them."

E-commerce and mobile commerce have also turbocharged spending habits. The transport ministry says the number of express packages delivered per person in China this year will be nearly 60 — about twice the global average. Liu Wenjing, from the school of economics and management at Tsinghua University, says e-commerce has created a culture of "online shopping at anytime and anywhere". But Bian argues the issue is not one of over-consumption or the psychology of spending, but more about the challenge of finding somewhere to hoard clothes in China's densely populated cities. "Our aim is to sort out space, not fix people," she said. — AFP



A home organizer arranging the luxury wardrobe of client Chen Rui in Beijing.



This photo shows Bian Lichun, founder of the Liucundao Business School, teaching a home organizing class in Beijing.

in a slick Beijing apartment. China's breakneck growth over the past four decades has led to a surge in conspicuous spending, with the newly monied lavishing cash on coveted labels to emboss their status. A third of all luxury spending globally is by Chinese consumers, according to McKinsey's 2019 China Luxury Report. So far the pandemic appears not to have dulled their desires but "Single's Day" on November 11, the world's biggest shopping day, will be closely watched

never abandon any of my collection, I just add to it," the former art teacher admitted, saying she just loves to indulge. "I see no need to restrict myself." So in desperation, she hired a four-strong team of home organizers to rescue her wardrobe. The experts in smart black uniforms whisk around her high-end apartment, emptying more than a thousand pieces of clothing and dozens of luxury handbags from her closet. The team is led by Yu Ziqin, one of thousands of graduates from a home-

**Anytime, anywhere**  
During the pandemic, Bian says business surged by up to 400 percent as people spent more time at home scouring the internet and assessing where to put all their new acquisitions. Home organizer Han Yonggang says his clients—who pay upwards of \$2,000 each for a process that can take a couple of days-usually have annual income exceeding one million yuan a year. "I'm earning more than I did when I was a graphic designer," Han explains.

### Carrier pigeon's century-old message found in French field

A couple out for a walk in eastern France have discovered a tiny capsule containing a message despatched by a Prussian soldier over a century ago using an ill-fated carrier pigeon. The message from an infantry soldier based at Ingersheim, written in German in a barely legible hand, detailed military manoeuvres and was addressed to a superior officer, said Dominique Jardy, curator of the Linge Museum at Orbey in eastern France. It appears to be dated 1910, or possibly 1916. At the time, Ingersheim-now in France's Grand Est department-was part of Germany.

A couple found the tiny capsule with its well-preserved contents in September this year in a field in Ingersheim, said Jardy, who raved about the "super rare" discovery. They brought it to the nearest museum, the one at Orbey dedicated to one of the bloodiest battles of World War I, from 1914 to 1918. Jardy had enlisted the help of a German friend to decrypt the message, he said. The tiny piece of paper and capsule will become part of the museum's permanent display. — AFP



A man shows a message probably lost by a carrier pigeon in 1910, sent by a German officer and miraculously resurfaced in 2020 in Alsace where it was found by chance. — AFP



These photos show people pulling weeds from a bed of plants at a park in Baguio City, north of Manila, as a spate of plant thefts from public parks in the city prompted authorities to tighten security and issue a plea for people to leave the greenery alone. — AFP photos



Newly-bought plants loaded into a taxi at a nursery in Manila.

## 'PLANTDEMIC' HITS PHILIPPINES AS DEMAND FOR GREENERY GROWS

A gardening craze dubbed "plantdemic" has spread across the Philippines after coronavirus restrictions fuelled demand for greenery, sending plant prices soaring and sparking a rise in poaching from public parks and protected forests. Photos of delicate flowers and broad-leafed foliage cultivated in backyards and on balconies have flooded social media as housebound Filipinos turn to nature to relieve stress and boredom. "It's unbelievable. People are super interested in plants these days," said landscape gardener Alvin Chingcuangco, who has seen prices for some varieties of monstera reach 55,000 pesos (\$1,140) each, compared with 800 pesos before the pandemic. Manila plant seller Arlene Gumera-Paz said her daily turnover tripled after she reopened her doors following months of lockdown.

Demand remained robust even as prices for the most popular varieties of indoor plants, such as alocasias, spider plants and peace lilies, doubled or even quadrupled. "It's hard to understand people. When plants were cheap, they were ignored," said the 40-year-old, who buys her plants in bulk from growers in nearby provinces. But as demand has grown, authorities have warned that many plants on the market may not have been legally obtained. Rangers

patrolling the forests of Zamboanga in the country's south for illegal loggers and wildlife poachers were ordered to watch out for plant thieves, after officials noticed some species posted on social media could only be found in the region's protected areas.

"Prior to the pandemic we hadn't observed many plant poachers," said Maria Christina Rodriguez, Zamboanga regional director for the Department of Energy and Natural Resources. "This only became popular during lockdown." Removing threatened species from forests is illegal under Philippine law

and carries hefty penalties. Collecting other native plants is allowed but only with a permit. Thieves are targeting plant varieties popular on social media, such as staghorn ferns and pitcher plants, Rodriguez said. But catching offenders is difficult-once the plant has been dug up and sold "it is hard for us to prove that it came from forests or our protected areas", she added.

A spate of plant thefts from public parks in the northern city of Baguio prompted authorities to tighten security and issue a plea on Facebook for people to leave the greenery alone. So far

only five people have been caught for stealing flowers, said Rhenan Diwas, officer in charge of the Baguio City Environment and Parks Management Office. "Maybe it's because of boredom or they want to generate income," he said.

#### 'Plantitos and plantitas'

The stress of lockdown and financial pressure caused by the pandemic have prompted many Filipinos to seek solace in their gardens, earning themselves the nicknames "plantitos and plantitas", or plant uncles and aunties. "The safest

way to make yourself happy is through growing little things," said Norma Karasig Villanueva, former president of the Philippine Horticultural Society. Long-time gardener Ivy Bautista, 30, said tending her plants helped to "kill boredom" and earn some money by selling cuttings from her extensive collection. But she opposes the "insane" prices charged by other sellers, fearing it could drive plant poaching. "It's ridiculous, a plant that I purchased for 400 pesos is now selling for 5,000 pesos," said Bautista.

In an editorial titled "Plantdemic" last month, the Philippine Daily Inquirer decried the high prices being charged and urged buyers to get their plants from sellers "with legitimate, lawful sources". Rodriguez in Zamboanga said she welcomed the interest in gardening, but wished they would plant flowers or edibles instead of native flora. "Be responsible plantitos and plantitas and be mindful of where the plants are coming from," she said. "We're really serious about this because it creates an imbalance in the ecosystem once the species are plucked out of their natural habitat." — AFP



This photo shows resident Galileo Emperado (top center) posing with DENR officials while handing over an endangered staghorn fern plant from his yard in Zamboanga city, southern Mindanao.



A plant vendor cleaning the surroundings of her nursery in Manila.



Lifestyle | Features

# Iconic quiz-show host Alex Trebek dies at 80

Alex Trebek, whose decades as host of the quiz show "Jeopardy!" made him one of the most popular fixtures on American television, died on Sunday at age 80. Trebek had waged a very public fight against pancreatic cancer for nearly two years, but continued taping his program until recently. His death was announced on Twitter by the "Jeopardy!" account, which said Trebek "passed away peacefully at home early this morning, surrounded by family and friends," adding: "Thank you, Alex."

CNN media analyst Brian Stelter called Trebek "the greatest game show host of his generation... You always watched, and you came away smarter." Even Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tweeted his condolences for the family of the Canadian-born Trebek. "We have lost an icon," he said. "Almost every night for more than three decades, Alex Trebek entertained and educated millions around the world, instilling in so many of us a love for trivia." Trebek, who became a US citizen in 1998, had hosted "Jeopardy!" — syndi-

cated these days to various channels including ABC — since 1984. Bob Iger, the executive of ABC parent the Walt Disney Company, called Trebek "a friend, a colleague, an icon" in a statement mourning his death.

### A 36-year run

Trebek previously hosted other game shows, including "Double Dare" and "Classic Concentration," as well as hosting the National Geographic Bee for 25 years.

But it was his time at "Jeopardy!" — a 36-year run almost unheard of by television standards — and his clear intelligence, gentlemanly aplomb and sly good humor that earned him the eternal devotion of millions of viewers.

He also won a slew of awards. Trebek was a five-time daytime Emmy Award winner. He had a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

He was so deeply immersed in American popular culture that Trebek — or his imitators — appeared in numerous movies and TV shows; comedian Will Ferrell played him on "Saturday Night



In this file photo Alex Trebek arrives at the 38th Annual Daytime Emmy Awards show in Las Vegas, Nevada.-AFP photos

Live"; he once even drew headlines by shaving his signature moustache.

Sometimes two or even three generations of viewers would gather before televisions to watch him.

One contestant, Burt Thakur, grew tearful on a recently aired episode when he told Trebek how, as a small child in India, he watched the show on his grandfather's lap.

"I realized English due to you. And so, my grandfather who raised me ? I'm

going to get tears proper now ? I used to take a seat on his lap and watch you day by day."

### - Cancer diagnosis -

Trebek received a flood of supportive mail after announcing his Stage 4 cancer. "I'm going to fight this," he told his fans. Many wrote to tell him they were inspired by his battle.

He had had earlier health scares, including two heart attacks and a bad auto accident, but always came back.

George Alexander Trebek was born on July 22, 1940, in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. His father was a Ukrainian immigrant; his mother a French-speaking Canadian.

With a degree in philosophy in hand, he went to work for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in 1961; by 1966 he was hosting a high school quiz show.

Trebek moved to the United States in 1973 to host a new NBC game show, "The Wizard of Odds."

He took over the reins at "Jeopardy!" in 1984 when a friend of his, original



Flowers are seen on Alex Trebek's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Hollywood, California.

host Art Fleming, declined to return.

Trebek held the record for the most game show episodes hosted by the same presenter, at 6,829, according to Variety. "You work hard, you do your best," he said with typical modesty at one awards show. He and his wife Jean Currihan have two children.

## Costner, Lane Thriller 'Let Him Go' Tops Election Week Box Office

Focus Features' "Let Him Go" provided a few sparks at an otherwise lifeless box office, opening over the weekend with an estimated \$4.1 million. In these COVID times, that was good enough for a first place finish. Focus also took second place with the sophomore weekend of its horror film "Come Play." Co-produced with Amblin Partners, "Come Play" netted \$1.7 million domestically bringing its total to \$5.6 million.

The specialty division of Universal Pictures has been active during coronavirus in part because of a deal that its studio parent company inked with AMC Theatres. The pact enables Universal and Focus to release their movies in on-demand platforms within 17 days of their theatrical debuts. In return, AMC receives a cut of digital revenues. Of course, the big story of the weekend was not cinemas. It was a presidential election that stretched from Tuesday to Saturday, dominating the news and Americans' attention. "Let Him Go" stars Kevin Costner as a retired sheriff and Diane Lane as his wife. The couple leave their Montana ranch to rescue their young grandson from the clutches of a dangerous family living in the Dakotas—a confrontation that ends in violence. Lesley Manville, who scored an Oscar nomination for her work in another Focus release, 2017 "Phantom Thread," co-stars. "Let Him Go" was written and directed by Thomas Bezucha, the filmmaker behind "The Family Stone."

"War With Grandpa," a Robert De Niro family comedy from 101 Studios, took third place, grossing \$1.5 million to bring its total after three weeks to \$13.4 million. Open Road's "Honest Thief," a thriller with Liam Neeson, was fourth with \$1.1 million, pushing its haul to \$11.2 million. Christopher Nolan's "Tenet" rounded out



the top five with \$905,000 domestically. That pushed the sci-fi thriller's stateside haul to \$55.1 million. Globally, the movie has grossed \$350.8 million. Given that Warner Bros., the studio behind the film, has announced that "Tenet" will launch on home entertainment in December, the movie has largely wrapped up its box office run. Given its \$200 million price tag and marketing costs, "Tenet" will likely fall short of profitability.

Warner Bros said "The Witches," the Robert Zemeckis adaptation of the Roald Dahl novel, generated \$3.5 million in overseas box office, bringing its total to \$10.1 million. In the US, "The Witches" opted to debut on HBO Max instead of screening in theaters. Also of note: Disney's re-release of "Toy Story," picked up \$505,000 some 25 years after it first opened in theaters and became a family classic. At this point, exhibitors will take what they can get in terms of ticket sales, but with box office grosses like these, it's going to be a long, potentially deadly winter for theaters. If "Wonder Woman 1984" moves from its Christmas release, it's unclear how theaters will be able to stay open barring some significant government assistance. — AFP

## K-POP KINGS BTS WIN FOUR MTV EUROPE MUSIC AWARDS AT VIRTUAL CEREMONY

K-pop stars BTS picked up four prizes at the MTV Europe Music Awards on Sunday, including best song for "Dynamite" and best group, capping a year in which the Korean band underlined its status as a major global act. The group's first English-language song, Dynamite logged nearly 34 million US streams and 300,000 sales in its first week, making BTS the first Korean act to debut at No. 1 in the US Billboard Hot 100 singles chart. The seven-member band also snagged MTV awards for best virtual live act and the biggest fans, although the coronavirus pandemic meant there was no audience and no ceremony to mark their achievement.

Instead, the music channel created a virtual stadium full of waving and cheering fans for the event, with acts appearing in pre-recorded performances from wherever they were located and winners accepting awards to camera. British band Little Mix hosted the show, without member Jesy Nelson who was reported to be ill. They appeared on a computer generated stage within the "stadium". In a nod to the pandemic, US rapper Jack Harlow sang "Whats Poppin" on a stage with four dancers wearing face masks. Karol G won the new best Latin act category and best collaboration for "Tusa" featuring Nicki Minaj. Lady Gaga took the best artist award and DJ Khaled was awarded best video.

Little Mix, who performed "Sweet Melody" in a performance recorded in London, won the best pop act for 2020. Cardi B was named best hip-hop act, Coldplay won the best rock category and Hayley Williams won the award for best alternative act. Among the performers was Alicia Keys who sang "Love Looks Better" and Sam Smith, who performed "Diamonds" on the stage of an empty theatre. US singer and rapper Doja Cat, who took home this year's



best new act award, opened the show with her hit "Say So". French DJ and producer David Guetta, who won the award for best electronic act, performed

"Let's Love" with British singer Raye at the Szechenyi Bath complex in the Hungarian capital Budapest, accompanied by a laser show. — AFP

### The full list of winners

**Best Video**  
DJ Khaled, "POPSTAR" ft Drake starring Justin Bieber

**Best Artist**  
Lady Gaga

**Best Song**  
BTS, "Dynamite"

**Best Collaboration**  
Karol G, "Tusa" ft Nicki Minaj

**Best Pop**  
Little Mix

**Best Group**  
BTS

**Best New**  
Doja Cat

**Biggest Fans**  
BTS

**Best Latin**  
Karol G

**Best Rock**  
Coldplay

**Best Hip-Hop**  
Cardi B

**Best Electronic**  
David Guetta

**Best Alternative**  
Hayley Williams

**Video for Good**  
H.E.R., "I Can't Breathe"

**Best Push**  
YUNGBLUD

**Best Virtual Live**  
BTS - Bang Bang Con: The Live. — AFP

## ALL ABOARD: SINGAPORE 'CRUISE TO NOWHERE' SETS SAIL

Hundreds of passengers were setting sail from Singapore Friday on a "cruise to nowhere" with safety measures in place to prevent coronavirus outbreaks, as the industry seeks to bounce back from a pandemic-induced crunch. Cruises were halted worldwide in March after travel restrictions kicked in and several vessels were hit by major outbreaks, but have now resumed in a few places. The "cruise to nowhere"—starting and ending at the same place, with no stops—has proved a hit, and mask-wearing passengers lined up for virus tests conducted by workers in protective suits before boarding the World Dream liner.

The liner departs Friday evening into the Malacca Strait, a major shipping lane between the Indian and Pacific

Oceans, and will head into international waters before returning to the city-state Sunday. Vinoth Arun, 27, a financial consultant accompanied by his girlfriend, was among about 1,400 passengers on board-half the ship's capacity, to ensure social distancing. "The fact that you carry your luggage and you bring your passport out, I guess it's just the mindset that you're going on holiday," he told AFP. He felt it was safer to sail now compared with earlier this year, when cruise ships were hard hit: "Now everyone knows about Covid and they're not so nonchalant about it any more." The cruise operator, Malaysia's Genting Group, has introduced a raft of safety measures.

Rooms and public areas are disinfected regularly, restaurants have reduced



A man sits by the balcony of the Royal Caribbean International cruise ship, Quantum of the Seas docked at Marina Bay Cruise Centre in Singapore. — AFP photos

capacity, guests have to book the swimming pool in advance, while the ship's clinic is kitted out with a machine that churns out virus test results in an hour.

The ship also has an intensive care unit, in case anyone does contract Covid-19. Despite not making any stops as a regular cruise would, there is plenty of

entertainment on board such as a casino, movies, water slides and a Christmas show. Accounts executive Renee Toh, 56, who was cruising with her husband and daughter, said she was excited to be able to take to the seas, and was looking forward to a "relaxing time" with her family and having some fun at the casino. Tourism operators are rolling out new services as they struggle to survive. Airlines are operating "flights to nowhere" and travel-starved diners last month ate aboard two parked Singapore Airlines jets turned into pop-up restaurants. — AFP



Passengers walk through health screening area before boarding the World Dream cruise ship before its departure to "cruise to nowhere".



A medical staff is seen at the intensive care unit facility for COVID-19 patient onboard World Dream cruise ship.



A view on the top deck of World Dream cruise ship is seen during a media tour before its departure to "cruise to nowhere".



Entertainers in Santa Claus costumes perform onboard World Dream cruise ship during a media tour before its departure to "cruise to nowhere".



## Sports

Photo of the day



Jeroen van den Brink of The Netherlands competes during the FIM MXGP Motocross World Championship in Italy.—Photo taken from www.redbullcontentpool.com

## Beckham's Miami reach MLS playoffs in first season

MIAMI: David Beckham's Inter Miami refused to be blown off course in their pursuit of reaching the Major League Soccer playoffs on Sunday, securing a famous victory while battling tropical storm Eta. Wild winds and rain made conditions in South Florida extremely difficult, but a combination of Diego Alonso's side beating Cincinnati 2-1 and rivals Atlanta and Chicago dropping points ensured a difficult inaugural campaign has now been boosted with a trip to the post-season, where fellow newcomers Nashville will welcome Miami on November 20th.

Goals from Mikey Ambrose - the first of his career - and defender Leandro Gonzalez Pirez in the opening 45 minutes had put Beckham's franchise in control at the interval yet more drama was to follow after a brilliant strike for the visiting team from Joe Gyau on 66 minutes. A late red card for Inter defender Andres Reyes ensured a nervy finale. Some crazed celebrations at the final whistle began, however, once confirmation of defeats for Atlanta and Chicago arrived on MLS's "Decision Day" finale to the regular season. This was just the seventh win from 23 in the regular season for Alonso's side, who grabbed the last available play-off ticket by finishing 10th in the Eastern Conference. Cincinnati, who are coached by Beckham's former Manchester United teammate Jaap Stam, end up bottom for the second year in a row as Inter Miami moved on.

"We are very excited, it has been a difficult year but we have worked hard and today we got the reward," said a delighted Alonso, who dedicated the triumph to the 2,703 fans who cheered on their team while combating the elements. "It's a big step for us, if they were normal conditions we would have won by more but we are just happy to get there. "We knew the results were falling into place but needed to wait and it's great we could celebrate with the fans who came to support us in such circumstances.—AFP

## Real Madrid recovery halted by 3 Valencia penalties and own-goal

## Struggling Valencia thrash Real 4-1

MADRID: Real Madrid were thrashed 4-1 at struggling Valencia on Sunday as Carlos Soler scored a hat-trick of penalties to raise further doubts over La Liga's reigning champions. Madrid took the lead through Karim Benzema but presented Valencia with four gifts at Mestalla, including three spot-kicks and an own-goal scored by Raphael Varane, to fall to another surprise defeat. "There is no justification, no excuses," said Zinedine Zidane. "It's a bad game and a bad day." This is the first time Madrid have conceded four goals since letting in five against Barcelona in October 2018 and puts the brakes on their recovery that had followed a rocky start to the season.

After back-to-back losses to Cadiz and Shakhtar Donetsk last month, Zinedine Zidane's side appeared to have turned a corner with wins over Barca, Huesca and Inter Milan.

Yet this result puts the pressure back on ahead of the international break, with Madrid now fourth in the table, four points behind early leaders Real Sociedad. A disappointing night also got worse when Benzema was forced off late on what looked like a groin injury. "Everything happened to us," Zidane said.

Valencia, meanwhile, started the day in 17th after enduring a nightmare start to the campaign, on the back of a transfer window which saw them sell five key players and fail to replace any of them. A stirring victory though pushes Javi Gracia's team up to ninth and may prove a turning point in their season. There was certainly an element of fortune in Valencia's goals, all of them unusual and some of them bizarre. But Soler did brilliantly to beat Thibaut Courtois three times, particularly having missed his first attempt, which was retaken after the Belgian came off his line.

Madrid were also without Casemiro after the Brazilian tested positive for coronavirus but a heavy loss continues a worrying trend of defensive vulnerability. Solidity was the key to them winning the title

last season but they are now seven matches without a single clean sheet. "We have to be strong in defense," said Zidane. "If we have this, we have quality up front to make a difference." The first half turned on two decisions that went Valencia's way but Madrid could have few complaints. They took the lead when Benzema unleashed from the edge of the area but conceded a penalty when Jose Luis Gaya's cross struck the arm of Lucas Vazquez.

Chaos followed as Soler's penalty was saved by Courtois and then his rebound came back off the post to Yunus Musah, who finished on the half-volley. Replays showed Musah had entered the box too early but Courtois was also off his line, making his save illegal and handing Soler a retake. He made no mistake at the second attempt and then Valencia pulled in front when Varane skewed a cross towards his own-goal and got tangled with Courtois while attempting to clear.

The ball was shown to have crossed the line while Valencia were lucky to escape punishment for a tackle on Marcos Asensio by Denis Cheryshev in the build-up. Madrid had work to do but Valencia started the second half stronger, Lee Kang-In hitting the post before two more penalties were awarded. Marcelo wrapped his foot around Maxi Gomez in the area before Sergio Ramos tackled Musah and as the ball popped up, Madrid's captain knocked it away with his left hand.

Soler stepped up for his third and fourth spot-kicks of the match and scored both to compound the defending champions' misery. Real Sociedad regained top spot after winning 2-0 against a depleted Granada, who could face punishment for fielding fewer than the required number of first-team players. Nacho Monreal scored in the 22nd minute and Mikel Oyarzabal converted a penalty in the 27th at Anoeta to send La Real back above Atletico

Victor Osimhen header sealed a 1-0 win over Bologna. Roma are equal on points with Napoli, both one point ahead of Juventus, after a Henrikh Mkhitaryan hat-trick delivered a 3-1 win at Genoa.

## Ronaldo 'crucial' for Juve

Earlier Juventus once again demonstrated how dependent they are on Portuguese star Ronaldo, letting three points slip after he limped off with an ankle injury with 15 minutes to go. "Ronaldo is a crucial player," said Juventus coach Andrea Pirlo. The 35-year-old had scored his sixth goal in four games and had further chances for a second, rattling the post before Pepe Reina tipped a free-kick over the bar. Caicedo, who came on early in the second half, once again had the final word. He picked up a Correa cross and swiveled to fire in the equalizer as Juventus drew for the fourth time in seven league games. Caicedo also scored in the midweek 1-1 Champions League draw at Zenit Saint-Petersburg and the winner in last weekend's 4-3 victory at Torino.

"We played like Juventus for 93 minutes and 45 seconds, but then we conceded a goal because we eased off," said defender Leonardo Bonucci who played his 400th game for Juventus. Simone Inzaghi's Lazio, embroiled in coronavirus chaos with star striker Ciro Immobile back in isolation after playing last weekend, are ninth, six points off the leaders. "This team has heart, difficulties are part of our DNA," said Inzaghi. The Roman club are being investigated by the Italian football federation for possible Covid violations after UEFA blocked some players from Champions League games at Club Brugge and Zenit after testing positive.

## Inter lack 'killer instinct'

Both Inter and Atalanta missed the chance to close the gap on the leaders days after Champions League defeats to Real Madrid and Liverpool respectively. Former Lokomotiv Moscow midfielder Miranchuk came off the bench just before the hour and scored 19 minutes later in his first game for the home side. Romelu Lukaku returned from a thigh strain, playing the final quarter of an hour, but could not find a winner for Inter. "We're lacking a bit of the killer instinct to take home games," said coach Antonio Conte, whose side are seventh just behind Atalanta.—AFP



VALENCIA: Valencia's Spanish midfielder Carlos Soler (left) scores a penalty past Real Madrid's Belgian goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois during the Spanish League football match between Valencia and Real Madrid on November 8, 2020.—AFP

Madrid, who had briefly taken first place after beating Cadiz on Saturday.

Atletico are three points behind but have two games in hand. Granada, who drop to fifth, had only seven first-team players available and finished with only four on the pitch, one fewer than La Liga's mini-

mum of five, with the rest made up from the youth team. It remains to be seen if La Liga take action, having already rejected Granada's request on Saturday for the game to be postponed. Unai Emery's Villarreal move up to second in the table after they won 3-1 against Getafe.—AFP

## Miss-and-hit Ibrahimovic grabs point for AC Milan

MILAN: Zlatan Ibrahimovic missed a penalty before scoring a late equalizer as Serie A leaders AC Milan salvaged a point in a 2-2 Serie A draw against Hellas Verona on Sunday to let rivals Juventus and Inter Milan off the hook after both were held 1-1 in earlier games. "I'll let Franck Kessie take the next one, that would be better," said Ibrahimovic, who has now missed four of the last six penalties he has taken for AC Milan. Stefano Pioli's side are top of Serie A with a two-point advantage on second-placed Sassuolo, who were held to a goalless draw against Udinese on Friday.

Champions Juventus drop to fifth, four points behind the leaders after Lazio's Felipe Caicedo scored five minutes into injury time to cancel out Cristiano Ronaldo's first-half goal. Inter Milan and Atalanta also shared the spoils in Bergamo after Aleksy Miranchuk scored on his first Serie A start for the hosts to cancel out Lautaro Martinez's header. Milan had the chance to pull four points clear at the top of the table in the final match before the international break.

But the leaders were two goals down in the San Siro after Antonin Barak opened the scoring in the sixth minute and Milan defender Davide Calabria bundled into his own goal quarter of an hour later. Ibrahimovic had a chance for the equalizer after 66 minutes, after Verona defender Gianluca Magnani's own goal had reduced the deficit for the hosts. But the 39-year-old embarrassingly fired over the crossbar before redeeming himself deep into injury time by heading in his eighth league goal this season.

"With so many matches you are not always 100 percent," said the veteran Swedish striker. "It was important not to lose. Thank goodness there is a break now, so I rest a little." Milan avoided a first league defeat after their 24-match unbeaten run was ended with a Europa League loss to Lille during the week. Napoli move third after a

## Rafa Nadal Academy Kuwait tournaments



By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait National Tennis Team Member Abdulrahman Mohammad Al-Awadhi won the second Rafa Nadal Academy Kuwait Tournament (RNAK) on Saturday. Al-Awadhi defeated Salmiya's Abdulhameed Jumaa 6-4/6-4. The tournament was part of a series organized by Rafa Nadal Academy Kuwait and the games were played at Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdallah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah International Tennis Complex. The women's championship was won by Dana Al-Fulaij

after defeating Yasmeen Al-Shimali 6-3/7-5.

The final match was attended by Kuwait Tennis Federation Secretary General Faleh Al-Otaibi, Technical Director Abbas Al-Busairi and Head Tennis Coach Nuno Marques. The first tournament was won by Abdulhameed Jumaa while the women's tournament was won by Iman Mitwalli. The third tournament of the series will be held from November 18-21 - with the participation of 32 players of both genders. Al-Otaibi commended the technical level of the players and thanked RNAK for organizing the series in cooperation with KTF.



## Sports

# Scottish Premiership: Rangers restore commanding lead, stun Hamilton 8-0

## Elyounoussi nets hat-trick in Celtic win

GLASGOW: Rangers restored their commanding nine-point lead at the top of the Scottish Premiership with an 8-0 humbling of Hamilton on Sunday as Celtic bounced back to form with a 4-1 win at Motherwell. Steven Gerrard's men have played two more matches than their Glasgow rivals but showed why they are now the bookmakers' favorites to end Celtic's record-equaling run of nine straight league titles. Hamilton shocked the hosts on their last visit to Ibrox in March but Rangers are a transformed side since Scottish football's return in August, unbeaten in 20 games in all competitions this season.

Joe Aribo, Kemar Roofs and James Tavernier all scored twice, while Scott Arfield and Brandon Barker were also on target against the rock-bottom

Accies. Gerrard hailed his rampant team, who scored eight goals in the top flight for the first time since 1981. "It has been coming, we have threatened to do that," he said. "But the pleasing thing today was that we were very clinical." But he remained cautious despite the thumping win. "Look, we are not at the stage yet where we can play with ego in any game or at any stage. We are trying to become a winning team, a successful team. We are in no position to disrespect any opponent or any team."

### Celtic struggles

In stark contrast to Rangers' fine European form, Celtic suffered a humiliating 4-1 home defeat to Sparta Prague on Thursday. Mohamed Elyounoussi faced a backlash from ex-Celtic players for being

seen on his mobile phone after being substituted in midweek, but responded with a hat-trick at Fir Park to ease the pressure on manager Neil Lennon. "I thought we were really well motivated, we looked far more like ourselves," said Lennon. "The players responded brilliantly, it's a fantastic response and win. They know they can play a lot better than they've showed. There was better body language about us today, better hunger. That's what we are looking for, that's a really good barometer for us now."

Elyounoussi settled any nerves among the visitors early on as he pounced after Albion Ajeti's strike came back off the post. Tom Rogic then teed up the on-loan Southampton winger for his second from close range. Celtic's defense has been the source of most of Lennon's problems in recent

weeks and their frailty from set-pieces was again exposed when Declan Gallagher's header halved Motherwell's deficit 18 minutes from time.

However, Elyounoussi quickly responded with a towering header of his own at the back post to restore Celtic's two-goal cushion. "That was a big misunderstanding, I let my feet do the talking," said Elyounoussi on the controversy over the phone. "It was a good day. We got goals, we showed character, responded from Thursday's game and got the points." France under-21 stars Ousmane Edouard and Olivier Ntcham have also failed to match their standards of previous seasons so far this campaign. But they came off the bench to combine for Celtic's fourth as Edouard teed up Ntcham to side-foot into the bottom corner. — AFP

## Alario shines as Leverkusen win 7-goal thriller

BERLIN: Lucas Alario struck twice as Bayer Leverkusen climbed to fourth in the Bundesliga on Sunday with a 4-3 win over Borussia Mönchengladbach, who suffered their first defeat since the opening day of the season. Alario now has seven goals in six league games after twice equalizing before Jamaica winger Leon Bailey and midfielder Julian Baumgartlinger netted second-half goals for Leverkusen.

"It was a very intense game," said Baumgartlinger. "We put in a really good performance and can go into the international break with a lot of self-confidence." The 28-year-old Alario, who has scored two goals in each of his last three league games, is the Bundesliga's second highest scorer behind Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski, who has 11.

Gladbach captain Lars Stindl converted a penalty after only 18 minutes when Leverkusen goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky upended striker Breel Embolo in the area. Alario leveled by curling in a superb shot into the top far corner on 27 minutes. Stindl grabbed his second when he snapped up a stray Leverkusen pass in the area and fired home with a half an hour gone. Gladbach had clear first-half chances as defender Ramy Bensebaini clattered the post and forward Marcus Thuram had a shot saved.

Alario equalised for the second time when he outleapt his marker and his header flew past Gladbach



LEVERKUSEN: Mönchengladbach's Swiss defender Nico Elvedi (center) heads the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match between Bayer 04 Leverkusen and Borussia Mönchengladbach on November 8, 2020. — AFP

goalkeeper Yann Sommer, who mistimed his clearance, to make it 2-2 at the break. Leverkusen sealed the win when Bailey fired home from a tight angle, then Baumgartlinger finished off a flowing move eight minutes from time. Arguably the best goal of the game came in the 90th minute when Gladbach replacement forward Valentino Lazaro used the back of his heel to volley a spectacular shot. "There were too many mistakes against a very good team, that's not good enough," admitted Gladbach keeper Sommer.

### Casteels saves Wolfsburg

Earlier, Wolfsburg climbed to sixth after goalkeeper Koen Casteels pulled off a late stunning penalty save to help seal a 2-1 home over Hoffenheim, who have struggled since their shock win over Bayern Munich. Hoffenheim were awarded a penalty in the fourth minute of injury time, but their Israeli striker Munas Dabbur watched helplessly as

Casteels pushed away his spot kick attempt. It was the second late penalty which went begging after Wolfsburg's Dutch striker Wout Weghorst fired his spot-kick attempt wide on 84 minutes. Wolfsburg raced into the lead when Swiss winger Renato Steffen scored after just six minutes, although the VAR needed to check whether there was an offside in the build-up.

A superb pass by Wolfsburg midfielder Xaver Schlager then split the defence and put Steffen away with the towering Weghorst scoring on 26 minutes. However, the 1.97m-tall Dutchman squandered the chance to put the result beyond doubt when he fired his late penalty attempt wide. Hoffenheim finished the stronger. When Wolfsburg's US defender John Anthony Brooks failed to connect with a clearance header, Hoffenheim's replacement forward Sargis Adamyan smashed his shot into the net three minutes from time. — AFP

## Arteta frustrated; Aston Villa thrash Arsenal 3-0

LONDON: Mikel Arteta admitted Arsenal were unrecognizable from the side that has made plenty of progress in his first year in charge as Aston Villa stormed to a comprehensive 3-0 win at the Emirates on Sunday. Bukayo Saka's own goal and a double from Ollie Watkins took Villa up to sixth, just three points off the top of the table with a game in hand. Arsenal had beaten Manchester United at Old Trafford for the first time in 14 years last weekend in what appeared to be the latest sign the Gunners are heading in the right direction under Arteta.

But the Spaniard suffered the joint heaviest defeat of his managerial career in a chastening evening for the hosts, who were second best from start to finish. A second consecutive home defeat for Arsenal sees them slip to 11th, four points off their major target for the season of a top-four finish. "We performed below our standards and I have to say it's the first time I've seen us play and we weren't a team," said Arteta. "We lost all the races, the duels and we were sloppy on the ball."

"It is a frustration. It takes a lot to build momentum, to build a way of being, living and performing and when something like that comes up it's a hard one to take." Villa thought they had taken the lead inside



LONDON: Arsenal's German goalkeeper Bernd Leno (right) attempts to punch the ball clear as Aston Villa's English defender Tyrone Mings (center) and Aston Villa's Dutch striker Anwar El Ghazi (2nd left) run in to head the ball during the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Aston Villa on November 8, 2020. Aston Villa won the game 3-0. — AFP

the first minute when John McGinn rifled into the roof of the net from Jack Grealish's pass. However, after a VAR review lasting over four minutes, the goal was ruled out for Ross Barkley in an offside position standing in front of Arsenal goalkeeper Bernd Leno being ruled to be interfering with play.

### Villa run riot

Villa had lost their last two matches after a stunning start to the season that included a 7-2 thrashing of Liverpool a month ago. But Dean Smith's side did not

look like a team lacking confidence as Arsenal struggled to cope with the movement of Grealish, Barkley and Watkins. "We're a threat with them in the team. They're all blossoming really well but there's more to come from them," said Smith. Barkley's pass freed Matt Targett down the left and his cross was turned into his own net by Saka as he desperately tried to stop Trezeguet from applying the final touch. Alexandre Lacazette wasted Arsenal's best chance to get back into the game when he wastefully headed over Kieran Tierney's cross just before half-time. — AFP



DECINES-CHARPIEU: Lyon's French defender Sinaly Diomande (left) fights for the ball with Saint-Etienne's French forward Romain Hamouma (right) during the French L1 football match between Lyon (OL) and Saint-Etienne (ASSE) on November 8, 2020. — AFP

Nsoki to double the lead early in the second half. Pierre Lees-Melou scored a consolation for Nice as Patrick Vieira's side were beaten for the first time in six matches. — AFP

## Lille suffer first defeat of season, Lyon grab derby bragging rights

PARIS: Ligue 1's last unbeaten run was ended on Sunday when Lille followed up their midweek triumph over AC Milan with a 3-2 defeat at Brest, while Lyon downed local rivals Saint-Etienne 2-1. Lille remain second in the French top-flight five points behind Paris Saint-Germain and one above Rennes after suffering their first loss since February.

The team that thumped Milan 3-0 at the San Siro on Thursday failed to leave enough in the tank to see off Brittany outfit Brest, who had lost three in a row. Romain Perraud and Irvin Cardona. Christophe Galtier's side never gave up however and earned a penalty in first-half injury time with Turkish striker Yilmaz Burak slotting home.

He grabbed another goal on 57 minutes to set up the eventually doomed chase as the home side were cheered on by noisy neighbors in an adjacent building.

## Guardiola, Klopp unite to fight for five-substitution

MANCHESTER: Pep Guardiola and Jurgen Klopp united to fight for a U-turn to the Premier League's three-substitution rule after Manchester City and Liverpool played out a 1-1 draw on Sunday. A share of the points between the sides that have combined to win the title for the past three seasons leaves Liverpool in third just a point off the top, while City sit five points further back in 11th but with a game in hand. A flying start from Liverpool was rewarded with Mohamed Salah's 13th-minute penalty, but Gabriel Jesus levelled for Guardiola's men before City captain Kevin De Bruyne pulled a penalty wide three minutes before half-time. After a pulsating first 45 minutes, the tempo eased off in the second with Liverpool suffering an injury blow when Trent Alexander-Arnold was forced off with a calf problem.

Guardiola and Klopp have been outspoken advocates of the use of five substitutes, which was used in the Premier League at the end of last season and is being used in all other major leagues in Europe and the Champions League this season. However, the Premier League's top teams lost a vote for it to remain for the 2020/21 season with fears it only serves to benefit the clubs with bigger squads. "We speak about how we have to fight again and again about five substitutions," said Guardiola when asked about the subject of his post-match conversation with Klopp.

"All around the world there is five substitutions. Here we believe we are a special league with just three players, we don't protect the players. Look at Trent Alexander-Arnold, an international English player, he is injured. That's why it is a disaster. With this calendar which comes from a special year before, I will demand, if the people allow my voice, five substitutions have to come back for the players, the managers, everyone to do it. If not, it's difficult to sustain it."

Klopp accused Premier League CEO Richard Masters of a "lack of leadership" over the matter. "It's not an advantage, it's a necessity," added the Liverpool boss.

### Klopp's front four

Klopp's brave team selection with Diogo Jota joining Roberto Firmino, Salah and Sadio Mane in a front four was rewarded with a blistering start from the defending champions. Salah smashed home from the penalty spot to open the scoring after Kyle Walker upended Mane. "It was a super football game form all points of view," said Klopp. "Two top teams ready for a massive fight. The energy of both teams tonight was incredible. After 10-15 minutes everybody was already breathing heavily."

City, though, managed to compose themselves after going behind and pick the holes in the two-man Liverpool midfield that Klopp's attacking approach left exposed. Jesus showed why City have missed a natural striker for most of the season with both he and Sergio Aguerro sidelined by injury, producing a stunning finish to level on 31 minutes. The Brazilian flicked De Bruyne's driven pass beyond Alexander-Arnold before prodding beyond his international teammate Alisson Becker. City were now in the ascendancy as De Bruyne drilled a low shot inches wide, but the normally brilliant Belgian let Liverpool off the hook just before half-time.

Joe Gomez was penalized for handling inside the area after a VAR review. But De Bruyne missed his first penalty for four years when he pulled his spot-kick wide of the target. The second period failed to match the thrilling end-to-end pace of the first, but it was City who had more control and the better openings. Jesus headed a golden opportunity wide before De Bruyne saw another sighter fail to dip in time from the edge of the box. "In the second half we had a more clear chances but a draw is a fair result," added Guardiola. "Against teams like Liverpool if you concede a penalty you should avoid and miss a penalty, it makes it more difficult." — AFP



**14** Real Madrid recovery halted by 3 Valencia penalties and own-goal



**15** Guardiola, Klopp unite to fight for 5-substitution in Premier League



**15** Leverkusen win 7-goal thriller as Casteels saves Wolfsburg



## Steelers edge Cowboys, stay unbeaten

Brees outduels Brady as Saints crush Bucs, Chiefs survive scare



ARLINGTON: Chase Claypool #11 of the Pittsburgh Steelers runs the ball past Trevon Diggs #27 and Jaylon Smith #54 of the Dallas Cowboys in the fourth quarter at AT&T Stadium on November 08, 2020. — AFP

**TEXAS:** Quarterback Ben Roethlisberger led a six-play, 79-yard drive capped by an 8-yard touchdown pass to Eric Ebron with 2:14 left Sunday as the visiting Pittsburgh Steelers eked out a 24-19 win over the Dallas Cowboys in Arlington, Texas, to remain unbeaten. Pittsburgh, down 13 points in the first half but finished, was 29 of 42 for 306 yards, and also had touchdown passes to James Washington and Juju Smith-Schuster. For Dallas (2-7), Garrett Gilbert, in his first career start because of injuries to Andy Dalton and Dak Prescott, was 21 of 38 for 243 yards with a scoring pass to CeeDee Lamb. Greg Zuerlein kicked four field goals.

The Cowboys drove 65 yards and made it 10-0 as Gilbert rolled right and hooked up with Lamb in the end zone from 20 yards. Zuerlein's 44-yard field goal made it 13-0. With 1:31 left in the half, Neville Gallimore hit Roethlisberger, who came up limping. But, three plays later, Roethlisberger threw 17 yards to James Washington in the back of the end zone. Chris Boswell missed the extra point, leaving it 13-6. Roethlisberger retreated to the locker room, pressing backup Mason Rudolph into action for four plays, ending with Boswell's franchise-record 59-yard field goal to make it 13-9 at halftime.

### Saints 38, Buccaneers 3

Drew Brees threw four touchdown passes and Tom Brady threw three interceptions as visiting New Orleans defeated Tampa Bay. Brees entered the game one touchdown pass behind Brady for the NFL career lead and finished the game with 564 to Brady's 561. Brees completed 26 of 32 for 222 yards and 12 different teammates caught passes on the night. The Saints (6-2) won their fifth consecutive game to pass the Buccaneers (6-3) for first place in the NFC South. New Orleans swept the season series after defeating Tampa Bay 34-23 in the season opener in which the Saints intercepted Brady twice. It was the first time in Brady's career that he has lost twice to the same team in one season. He completed 22 of 38 for 209 yards in the most lopsided loss of his career. The Buccaneers ran just five times, the fewest in NFL history.

### Dolphins 34, Cardinals 31

Rookie Tua Tagovailoa-locked in a battle against fellow 23-and-under quarterback Kyle Murray-threw two touchdown passes as Miami defeated host Arizona to win their fourth straight game, its longest streak in four years. Tagovailoa, 2-0 in NFL starts, completed 20-of-28 passes for 248 yards, with no turnovers. He also ran seven times for 35 yards for the Dolphins as Miami (5-3). Murray com-

pleted 21-of-26 passes for 283 yards, with one turnover (a fumble for a Miami touchdown). He also ran for a career-best 106 yards on 11 carries, but it wasn't enough as the Cardinals (5-3) had their three-game win streak snapped. Besides Tagovailoa, a Dolphins hero was kicker Jason Sanders, who made two field goals, including a career-best 56-yarder. His other conversion, from 50 yards, set a Dolphins record for consecutive kicks without a miss (20). That field goal, with 3:30 left in the game, was the winning score.

### Raiders 31, Chargers 26

Justin Herbert's apparent game-winning 4-yard touchdown pass to tight end Donald Parham Jr. on the final play of the game was reversed on replay and Las Vegas held on for a wild victory over Los Angeles on Sunday afternoon at Inglewood, Calif. Parham appeared to have won the game when he caught Herbert's fade pass over defensive back Isaiah Johnson while falling out of the right corner of the end zone. But the touchdown call was overturned when replay showed that the ball hit the ground as he rolled on the sideline chalk. Derek Carr completed 13-of-23 passes for 165 yards and two touchdowns for Las Vegas (5-3) which improved to 4-1 on the road and won its third straight away from home for just the third time in the past 15 seasons. Herbert completed 28-of-42 passes for 326 yards and two touchdowns for Los Angeles (2-6), which lost for the sixth time in seven games. Keenan Allen caught nine passes for 103 yards and a touchdown.

### Bills 44, Seahawks 34

Josh Allen threw for 415 yards and three touchdowns while adding a rushing score to outduel Russell Wilson, and Buffalo defeated visiting Seattle in Orchard Park, NY. Stefon Diggs and John Brown combined for 17 receptions for 217 yards and the defense forced four turnovers for the Bills (7-2), who remained atop the AFC East. The NFC West-leading Seahawks (6-2) suffered their second defeat in the past three games. Wilson was 28 of 41 for 390 yards, with two touchdowns and two interceptions. He also rushed for a score.

### Vikings 34, Lions 20

Dalvin Cook rushed for a career-high 206 yards and two touchdowns, including a 70-yard scamper, and Kirk Cousins threw three touchdown passes as Minnesota manhandled visiting Detroit in Minneapolis. Cook, who has scored six touchdowns in the last two games, carried 22 times and also caught two passes for 46 yards. Cousins passed for 220 yards, while tight end Irv Smith Jr. had two receiving touchdowns. Alexander Mattison added

69 rushing yards for the Vikings (3-5). Detroit's Matthew Stafford passed for 211 yards and a touchdown but was also intercepted twice. T.J. Hockenson and Marvin Jones Jr. caught touchdown passes for the Lions (3-5).

### Falcons 34, Broncos 27

Matt Ryan threw for three touchdowns and Atlanta continued its resurgence under interim coach Raheem Morris with a victory against visiting Denver as Ryan finished 25-of-35 passing for 284 yards and an interception. Olamide Zaccheaus racked up 103 receiving yards on four catches-all in the first half. The Falcons (3-6) are 3-1 with Morris in charge after firing coach Dan Quinn last month. This marked Atlanta's first victory in five home games this season. Denver quarterback Drew Lock was 25-of-48 passing for 313 yards with two touchdowns and an interception. He also led the Broncos (3-5) on the ground with 47 yards on six carries, with his 10-yard run with 1:52 to play helping cut the deficit to 34-27 on a drive that covered 82 yards in five plays.

### Texans 27, Jaguars 25

Deshaun Watson passed for 281 yards and two touchdowns and Houston's maligned defense denied a late two-point conversion attempt for a victory over host Jacksonville at TIAA Bank Field. Watson added a team-leading 50 rushing yards and repeatedly produced when the Texans (2-6) were most desperate. His scramble to the 1-yard line set up a touchdown run by Duke Johnson with 30 seconds remaining in the first half and his 77-yard touchdown pass to Will Fuller at the 6:05 mark of the third quarter extended the Houston lead to 27-16. Houston made a pair of timely defensive stops in the fourth quarter, stuffing running back James Robinson on fourth down to preserve an eight-point lead over the Jaguars (1-7). J.J. Watt added a strip sack of Jaguars rookie quarterback Jake Luton at the 6:26 mark of the final period, becoming the 35th player in NFL history to record 100 career sacks.

### Chiefs 33, Panthers 31

Quarterback Patrick Mahomes passed for 372 yards and four touchdowns to lead host Kansas City past Carolina. Tight end Travis Kelce came up huge for Kansas City (8-1), snagging 10 receptions for 159 yards as the Chiefs gained their fourth straight win and remained entrenched in the AFC West lead. Sparked by the return of All-Pro running back Christian McCaffrey, who missed the previous six games with an ankle injury, Carolina (3-6) produced touchdowns on its first two possessions and grabbed a 14-3 lead early in the second quarter. But

the Chiefs took the lead for good at 20-17 as Clyde Edwards-Helaire caught a 4-yard TD pass from Mahomes with 4:42 left in the third quarter. McCaffrey finished with 151 yards on 28 touches, including 10 receptions.

### Titans 24, Bears 17

Ryan Tannehill threw for two touchdowns, and Tennessee's maligned defense played one of its best games of the year in a win over struggling Chicago in Nashville, Tenn. Tannehill completed just 10 of 21 passes, but for 158 yards with no interceptions. NFL rushing leader Derrick Henry was held to 68 yards on 21 carries for the Titans, who gained a season-low 228 total yards. But the defense came up big against one of the league's weaker offenses. Tennessee (6-2) held Chicago off the scoreboard through three quarters while posting a season-high three sacks, and held the Bears to just 2 of 15 on third down conversions. Chicago (5-4) saw quarterback Nick Foles hit on 36 of 52 passes for 335 yards, and fourth-quarter touchdowns to Ryan Nall and Jimmy Graham. But the Bears trailed 24-3 before scoring twice in the last 5:06.

### Ravens 24, Colts 10

Lamar Jackson had 228 yards of total offense and a rushing touchdown and Gus Edwards ran for another score to lead visiting Baltimore to a victory against Indianapolis. Baltimore (6-2) became the first team to defeat the Colts (5-3) at Lucas Oil Stadium this season despite being outgained 339-266. The Ravens outscored the Colts 17-0 in the second half. Edwards gave Baltimore a 14-10 lead with a 1-yard touchdown run with 5:43 remaining in the third quarter. Jackson padded the lead with 11:08 remaining in the fourth quarter, scoring on a 9-yard run.

### Giants 23, Washington 20

Logan Ryan intercepted Alex Smith with 1:15 remaining as visiting New York nearly squandered another lead but held on for a victory over the Washington Football Team. The Giants (2-7) beat Washington (2-6) for the fifth straight time and picked up the season sweep after Ryan stepped in front of Smith's pass for Terry McLaurin in the middle of the field. New York quarterback Daniel Jones completed 23-of-34 for 212 yards and threw a 16-yard touchdown to Evan Engram in the second quarter to help the Giants build a 20-3 lead. The Giants forced five turnovers, and Washington lost starting quarterback Kyle Allen to a serious ankle injury late in the first quarter. Smith, Allen's replacement, completed 24-of-32 for 325 yards and a 68-yard TD to McLaurin, but he was also picked off three times. — Reuters