



2 Residents of 8 areas unable to vote in 2020 elections



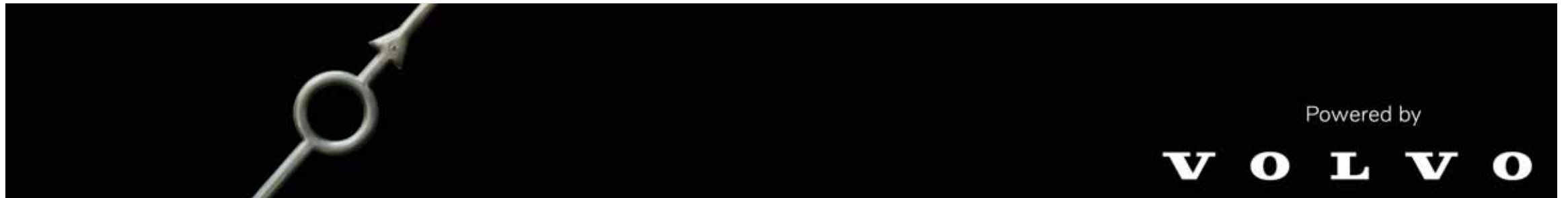
7 Concrete jungle threatens mangroves on Pak island



13 Jumbo task: Elephant lifted from deep well in India



14 Medvedev beats Thiem to win ATP Finals title



Govt allows COVID patients to vote in Assembly elections

NGO files complaint over 'suspicious' opinion polls by unlicensed pollsters

Seven martyred POWs laid to rest



KUWAIT: Security forces carry the coffins of five Kuwaiti prisoners of war (POWs) whose remains were found in a mass grave in Iraq and identified following a DNA test, during their funeral at Sulaibikhat cemetery yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: During the Cabinet's meeting yesterday, Minister of Justice and Awqaf Fahd Al-Afasi told the ministers the committee formed to set the mechanism for the Dec 5 National Assembly elections had sought the opinion of the fatwa and legislation department regarding the participation of people infected with COVID-19, in light of quarantine restrictions. The department concluded that the constitutional right to participate in the election process is an inherent right.

A number of candidates had warned the government against issuing any decision to bar those infected with the coronavirus from voting as part of measures to contain the spread of the pandemic. Former MP Abdullah Al-Turajji, contesting from the first constituency, warned the government against issuing such a decision and urged authorities to take whatever measures that are necessary to allow them to exercise their franchise.

The government should not deprive them from exercising their constitutional right, even if this requires issuing an emergency decree or calling a special session of the Assembly to approve necessary legislation, Turajji said. Candidate Salah Anas, contesting from the fifth constituency, said if coronavirus patients are barred from voting, it could lead to court cases and pave the way for scrapping the election results.

Continued on Page 2

News in brief

AstraZeneca jab 90% effective

LONDON: AstraZeneca said yesterday its COVID-19 vaccine could be as much as 90 percent effective, giving the world's fight against the global pandemic a new weapon, cheaper to make, easier to distribute and faster to scale-up than rivals. The vaccine on average prevented 70 percent of COVID-19 cases in late-stage trials in Britain and Brazil but the success rate rose to 90 percent if the vaccine was administered as a half dose followed by a full dose. The efficacy was 62 percent if the full dose was given twice. — Agencies

Qatar IDs parents of dumped baby

DOHA: Qatar said yesterday it had identified the parents of a baby girl dumped at its airport, an incident that prompted officials to order departing female passengers to undergo invasive examinations, sparking global outrage. The public prosecutor said the mother and father were from "Asian countries" which in Qatar typically refers to the nations of South Asia where a large number of migrant workers come from. Efforts were under way "to arrest the fugitive" who is overseas and faces 15 years imprisonment, the prosecutor said in a statement that called her a "convict", suggesting she may have been convicted in absentia. — AFP

US: 'All options' open for Houthis

MANILA: The United States is "keeping all our options open" when it comes to Yemen's Houthi rebels, the national security advisor said yesterday, amid reports the outgoing Trump administration could tag the group as terrorists. Speaking to reporters during a visit to the Philippines, Robert O'Brien said Washington was monitoring the situation "very closely", in response to a question on whether the US would designate the Houthis a "terrorist organization". The Houthis have reacted angrily to the prospect of the US designation, saying Trump had no right to make the ruling after failing to win a second term. — AFP

Saudi denies MBS and Bibi held meeting

JERUSALEM: Israeli media reports and a government source said yesterday Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had met for landmark talks in Saudi Arabia with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, but Riyadh denied that the meeting took place. Israeli public broadcaster Kan and other media said Netanyahu and Mossad spy agency chief Yosef Meir Cohen had met Prince Mohammed, together with US Secretary of State

Mike Pompeo, in the futuristic Red Sea city of NEOM on Sunday. An Israeli government source who requested anonymity confirmed the reports to AFP.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan then strongly denied the report that suggested Saudi Arabia was moving away from its decades-old stance of refusing dialogue with the Jewish state until the Palestinian conflict is resolved. "I have seen press reports about a purported meeting between HRH the Crown Prince and Israeli officials during the recent visit by @SecPompeo," Prince Faisal tweeted. "No such meeting occurred. The only officials present were American and Saudi."

Continued on Page 2



NEOM, Saudi Arabia: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman meets US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo late Sunday. — AFP

A decade on, broken dreams of Arab Spring

TUNIS: "The revolution showed me that everything is possible," says Ameni Ghimaji, remembering the heady days of the Tunisian protests that sparked the

Arab Spring uprisings a decade ago. She was just 18 when Tunisian dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali fell from power, the first casualty of wave upon wave of demonstrations across the Middle East and North Africa which saw some iron-fisted leaders tumble, some brutally cling on and nations convulse in years of upheaval, conflict and civil war.

"We had no plan for the future, but we were sure of one thing: anything has to be better than this," added Ghimaji. Ben Ali was ousted just hours after she was photographed, shouting and pumping her

fist in the air, at a massive Tunis anti-regime rally. Her picture swept the front pages and she became an iconic image of the youth in peaceful revolt.

The Tunisia protests were triggered when an impoverished street vendor set himself alight on Dec 17, 2010, weighed down by despair. His shocking act of self-violence ignited long simmering tensions among young people, angered by Ben Ali's corrupt, nepotistic regime and hungry for new opportunities. Less than four weeks later, Ben Ali had fled into

Continued on Page 2

Abuse against women rises amid pandemic

PARIS: No country has been spared the coronavirus epidemic, nor the scourge of domestic violence, which has surged during lockdowns as the day marking such violence approaches tomorrow. From a spike in rapes in Nigeria and South Africa, increased numbers of women missing in Peru, higher rates of women being killed in Brazil and Mexico and overwhelmed associations in Europe: The pandemic

has aggravated the plague of sexual violence.

According to UN data released in late September, lockdowns have led to increases in complaints or calls to report domestic abuse of 25 percent in Argentina, 30 percent in Cyprus and France and 33 percent in Singapore. In essentially all countries, measures to limit the spread of the coronavirus have resulted in woman and children being confined at home. "The house is the most dangerous place for women," Moroccan associations noted in April as they pressed authorities for "an emergency response". In India, Heena - not her real name - a 33-year-old cook who

Continued on Page 2



BRUSSELS: A woman holds placards reading "a world without violence against women is possible" and "my body belongs to me" during a demonstration against violence against women on Sunday. — AFP

Local

Eight areas' residents unable to vote in 2020 elections

Parliament blamed for failure to add areas to electoral constituencies

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Eight new residential areas in Kuwait are not included in the five electoral districts, which has resulted in some voters living in these areas to lose their right to vote in the upcoming National Assembly elections. The eight excluded areas are Anjefa, Abu Al-Hasania, Abu Fatira, Nahdha, Jaber Al-Ahmad, Masayel, Northwest Sulaibikhat and Sabah Al-Ahmad.

Abdullah Al-Ajmi, a resident of Abu Fatira, is one of many citizens who lives in an excluded area but has registered outside it. "I will vote in Qurain as I was registered there during the previous elections.

“**This situation is oppressive for many**”

Even though I have changed my address, I'm still registered in the election rolls at my previous address. Abu Fatira should be part of the fifth district, but it hasn't been added yet," he told Kuwait Times. "My son lost his right to vote in these elections as he turned 21 this year, and we were already living in Abu Fatira. He wasn't registered at our previous address at the time of the elections in 2016 as he hadn't reached the legal age of voting. I'm sure that every house in this area has at least one person who is not able to vote due to the same obstacle," added Ajmi.

Ajmi blames the parliament for not passing a law to add these areas to the electoral constituencies. "I think MPs only care about their personal benefits and are not interested in registering these new areas, as they don't know the residents of



KUWAIT: A sign showing the names of candidates running from the third district in the 2020 National Assembly elections. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

these areas and they assume that we may affect their votes and they may lose the elections," he pointed out.

Col Dr Ahmad Al-Hajri, Head of the Elections Affairs Department at the Ministry of Interior, said in his statement earlier to local media that the ministry presented a draft law in this regard to the National Assembly, which is in charge of issuing a law to add these areas to the electoral districts, but the parliament hasn't issued the law until now.

Abu Abdullah, another resident of Abu Fatira, said he is voting for his cousin who is running from

Sabahiya. "I'm registered there, and all my children are also registered in Sabahiya, so I'm not affected by this problem. But I admit this situation is oppressive for many Kuwaitis who were denied their right to vote this year. I think a temporary solution could be applied, which is allowing voters in these new areas to register in the elections rolls according to their previous address," he said.

Former MP and candidate Saadoun Hammad stressed in a TV interview that he worked on passing this law, but for some reason it was delayed. He also said that this problem may have serious con-

sequences. "If any of those who lost their right to vote go to court, the elections may be canceled," noted Hammad.

There are no official published figures on how many citizens are disenfranchised due to the exclusion of these eight areas. There are five electoral districts in Kuwait, each allowed to send 10 members to parliament. Total registered voters for 2020 are 567,694. There are 84,822 in the first district; 64,965 in the second district; 101,492 in the third district; 150,193 in the fourth district and 166,222 in the fifth district.

Candidate Sayer outlines top priorities of new term

KUWAIT: Parliamentary candidate from the third district Muhammad Al-Sayer said priorities during the first phase of the new parliamentary term must include amendments to the election law and laws related to freedoms. They must also include amending the law establishing the administrative department at Kuwait's Plenary Court, he said, adding that the government must be committed to present its program. He said the general amnesty law must be passed, in addition to amending the internal rules of the National Assembly.

Sayer called on Kuwaitis and candidates who agree with his views to join him in what he called the 'first session address' in order to protect people's rights and defend their freedom and finances. He said the amendment of the election law must achieve justice and equality and true representation of the nation's will, with the establishment of an independent authority to supervise the elections and prevent direct or indirect interference, official or otherwise.

Sayer said related legal systems should also be amended to reveal the defects that influence voters, including voting with the civil ID to prevent

transfer of votes, establishment of a supervisory authority for political funds and preventing political appointments and considering it a crime.

He called for the amendment of the law establishing the administrative department at the Plenary Court to enable judges to deal with issues of granting or revoking citizenship in order to protect the national identity from any political blackmail or political influence and work to protect the dignity of Kuwait and Kuwaitis.

Sayer said the government must present its working program as mentioned in article 98 of the constitution, which must include clear details and certain timeframes about measures taken or pending with regards to violation of public funds at state establishments, such as the military fund, Eurofighter deal, money laundering, social security, Malaysian fund scandal, coronavirus

crisis expenses, ports funds and other suspected corruption cases. He said the general amnesty law must be submitted and quickly approved, related to issues of opinion and political cases in order to protect Kuwait's people and their free will of expression.



Muhammad Al-Sayer

Abuse against women rises...

Continued from Page 1

lives in Mumbai, said she felt "trapped in my house" with a husband who did not work, consumed drugs and was violent. As she described what she had endured, she frequently broke down in tears. After buying drugs, "he would spend the rest of his day either hooked to his phone playing PUBG (PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds) or beating me up and abusing me," she told AFP by telephone.

On Aug 15, her husband beat Heena worse than

before, in front of their seven-year-old son, and threw her out of the house at 3:00 am. "I had nowhere to go," she said. "I could barely move my body - he beat me to pulp, my body was swollen." Instead of going to the police, she made it to a friend's home and then to her parents. She is now fighting for custody of her son, "but courts are not working in full capacity due to COVID".

She has not seen her son in four months, though he manages to call her in secret from time to time. It is not just the courts that are hobbled by the virus. The closure of businesses and schools, as well as cultural and athletic activities, have deprived victims already weakened by economic insecurity of ways to escape violence. — AFP

filed a complaint at the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority about suspicious pre-election opinion polls by unlicensed pollsters to influence the election outcome. The Integrity Society said in a statement that as it has been invited by the Cabinet to monitor the general polls, it found that some pollsters had commercial contracts with a number of candidates, which cast doubt on the integrity of such opinion polls.

Several unofficial pollsters have been publishing what they call results of opinion polls showing the potential winners of the Assembly election. The society said entering into commercial contracts to supply certain candidates with products and services for money disqualifies such pollsters from providing fair and neutral opinion polls, and their results could be misleading for voters.

The society called on authorities to ban the publication of opinion polls by pollsters tied with candidates by commercial contracts.

Kuwait continues to believe in GCC: Chief lawmaker

KUWAIT: Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said yesterday that his country has huge faith and continues to believe in the Gulf Cooperation Council, describing it as a "political asset with a strategic destiny." This came in a speech he

Saudi denies MBS and Bibi...

Continued from Page 1

Pompeo has confirmed he was in NEOM as part of a Middle East Tour and met with Prince Mohammed, who is widely known by his initials MBS. The US State Department declined to confirm a trilateral meeting. Netanyahu, asked about the Saudi trip during a public meeting yesterday of his Likud party, said: "I have never commented on these things and I do not intend to start now."

Israel's normalization deals with UAE and Bahrain, known as the Abraham Accords, were brokered under US President Donald Trump, who leaves office in less than two months. Sudan has also agreed in principle to normalize ties with Israel. There has been speculation

delivered at a videoconference meeting of chief parliamentarians in the six-nation regional bloc, according to a statement by the Kuwaiti parliament's Al-Dostoor news network. Ghanem said that "Kuwait's faith in the Gulf bloc will not waver no matter how fleeting clouds cover its skies," suggesting that this belief is equally shared by all Gulf Arab states. The late Amir, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah would have been "very pleased to have seen us gathered again," he said. As does His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who has huge faith in the GCC's "solidarity and integrity," added the chief Kuwaiti lawmaker. — KUNA

Washington may push for other Arab states to join the accords before President-elect Joe Biden is sworn in.

Israel yesterday sent a delegation to Sudan, its first since last month's announcement of normalization of relations between the two countries, a senior Israeli official said. Israeli army radio also reported yesterday that the trip was under way. The Israeli official confirmed the report to AFP but declined to say who was in the delegation.

Prominent Israeli diplomatic correspondent Barak Ravid of Walla News and Axios reported that Netanyahu and Cohen flew on a plane belonging to Israeli businessman Udi Angel. Ravid cited flight tracker data showing Angel's plane leaving Israel at 8:00 pm (1800 GMT) on Sunday, heading to NEOM and returning to Israel five hours later. Palestinian militant groups condemned the news of a softer Saudi line on their enemy, Israel. Palestinian Islamic Jihad called it "a betrayal of Jerusalem, blessed Makkah and Madinah". — Agencies

A decade on, broken dreams...

Continued from Page 1

exile, ended his 23-year rule and, drawing courage from his ouster, protesters began gathering elsewhere.

Today across the Arab world, the 2011 uprisings have been blamed for opening the floodgates to violence and economic ruin, leaving millions of refugees and displaced, while countless others have had their lives blighted by chaos. But for those who were there, the early demonstrations were times of exhilaration and hope.

On Jan 14, 2011, social networks were flooded with footage of lawyer Abdennaceur Aouini defying a curfew to stand in the iconic Avenue Habib Bourguiba of central Tunis, shouting: "Ben Ali has fled!" It felt like "revenge. Since I was 18 I'd been hassled and imprisoned," Aouini, now aged 50, said. But today, he admits he feels "disappointed". "There is always hope. But I was in a dream, today I have come to my senses," added Aouini.

Despite the political freedoms Tunisians have won, they still face grinding unemployment, inflation and inequality. "People thought that Ben Ali's departure would fix things, but that will take 20, 30 years," said ex-activist and entrepreneur Houeida Anouar. "I'm not sure that within my lifetime I'll see a Tunisia with a political scene worthy of the name, but I'm optimistic."

While Tunisia does have a hard-won constitution, a flawed but functioning parliamentary system and

free elections, state repression has descended again on Egypt after a brief flirtation with democracy. "Ten years on, you can see that the hopes are still there within the younger generation, a generation that were little kids at the time of the uprising," said Mohamed Lotfy, 39, executive director of the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms.

But "the government is doing everything it can to kill that dream of January 25" 2011 when thousands marched in Cairo and other cities, demanding the departure of president Hosni Mubarak and "bread, freedom and dignity". Worse still is the situation in Libya, Yemen and Syria, where initially peaceful uprisings sparked civil wars that have laid waste to cities and killed hundreds of thousands of people.

But that's not how it started, according to Majdi, a 36-year-old Libyan, who took part in protests against dictator Muammar Gaddafi a decade ago. "We were watching what happened in Tunisia and Egypt," he said. "It was our turn, change was inevitable." Protesters' demands were "just a bit more freedom, some justice and some hope for the young people who didn't have any," he said. Initially "there was no talk of overthrowing the regime."

But the regime's bloody response provoked a call to arms. Gaddafi's killing while on the run in October 2011 plunged the country into a decade of violent chaos. "With hindsight, I don't think we knew how much damage Gaddafi had done to the foundations of the state," Majdi said. Yet he insists he has no regrets: the revolution "was necessary, and I still believe in it."

"We were only demanding reform," said Dahnoon, a Syrian. He joined some of the country's first protests against President Bashar Al-Assad, and recalled "no chants were calling for division, or fighting, or war. On the contrary, it was very peaceful." — AFP

Govt allows COVID patients...

Continued from Page 1

Former MP Saifi Al-Saifi vowed yesterday that if elected, he will not remain silent on corruption cases and inflating the cost of government projects, insisting that those who are involved in corruption cases must be held to account. Marzouq Al-Khalifa from the fourth constituency called against politicizing citizenship issues for "narrow selfish interests" and vowed that he will push to issue legislation to allow courts to hear citizenship cases.

Meanwhile, Kuwait National Integrity Society, a non-governmental organization, yesterday said it has

Local

Kuwait's martyrs laid to final resting place



KUWAIT: Coffins of Kuwaiti martyrs are carried to their final resting place at the Sulaibkhat cemetery yesterday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat and Fouad Al-Shaikh



Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Minister of Interior Anas Al-Saleh attend the funeral.

KUWAIT: Seven Kuwaiti martyrs were laid to rest in Kuwait yesterday, some thirty years after they were taken as prisoners of war by invading Iraqi soldiers during the 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The martyrs were laid to their final resting place in the Sulaibkhat cemetery, in a military funeral service where Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh as well as other military and security top brass were in attendance. Kuwait had announced Sunday identifying the remains of seven martyrs, out of a group of remains suspected to belong to Kuwaiti POWs which Kuwait had received from Iraq in September. The National Committee of POWs and Missing Affairs had confirmed that the remains belong to Meshaal Ibrahim Al-Khulaifi, Barjas Bilal Al-Khaldi, Salem Rashed Al-Duwseri, Waleed Ibrahim Al-Jeeran, Munther Numaan Al-Saif, Hussein Ali Al-Qabandi and Khaled Faraaj Al-Duwseri.



Kuwaiti martyrs are laid to rest.



People carry the coffin of Kuwaiti martyr Waleed Ibrahim Al-Jeeran.



Interior Ministry officers attend the military funeral service.



People perform the funeral prayer for the souls of the martyrs.

Kuwait PM holds talks with European Council chief

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah discussed Kuwait's "distinguished relations" with the European Union in a phone conversation with European Council President Charles Michel yesterday. The two officials also reviewed aspects of the growing cooperation between the two sides under various fields and means of coordination and exchanged views on current regional and international developments. During the talks, the European Council chief expressed his appreciation for the active role of Kuwait in strengthening the bonds of cooperation with the European Union and its shared pursuit of global peace.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Prime Minister praised the two sides' distinguished level of cooperation in the aim of achieving their interests, particularly regarding the coronavirus pandemic. He said he deeply appreciates the role played by the European Union in supporting just Arab causes and its keenness to promote stability in the Arab Gulf region. The prime minister went on to express Kuwait's solidarity alongside the European Union in facing the terrorist attacks that some European countries were victim to recently. He also stressed Kuwait's firm opposition to all forms of extremism and terrorism and its support for various global efforts to eliminate this phenomenon that threatens the stability and capabilities of nations. — KUNA

Stay safe. Stay home. Stay informed.



Kuwait, UK sign action plan for 16th Joint Steering Group meeting

'Working together to advance the close Kuwait-UK relationship'

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Minister for the Middle East James Cleverly have signed during a virtual meeting yesterday the action plan of the 16th meeting of the UK-Kuwait Joint Steering Group, which was held over the summer. The UK-Kuwait Joint Steering Group reflects the two countries' commitment to working together to advance the close Kuwait-UK relationship to the benefit of both countries. The UK-Kuwait Joint Steering Group covers a wide range of issues, including healthcare, security, defense, cyber security, trade, investment, education, higher education, scientific research, environment, culture, migration, and international development.

The defense sub-group focused on ways to strengthen cooperation between the two countries especially on training and joint exercises. The discussions covered Exercise Desert Warrior, emergency planning and crisis response and training of Kuwaiti forces in the UK. Kuwait has agreed to host a regional Aviation Security Conference in 2021. The cyber security sub-group has agreed that Kuwait will host a virtual second Cyber Security Education Research Conference this month. The trade sub-group has agreed to hold joint webinars on digital health, agri-tech, ed-tech and food security.

The two parties also agreed to complete cooperation mechanisms, originating from the talks, to strengthen economic and commercial relations and partnerships by encouraging investment in vital and promising sectors in both countries and to discuss commercial opportunities in both countries. The British side, for its part, confirmed the continuation of cooperation with Kuwait after its exit from the European Union. The two sides also expressed their satisfaction with the current volume of trade, which amounts to GBP 3.4 billion, as well as their shared aspiration to exchange experiences, with regard to small and medium enterprises, amid their role in supporting national economies.

Healthcare cooperation

On cooperation in the healthcare field, the two ministers welcomed ongoing talks, which see Kuwait benefit from Britain's advanced healthcare expertise, particularly in relation to hospital management and the training of Kuwaiti medical per-



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah attends the virtual meeting.

sonnel. The two sides stressed the need to strengthen collective efforts to confront the coronavirus pandemic, while the Kuwaiti side expressed its hope to benefit from Britain's efforts made to produce a vaccine. They also discussed shedding light on means to enhance cultural and scientific bilateral cooperation, commending the current growth of these aspects amid the dispatch of Kuwaitis to pursue academic studies under various disciplines in the UK and efforts to identify and overcome the difficulties these students face, created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was also agreed during the meeting that cooperation between the FCDO and the Kuwaiti Fund for Economic Development should include joint initiatives in the Horn of Africa; and on education in Somalia. The science and environment sub-group agreed to hold a UK-Kuwait Science Technical Dialogue, including workshops on plastic to fuel conversion.

British Ambassador Michael Davenport thanked the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs and all other participating Kuwaiti government ministries for the excellent co-operation which made possible the first ever virtual Joint Steering Group. He added



UK FCDO Minister for the Middle East James Cleverly signs the action plan.

that this JSG has produced concrete action points whose implementation will further deepen the close bilateral relationship.

The two ministers also reviewed wider bilateral co-operation and compared notes on regional issues. The Ministers thanked officials for progress made during the work of the Joint Steering Group and underlined the importance of the Joint Steering Group to fostering closer ties and to realize technical level cooperation - the breadth of discussions demonstrating that the historic relationship, built around the cornerstones of defense, security and trade, continues to evolve to meet modern challenges, including cyber security.



Exercise Desert Warrior discussed

News in brief

Bedoons' agency extended

KUWAIT: A decree was published in the 'Kuwait Al-Youm' official gazette this week to extend for the Central Agency for Illegal Residents, which handles the affairs of Kuwait's bedoon (stateless) population, for one year as of November 9, 2020.

Files intact

KUWAIT: The Health Ministry said that no files or important documents were damaged in a fire reported Sunday in an office at its head office building. It explained it has a database where digital copies of all documents are saved, in addition to physical copies of official letters and files in its archive.

Female prosecutors

KUWAIT: The Supreme Judicial Council plans to receive applications from 2019/2020 graduates for the 'prosecutor' position soon, and this time it will accept applications from both male and female candidates for the first time, Al-Qabas Arabic daily reported yesterday, quoting an 'informed source.' Eight Kuwaiti women swore in as prosecutors on September 3, 2020 for the first time in Kuwait's history.

Teachers' return

KUWAIT: Kuwait might resort to allowing expat teachers stuck abroad to return in case it fails to hire enough teachers domestically to cover public schools' needs by January 2021, and in case health authorities give a green light to return teaching in schools, Al-Anbaa Arabic daily reported yesterday, quoting 'informed sources.' Teachers will likely be the second category of expat workers to be allowed to return after domestic helpers, the sources speculated.

Kuwait, US convene defense cooperation working group

KUWAIT: Senior US and Kuwaiti officials convened the Defense Cooperation virtual working group of the fourth Strategic Dialogue yesterday, to discuss bilateral cooperation on the defense of Kuwait and regional stability.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Middle East, Simone Ledeen, and Assistant Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations for the Kuwait Armed Forces, Major General Mohammad Abdullah Al-Kandari, co-chaired the meeting with participation from the US Joint Staff and the Kuwait military.

Also present on behalf of the United States were US Ambassador to Kuwait Alina L Romanowski, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs David Schenker, and the US Senior Defense Official to Kuwait Brigadier General Darrin Slaten.

"As we approach the 30th anniversary of the Liberation of Kuwait, we continue to strengthen the enduring US-Kuwaiti defense partnership that we forged together following the invasion of Kuwait. Threats facing Kuwait, the United States, and the region continue to emerge and evolve. The Strategic Dialogue assists in expanding and adapting our bilateral defense partnership to deter and be prepared to defend against these threats," Ambassador Romanowski said. "Our militaries will continue to increase interoperability through the pursuit of common systems and exercises in order to deter threats, protect vital interests, and combat terrorism," Romanowski added.

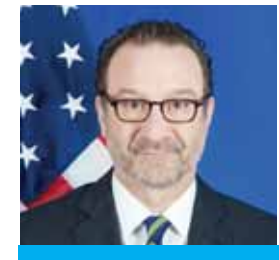
The discussion focused on bilateral efforts to



Simone Ledeen



Alina Romanowski



David Schenker



Darrin Slaten

minimize the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on military operations to ensure the national security of both the United States and Kuwait, deter and counter threats from Iran and other actors through increased interoperability and integrated air and missile defense, and to recognize the 30-year anniversary of Kuwait's liberation.

The US-Kuwait Strategic Dialogue, first launched four years ago, is an annual high-level series of meetings, which frames the two countries' work on issues of shared concern. Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah will meet today to discuss the progress accomplished through the last two weeks of virtual working groups.

Kuwait reports 337 new COVID-19 cases, two deaths

KUWAIT: Kuwait listed 337 new coronavirus infections over the past 24 hours to raise the total to 140,393, while two fatalities recorded over the same period upped its death toll from the outbreak to 868, the health ministry said yesterday. The number of people hospitalized with the virus currently stands at 6,677, with 80 of them in intensive care units, said ministry spokesman Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad, adding that 4,492 swab tests were conducted over the past 24 hours raising the total to 1,056,493 so far. The ministry had earlier yesterday reported that 670 people had recovered from the virus over the previous 24 hours, raising the total of those to have overcome the disease to 132,848. The spokesman went on to urge the public to abide by health precautions, mainly following social distancing rules as the only way to halt the spread of the virus. — KUNA



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Hong Kong activists in custody after guilty protest plea

Ethiopia says Axum airport smashed, Tigrayans face surrender deadline

Page 6

Page 7



CAIRO: This combination of pictures created yesterday shows a general view of Cairo's Tahrir Square (right) on Feb 18, 2011 as it is filled with protesters celebrating the ouster of former president Hosni Mubarak; and the same view 10 years later on Nov 11, 2020. — AFP

What's left of the Arab Spring?

Many countries hit by uprisings today looking worse off

BEIRUT: Ten years ago, a wildfire of revolts in the Arab world touched off an unlikely series of events that swelled, then dashed many hopes, and irrevocably changed the region. From the quickfire collapse of seemingly invincible regimes to the rise and fall of a caliphate in its heart, the Middle East hurtled through the 21st century's second decade in a state of relentless upheaval.

The chain of uprisings that shook the region from late 2010 and was soon dubbed the "Arab Spring" led to disparate long-term outcomes, with many countries today looking worse off. The popular protests that erupted in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen a decade ago were followed by disappointing reforms at best, dictatorial backlash or all-out conflict at worst. Yet the spirit of the revolts is far from dead, as evidenced by the second wave of uprisings that caught on in Sudan, Algeria, Iraq and Lebanon eight years later. Something "in the fabric of reality itself" has changed since then, said Lina Mounzer, a Lebanese author and translator whose family has roots in both Egypt and Syria. "I don't know that there is anything more moving or noble than a people demanding a life of dignity in a single voice," she added. "It proves that such a thing is possible, that people can revolt against the worst despots, that there is enough courage in people standing and working together to face down entire armies."

Tunisia spark

It all started on Dec 17, 2010 when a young street vendor, goaded by years of police harassment, doused himself with fuel in front of the governor's office in the central Tunisian town of Sidi Bouzid and set himself on fire. Mohamed Bouazizi's was not the first self-immolation in the region, or even in Tunisia, but it sparked a rage never seen before. Nor was his story caught on camera - but it went viral nonetheless.

By the time Bouazizi died of his wounds on Jan 4, the protest movement against President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who had been in power for 23 years, had spread to the entire country. Ten days later, Ben Ali was forced to flee to Saudi Arabia. Within weeks, pro-democracy protests broke out in Egypt, Libya and Yemen. It was when the rage spilled into the streets of Cairo, the region's largest city and its historical political crucible, that the contagion earned its "Arab Spring" moniker.

Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets in Egypt to shout their democratic aspirations and demand the removal of Hosni Mubarak, president since 1981. It's hard to overstate the sense of hope and euphoria that these images projected across the region and the rest of the world.

Groundswell of hope

"Look at the streets of Egypt tonight: this is what hope looks like," celebrated Egyptian author Ahdaf

Soueif wrote in The Guardian at the time. The voice of the people was rising as one, not just in one country but across the region, toppling some of the planet's most entrenched dictatorships. One sentence that will go down as the slogan of the Arab Spring rippled across the region: "Al-shaah yureed isqat al-nizam" - Arabic for "The people want the downfall of the regime".

These words were both a primal scream giving courage to a generation that never knew it had so much and a kind of incantation that, if repeated long enough, would miraculously free the people. A new paradigm was being born for the Middle East with the realization that its tyrants were not ten foot tall and that change could come from within. Author Lina Mounzer remembers how the early days shattered the sense of "Arab defeat" that weighed on two generations after the death of Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser and his pan-Arab nationalistic project. "There was a sense that we Arabs were somehow too lazy and tired to rise up against oppression, that we accepted the rule of dictators and despots because we were fundamentally flawed, or else had been shaped into beasts of burden by colonialism and Western meddling," she told AFP.

Unthinkable

The unthinkable happened on Feb 11, 2011, when it was announced that Mubarak was resigning. "The night that Mubarak fell I cried with joy. I couldn't believe how brave and beautiful were the Egyptian people. It seemed like the dawn of a new era," Mounzer recalled. "And then, Syria. If I thought I was happy for Egypt, surprised by Egypt, I was ecstatic for Syria... It felt like my parents' Arab nationalist dreams were finally being realized... through the force and will of the people themselves."

Six months before being murdered in Istanbul, Saudi author and dissident Jamal Khashoggi argued the revolts once and for all put paid to the notion that Arabs and democracy were a mismatch. "The debate about the relationship between Islam and democracy conclusively ended with the coming of the Arab Spring," he said in a 2018 speech.

Besides Ben Ali and Mubarak, Libya's Muammar Gaddafi, Yemen's Ali Abdullah Saleh and last year Sudan's Omar Al-Bashir were the other significant scalps claimed by the Arab revolutions. The five of them combined a whopping 146 years of rule, not counting Saleh's 12 years as president of North Yemen before the country's unification in 1990; Ben Ali 1987-2011; Mubarak 1981-2011; Gaddafi 1969-2011; Saleh 1990-2012 and Bashir 1989-2019. For a while, the collapse of the region's autocracies looked unstoppable. Yet the term "Arab Spring" itself, which started appearing in late Jan 2011, is seldom used in Arab countries - where the words for uprising and revolution are preferred - and has since been criticized as a misnomer. —AFP



Ahmed Kadhaf al-Dam holds a picture depicting the African continent with the NATO flag star placed on a bleeding impression of Libya at his home in the Zamalek district of Egypt's capital on Nov 2, 2020. — AFP

Since the 2011 NATO-backed uprising that toppled the veteran dictator, Libya has been riven by conflict, with multiple militias filling the power vacuum and civilian authorities struggling to impose their authority. Libya has become a key embarkation point for migrants attempting to make the potentially deadly sea voyage to Europe, as well as a base for extremist militants. "There was no terrorism or extremists, or people going hungry," Kadhaf al-Dam claimed, painting a

Syria's Assad: Lone survivor of Arab Spring

BEIRUT: When the Arab revolts that were sweeping the region and toppling autocrats like dominoes reached Syria, Bashar Al-Assad's days at the helm looked numbered. Ten years on however, he has defied the odds, surviving international isolation and the temporary loss of two thirds of the national territory to claw his way back into relevance and hold on to power.

It seemed doubtful in March 2011, when protests broke out in Syria, that his ruling Alawite minority would be capable of withstanding the tide of uprisings dramatically reshaping the region. The leadership mettle of the London-trained ophthalmologist, a reluctant heir when his iron-fisted father Hafez died in 2000, was also being questioned.

But his patience and cool combined with myriad factors - including his grip on the security apparatus, the West's disengagement, and the support of Russia and Iran - to save him from defeat, analysts say. "Years after the whole world demanded he leave and thought he would be toppled, today it wants to reconcile with him," veteran Lebanese politician Karim Pakradouni said.

'Long game'

"Assad knew how to play the long game," said the politician, who has often acted as a mediator between the Damascus regime and various Lebanese parties. In 2011, Assad chose to repress peaceful protests with force, sparking a complex war involving rebels, jihadists and world powers in which any fighter not on his side was called a "terrorist".

The conflict has since killed more than 380,000 people, displaced more than half the country's pre-war population, and seen tens of thousands thrown behind bars. Ordinary Syrians have seen food prices soar and the local currency plummet in a desperate economic crisis the government has blamed on Western sanctions. But Assad is still in power and, after a string of Russia-backed victories, his forces are back in control of around 70 percent of the country. The Syrian president always insisted he would come out on top. "He has never faltered. He has stood firm on all his stances without concession, and has managed to take back most of Syria with military might," Pakradouni said.

Loyal army

Despite tens of thousands of defections, Syria's army also played a major role in his survival, he said. "This is

what made Assad an exception in the so-called Arab Spring." In Tunisia, the army abandoned Zine El Abidine Ben Ali when street pressure mounted, Egypt's military also let go of Hosni Mubarak, and in Libya, top brass had already turned against Muammar Gaddafi before his demise. Analyst Thomas Pierret said: "Army leadership remained loyal because for decades it had been stacked with relatives of Assad and fellow Alawites".

"The latter probably made up more than 80 percent of the officer corps by 2011 and held virtually every single influential position within it," said the researcher at the Institute of Research and Study on the Arab and Muslim Worlds. A Syrian researcher based in Damascus who asked to remain anonymous said Assad's "determination and rigor" were also key.

"He was able to concentrate all decisions in his hands and ensure the army was entirely on his side," the researcher said, adding the regime's structure ensured nobody could build up enough influence to tee up a challenge. Instead, Assad gambled on Syria's complex social structure - ethnic divisions between Arabs and Kurds, as well as religious differences between Sunni

Muslims, his Alawite clan, and other minorities. "He benefited from people's fear of chaos, from his own (Alawite) environment's fear about their survival if he fell," the Syrian researcher said.

No alternative

When Islamists and jihadists became more prominent, he sought to present himself as a protector of minorities including Christians. But Assad also benefited from the absence of any effective political opposition, the researcher said. In 2012, as Assad's forces were losing on the ground, more than 100 countries recognized an opposition alliance, known as the Syrian National Coalition, as the sole legitimate representative of the Syrian people.

Assad appeared increasingly isolated and many regional and world powers, betting on his downfall, slapped his regime with a raft of sanctions and turned him into a global pariah. But Syria's domestic and exiled political opposition failed to present a united front, or a credible alternative to Assad with which the international community could engage. The armed opposition became increasingly fractured as the conflict evolved, and Assad was able to instrumentalize the rise of jihadist groups to cast himself as a rampart against terrorism. —AFP



Bashar Al-Assad

Gaddafi's cousin sees Arab Spring as Western plot

CAIRO: From his lavish Cairo apartment overlooking the Nile, Ahmed Kadhaf al-Dam reminisces fondly about the iron-fisted rule of Libya by his cousin Muammar Gaddafi, nearly a decade after his ouster. With his dark, bushy hair, Kadhaf al-Dam cuts an uncannily similar figure to the late dictator, who rose to power in a 1969 military coup. As if echoing Gaddafi's words beyond the grave, the 68-year-old maintains that the Arab Spring was a hoax, engineered to cause instability in the region. "There wasn't a revolution," Kadhaf al-Dam argued. "There was an attack to kill Gaddafi."

Gaddafi's bloody demise in a gutter in Oct 2011 heralded the oil-rich North African country's descent into chaos as militias battled for control. "Libya was a safe haven in North Africa and the Mediterranean," the former top-ranking advisor to Gaddafi insisted, as he gathered up his long and flowing traditional robes.

rosy picture of Libya before the conflict. "The Western intervention in Libya led to this."

Today, two rival administrations are vying for control of the country - a UN-recognized unity government in Tripoli that emerged from talks in 2015 and an eastern-based administration elected the year before. In 2019, eastern strongman Khalifa Haftar, backed by Egypt, Russia and the United Arab Emirates, launched an offensive to seize Tripoli. But after Haftar fought his way westwards to the very outskirts of the capital, Turkish-backed pro-unity forces pushed back. That led to a formal ceasefire deal last month.

Kadhaf al-Dam pins the blame for the years of conflict squarely on former French president Nicolas Sarkozy and former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton for a decade of "famine, poverty and destruction". A former soldier and Gaddafi's envoy to Egypt during president Hosni Mubarak's rule, he blamed Western military adventurism for the rise of extremist fighters. That includes the forces of the Islamic State (IS) group, which gained a foothold in Libya.

But for Kadhaf al-Dam, the extremists of IS and Al-Qaeda are forces manufactured by the West. "How can you blame us, saying that Islam is the reason behind extremism?" he said. "This is your religion that you've created in the West." From his point of view, the Arab Spring resulted in failure. —AFP

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International

Biden to start naming cabinet picks today as Trump resists

President-elect may nominate seasoned diplomat Blinken as secretary of state

WASHINGTON: US President-elect Joe Biden will name his first cabinet picks today, his chief of staff said, even as Donald Trump clung to unsubstantiated claims of fraud despite growing dissent from within his own party. Biden has pushed ahead with preparations to assume the presidency on January 20, regardless of Trump's bid to undo the results of the November vote.

"You are going to see the first of the president-elect's cabinet picks on Tuesday," Biden's chief of staff, Ron Klain, told ABC's "This Week" on Sunday.

Several US news organizations, including Bloomberg and The New York Times, reported that the president-elect will nominate seasoned diplomat and long-time aide Antony Blinken as secretary of state. Biden also said last week he had already decided his pick for the key position of Treasury Secretary.

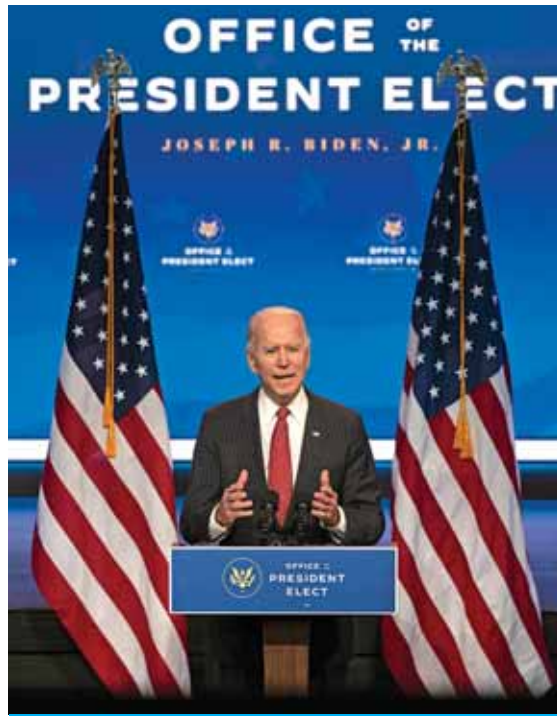
US media also widely reported he will name Linda Thomas-Greenfield, who served as assistant secretary of state for Africa under President Barack Obama, as his UN ambassador. A growing number of Republicans have either recognized Biden's victory or at least urged the General Services Administration—the usually low-profile agency that manages the federal bureaucracy—to release federal funds for the Biden transition.

With Trump refusing to acknowledge the election outcome, Biden and his top aides have been denied briefings on sensitive domestic and foreign policy issues—most urgently the coronavirus pandemic battering the country. Former New Jersey governor Chris Christie, who in 2016 advised the Trump transition, said on ABC that the president's legal team was a "national embarrassment."

Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, another prominent Republican, told CNN that Trump was making the country look like a "banana republic," later tweeting the president should "stop golfing and concede."

Trump has guffed on every weekend day since the election, though he took part virtually in the conference of the G20 leading economies this weekend—skipping a Saturday session on the pandemic.

And even Representative Devin Nunes, an ardent



WILMINGTON: US President-elect Joe Biden speaks after a meeting with governors in Wilmington, Delaware. Biden will name his first cabinet picks today, his chief of staff said. — AFP

Trump loyalist, conceded backhandedly on Fox News that Biden had "run a successful campaign from a basement."

'Without merit'

Trump again tweeted on Sunday about "massive numbers of fraudulent ballots," a claim dismissed by a long list of judges in several states. Appearances by Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani have drawn

mockery, as have claims by another former member of his legal team, Sidney Powell.

Powell has alleged baseless conspiracy theories involving a possible hack of the election, earning her widespread derision but also praise from some of Trump's most ardent supporters.

Giuliani announced Sunday that Powell had been dropped from the team.

Trump's latest legal setback came Saturday, when Pennsylvania judge Matthew Brann threw out the president's fraud claims in a scathing judgment. Pennsylvania was a must-win state, and flipped to Biden after backing Trump in 2016. Brann's ruling paved the way for Pennsylvania to certify Biden's victory in the state.

Biden won the state-by-state Electoral College votes that ultimately decide who takes the White House by 306 to 232. The Electoral College is due to formally vote on December 14, with state certifications to take place beforehand.

'Incredibly damaging'

State certification of popular vote results in presidential elections is usually routine. But Trump's refusal to concede has raised concerns that he could cause long-term damage to public trust in the voting system that underlies US democracy. The judgment in Pennsylvania came hours after Republicans also requested a delay in certification in Michigan, another battleground state won by Biden.

They requested a two-week delay to allow a full audit of results in Wayne County—home to majority-black Detroit, which overwhelmingly voted for Biden. Michigan's board of canvassers, which includes two Democrats and two Republicans, was due to meet later to certify the results.

There were reports that a Republican member of the board was considering voting against certification. Biden has so far moderated his criticism of Trump's actions, though he has spoken of "incredibly damaging messages being sent to the rest of the world about how democracy functions." — AFP

Raped by regime, women still seek justice in Uruguay

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay: When Ana Amoros fell prey to Uruguay's dictatorship, the first thing her torturers did was strip her naked and hit her with a riding crop. Then they raped her. Amoros is one of a group of 28 former political prisoners seeking justice for torture and sexual crimes committed by the military regime that ruled Uruguay between 1973 and 1985.

Nine years after first filing a criminal complaint before Uruguay's courts, the women will present their case to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in March next year. The women's quest for justice is made more difficult by a law passed a year after the country's return to democracy in 1986 that blocked investigation of dictatorship-era crimes. That allowed some a fresh start, but for others like Amoros, it meant suppressing the truth about regime-sponsored violence against women. "Women's bodies were, and still are, the spoils of war," said Amoros, now 72.

Considered one of South America's most progressive countries, Uruguay remains conflicted about its military past. Torture, killings, enforced disappearances and other serious human rights violations were committed during the nearly 12-year dictatorship.

"Women's stories are only recently emerging. There is a masculine narrative, a very masculine narrative," said former political prisoner Luz Menendez, 66. Menendez was arrested and held in La Tablada, an estate outside Montevideo used to torture leftist suspects.

She said her torturer had told her: "Girl, don't worry, you will leave here alive... but since you are a Communist, you will beg God to let you die, because we are going to drive you to the brink of madness."

Jailed and tortured

Like other leftist opponents of the regime, Amoros, Menendez, Brenda Sosa, Ivonne Klingler and Anahit Ahoorian were all in their 20s when they were imprisoned and tortured.

AFP reporters have collected their testimonies since 2019. Amoros was a member of an armed anarchist group, the Popular Revolutionary Organization-Orientales 33. She was arrested on one of the group's premises she was helping to guard. She was stripped naked as soon as she arrived at the barracks. "They hit you with a riding crop that they used to hit horses with, they hit you all over your body. I was blindfolded, but I knew that there were a lot of men." She remembers Colonel Gilberto Vazquez. He gave her a coffee and a cigarette, but when she refused to answer his questions, "he got angry," said Amoros in a whisper.

"That was the first time he raped me. 'I always thought if that happened, I'd bite him! Scratch him! I thought I would kick him in the genitals! I thought I would defend myself. But I did nothing. Nothing.'" —AFP



The women will present their case to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in March 2021. — Reuters

Ethiopia says Axum airport smashed, Tigrayans face surrender deadline

NAIROBI: Forces of Ethiopia's Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) have destroyed an airport in the ancient town of Axum, state-affiliated media said yesterday, after advancing federal troops gave them a 72-hour ultimatum to surrender. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has told the TPLF, which had been ruling the mountainous northern zone of 5 million people, to lay down arms by Wednesday or face a final assault on the regional capital Mekelle.

TPLF leader Debretson Gebremichael told Reuters that threat was a cover for government forces to regroup after what he described as defeats on three fronts. There was no immediate response from either side to the other's latest comments, and Reuters could not confirm their statements. Claims by all sides are hard to verify because phone and internet communication has been down.

Hundreds, possibly thousands, have been killed in fighting and air strikes that erupted on Nov. 4, sending about 40,000 refugees into neighboring Sudan. The conflict has spread beyond Tigray, with the TPLF firing rockets into both neighboring Amhara region and across the border to Eritrea. International appeals for mediation, from the United Nations and around Africa and Europe, have so far not gained traction.

Heritage town

The broadcaster Fana said TPLF troops had destroyed the airport at Axum, which lies northwest of Mekelle and is a popular tourist draw and UNESCO World Heritage site. Axum's history and ruins, including fourth century obelisks when the Axumite Empire was at its height, gives Ethiopia its claim to be one of the world's oldest centers of Christianity.

Legend says it was once home to the Queen of Sheba and Ethiopians believe an Axum church houses the Ark of the Covenant. The United Nations' humanitarian coordinator for Ethiopia, Catherine Sozi, urged safety guarantees for aid workers, Mekelle's more than half a million inhabitants, and their health, school and water systems. Abiy's government has repeatedly said it is only pursuing TPLF leaders and facilities to restore law and order after they rose up against federal troops. It denies hitting civilians.

France ex-president Sarkozy goes on trial for corruption

PARIS: Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy went on trial yesterday for attempted bribery of a judge, a potentially humiliating postscript to a career tainted by legal woes. Though he is not the first modern French head of state in the dock—his predecessor and political mentor Jacques Chirac was convicted of embezzlement—Sarkozy is the first to face corruption charges.

The inquiry also saw Sarkozy taken into police custody for questioning in 2014, another first for a former president. He fought furiously for six years to have the case thrown out, denouncing "a scandal that will go down in history." "I am not a crook," the 65-year-old, whose combative style made him one of France's most popular politicians, told BFM TV this month.

Prosecutors say Sarkozy promised the judge a plush job in Monaco in exchange for inside information on a separate inquiry into claims he had accepted illicit payments from L'Oreal heiress Liliane Bettencourt during his 2007 presidential campaign.

Part of the evidence comes from wiretaps of phone



HUMERA: A damaged tank stands abandoned on a road as a truck of the Amhara Special Forces passes by near Humera, Ethiopia, on Sunday. — AFP

"Our women and men in uniform have shown great care to protect civilians from harm during the law enforcement operation they have carried out in Tigray so far," its taskforce for the Tigray conflict reiterated yesterday.

The TPLF says Abiy has "invaded" their region to dominate them and is inflicting "merciless" damage on Tigrayans. "We are people of principle and are ready to die in defence of our right to administer our region," TPLF leader Debretson added in a text message to Reuters. Debretson was a signals and intelligence officer for the TPLF during their war against the Communist Derg dictatorship in the 1980s and later earned a degree in electronic engineering from Addis Ababa University. He rose to the rank of deputy prime minister in the Ethiopian government when it was dominated by the TPLF.

The TPLF accuses Abiy, a former military comrade and partner in government, of marginalising their ethnic group since becoming prime minister two years ago. He has removed Tigrayan officials from influential roles in government and the military and detained some on rights abuse and corruption charges. Abiy, whose parents are from the larger Oromo and Amhara groups, denies any ethnic undertones, saying he is legitimately pursuing criminals and preserving national unity.—Reuters

conversations between Sarkozy and his longtime lawyer Thierry Herzog authorized as part of another inquiry into suspected Libyan financing of Sarkozy's 2007 campaign. That inquiry is still going on, though Sarkozy caught a break this month when his main accuser retracted a central claim of having delivered millions of euros in cash from Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi. Sarkozy and Herzog had argued the wiretaps breached client-lawyer privilege but the courts dismissed their complaints. Charged with bribery and influence peddling, Sarkozy risks a prison sentence of up to 10 years and a fine of one million euros (\$1.2 million). Herzog faces the same charges and a further allegation of violating professional secrecy. The trial, set to begin at 1:30 pm (1230 GMT), is expected to last until December 10.

Investigators discovered that Sarkozy used an alias—Paul Bismuth—to buy a phone for secret talks with his lawyer. The pair discussed reaching out to a top French judge Gilbert Azibert, who prosecutors say was tasked with getting information trying to sway the Bettencourt inquiry in Sarkozy's favour.

In exchange, Sarkozy would use his contacts to try to secure the cushy Monaco post for Azibert, who is also on trial. "I'll make him move up," Sarkozy told Herzog, according to prosecutors, who compared his actions to those of a "seasoned offender". But later, Sarkozy appeared to back away from the Monaco plan—a sign, according to prosecutors, that the two men had been tipped off about the wiretaps. — AFP

News in brief

Trump campaign drops Powell

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump's campaign announced Sunday it was no longer working with a member of the president's legal team who was widely mocked for alleging baseless conspiracy theories related to the November 3 election. "Sidney Powell is practicing law on her own. She is not a member of the Trump legal team," the president's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani said in a statement. "She is also not a lawyer for the president in his personal capacity." Trump had tweeted on November 14 that Powell would be a member of his legal team, alongside Giuliani and campaign legal adviser Jenna Ellis. —AFP

Guatemalans protest for second day

GUATEMALA CITY: Hundreds of Guatemalans took to the streets for a second day Sunday to demand the resignation of President Alejandro Giammattei, following the passage of a budget that has sparked outrage in the impoverished Central American nation. Masked protesters filled the central square in front of the old government palace in the historic center of the capital. They carried signs with slogans including "I would rather die as a rebel than live as a slave" and "Giammattei out." Sunday's peaceful protests came the day after demonstrators partially burned down the Congress building. — AFP

US Ice Bucket Challenge activist dies

WASHINGTON: An American man who helped drive the global phenomenon known as the Ice Bucket Challenge to tackle a deadly neurodegenerative disease has died at the age of 37, his team said Sunday. Patrick Quinn, from New York state, was diagnosed with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, in 2013. "It is with great sadness that we must share the passing of Patrick early this morning," his team wrote in a post in Quinn's ALS advocacy Facebook group, "Quinn for the Win." "We will always remember him for his inspiration and courage in his tireless fight against ALS." — AFP

Archbishop of Albania discharged

ATHENS: Archbishop Anastasios, the head of Orthodox Church of Albania, was being discharged yesterday after 12 days of hospitalization in a coronavirus unit, Greek hospital Evangelismos said. The 91-year-old had tested positive for the new coronavirus early November and despite the fact he had only mild symptoms, because of his age and heart problems, he was transported from Tirana to Athens and was admitted to the Evangelismos hospital. — AFP

Panel may probe Zuma walkout

JOHANNESBURG: A South African panel hearing testimonies about rampant state corruption during Jacob Zuma's reign, yesterday said it would ask police to investigate the former president after his walkout last week. "I have decided to request the secretary of the commission to lay a criminal complaint with the South African police against Mr Zuma so that the police can investigate his conduct," the commission's chair and deputy chief justice Raymond Zondo said in a statement. — AFP

Israeli minister invites Aoun to direct border talks

JERUSALEM: Israel's Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz has invited Lebanese President Michel Aoun to direct talks in Europe on their countries' disputed maritime border, a rare outreach between nations still technically at war. Israel and Lebanon opened negotiations on the border dispute under US and UN auspices last month to clear the way for offshore oil and gas exploration.

Last week, Steinitz on Twitter accused Lebanon of undermining the talks by continuously shifting its position and trying to widen the disputed area under negotiation. That sparked a Twitter response from Aoun, who rejected Steinitz's charges that Lebanon had been inconsistent. Steinitz, in a series of tweets directed at Aoun yesterday, in both Hebrew and Arabic, said he had been "enjoying the dialogue that has developed between us in recent days".

"I am convinced that if we could meet face-to-face in a European country in order to have open, or secret, negotiations, we would have a good chance of resolving the maritime border dispute once and for all." There was no indication on whether Aoun intended to respond to or accept the offer. Israel and Lebanon have been negotiating based on a map registered with the United Nations in 2011, which shows an 860-square-kilometre (330-square-mile) sea area as being disputed.

But Lebanon considers that map to have been based on wrong estimates. According to Lebanese energy expert Laury Haytayan, Aoun's tweet confirms that it is now demanding an additional 1,430 square kilometers (552 square miles) of sea further south. — AFP

International

Concrete jungle threatens mangrove forest on Pakistan's Bundle Island

Khan determined to turn the Island into a huge real estate project

KARACHI: A short boat ride from the shores of Karachi, mangrove trees sprout along the quiet inlets of an uninhabited island that environmentalists say provides vital coastal protection to Pakistan's largest city. But the calm of Bundle Island, home to a few camels, is at risk, with Prime Minister Imran Khan determined to turn it into an enormous real-estate project to ease pressure on the expanding megacity home to 20 million people.

The \$50-billion housing development has pitted regional leaders against the central government, with local activists and lawmakers accusing the prime minister of renegeing on pro-environment promises.

"Let nature restore itself and (do) not dream of these big, grand cities," said Mahera Omar, an environmental film-maker from Karachi who enjoys kayaking around Bundle and meandering through the island's mangroves. "We are all very tired of our concrete jungle. We all want to get away, out into the open," she added.

Coastal mangroves act as a natural barrier, soaking up wave energy and limiting the extent of flooding. "These islands form a barrier against storm surges and tsunamis. Their preservation is vital for the preservation of Karachi," Arif Belgaumi, an architect and town planner, told AFP. The city is already prone to inundation and suffered catastrophic flooding during this year's record monsoon when filthy, chest-deep water filled the streets.

Bundle Island floods during particularly high tides, so any construction would also require environmentally damaging reclamation work that could have knock-on effects for Karachi, Belgaumi added.

But Khan's administration says the project would create thousands of local jobs and bring much-needed relief to chaotically expanding Karachi-not to mention new tax revenue for Pakistan's cash-

strapped coffers. A draft law-immediately challenged by the provincial government of Sindh, where Karachi is the capital city-would turn Bundle and neighboring Buddo Island into federal territories.

'It will bring devastation'

Critics say the plan runs counter to green pledges by Khan, who has spoken out about the perils of climate change and frozen construction of several coal-fired power stations in favor of renewable-energy projects, mainly hydroelectric dams. The government has also unveiled a nationwide effort to plant 10 billion new trees by 2023.

"He takes pride in recognizing that global warming is the reality... (But) when it comes to the province of Sindh, the people of Sindh, his point of view changes," Sindh government spokesman Murtaza Wahab said. Khan's top adviser on climate change, Malik Amin Aslam, did not respond to multiple requests for comment. Bundle Island, located in the Arabian Sea, is uninhabited except for a few camels and other creatures.

It nonetheless has been whacked by urbanization-the sandy beach facing Karachi is strewn with plastic rubbish and medical waste that washes ashore from the megalopolis. The mangroves are considered an important component of Karachi's environment, which has suffered decades of high pollution and neglect, with the trees acting as natural filters that clean water and protect baby fish.

"The people of Karachi actually relate to mangroves as... a natural part of their lives," Wahab said. "That is why we are so territorial about it. That is why we feel so passionate about these mangroves."

The redevelopment proposal has faced years of opposition from critics who say it would be too costly and complicated to redevelop Bundle Island. A group of Karachi fishermen, who cast nets from



KARACHI: In this picture taken on October 18, 2020 fishermen ride a boat past a mangrove forest at Kainri Creek located in the Arabian Sea off the coast of Karachi. —AFP

the island's comparatively cleaner waters, have also filed a lawsuit against the project.

"We will become jobless," said Kamal Shah, a spokesman for the fishermen.

"They are saying the construction of a city will bring development. It will bring devastation."

The waters here are already suffering, he said, with Karachi's dilapidated drains spewing untreated

wastewater into the sea. Rab Nawaz, a senior program director at the World Wildlife Fund, said the development of Bundle Island would trigger an "environmental disaster".

"Bundle is a nesting ground for turtles, dolphins. There (are) mangroves which are protected forests in Pakistan," he said. "Building a huge infrastructure on it is going to destroy all that." —AFP

Hong Kong activists including Joshua Wong in custody

HONG KONG: Three young Hong Kong dissidents including Joshua Wong were remanded into custody yesterday after pleading guilty to inciting a rally during last year's pro-democracy protests, deepening the crackdown against Beijing's critics. Hong Kong was convulsed by seven straight months of huge and often violent democracy rallies last year in which millions took to the streets.

Beijing has refused demands for free elections and authorities have pursued democracy supporters with criminal cases and a sweeping new national security law. Wong, 24, was prosecuted alongside fellow activists Ivan Lam and Agnes Chow over a protest which took place last summer outside the city police headquarters. "We will continue to fight for freedom and now is not the time for us to kowtow to Beijing and surrender," Wong told reporters on his way to court.

'Add oil'

Once inside Wong pleaded guilty to inciting and organizing an illegal assembly. Lam pleaded guilty to incitement while Chow, 23, admitted inciting and

joining the protest.

All three were remanded into custody pending sentencing on December 2, meaning a jail term is all but guaranteed. The maximum sentence a magistrate's court can hand down is three years.

"Everyone hang in there. I know it's tougher for you to remain out there," Wong shouted inside court. Small groups of supporters surrounded their prison van as they were driven away shouting "Add oil!" and "No rioters, only tyranny!" Add oil is a popular phrase of encouragement in Cantonese while authorities dismissed both peaceful and violent protesters alike last year as rioters.

'Mentally prepared'

Despite his youth, Wong has already spent time in prison for leading democracy protests and told reporters that he was ready to return. "Emotionally I am reluctant in every way to be jailed but rationally I have absolutely no space to complain in comparison with many others," he said outside court, in a reference to the hundreds of protest-linked prosecutions already concluded.

Chow appeared less self-assured. "If sentenced, this will be my first time in prison," she wrote in a Facebook post on Sunday. "While I say I have mentally prepared for this, I am still a bit scared."

Wong became an activist when he was in his early teens, organizing successful rallies in 2012 against plans to make Hong Kong's education sys-

tem more "patriotic" and similar to the mainland. In 2014 he and Chow helped inspire and lead the "Umbrella Movement"-a 79-day peaceful occupation of three busy intersections by a largely student-led campaign calling for universal suffrage.

Wong was jailed for his involvement in those protests, alongside most of that movement's main leaders. He was still in jail when last year's much larger democracy protests kicked off, though he made appearances at numerous rallies after his release. —AFP



HONG KONG: Pro-democracy activists (left to right) Agnes Chow, Ivan Lam and Joshua Wong arrive for their trial at West Kowloon Magistrates Court in Hong Kong yesterday on unauthorized assembly charges in relation to protests in 2019. —AFP

tem more "patriotic" and similar to the mainland.

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Taliban rigging drones to drop bombs, says Afghan spy chief

KABUL: The Taliban have deployed small drones to drop bombs on government forces in some recent attacks, Afghanistan's spy chief said yesterday, illustrating a new fighting method used by the insurgents. Ahmad Zia Shiraj, who heads the National Directorate of Security (NDS), said Taliban fighters were using hobby drones and rigging them with explosives.

"The drones they are using are sold in the market. They are basically camera drones," Shiraj said in an address to parliament, adding the NDS wants to stop the import of the popular devices.

In late October, the Taliban reportedly used a drone to bomb the compound of the governor of Kunduz province. Shiraj did not confirm the report, but he noted that the Taliban have used drones in

Kunduz and Paktia provinces. While the technique is new to the Taliban, Islamic State (IS) jihadists operating in Iraq and Syria started using toy planes and hobby drones in 2016 to carry explosives.

IS maintain a small but deadly presence in Afghanistan and have resisted years-long efforts by the US and Afghan forces to wipe them out. "We have destroyed their leadership circle but their second layer are young are still active," Shiraj said.

IS claimed three deadly attacks in recent weeks in Kabul that killed scores of people, including a rocket attack Saturday. The Taliban and Washington signed a deal in February paving the way for foreign forces to leave Afghanistan entirely by May 2021.

In return, the insurgent group pledged to prevent transnational jihadist groups such as Al-Qaeda and IS operating inside Afghanistan.

The international community must continue aiding Afghanistan or face the risk of "disastrous consequences," UN refugee chief Filippo Grandi urged ahead of a donors conference starting yesterday. Grandi's appeal also comes after his visit to the Asian nation that is struggling with growing vio-

lence, a US pullout and flagging peace talks.

Grandi said the future of millions of Afghans depends on the outcome of peace negotiations and on the international community's commitment to develop the country, including at the two-day donors conference in Geneva. —AFP



HERAT: Children warm up themselves around a charcoal fire, in Herat on Sunday. —AFP

lence, a US pullout and flagging peace talks.

Grandi said the future of millions of Afghans depends on the outcome of peace negotiations and on the international community's commitment to develop the country, including at the two-day donors conference in Geneva. —AFP

Thai woman alleges sex abuse in school, faces criticism

BANGKOK: A row over a Thai woman who held up a placard alleging sexual abuse in schools has put a spotlight on harassment in the education system even as she draws threats of legal action for misrepresentation and attacks for soiling Thailand's image. The issue is the latest on which discussion has become more vocal as an anti-government protest movement seeking reform of the monarchy also emboldens people in a society where conservatism has often constrained criticism of the powerful.

"I hope my case will raise awareness for people in society, for students in schools, for adults who send children to schools, for teachers and for the Ministry of Education," Nalinrat Tuthubthim, 20, told Reuters. Nalinrat, now a

university student, had made allegations on social media of being sexually harassed at school several years ago.

But she grabbed attention at the weekend when she dressed in a high-school uniform at a protest in Bangkok, put black tape over her mouth and held up a placard that read: "I have been sexually abused by teachers. School is not a safe place."

Detractors criticized her for not being a real high-school student and she was bombarded with abusive messages. Some shared screenshots of her Instagram account showing recent pictures in which she had modelled revealing outfits. "When a non-student wears school uniform, when you draw this much attention from society and from social media, you need to take responsibility for it and what follows," said Pareena Kraikupt, a member of parliament for the Palang Pracharat Party of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha. Pareena told Reuters she was planning to file a police complaint against Nalinrat for wearing a school uniform when she was not a school student, but also to call for a police investigation into her for-



BANGKOK: Thai woman Nalinrat held up a placard alleging sexual abuse in schools has grabbed attention at the weekend when she dressed in a high-school uniform at a protest in Bangkok. —Reuters

mer school over the alleged harassment.

Senator Somchai Sawangkarn condemned Nalinrat for damaging Thailand's image and said she should be punished if an investigation of her accusations found them to be untrue. Nalinrat said it was their right to criticise and take legal action but she would defend herself. —Reuters

News in brief

Smiley face protester arrested

SINGAPORE: A Singaporean activist was charged yesterday with staging an illegal one-man protest after he stood outside a police station holding a sign bearing a smiley face. The tightly controlled city-state has tough laws against dissent that make it illegal for even one person to hold a demonstration without a police permit. Jolovan Wham, who has had numerous run-ins with the authorities, posted a photo of himself on social media in March holding the cardboard sign with the roughly drawn face. —AFP

Three killed in Bihar shooting

PATNA, India: Three persons were killed and one was critically wounded in a shooting incident in Motiraj Pur village in Bihar's Chapra district on Sunday, police said. According to the police official, "There seems to be a conspiracy. Three people, including one of the attackers and two villagers, died. Further investigation is underway." "The injured person has been admitted to Sadar Hospital," the police official added. Local residents said, "On Sunday evening, goons came on bikes and started firing. By the time, we stepped outside our house, three people were shot dead. One was critically injured." —ANI

Gandhi questions on vaccination

NEW DELHI: India's Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi yesterday posed questions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding government strategy for vaccination against COVID-19, asking which vaccine candidate will be chosen and if PM Cares Fund will be used to ensure free vaccination. He also asked in a tweet what will be the distribution strategy and when will all Indians be vaccinated. "The PM must tell the nation: 1. Of all the COVID vaccine candidates, which will GOI choose and why? 2. Who will get the vaccine first and what will be the distribution strategy? 3. Will PM Cares fund be used to ensure free vaccination? 4. By when will all Indians be vaccinated?" he asked. —ANI

Indonesia hits half million cases

JAKARTA: Indonesia reached a grim milestone yesterday in surpassing more than half a million coronavirus cases, as average new daily infections hit a record and hospitals in the country's most populated province edged closer to capacity. Indonesia now has 502,110 infections and 16,002 deaths from COVID-19, the highest numbers in Southeast Asia, having struggled to contain the spread since its first case in March. Health experts say shortfalls in testing and contact tracing and a consistently high positivity rate - the infection rate per person tested - indicate the real numbers are likely to be significantly higher. —Reuters

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2020

Business

Eurozone economy in 'steep downturn'

British business activity has contracted in November

BRUSSELS/LONDON: Eurozone economic activity plunged in November, a key survey showed yesterday, due to a resurgence of lockdowns across Europe as the second wave of the coronavirus tightened its grip. "The eurozone economy has plunged back into a severe decline in November amid renewed efforts to quash the rising tide of COVID-19 infections," said Chris Williamson, chief economist at IHS Markit.

The firm's closely watched PMI index plummeted to 45.1 points from 50.0 points in October, well below the key 50-point level which indicates growth. IHS Markit said this offered a clear indication that the economy in the 19-member single currency area would stumble back into recession in the fourth quarter, erasing any gains seen over the middle of the year.

Importantly, "the further downturn of the economy... represents a major set-back to the region's health and extends the recovery period," Williamson said. All was not bleak, with survey results demonstrating emerging optimism for a better recovery next year on the back of signs effective vaccines were close at hand.

Still, IHS Markit said it forecast the eurozone economy would contract by a historic 7.4 percent in 2020 and expected a recovery of just 3.7 percent in 2021. IHS Markit said the downturn in November was broad but would hit the service sectors the hardest, especially those most constrained by the partial lockdowns. France, the bloc's second-biggest economy, was particularly hard-hit with a result of just 39.9 points on the PMI, indicating a very deep downturn.

The eurozone's number one economy, Germany, managed to show expansion in the period, probably buoyed by factory exports to Asia and a relatively lower rate of coronavirus infections.

Meanwhile, British business activity has contracted

in November as a new wave of coronavirus restrictions hammered the huge services industry, but news of possible vaccines has sharply boosted hopes for 2021, a survey showed yesterday. An early "flash" reading of the IHS Markit/CIPS UK Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), a gauge of private sector growth, tumbled to a five-month low of 47.4 in November from 52.1 in October.

It is the first time the index has gone below the 50.0 growth threshold level since June. The decline was smaller than a slump to 42.5 forecast in a Reuters poll of economists, however, and less severe than the drop in the eurozone.

The forward-looking component of the PMI hit its highest in more than five years, boosted by progress on COVID-19 vaccines. Bank of England Chief Economist Andy Haldane said yesterday he hoped the economy would be "turning a leaf" next year, but warned that some long-term damage was inevitable. Britain's economy is widely expected to contract in the fourth quarter - albeit by less than it did around the time of the first coronavirus lockdown - after Prime Minister Boris Johnson ordered a four-week lockdown for England.

Other parts of the United Kingdom have also imposed restrictions on businesses, including in hospitality and other face-to-face activities. Those closures helped to push the services PMI to 45.8 from 51.4 in October. But manufacturing, which was largely unaffected by the latest lockdown, accelerated, with its PMI rising to 55.2, the joint-highest level since 2018.

"The two-speed nature of the recovery is increasingly clear," J P Morgan Asset Management strategist Hugh Gimber said. "The manufacturing sector continues to tick along at a healthy pace, while new lockdowns have slammed the brakes on the nascent recovery in the service sector."



MANCHESTER: People wearing protective face coverings walk past an empty retail unit following the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in Manchester.

The approach of a possible trade shock at the end of next month, when Britain's post-Brexit transition deal with the European Union will expire, prompted clients of British factories to increase their orders to build up stocks. That in turn led to a sharp lengthening of supplier delivery times because of severe

delays at British ports. Job losses across the private sector accelerated, although some of the reduction in employment was due to companies taking advantage of the government's extended jobs protection scheme. Separate figures yesterday showed the number of people visiting shops in Britain last week was 55 percent lower than a year earlier. —Agencies

Pakistan's central bank keeps main rate unchanged at 7%

KARACHI: Pakistan has kept its main policy rate unchanged at 7 percent, the central bank said yesterday, as consumer price index inflation remained close to 9 percent. It is the second time that Pakistan has kept its main policy rate unchanged after cutting it 625 basis points, down from 13.25 percent, at the time the global pandemic hit its economy in February.

"Overall financial conditions remain appropriately accommodative, with the real policy rate remaining in slightly negative territory on a forward-looking basis," a statement from the State Bank of Pakistan said, quoting the monetary policy committee (MPC), which met yesterday. The statement said headline inflation had fallen sharply since January but remained close to 9 percent, primarily driven by sharp increases in food items due to supply-side issues. However, it said core inflation remained relatively moderate and stable, and price indexes suggested a weakening of food price momentum.

"Risks to the inflation outlook are balanced," the statement said. Pakistan's rate remained on the high side until earlier this year, at 13.25 percent, primarily to contain inflation, before a series of cuts to spur economic activity amidst the pandemic. "The MPC noted that since the last meeting in September, the domestic recovery has gradually gained traction, in line with expectations for growth of slightly above 2 percent in FY21, and business sentiment has improved further." —Reuters

Oil prices rise on COVID-19 vaccine news

LONDON: Oil prices rose more than one percent yesterday, extending last week's gains as traders anticipated coronavirus vaccine trials would spur a recovery in demand. Sentiment was also bolstered by expectations that the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Russia and other producers, a group known as OPEC+, would extend a deal to restrain output.

Brent crude rose 66 cents to \$45.62 a barrel by 1247 GMT while US West Texas Intermediate crude gained 52 cents to \$42.94 a barrel. Both benchmarks jumped 5 percent last week. The contango structure in the market, whereby the prices of front-month delivery contracts are lower than those for delivery six months later, narrowed to as little as 31 US cents, its smallest since mid-June, reflecting traders' views a sustained glut is receding.

Outlook for demand has improved with news indicating progress towards developing COVID-19 vaccines. A US official said the first inoculations in the United States could start a day or two after regulatory approval was secured. British drugmaker AstraZeneca said yesterday its vaccine, developed along with the University of Oxford, could be around 90 percent effective. PVM analyst Stephen Brennock said the news was detaching sentiment from "gloomy fundamentals". —Reuters

Down-to-the-wire Brexit talks bid to close gaps

LONDON: British and European Union negotiators resumed coronavirus-affected Brexit talks yesterday, bidding to bridge "fundamental" differences with time running ever shorter to avert major cross-Channel disruption. In-person talks were suspended last week after one of the EU team tested positive for COVID-19, in an ill-timed blip ahead of Britain's looming exit from a post-EU transition period.

After technical discussions over the weekend, formal negotiations resumed online between the teams led by British diplomat David Frost and his EU counterpart Michel Barnier.

"Time is short," Barnier warned in a tweet. "Fundamental divergences still remain but we are continuing to work hard for a deal." Britain left the EU on January 31 but an 11-month transition period to allow for both sides to carve out a new relationship ends on December 31.

The talks are already deep into extra time, with any pact needing debate and ratification by the European Parliament by the end of the year. The negotiations have been deadlocked on three key fronts: fisheries, a "level playing field" to ensure fair competition after Brexit, and oversight of any deal.

"I think we're making progress in the talks and I remain hopeful that we can reach resolution," UK finance minister Rishi Sunak told BBC television on Sunday, as he readies cost-cutting measures to help pay for a splurge of pandemic spending. "I think the most important impact on our economy next year is not going to be from that (Brexit), it's because of coronavirus," he said, adding that Britain "should not be going for a deal at any price".

Prime Minister Boris Johnson insists that Britain will "prosper" without a deal, if need be, even with the kind of quotas and tariffs that have been absent from cross-Channel trade for decades.

If a deal is secured, he will have to sell it to

Vaccine progress lifts stocks, dollar still sickly

LONDON/SHANGHAI: Investors scooped up stocks, commodities and emerging-market currencies and gave the dollar a wide berth as AstraZeneca and Oxford University provided markets with their now-regular yesterday shot of encouraging COVID-19 vaccine news. The STOXX index of Europe's 600 largest firms rose to its highest since February, Wall Street was pointing up 0.6 percent and Brent futures were nearly 1.5 percent stronger.

AstraZeneca and Oxford vaccine, which is set to cost just a few dollars a shot and should be easier to ramp up and store than vaccines by Pfizer and BioNTech and Moderna, could also be up to 90 percent effective. As the dollar buckled through a range it has been in for the past few months, the euro touched \$1.19, but it was the emerging markets that are likely to benefit from a cheaper and easier-to-store drug that rallied the most.

South Africa's rand shrugged off a double sovereign credit-rating downgrade over the weekend



An aerial picture shows construction work at the site of a lorry park being built between the villages of Sevington and Mersham, near the M20 motorway near Ashford in Kent, south east England yesterday. —AFP

restive Conservative MPs, many of whom will balk at any brakes on UK freedoms imposed by the EU as the price of agreement.

Meanwhile, Irish Prime Minister Micheal Martin said yesterday he hoped that the outline of a Brexit free trade deal will have emerged by the end of the week and urged unprepared smaller Irish exporters to get ready for change, whether there is a deal or no deal. The European Union's Brexit negotiator said on Monday that big differences persisted but that both sides were pushing hard for a deal, as talks resumed. Moves will have to be made on some of the key issues such as fisheries and the so-called "level playing field", Martin said.

But he added that he had got a sense of progress from both negotiating teams, and that a presentation last week from EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen was probably one of the more hopeful to date. "I would be hopeful that, by the end of this week, that we could see the

outlines of a deal, but that remains to be seen. It is down to political will, both in the United Kingdom and I'm clear the political will is there from the European Union," Martin told reporters.

On a visit to Dublin port, Ireland's largest freight and passenger port, Martin said that, while 94 percent of Irish exporters from the UK and 97 percent of exporters had completed the necessary customs paperwork to continue trading with Britain, he was worried by the take-up among some small and medium-sized firms.

"The one concern I'd have is maybe there is a complacency among some SMEs out there that everything will be OK and "Sure if they get a deal, won't it be OK?". It will be different, and you have to get that into your heads," Martin said. "The world will change and it will not be as seamless as it once was ... The bottom line is you need to get ready. It is not too late, people just need to knuckle down now." —Agencies

to add 0.8 percent. Russia's ruble and Mexican peso both climbed half a percent to bolster their stellar months. "The combined vaccine news of the last few weeks... will lead to a much faster pace of normalization to our daily lives compared to what we would have assumed just a few weeks ago," analysts at Deutsche Bank said in a note to clients. "By spring, things should be looking much closer to normal."

Markets' optimism also came after a top official of the US government's vaccine-development effort said Sunday that the first vaccines there could be given to US healthcare workers and some others by mid-December. US shares looked set to mimic gains in Europe and Asia, as Nasdaq futures rose 0.4 percent, Dow futures rose 0.7 percent, and US e-mini futures for the S&P 500 were 0.6 percent higher at 3,576.

The rally also showed investors were willing to look past the grim US case numbers—which topped 12 million over the weekend—and mixed European economic data released yesterday. IHS Markit's headline flash composite PMI, seen as a good guide to economic health, fell to 45.1 in November from October's 50.0 - the level separating growth from contraction. A Reuters poll had predicted a shallower dip to 46.1.

Vaccine hopes, though, and expectations of more



TOKYO: Pedestrians walk in front of electronic quotation boards displaying share prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange (left) and the foreign exchange rate between the US dollar and Japanese yen (right) in Tokyo. —AFP

stimulus from the European Central Bank next month, meant optimism improved. The composite future output index jumped to 60.1 from 56.5, its highest since February. "Today's vaccine news is positive, but it is only partly responsible for the rally in stock markets," said Philip Shaw, chief economist at Investec in London. "(It) is also being driven by the news that the US hopes to start the vaccination program in under three weeks." —Reuters

Business

WTO aiming to net fishing deal as deadline approaches fast

Global fisheries subsidies stood at \$35.4 billion in 2018

GENEVA: Negotiations on banning billions of dollars in fisheries subsidies are coming to the crunch at the beleaguered World Trade Organization, with the deadline to net a deal fast approaching.

Disagreements persist, especially over what the outcome might mean for developing countries, while over-fishing continues to strip the seas of a hugely important resource on which millions of people depend for their livelihoods. Negotiations began at the WTO in Doha in 2001 and got a much-needed boost with the adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in 2015.

That set the end of 2020 as the non-binding deadline for eliminating subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. It also bans certain types of subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, while providing special treatment for the world's developing and least developed countries. Member states have so far failed to reach an agreement but pressed into action by the approaching deadline, negotiators have been beavering away since September on the basis of a confidential working document.

Their work has been slowed by the coronavirus pandemic and several countries, including India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Namibia, doubt the deadline can be met, according to a source close to the discussions in Geneva, where the WTO is based.

Billions of dollars

Global fisheries subsidies stood at \$35.4 billion in 2018, with \$22 billion of that going towards building up fishing fleets, according to Usif Rashid Sumaila of the University of British Columbia in a study which is regularly cited by diplomats. Meanwhile the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has an increasingly alarming outlook on over-fishing.

The FAO said a third of commercial fish stocks were fished at biologically unsustainable levels in 2017.

Global fisheries production in 2018 reached a record 96.4 million tons-up 5.4 percent on the average across the three previous years. The increase was mainly due to marine fisheries, in which the top seven producing countries-China, Indonesia, Peru, India, Russia, the United States and Vietnam-account for almost half the total catch.



Over-fishing continues to strip the seas of a hugely important resource on which millions of people depend for their livelihoods. — AFP

Cuts, caps or changes?

Despite the years of discussion, multiple fault lines still exist, including over whether there are good subsidies and bad subsidies. European countries and others such as Japan and South Korea want a ban on subsidies, except where it has a positive impact and any potential negative effects can be cancelled out.

"If subsidies allow fishing to be made more sustainable-for example by developing the use of selective nets-then it must be permitted," said Jean-Marie Paugam, France's permanent representative to the WTO. Others believe, on the contrary, that any subsidy is inherently bad and should be removed. There are also voices calling for subsidy caps.

According to the same source close to the talks, Brazil has put forward a plan under which the

biggest subsidizers would have to make big reductions, while those giving less than \$25 million in annual subsidies would be exempt.

Developing countries snag

One of the main stumbling blocks remains how developing countries and the poorest nations will be treated. Some, such as India, are calling for them to be almost completely exempt from any constraints. That demand is difficult for everyone to accept, especially since the WTO system allows its members to self-identify as developing countries. Many of the major fishing nations are considered developing countries, including China, which has one of the biggest fishing fleets. NGOs stress the importance of reaching an agreement, believing it would, in any case, favor smaller fishing enterprises in poorer countries. — AFP

News in brief

Ethiopia to sell 45% of Ethio

NAIROBI: Ethiopia plans to sell a 45 percent stake in its Ethio Telecom monopoly, an adviser to the state minister of finance said, as the government pursues the liberalization of the sector despite an armed conflict in the north of the country. Ethiopia's telecoms industry is considered the big prize in a push to liberalize the African country's economy because of a huge protected market, which serves around 100 million people. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is attempting to energize underperforming state-run sectors with reforms. — Reuters

Russia raises tax for high earners

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday signed a law on increasing income tax for high earners in the first move away from a flat tax system in place since 2001. Starting next year, the tax rate will rise from 13 percent to 15 percent on incomes over five million rubles (about \$65,800/55,370 euros at the current exchange rate). Putin made the announcement in a televised address in late June, a week before the country was due to vote on controversial amendments to the constitution that paved the way for the president to potentially stay in power until 2036. — AFP

China says no 'money worship'

BEIJING: Online live shows and livestream e-commerce platforms must not promote "bad habits" such as showing off wealth or "money worship" according to rules published yesterday by Beijing, in the latest sign of tightening in China's massive livestream industry. Live shows have grown increasingly popular in China in recent years, with the livestream shopping sector already worth nearly \$70 billion by some estimates. — AFP

Germany to trial hydrogen-powered train in headway

BERLIN: Germany will trial a new hydrogen-powered train, its state-owned rail company said yesterday, signaling a transition away from gas-guzzling diesel engines as it aims for a carbon-neutral future. Developed with German industrial giant Siemens, Deutsche Bahn said it will build a newly developed train and a "gas station" for 2024 that will for the first time fuel hydrogen trains in just 15 minutes-as fast as conventional diesel engines.

"The fact that we... will refuel the train as quickly as a diesel train shows that the climate-friendly transport transition is possible," said Sabina Jeschke, a member of Deutsche Bahn's board. The national rail company intends to reduce carbon emissions to zero by 2050, meaning 1,300 diesel units will have to be replaced.

"We have to bring fossil fuel consumption to zero... Then we will not run a single vehicle with conventional diesel," Jeschke added. Around 39 percent of the German network has no overhead power lines, where trains require their own onboard fuel-such as diesel-to run.

A one-year trial run of the renewable-energy powered train is planned in the Tuebingen area of



southern Germany, based on a range of 600 kilometers (around 400 miles).

The Siemens train will save around 330 tons of CO2 a year, Deutsche Bahn said, and have a top speed of 160 kilometers an hour (100 mph). Siemens remains well behind its perennial French rival Alstom when it comes to hydrogen trains. Alstom rolled out the world's first hydrogen-powered train in the northern German state of Lower Saxony in 2018, running a 100-kilometre route previously served by diesel trains. The TGV-maker has since received 41 orders from Germany for its Coradia iLint train, which also began service in Austria in September.

Hydrogen engines work through a reaction of hydrogen and oxygen to create electricity, leaving only steam and water as byproducts. As part of the country's coronavirus stimulus package, Berlin announced a nine-billion-euro (\$11-billion) fund to develop the role of green hydrogen and with the aim of ending use of coal by 2038. — AFP

Huawei's Chinese mobile rivals look to cash in on its US woes

SHENZHEN: Chinese handset rivals of Huawei Technologies including Xiaomi, Oppo and Vivo are making aggressive moves to seize market share from their giant rival, after stepped-up US sanctions hobbled Huawei's supply chains, industry insiders say. Last week Huawei said it had sold its budget brand smartphone unit Honor for an undisclosed sum in a bid to safeguard the latter's supply chain from US action, which has made it difficult to source essential components.

All the same, Huawei's Chinese rivals smell blood in the mid- to high-end phone market. In August a Huawei executive said the company will not be able to produce its flagship processors that power its high-end smartphones. "What we can see now, whether from Xiaomi, Oppo or Vivo, is that they're raising their forecasts for next year," said Derek Wang, an executive in charge of production at handset maker Realme, which shares a supply chain with Oppo.

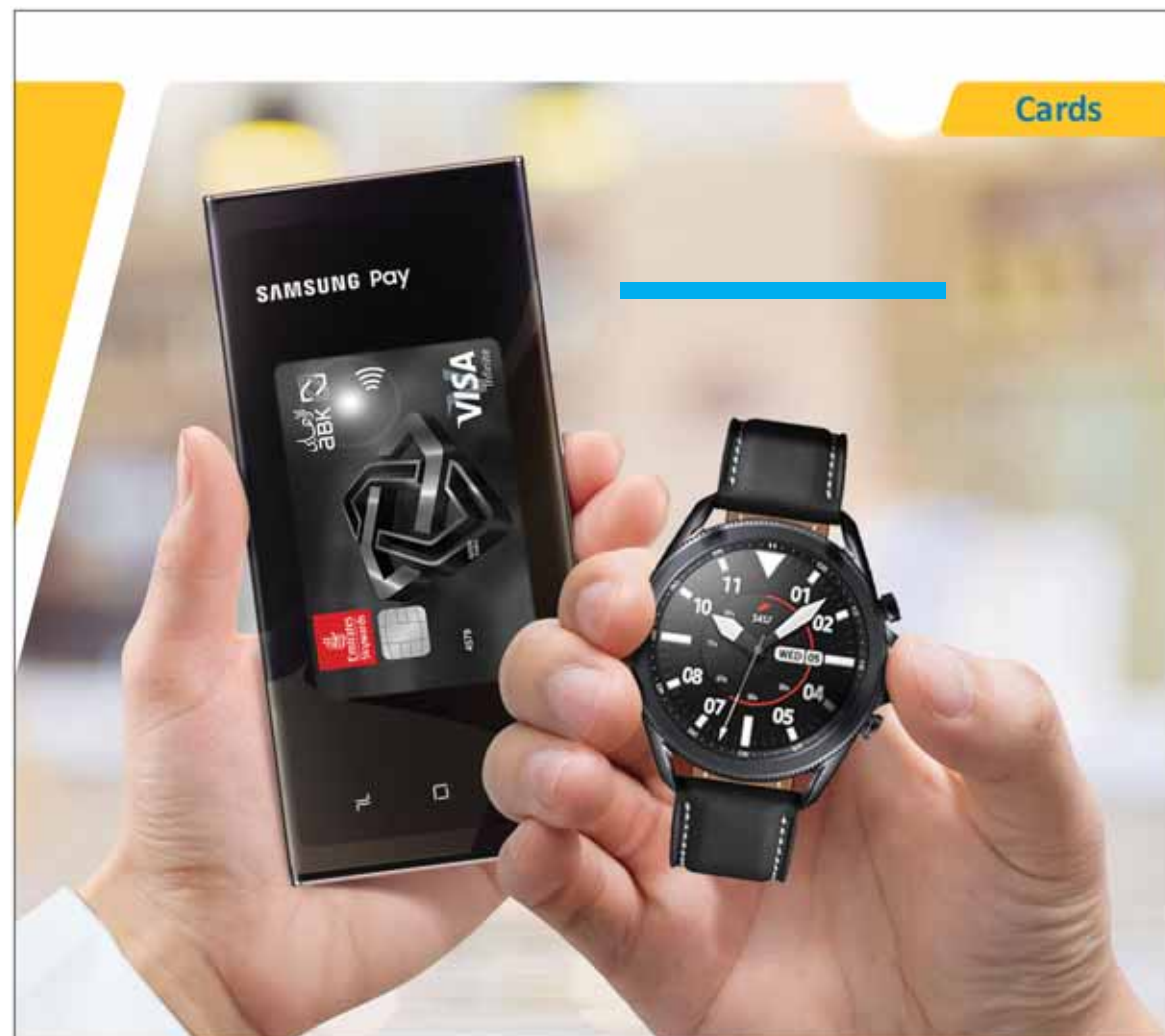
"They believe the sanctions against Huawei will more or less hurt it in the international market, and they may want to take a share of the market from Huawei."

Founded in 2018, Realme is on course to dou-

ble its smartphone shipments to 50 million this year, Wang said. It has built a base with low price-offerings in Southeast Asia and India, and is looking to target Europe and China next year with a push into the high-end market, regardless of Huawei's situation, Wang said. In August, the US Commerce Department further choked Huawei's access to US technology essential to its handset business, on the grounds that Huawei poses a security threat - a charge Huawei denies. Huawei briefly overtook Samsung as the world's biggest handset maker in the first half of this year, before shipments fell 23 percent to 51.7 million units in the third quarter, according to research firm Canalys.

Huawei still commanded 41.2 percent of the market in the third quarter, followed by Vivo with 18.4 percent, Oppo with 16.8 percent and Xiaomi with 12.6 percent, Canalys said. Apple has a lower share in China with 6.2 percent, but is attracting strong demand for its 5G iPhone 12, Canalys said.

Industry watchers have confirmed a ramping up of orders from vendors. Xiaomi has been most bullish, placing enough orders for up to 100 million phones between the fourth quarter of 2020 and first quarter of 2021, up 50 percent on projections before the August restrictions, consultancy Isaiiah Research says. Oppo and Vivo's production forecasts had also risen by around 8 percent each since August, with orders for up to 90 million and 70 million handsets respectively, Isaiiah Research's data showed. Conversely, Huawei orders fell 55 percent to 42 million handsets in that time. — Reuters



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Business

G20 dithers on poor countries debt time-bomb amid crisis warning

Richest nations reiterate commitment to a debt moratorium

RIYADH: The G20 promised Sunday to tackle the explosive issue of developing-nation debt, but failed to stake out any clear action, infuriating campaigners warning of a looming crisis. The leaders of the world's 20 richest nations reiterated their commitment to a moratorium agreed in April and extended in October allowing poorer countries to temporarily stop servicing eligible debt to focus their resources on combatting the coronavirus crisis.

The so-called Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) will be extended through to June 30, 2021, the final statement confirmed.

Currently 46 out of 73 eligible nations have benefited from a suspension of interest payments to the tune of \$5.7 billion. Though Saudi Finance Minister Mohammed Al-Jadaan called it "a major breakthrough", it is a drop in the ocean compared to the \$11 trillion the G20 nations have spent to combat the economic effects of the pandemic.

"While the G20's reaction in April was rapid, it's currently lacking urgency," said Oxfam France spokesman Louis-Nicolas Jandaux. The UN had hoped that the extension would run to the end of 2021, but instead the G20 said its foreign ministers would review the situation in the spring.

Painfully aware that the DSSI alone will not be enough for some countries, the G20 has agreed a common framework to restructure the debt of certain nations.

That framework has been called "historic" because for the first time it includes private creditors and China, the world's leading creditor to poorer countries, accounting for 63 percent

of all such loans extended by G20 nations at the end of 2019.

'Draining out the Titanic'

"(But) it only considers debt forgiveness as a final option — and it isn't binding," warned Jandaux. "There is a lack of participation from private creditors, and we strongly encourage them to participate on comparable terms when requested by eligible countries," the final statement said.

But time is running out. On Wednesday Zambia, facing a refusal by private lenders to temporarily freeze its debt repayments, defaulted. It is the first African nation to do so during the novel coronavirus pandemic. The same day, Bolivia said it expected to temporarily stop servicing its debts until its economic condition had improved. Fears are growing that debt crises in developing nations could hamstring their ability to vaccinate their people. In March, panicked investors pulled out \$82 billion of capital from developing nations in a matter of days. Since then, they have fallen foul of a vicious cycle of increasing costs to combat the pandemic coupled with diminished income. Remittances by migrant workers have been particularly hard hit.

As a result, developing nations will this year have access to \$700 billion less of external financing than in 2019, according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The DSSI is like "draining out the Titanic with a bucket" according to the European Network on Debt and Development. The 46 beneficiary



RIYADH: A handout picture provided by the Saudi Royal Palace on Sunday shows Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman addressing a remote press conference at the G20 summit, in the capital Riyadh. —AFP

nations had a combined debt pile of \$71.5 billion at the end of 2018. "The list of countries involved is too small," said Oxfam France's Jandaux. Middle-income countries like Lebanon are

excluded, while others such as Kenya have declined to seek DSSI relief for fear of a credit rating downgrade that would see their borrowing costs increase, as happened in Cameroon. —AFP

Greenhouse gas levels soar despite COVID measures

GENEVA: Greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the main driver of climate change, hit record highs last year and have continued climbing this year, despite measures to halt the pandemic, the UN said yesterday. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said lockdowns, border closures, flight groundings and other measures to rein in the coronavirus crisis had indeed cut emissions of many pollutants and greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide.

But it warned the industrial slowdown due to the pandemic had not curbed record concentrations of the greenhouse gases that are trapping heat in the atmosphere, raising temperatures, causing sea levels to rise and driving more extreme weather. "The lockdown-related fall in emissions is just a tiny blip on the long-term graph," WMO chief Petteri Taalas said in a statement. "We need a sustained flattening of the curve."

The WMO's main annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin said preliminary estimates indicated that during the most intense period of the shutdowns, daily CO2 emissions may have been reduced by as much as 17 percent globally. The annual impact was expected to be a drop of between 4.2 and 7.5 percent, it said.

But this will not cause concentrations of CO2 in the atmosphere to go down, it said, warning the impact on concentrations was "no bigger than the normal year to year fluctuations."

Historic

CO2 concentrations will continue to rise, albeit at a slightly reduced pace, WMO said, adding that the pace would be no more than 0.23 parts per million (ppm) per year slower than the previous trajectory—well within the 1.0 ppm natural inter-annual variability. "On the short-term the impact of the COVID-19 confinements cannot be distinguished from natural variability," it said.

Emissions are the main factor that determine the amount of greenhouse gas levels but concentration rates are a measure of what remains after a series of complex interactions between atmosphere, biosphere, lithosphere, cryosphere and the oceans.

CO2 is by far the most important long-lived greenhouse gas in the atmosphere related to human activities, and is responsible for roughly two-thirds of the Earth's warming. WMO's Bulletin listed the atmospheric concentration of CO2 in 2019 at 410 parts per million, up from 407.8 ppm in 2018, and said the rise had continued this year.

Taalas pointed out that the world breached the global threshold of 400 ppm in 2015, voicing alarm that "just four years later, we crossed 410 ppm." "Such a rate of increase has never been seen in the history of our records."

The United Nations agency said that since 1990, there had been a 45-percent increase in so-called radiative forcing, which is the warming effect on the climate by greenhouse gases.

Five million years ago

"Carbon dioxide remains in the atmosphere for centuries and in the ocean for even longer," Taalas said. "The last time the Earth experienced a comparable concentration of CO2 was three to five million years ago," he said, pointing out that at that time global temperatures were two to three degrees Celsius warmer and sea levels were 10-20 metres higher than now. "But there weren't 7.7 billion inhabitants," he said. The second most prevalent greenhouse gas in the atmosphere is methane—emitted in part from cattle and fermentation from rice paddies—which is responsible for around 16 percent of warming. In 2019, methane levels were at 260 percent of pre-industrial levels, at 1,877 parts per billion (ppb), with the rise from 2018 slightly lower than the previous annual increase, but still higher than the 10-year average, WMO said. —AFP

LuLu Hypermarket launches Italian Week 2020



KUWAIT: LuLu Hypermarket, one of the largest retail chains in the region, launched its promotion of Italian products through 'Italian Week 2020 at its Quran outlet yesterday.

Italian Ambassador Carlo Baldocci inaugurated the festival in the presence of LuLu Hypermarket management and a select gathering of well-wishers, in full adherence to guidelines on health and safety protocols.

Italian Week, which will run from 23 to 29 November, offers a wide range of Italian products at very special prices. Among the prestigious brands on offer are Crispo, Cuorenero, De Nigris, Donna Chiara, Gecechele, Mengazzoli, Menz & Gasser, Monini, Sosalt, Una Tira l'Altra, and Valledoro, to name a few. The promotion, which will be held simultaneously across all LuLu Hypermarket outlets in the

country, celebrates Italy's reputation for producing and exporting some of the finest gourmet food products. During the week-long promotion, special food counters and sampling kiosks will allow customers to savor the flavors and textures of Italian foods.

Large cutouts of historic and monumental buildings of Italy add to the atmosphere of Italian Week 2020 and provide a glimpse into the multiplicity

of tourist attractions in the country. Through the exciting Italian Week 2020, LuLu Hypermarket is reiterating its commitment to providing customers with some of the finest high-quality products from around the world at extremely competitive prices. The hypermarket takes pride in its status as a 'one-stop venue' for all the shopping needs of discerning customers in Kuwait.

Gulf Bank announces winners of Al-Danah weekly draw

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its weekly Al-Danah draw on 22nd November 2020 announcing the names of the winners for the week of 15 - 19 November 2020. The weekly draw consists of five winners who receive KD 1,000 each, every week.

The winners this week are:
Fouz Ghannam Naser Alshlyah

Khalil Abul Khalil Alshatti
Hussain Akbar Alwaan Mohammad
Essa Adnan Khaled Alaslawi
Mahdiya Saleh Husain Alkazzali

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 avail-

World's top surgical glove maker shuts factories due to virus

KUALA LUMPUR: A Malaysian company that is the world's biggest manufacturer of surgical gloves will close over half of its factories after a surge in coronavirus cases among workers, authorities said yesterday.

Top Glove has seen a huge jump in demand since the start of the pandemic as countries scrambled to

stock up on protective equipment, pushing up both its profits and share price. But there has been a cluster of virus outbreaks among Top Glove employees—many of whom are low-paid migrant workers—at factories in an industrial area near the capital, Kuala Lumpur.

More than 1,000 cases were recorded yesterday, prompting the government to order the plants to close. "Based on advice from the ministry of health, it was agreed at a special meeting today to shut down 28 Top Glove factories... in stages to allow the workers to undergo tests and quarantine," said Defense Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob. Top Glove said in a statement it would "cooperate fully with the relevant authorities to implement the temporary stoppage", and plant closures had begun.

About 5,700 workers have already been screened and the rest will also undergo tests, it said. Top Glove did not say how the closures would affect its ability to meet orders. The company operates 47 factories — 41 in Malaysia—and many of its workers are from Nepal and live in crowded dormitory complexes. The company can produce more than 70 billion gloves a year and is a major global supplier.

Malaysia is battling a resurgent outbreak of the coronavirus which has infected more than 56,000 people and killed 337. The country's glove manufacturers—and other industries—have long been accused of mistreating migrant workers, and the United States in July banned the import of gloves from two Top Glove subsidiaries over concerns about forced labor. —AFP

Classifieds

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind with speed of 15 - 35 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

BY NIGHT: Rather cold with light to moderate freshening at times over costal areas north westerly wind to light variable wind with speed of 08 - 40 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 23/11/2020 0000 UTC		
KUWAIT CITY	24 °C	17 °C			
KUWAIT AIRPORT	25 °C	15 °C			
ABDALY	27 °C	13 °C			
BUBYAN	- °C	- °C			
JAHRA	26 °C	15 °C			
FAILAKA ISLAND	- °C	- °C			
SALMIYAH	24 °C	18 °C			
AHMADI	- °C	- °C			
NUWAISIB	28 °C	15 °C			
WAFRA	25 °C	15 °C			
SALMY	27 °C	11 °C			

4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	11/24	Fair	24 °C	13 °C	NW-N	12 - 35 km/h
Wednesday	11/25	Fair and Clouds will increase gradually with a chance for rising dust over open areas later on	24 °C	12 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 45 km/h
Thursday	11/26	Partly cloudy to cloudy and rising dust with a chance for rain that might be thundery later on	27 °C	16 °C	SE-S	25 - 55 km/h
Friday	11/27	Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	23 °C	17 °C	NW	20 - 40 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:55
Sunrise	06:18
Zuhr	11:34
Asr	14:31
Sunset	16:50
Isha	18:11

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	25 °C
MIN. Temp.	17 °C
MAX. RH	93 %
MIN. RH	37 %
MAX. Wind	N 50 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	1.93mm

All times are local time unless otherwise stated. U.P.O

Hospitals

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

Clinics

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

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a.bagwan@sk-jv.com
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CHANGE OF NAME
 I, Lijo Gladin Austin Singh D/o Livingston, residing at No. 76, North st., Neyyoor post, Kalkulam Taluk, Kanyakumari dist., Tamilnadu, hereby inform and declare to the public that hereafter change my name as Lijo Gladin Livingston.
 (C 5817) 23-11-2020

REQUIRED
 • Private home driver
 • Building guard
 Tel: 66705562
 94976434

I, Cyrus Louis Britto, holder of Indian Passport No. N9723703 presently residing in Kuwait, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as given name: Cyrius Louis and surname: Britto.
 (C 5816) 22-11-2020

EMERGENCY
 112

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988

Word Search

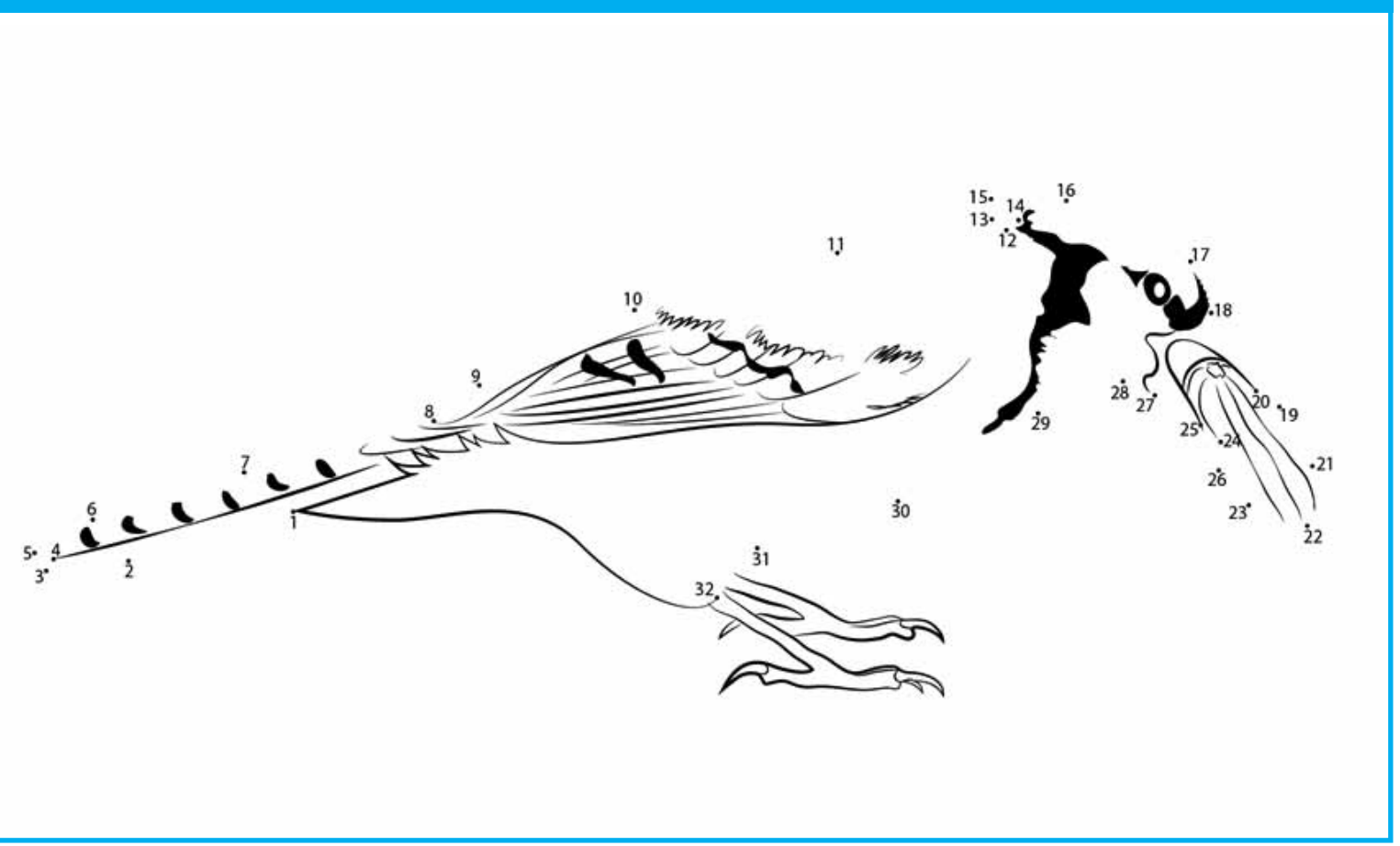
Breakfast Favorites

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



- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| BACON | CROISSANT | MAPLE SYRUP |
| BAGEL | DANISH | OATMEAL |
| BISCUITS | DONUTS | OMELET |
| BREAD | EGGS BENEDICT | ORANGE JUICE |
| BUTTER | ENGLISH MUFFIN | PANCAKES |
| CEREAL | FRUIT | SAUSAGE |
| CINNAMON ROLL | GRANOLA | SCRAMBLED EGGS |
| COCOA | GRITS | SMOOTHIE |
| COFFEE | HASH BROWNS | TEA |
| COLD PIZZA | HONEY | TOAST |
| CREPES | JAM | WAFFLES |

Join the Dots



STAR TRACK

Aries (March 21-April 19)
 Your imagination might conjure stories or pictures that you want to memorialize through writing or painting, but a lack of self-confidence might discourage you. However, it's probably a good idea to do it anyway. These ideas come from deep inside you. Giving them shape could represent a release from old traumas. Keep your work hidden in a drawer if you don't like it.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)
 You might be distracted by daydreams of a trip you're planning to take, Cancer. A friend could phone and want to discuss it, which doesn't help. Visions of faraway places and exciting pastimes may dance in your head, and routine tasks seem incredibly tedious and unworthy of attention. It's best to get them done if you can. Then you can fantasize about your vacation without guilt!

Libra (September 23-October 22)
 Mundane tasks, including errands and answering correspondence, might bore you all day, Libra. You're likely to be restless and strongly tempted to chuck it all and go somewhere to enjoy yourself. Take a good look at what you're doing and try to judge objectively how important it is to get it done now. If it isn't that important, then put it aside. You probably need to relax!

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)
 Worries about relatives or friends could plague you throughout the day, Capricorn. Perhaps you aren't sure what's wrong and so you feel helpless. Whatever vague worries you may have, don't try to figure out the truth without knowing the facts. You could make mountains out of molehills. This isn't a good day to run errands. Delays and obstacles could cause a lot of frustration and wasted time.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)
 Attendance at some kind of group event might seem especially appealing today. However, Taurus, worries about your family might distract you so that you don't benefit from it the way you should. You also might find some of the conversation boring. Despite your lack of enthusiasm, it might be a good idea to get out anyway. Staying home alone could make for a gloomy evening.

Leo (July 23-August 22)
 You might not have heard from a close friend in a long time and worry a little, Leo. Perhaps this person wasn't well the last time you talked. If you can, it might be a good idea to call. Strange and unsettling dreams could plague your sleep tonight, but don't get too agitated. They aren't prophetic in any way. The symbols probably represent nothing more than psychic detritus released through sleep.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21)
 Financial issues may interfere with your self-expression today, Scorpio. Perhaps you need a little more money before proceeding with a project that means a lot to you. You usually aren't one to let this kind of consideration stop you, though. Just a little bit of thought and planning could make whatever it is you want to do more feasible than it appears to be. Write down some ideas and go to it!

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)
 Small group functions and social events might not prove as satisfying as usual today, Aquarius. You may not be in the mood. You might feel pressured to mingle when you'd rather sit on the couch. Whatever conversations you get into will seem trivial and boring. This is a good day to sit back and listen. You might learn from the people around you without having to say a word.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)
 Let's face it, Gemini. Today you're likely to find your chores and errands exceedingly boring. You could find yourself watching the clock, feeling like an hour has gone by and then realizing it's only been ten minutes. If you can put off your tasks until tomorrow, by all means do so. Nothing is so urgent that it requires your undivided attention all day. Treat yourself to a fun afternoon.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)
 An older visitor might come to your door today, Virgo. You aren't likely to be too thrilled about this, but you will be able to play the good host anyway. Romance and sociability may be a bit limited by obligations to family, particularly parents, but don't let it get you down. You may be stuck at home tonight, but you will be able to let loose later.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)
 A charismatic person might contact you today and want your help with something. Emotional issues regarding family might have you feeling gloomy. Your creative side may have to lie fallow while you attend to mundane issues. Basically, you feel pretty optimistic about your life and future. You're never afraid of hard work, and you're persevering. Go for what you want and make everyone happy, including yourself!

Pisces (February 19-March 20)
 Pride might get in your way today, Pisces. Perhaps you will be asked to do a task that you consider beneath you. Perhaps the people around you are feeling persnickety. Rise above the insults and make a special effort to do the best you can, defusing the situation before it gets out of hand. Tonight, enjoy an evening of watching movies or listening to music.

Lifestyle | Awards



In this handout image courtesy of ABC singer Taylor Swift winner of Artist Of The Year award, Favorite Music Video award and Favorite Female Artist - Pop/Rock award poses during the 2020 American Music Awards aired from the Microsoft theatre on Sunday in Los Angeles.



Singer Doja Cat poses with her awards for Favorite Female Artist Soul/R&B and New Artist of the Year during the 2020 American Music Awards.



Rapper The Weeknd poses with his three awards Favorite Male Artist - Soul/R&B, Favorite Album - Soul/R&B and Favorite Song - Soul/R&B after the 2020 American Music Awards.



Singer Megan Thee Stallion poses with her award for Favorite Song Rap/Hip-Hop "WAP". — AFP photos

SWIFT TO SCOOP THREE AWARDS AT THE 2020 AMERICAN MUSIC AWARDS



Duo group Dan + Shay pose with their Favorite Duo or Group - Country award, Favorite Song - Country award and Collaboration Of The Year award.



Singer Becky G poses with the Favorite Female Artist - Latin award after the 2020 American Music Awards.

Taylor Swift scooped three awards at the 2020 American Music Awards, but couldn't be there in person to collect her prizes as she was busy "re-recording" her old music. The 'Shake It Off' hitmaker was crowned Artist of the Year at the ceremony on Sunday night, and also won Favorite Female Artist (Pop/Rock) and Favorite Music Video for 'cardigan'. During her acceptance speech for Artist of the Year, the 30-year-old pop superstar - who made history as the artist with the most AMAs wins, bringing her total to 32 - explained her absence was down to being tucked away in the studio re-recording her first five albums, which Scooter Braun acquired last year in a \$300 million deal with Big Machine Label Group and sold last week. Taylor said: "Oh hey guys, thank you so much for this!"

"This is a fan-voted award, which means so much to me. "You guys have been beyond wonderful all the years of my career but especially this one when we've been so far apart, and we haven't been able to see each other in concert. I still feel really connected to you through the music. Your reaction to folklore and all the ways in which your imagination honored that album ... I just love you so much. I'm really, really lucky because of you." Taylor then added that she's "re-recording all of my old music in the studio where I originally recorded it." She continued: "It's been amazing, and I can't wait for you to hear it. "Have a great night. I love you so much. Thank you, thank you, thank you!"

Other big winners on the night included The Weeknd, who took home trophies for Favorite Male Soul/R&B Artist, Favorite Soul/R&B Song for 'Heartless' and Favorite



Singer Justin Bieber and winner of Collaboration Of The Year award, Favorite Male Artist - Pop/Rock award and Favorite Song - Country award performs on stage.

Soul/R&B Album for 'After Hours'. Country pop duo Dan + Shay also nabbed three prizes for Collaboration of the Year and Favorite Country Song for '10,000 Hours' with Justin Bieber, while they were also named Favorite Duo or Group.

The star-studded ceremony - which was hosted by Taraji P. Henson live from the Microsoft Theatre in Los Angeles - saw a number of show-stopping performances from the likes of Billie Eilish, Dua Lipa, The Weeknd, Megan Thee Stallion, Nelly, and BTS.

—Bang Showbiz



Singers 24KGoldn and iann Dior perform on stage.



In this handout image courtesy of ABC singer/songwriter Billie Eilish (right) performs during the 2020 American Music Awards.



Boy band BTS and winner of Favorite Social Artist award and Favorite Duo or Group - Pop/Rock award perform during the 2020 American Music Awards.



In this handout image singer Jennifer Lopez performs during the 2020 American Music Awards at the Microsoft theatre in Los Angeles.



In this screengrab, Bad Bunny is announced the winner of the Favorite Male Artist - Latin and Favorite Album - Latin.



In this handout image courtesy of ABC singer Dua Lipa accepts her award for best song Pop/Rock with "Don't start Now".

The 2020 American Music Awards winners

Artist Of The Year
Taylor Swift

New Artist Of The Year
Doja Cat

Collaboration Of The Year
Dan + Shay with Justin Bieber - '10,000 Hours'

Favorite Social Artist
BTS

Favorite Music Video
Taylor Swift - 'Cardigan'

Favorite Male Artist - Pop/Rock
Justin Bieber

Favorite Female Artist - Pop/Rock
Taylor Swift

Favorite Duo or Group - Pop/Rock
BTS

Favorite Album - Pop/Rock
Harry Styles - 'Fine Line'

Favorite Song - Pop/Rock
Dua Lipa - 'Don't Start Now'

Favorite Male Artist - Country
Kane Brown

Favorite Female Artist - Country
Maren Morris

Favorite Duo or Group - Country
Dan + Shay

Favorite Album - Country
Blake Shelton - 'Fully Loaded: God's Country'

Favorite Song - Country
Dan + Shay with Justin Bieber - '10,000 Hours'

Favorite Male Artist - Rap/Hip-Hop
Juice WRLD

Favorite Female Artist - Rap/Hip-Hop
Nicki Minaj

Favorite Album - Rap/Hip-Hop
Roddy Ricch - 'Please Excuse Me For Being Antisocial'

Favorite Song - Rap/Hip-Hop
Cardi B ft. Megan Thee Stallion - 'WAP'

Favorite Male Artist - Soul/R&B
The Weeknd

Favorite Female Artist - Soul/R&B
Doja Cat - winner

Favorite Album - Soul/R&B
The Weeknd - 'After Hours' - winner

Favorite Song - Soul/R&B
The Weeknd - 'Heartless'

Favorite Male Artist - Latin
Bad Bunny

Favorite Female Artist - Latin
Becky G

Favorite Album - Latin
Bad Bunny - 'YHLQMDLG'

Favorite Song - Latin
KAROL G & Nicki Minaj - 'Tusa'

Favorite Artist - Alternative Rock
Twenty One Pilots

Favorite Artist - Adult Contemporary
Jonas Brothers

Favorite Artist - Contemporary Inspirational
Lauren Daigle

Favorite Artist - EDM
Lady Gaga

Favorite Soundtrack
'Birds Of Prey: The Album'

—Bang Showbiz

Lifestyle | Features



This photo shows Moken families attending a religious ceremony on sacred community grounds near their settlement at Rawai Beach in the southern Thai island of Phuket.



Moken fisherman Sanam Changnam hunting for fish off the coast of the southern Thai island of Phuket.



Moken fisherman Sanam Changnam showing his daily catch of fish off the coast of the southern Thai island of Phuket.



Fishing boats belonging to the formerly nomadic Moken community, docked along Rawai Beach at their settlement on the southern Thai island of Phuket.



The settlement of the formerly nomadic Moken community along Rawai Beach, with their religious grounds (at bottom) that are currently threatened by real estate redevelopment, on the southern Thai island of Phuket.— AFP photos

PANDEMIC RESPITE FOR THAI 'SEA GYPSIES' THREATENED BY MASS TOURISM

Coronavirus has wrought havoc across the world, but for Thailand's "sea gypsies" it has brought welcome respite from the threat of mass tourism. Since the pandemic began, life has been easier for Sanam Changnam and his people-there's an abundance of fish to eat and real estate projects on their ancestral land in the tourist hotspot of Phuket have come to a standstill. In the turquoise waters of the Andaman Sea, connected to the surface by a slender pipe stuck in his mask—a "thread of life" allowing him to breathe—Sanam stalks fish and shellfish, spear in hand. A few kicks of his flippers and he skewers three groupers before rising to the surface. With Thailand closed to foreign visitors for the past eight months, tourist boats have been stuck at the quay and fishing has been easier for the Chao Lay, or "people of the sea." "We don't dive as deep as before, so it's less dangerous," Sanam, 42, tells AFP.

His ancestors, former nomads who came from Indonesia nearly 300 years ago, took a spit of land in Rawai, a beach in the south of Phuket, long before the island became one of the country's most popular destinations. More than nine million visitors came to Phuket in 2019 and the boom has had a huge impact, bringing declining fish stocks, shrinking fishing grounds and a frenzy of construction. The traditional way of life of the Chao Lay, also known as "sea gypsies", has been turned upside down—but the pandemic has brought a pause. "It gives us a bit of a breather," says Alim, Sanam's uncle.

Unequal struggle
The authorities are less strict when the Chao Lay sail in protected marine reserves or near islets usually reserved for tourists. "Before, we risked being arrested by a patrol or having our boats confiscated," he says. "We sometimes went up too quickly to the surface, not

"We hope that all of this will be abandoned," says Ngim Damrongkaset, 75, a representative of the Rawai community. "They want to drive us out of our homes, but also to deny us access to the sea." For the animist Chao Lay the beach is a vital space where they keep their colorful wooden boats and where they pray and

sound of the waves.
Rethink call
Narumon Arunotai, an anthropologist at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University, says the government "must seize the opportunity provided by the pandemic to rethink their vision on Chao Lay". "Covid

problems, including alcohol and disease. "They need a special education system that preserves their culture. The government needs also to allow them to fish more freely," says Narumon. The Chao Lay have unique gifts and traditions that have served them well. Children of the Moken—one of the three branches of the



Moken families going to a religious ceremony on sacred community grounds near their settlement at Rawai Beach on the southern Thai island of Phuket.



Moken fisherman Sanam Changnam hunting for fish off the coast on the southern Thai island of Phuket.



respecting decompression times. It was dangerous, there were injuries, even deaths." The threat of eviction also hangs over the 1,200 Chao Lay living in Rawai, where property developers have been eyeing their land—a strip a few hundred metres long facing the sea. But with tourism halted because of the virus, Phuket's economy is paralysed, tens of thousands of workers have returned to their home provinces elsewhere in Thailand and construction projects are at a standstill.

give thanks to their ancestors. The battle with the tourism promoters is an unequal one: many Chao Lay cannot read or write and did not know that they could register their land in their name. Many families today have no legal title to the land they live on, though the government is trying to help them prove that they were there long before the investors. It has ordered analysis of old aerial photographs and of the bones of Chao Lay ancestors—traditionally buried on the beach so they can still hear the

is an opportunity to change mentalities. Mass tourism in Phuket has been a catastrophe for the sea gypsies," she adds. One option is for authorities to buy the land and entrust it to them permanently. The government has recently allocated an area of mangrove to neighboring Chao Lay communities to temporarily live and fish—a first step but not a permanent solution. It has also committed itself to preserving their oral traditions, without much effect so far. People in Rawai face many

Chao Lay have 50 percent better visual acuity in the water than their European counterparts, according to a 2003 study. And their deep understanding of their environment allowed many of them to spot the warning signs of the devastating 2004 tsunami and flee. Most of them escaped and helped many tourists to safety too. "We will always be the children of the sea," smiles Alim. — AFP

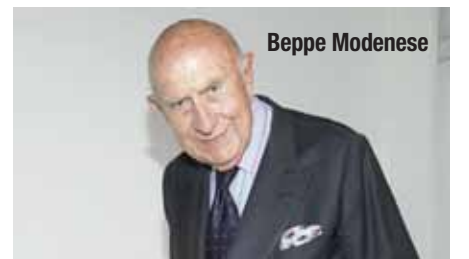
Jumbo task: Elephant hoisted from deep well in India

A wild elephant that fell into a well in southern India was lifted out with a crane following a 16-hour rescue mission involving dozens of rangers and firefighters. The elephant fell more than 20 meters (70 feet) after it wandered into a village in Tamil Nadu state last week while looking for food. "Villagers heard sounds and saw the animal had fallen into the well," local forest ranger Rajkumar told AFP. He said they believed it might have been trying to escape from a pack of dogs. Frightened

at first, villagers called authorities when they realized it could die unless rescued. Some 50 rangers and firefighters rushed to the village, where they initially tried to pump water out of the well—but the scared creature kept pushing away the equipment they were using. The rescuers then tried shooting the 2.4-metre (eight-foot) elephant with tranquilizer darts. "Out of the three times we tried, we succeeded twice," Rajkumar said. As night fell, watched on by a large crowd of villagers, rescuers climbed

down into the well and attached straps to the sedated animal's feet. They then used a crane to hoist the elephant out upside down. It was monitored by rangers for half an hour before being ushered back into the forest. India is home to nearly 30,000 elephants, around 60 percent of the wild Asian elephant population. But urban expansion has put them in conflict with humans. About 2,360 people were killed in elephant attacks between 2014 and 2019, according to Indian government data.

In the same period about 510 elephants died, including 333 from electrocution and around 100 from poaching and poisoning, the figures show. Earlier this year in the southern state of Kerala, a plantation worker was arrested when a pregnant elephant died after eating fruit laced with explosives. His plan was to keep wild boar from raiding a plantation. — AFP



Modenese, 'prime minister of Italian fashion', dies

Beppe Modenese, who helped catapult Italy to the top of world fashion and who was nicknamed its "prime minister," has died, the head of the country's fashion industry said Sunday. "Beppe Modenese contributed like no one else to the birth of the Italian fashion system and led... the affirmation of Milan as the capital of fashion," Carlo Capasa said in a statement. "He was rightly called the prime minister of Italian fashion," said Capasa, who heads the National Chamber for Italian Fashion. "Today we lose... an icon." The CNMI said Modenese died on Saturday aged 90. Modenese devoted his early career to organizing standout fashion events, including a historic 1952 catwalk show at Florence's Pitti Palace featuring Roberto Capucci and Emilio Pucci among other top designers. In 1953, he was involved in the brand new Alta Moda trade union founded by Roman designers including the Fontana sisters, Vincenzo Ferdinandi, Emilio Schuberth and Alberto Fabiani. Alta Moda would later become the CNMI, which Modenese headed for many years.—AFP



In these pictures forest officers and firefighters use a crane to pull an elephant to rescue after it fell in a deep well in Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu.— AFP photos

Sports

Photo of the Day



Alexander Albon performs in Istanbul, Turkey. — Photo taken from www.redbullcontentpool.com

Medvedev storms back to claim ATP Finals title

Russian claims the biggest title of his career

LONDON: Daniil Medvedev barged to the head of the queue of young pretenders as the Russian captured the biggest title of his career by beating Dominic Thiem 4-6 7-6(2) 6-4 in an absorbing climax to London's last ATP Finals on Sunday. Thiem was on course to become the first Austrian to win the title, following on from his recent US Open triumph, but the relentless Medvedev turned the tide to strike a blow for the new generation striving to shake up the tennis hierarchy.

There was no big celebration as he fired an unreturnable first serve on match point to end the two hours and 42 minutes scrap, bringing the curtain down on 12 memorable years at the O2 Arena before Turin takes over as host of the tournament. Fittingly the London era ended as it began with a Russian winner after Nikolay Davydenko took the 2009 title. Sadly for an event that attracted 2.8 million fans over the years to the Thames-side arena, the finale, a vintage edition, played out in a silent arena because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

But the millions watching on TV will

have appreciated the skill of Medvedev, who became only the fourth player in ATP history to beat the world's top three at the same tournament. He joins David Nalbandian (Madrid 2007), Novak Djokovic (Montreal 2007) and Boris Becker (Stockholm 1994). "It's amazing," Medvedev, who earned \$1.56 million as an unbeaten champion, told reporters. "I beat Novak (in the group), Rafa in the semis and Dominic, the best players in tennis right now. It shows what I'm capable of."

Imaginative game

Medvedev's imaginative game, a blend of sledgehammer power, cunning angles and unreadable serving, proved beyond Djokovic in the group phase and then second-ranked Rafael Nadal in Saturday's semi-final. The 27-year-old Thiem appeared to have mastered it but ultimately was overwhelmed. "I think Dominic was a little tired in the third set and to make him tired in a three-set match is tough," Medvedev said.

His triumph came a year after a chastening three defeats on his debut.



LONDON: Russia's Daniil Medvedev wearing a protective face covering to combat the spread of the coronavirus, poses with the winner's trophy on November 22, 2020. — AFP

The only other player to achieve such a drastic turnaround is Djokovic in 2008. After such a hot streak, including claiming this month's Paris Masters, the Moscowite was due a dip and it arrived in the first set as he threw away a 40-0 lead on serve at 2-2, gifting Thiem a break with a double-

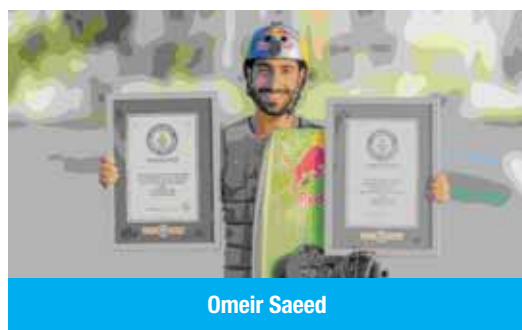
fault. It proved enough for Thiem to pocket the first set and he went for the quick kill in the second as Medvedev's usually rock-solid serve and forehand wavered. The Russian hung tough though, saving break points at 2-2 and 3-3, and began to look menacing as the tiebreak arrived. — Reuters

Emirati champion wakeboarder breaks two World Records

KUWAIT: Emirati wakeboarding champion and Red Bull UAE athlete, Omeir Saeed has broken not one, but two Guinness World Record (GWR) titles this month. It comes as GWR celebrated its annual record-breaking "GWR Day" (18 November), this year celebrating the "creativity, dedication, and passion of people around the world following a year of lockdown and restrictions". Omeir, 23, beat the GWR titles for Farthest Wakeboard Ramp Jump (Male) and Most Wakeboard Rail Airst (Supermans) in 30 Seconds.

For his first record, Omeir achieved an impressive 21-metre jump, smashing the previous GWR of 15 metres held by France's Jerome Macquart since 2004. His second record saw him achieve 10 wakeboard rail airts in 30 seconds, doubling the previous record also set by Macquart back in 2005. Commenting on his wins, Omeir said: "If there is one thing that I learned from this experience, it is that we hold a big responsibility to inspire the younger generation, to transfer the message and share the passion."

"Having this global recognition in hand makes me proud as an Emirati, as this is certainly the jewel in the crown of so many years of achievement and success." It took three years for Omeir to go from amateur to



Omeir Saeed

professional, and that rapid rise showcases his passion for the sport and the drive that is required for any athlete to reach the top. Back in 2011, in Al Forsan Club in Abu Dhabi, a 15-year-old Omeir went to "mess about" on the water with his friends; his previous experience with snowboarding serving the youngster well, as he picked up the skills required to master wakeboarding incredibly quickly.

Omeir entered the first WWA World Championship in Abu Dhabi soon after picking up the sport, and instantly displayed his natural ability by finishing in fifth place - which only embedded the wakeboarding bug in him even further. To transform from amateur to professional in a few short years is a remarkable story and highlights Omeir's determination to succeed. This is shown through his interests outside the sport, competing in events like the Wings For Life World Run, the Spartan Race, and Desert Warrior Challenge.



Sheikh Mishal shooting tournament to kick off

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: HH The Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Annual Shooting Tournament will kick off at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex today in the categories of shotgun, rifle and pistol for men and women, in addition to the Olympic archery. The tournament will continue until Saturday. The club has made all necessary preparations at its facilities befitting the status of HH the Crown Prince Shooting Tournament.

Assistant Treasurer at Kuwait Shooting Sport Club Adnan Nasser Al-Ibrahim, on behalf of the chairman, board members and the shooting community, thanked HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his support and encouragement to the shooters who could continue to make achievements for their country Kuwait. He said the tournament promises a strong competition especially that the number of shooters have exceeded 300, including those outstanding and members of the national team.

Meanwhile, Deputy Technical Director for Rifle and Pistol Abdallah Abdelaziz Al-Barakat said that a working plan has been prepared to organize and manage the competitions. He said ranges have been prepared and now they are fully prepared for the tournament. He said technical and referees committees have met and roles have been assigned.

The emphasis is on health protocols in view of the COVID-19 pandemic as prescribed by the health authorities, he added. The shotgun technical director Mishfi Al-Mutairi said that several meetings were held with the administrative, technical and referees committees in order to guarantee the success of the tournament. All these preparations were made, taking into account the significance of the tournament at local level, he said.



Adnan Al-Ibrahim

News in brief

Real Sociedad stay top of La Liga

MADRID: La Liga leaders Real Sociedad were rewarded for their persistence as they eventually edged out Cadiz 1-0 away on Sunday to earn a sixth consecutive league win. Sweden forward Alexander Isak gave the dominant visitors the lead midway through the second half, rising highest at the far post to head in a cross from Adnan Januzaj. The Basques had goals by Isak and Mikel Merino ruled out for offside either side of halftime before Isak struck, while Merino also had a shot cleared out the line by Cadiz defender Fali. Imanol Alguacil's side also barely allowed their opponents a sight of goal, conceding only two shots in the 90 minutes, neither of which hit the target. The victory kept Sociedad top of the standings and took them on to 23 points after 10 games, three ahead of second-placed Atletico Madrid but having played two games more. — Reuters

FIFA ban African chief for 5 years

LAUSANNE: The head of African football Ahmad Ahmad has been suspended by FIFA for five years for corruption, the global governing body announced yesterday. Ahmad, from Madagascar, has been president of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) since March 2017 and was standing for re-election in 2021 when FIFA banned him for "governance issues". In their statement, FIFA said Ahmad had "breached his duty of loyalty, offered gifts and other benefits, mismanaged funds and abused his position as the CAF President". Ahmad has also been fined 200,000 Swiss francs (\$220,000) by FIFA for the misdeeds, which related to "the organization and financing of an Umrah pilgrimage to Mecca" and his involvement in CAF's dealings with a sports equipment company. The 60-year-old, who last week stood down from his post for 20 days after testing positive for coronavirus, can appeal the ban "from all football-related activity" at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). — AFP

Rangers move 11 points clear

GLASGOW: Rangers moved 11 points clear at the top of the Scottish Premiership with a 4-0 demolition of under-strength Aberdeen on Sunday. Steven Gerrard's men remain unbeaten in 21 games this season and took full advantage of Celtic's latest slip up in dropping two points against Hibernian on Saturday. First-half goals from Ryan Kent and Kemar Roobe put the hosts in command at Ibrox before Scott Arfield's deflected third and James Tavernier converted his ninth penalty of the season. "We played some incredible stuff again. Some of our movement in the final third was exceptional. We are showing that relentlessness and really executing when we get in the right places," said Gerrard. "We were strong from start to finish and I managed to make five changes and look after people who have been doing a lot of travel. As far as I'm concerned, I'm extremely happy." — AFP

All Blacks out silence 'haters'

SYDNEY: Lock Patrick Tuipulotu said yesterday the All Blacks want a win against Argentina this weekend to silence the "haters" who targeted coach Ian Foster after their shock loss to Los Pumas. Tuipulotu said the players owed Foster a strong performance in Saturday's Tri Nations clash after the coach bore the brunt of criticism for the 25-15 defeat on November 14, which followed a loss to Australia the previous week. "The coach is the face of the squad and is always going to get the blame if we lose two in a row," the Auckland Blues tight forward told a conference call. "It's on us to get a result and perform well so that when he's in the firing line it's for good stuff, from a good win. "It is what it is in this day and age - you're going to get a lot of haters, as we call them." — AFP

Spurs confirm COVID losses

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur suffered a net loss of 63.9 million pounds (\$85.45 million) in the last financial year as the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted schedules and forced games to be played in empty stadiums, the Premier League club said yesterday. Spurs said revenue for the year ended June 30 was 402.4 million pounds, down from 460.7 million pounds in the previous year. Television and media revenue decreased from 149.9 million pounds last year to 95.2 million pounds this year as a result of revenue being deferred to the 2020-21 season for games played after the year's end. Spurs' net debt rose from 534.3 million pounds to 604.6 million pounds. "We are currently in the midst of one of the most challenging times ever experienced," chairman Daniel Levy said. — Reuters

Fluminense beat Inter 2-1

PORTO ALEGRE: Fluminense came from behind to win 2-1 away at Internacional on Sunday, with one of their goals coming directly from a corner, denting their hosts' title chances and bringing themselves into contention as potential challengers. Caio Paulista got the winner for Fluminense with nine minutes left, lifting them into fifth place in the table, one point behind Inter in fourth and four behind joint leaders Atletico Mineiro and Flamengo. Inter had taken the lead through Mauricio with a quarter of an hour on the clock only for Lucca to equalize 12 minutes into the second half with a goal scored direct from a corner. The win came broke a run of two consecutive defeats for the Rio de Janeiro side. — Reuters

Sports

'On fire' Liverpool respond in style to the injury crisis

Injury-hit Liverpool keep setting records, trounce Leicester 3-0

LIVERPOOL: Jurgen Klopp hailed Liverpool's response to an injury crisis that left him without eight first-team regulars as a dominant 3-0 win over Leicester moved the English champions level on points with Premier League leaders Tottenham. Klopp was without Virgil van Dijk, Joe Gomez, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Jordan Henderson, Thiago Alcantara, Xherdan Shaqiri and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain through injury, while top scorer Mohamed Salah was absent due to a positive coronavirus test.

However, the Reds swept aside a Leicester team who had started the weekend on top of the table to set a new club record of 64 league games unbeaten at Anfield. "Very (satisfying), because we deserved it 100 percent," said Klopp. "The boys played an incredible game against a top opponent."

"Playing them like that tonight, I do not take for granted. The boys were on fire." James Milner again proved his worth as a utility man as the 34-year-old filled in at right-back and midfield after another injury to Naby Keita in the second-half. Milner also provided two assists from corners as from his delivery Jonny Evans's own goal opened the floodgates. Diogo Jota then became the first Liverpool player to score in his first four home league games when he headed home Andy Robertson's inch-perfect cross.

Kasper Schmeichel in the Leicester goal kept the score down as he made a series of second-half saves, notably from Sadio Mane and Jota, while Evans had a lucky escape as the post prevented him from scoring a second own goal. Roberto Firmino thought he had been denied just his third league goal in 24 games

when the Brazilian's shot came back off the post and his follow-up was cleared by Marc Albrighton with just 10 millimeters of the ball not over the line.

But Firmino rounded off a brilliant team performance by rising highest to meet another Milner corner. "What people say about him is ridiculous," said Klopp, responding to calls for Firmino to be dropped for Jota when Salah returns. "You cannot be closer to the goal than he was tonight. It was exactly the right goalscorer. We were so happy for him, he played outstanding tonight." Another muscle injury suffered by Keita was the only negative for Klopp on a night when his side showed they will not give up their title easily despite losing centre-backs Van Dijk and Gomez for the rest of the season.

Leicester boss Brendan Rodgers has now lost all three meetings against his former club and just like the previous meeting between the sides, which Liverpool won 4-0 in December, the Foxes were shown the gulf they have to bridge to become title contenders. The end to a six-game winning run sees Leicester fall back to fourth, two points off the top. "First-half we were too passive in our play," said Rodgers. "To concede two goals from set plays is disappointing."

Before kick-off Liverpool paid tribute to former goalkeeper Ray Clemence, who died aged 72 after a long battle with prostate cancer this week. Alisson Becker wore a replica of Clemence's jersey from the 1981 European Cup final win over Real Madrid in the warm-up, while his former teammates Kenny Dalglish and Ian Rush paid their respects from the stands. And two of Liverpool's greatest ever players



LIVERPOOL: Leicester City's Danish goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel (left) fights for the ball with Liverpool's Brazilian midfielder Roberto Firmino during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Leicester City at Anfield on November 22, 2020. —AFP

also got the chance to show their appreciation to the current crop, who surpassed the club record they helped set in 63 unbeaten home league games

between 1978 and 1981. Klopp's men remain unbeaten at Anfield in the Premier League since April 2017. —AFP

Lille sink Lorient 4-0, revive pursuit of PSG

PARIS: Turkey international Yusuf Yazici struck twice as Lille ended a three-game winless run in Ligue 1 with a 4-0 victory over Lorient that cut Paris Saint-Germain's lead at the top to two points. Yazici slotted home from a Jonathan Bamba pass to put Lille ahead on 28 minutes before flicking in a Jonathan David cross to double the advantage early in the second half.

The midfielder then turned provider for Luiz Araujo to add a third for Lille on the hour, with Jonathan David notching his long-awaited first goal for the club in the closing stages. It has been a slow start to life in France for David, who was one of the biggest signings made by a Ligue 1 club in the summer as Lille paid a reported 27 million euros (\$32 million) to recruit the 20-year-old Canada forward from

Belgian side Gent. Christophe Galtier's side reclaimed second place from Lyon, who beat Angers 1-0 earlier in the day courtesy of a late winner from Zimbabwe striker Tino Kadewere.

Montpellier beat Strasbourg 4-3 in a dramatic match to join Lyon and Monaco on 20 points, four adrift of PSG. Defending champions PSG blew a two-goal lead to lose 3-2 at Monaco on Friday and hand the chasing pack the chance to close the gap. Lyon, semi-finalists in last season's Champions League, took advantage, but needed an 80th-minute winner from Kadewere. "We came to win and take second and we did it," said Lyon coach Rudi Garcia. "It wasn't our best game but we've had matches when we had lots of chances but didn't win, so that balances it out."

The 24-year-old Kadewere, a close-season arrival from second-tier outfit Le Havre, has scored four Ligue 1 goals this term. Montpellier, the 2012 champions, led 2-0 through early goals from Pedro Mendes and Andy Delort, but Strasbourg hit back with a brace of penalties from Kenny Lala and Habib Diallo. Former Wigan



LILLE: Lille's Croatian defender Domagoj Bradaric (left) fights for the ball with Lorient's French defender Houboulang Mendes during the French L1 football match between Lille OSC and FC Lorient at the Pierre-Mauroy stadium in Lille on November 22, 2020. —AFP

Athletic striker Delort restored the hosts' advantage, and although Ludovic Ajorcle leveled on the stroke of half-time, Gaetan Laborde had the

final say midway through the second period. Sixth-placed Marseille are only six points off the pace with two games in hand. —AFP

Kansas City book MLS Cup playoff clash with Minnesota

LOS ANGELES: Kansas City goalkeeper Tim Melia stopped three straight San Jose penalties as Sporting trounced the Earthquakes 3-0 in a shootout to advance in the MLS Cup playoffs following a 3-3 draw after extra time. Kansas City, top seeds in Major League Soccer's Western Conference, saw Johnny Russell, Ilie Sanchez and Khiry Shelton convert in the shootout to snag the win. Melia, meanwhile, dived left to deny Oswaldo Alanis then went right to stop both Jackson Yueill and Cristian Espinoza.

Melia improved to 6-0 in career shootouts. Four of those came with Sporting and two with lower-division Rochester and Charleston against MLS competition in

the US Open Cup. The 34-year-old went into the contest having allowed just 14 of 26 penalty attempts he has faced, the lowest percentage in MLS history. "Everybody out here can hit penalties, but the one thing is, Timmy can save them," Sporting coach Peter Vermes said. "I've never seen that before, in any game, ever." Melia said penalty shootouts are "different than penalties in a game."

"You're trying to pick up little cues, you're trying to see what directions people are looking, tendencies of the shooter, their run-up, their approach," he said. "I think it's just another piece. You try to be the most complete goalkeeper you are and you try to work on all different facets of your game." Kansas City, who missed the post-season last year as they finished 11th in the West, booked a Western Conference semi-final showdown with Minnesota United, who defeated the Colorado Rapids 3-0. Neither Sporting nor the Earthquakes could find a goal in extra time after a frantic finish to regulation.

Sporting appeared to have won when Gianluca Busio

scored one minute into second-half stoppage time. But Chris Wondolowski, MLS's all-time leading goalscorer, made it 3-3 seven minutes into injury time, drifting to the back post to head home a left-footed cross from Cristian Espinoza. Although Wondolowski has a league-record 166 regular-season goals, it was just his second in the post-season. Busio had put Sporting up 3-2, the 18-year-old seizing upon a ball flicked back from Shelton and firing a right-footed shot into the goal.

Sporting had taken the lead in the fourth minute with a Roger Espinoza's header off a corner kick. Sanchez also scored for Kansas City on a set-piece in the 47th minute, making it 2-2. San Jose had responded to Sporting's early goal with two first-half strikes. Cristian Espinoza crossed from the right flank to set up Carlos Fierro, who fired a left-footed shot that spun in off another player in the 22nd minute. San Jose took a 2-1 lead in the 34th, Cristian Espinoza again playing a role as he raced up the right side and found Shea Salinas near the penalty spot. —AFP

Hulk hits winner for Shanghai SIPG, Cannavaro fumes

DOHA: Brazil star Hulk converted a late second-half penalty as Shanghai SIPG defeated two-time champions Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors 2-1 in their Asian Champions League clash on Sunday. It was the Chinese side's second straight win in the competition having scored an identical victory over Sydney FC in Group H, while Jeonbuk suffered their second loss in three matches and are faced with an uphill battle for survival.

In an earlier match on Sunday, Chinese giants Guangzhou Evergrande and South Korea's Suwon Samsung Bluewings had scrapped their way to a goalless draw in Group G, the first stalemate witnessed in the bio-secure bubble in Doha in four days of action. The result left Guangzhou coach Fabio Cannavaro fuming, who took his players to task, saying "this is not our style" of play.

Meanwhile Hulk, who recently completed 100 appearances for Shanghai SIPG since he joined them in 2016, was a constant source of threat for the Jeonbuk defense at the Khalifa International Stadium, rebuilt

for the FIFA World Cup in 2022. The long-haired forward stepped up to blast the ball into the net after fellow Brazilian Oscar, who had a clear path to the goal, was brought down as a last resort in the 82nd minute. The fast-paced match saw both sides creating chances but it was SIPG who struck first to take the lead after 11 minutes.

Goalkeeper Chen Wei's long clearance found Lyu Wenjun and the forward stayed cool to control the ball and drill it home with a crisp low finish. Shanghai SIPG's lead didn't last long as Brazilian Gustavo struck on his competition debut in the 24th minute following an excellent move down the right flank followed by a defense-splitting cross from Kim Bo-Kyung. Both sides had opportunities after that before Hulk's strike sealed the contest in the Chinese side's favor. Guangzhou meanwhile, had been brimming with confidence ahead of their first match in the competition despite being dethroned as Chinese Super League champions by first-time winners



DOHA: Guangzhou's forward Aloisio (right) is tackled by Suwon's midfielder Han Suk-Jong during the AFC Champions League group G football match between Korea's Suwon Samsung Bluewings and China's Guangzhou Evergrande on November 22, 2020. —AFP

Jiangsu Suning earlier this month.

Cannavaro 'not happy'

At his pre-match press conference in Doha on Saturday, Cannavaro had talked about how Guangzhou's standing as two-time continental winners in the past 10 years made them "one of the best teams in Asia". But after their opening draw in Group E, Cannavaro seemed highly perturbed. "Of course I

am not happy, not about the result, but about the performance because this is not our style," fumed Cannavaro, who was FIFA World Player of the Year as well as the Ballon d'Or winner in 2006. "We didn't control the ball, we didn't create chances and we didn't try to score. "You play against strong teams and if you don't give 110 percent in every game, you cannot win." —AFP

Kruse grabs Union's winner after missing penalty record

BERLIN: Union Berlin striker Max Kruse endured a bittersweet evening on Sunday as he scored the winner in a 2-1 win away to Cologne but missed the chance to break a 37-year-old Bundesliga record. Having never previously missed a penalty in the league, the 32-year-old looked set to become the first player ever to score 17 out of 17 spot-kicks in the German top flight. Kruse's hopes of making history were dashed when his second-half penalty was saved by Cologne keeper Timo Horn, but he bundled in the rebound to seal the three points for Union. "It's always worked out for me from the spot in the last seven or eight years. It's a shame I didn't break the record, but it went in at the second attempt, which makes it easier to swallow," said Kruse. The win sees high-flying minnows Union defend fifth place and extend their unbeaten run to seven games.

Liverpool loanee Taiwo Awoniyi gave the Berliners the lead midway through a scrappy first half, the Nigerian striker holding off two defenders in the box to prod home his first goal for Union since joining from Anfield last summer. Cheered on by the eerie sound of crowd noise being played over loudspeaker by a handful of creative supporters outside the ground, the home side snatched an equaliser through Ellyes Skhiri shortly before half-time.

With 20 minutes to go, Marcus Ingvartsen was brought down in the Cologne box, giving team-mate Kruse the chance to make history from 12 yards. Despite ruining his spotless record from the spot, Kruse kept a cool head to restore Union's lead on the rebound. Cologne, who hit the post in stoppage time, are now without a win in 18 league games, in a barren run which stretches back to March. With just three points from eight games this season, Markus Gisdof's side sit second from bottom.

They were leapfrogged by fellow strugglers Mainz on Sunday, who picked up their first win of the season thanks to a Jean-Philippe Mateta hat-trick. The young French striker scored three first-half goals as Mainz shook off their early-season blues to cruise to a 3-1 victory away to Freiburg. The 23-year-old notched up his second hat-trick of the season to take his tally to 10 goals in all competitions. "I'm very happy about my three goals but the three points are the most important thing. This was a team victory," said Mateta. Mateta opened the scoring after just 61 seconds, breaking Freiburg's high line to pick up a Leandro Barreiro through ball and stroke it past former team-mate Florian Mueller in the Freiburg goal. —AFP

Live		Matches on TV
		(Local Timings)
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE		
Stade Rennais v Chelsea	20:55	beIN Sports HD 1
FK Krasnodar v Sevilla FC	20:55	beIN Sports HD 2
Juventus FC v Ferencvarosi TC	23:00	beIN Sports HD 3
Dynamo Kiev v FC Barcelona	23:00	beIN Sports HD 1
Borussia Dortmund v Club Brugge	23:00	beIN Sports HD 5
SS Lazio v Zenit St. Petersburg	23:00	beIN Sports HD 4
Paris Saint-Germain v RB Leipzig	23:00	beIN Sports HD 6
Man United v Istanbul Basaksehir	23:00	beIN Sports HD 2

14 Medvedev storms back to claim ATP Finals title



15 Lille sink Lorient 4-0, revive pursuit of PSG



15 'On fire' Liverpool respond in style to the injury crisis



Hill lifts Saints over Falcons

Steelers remain unbeaten with 27-3 win over Jaguars



NEW ORLEANS: Michael Thomas #13 of the New Orleans Saints makes the catch for the first down as Ricardo Allen #37 of the Atlanta Falcons defends in the third quarter at Mercedes-Benz Superdome on November 22, 2020. — AFP

NEW YORK: Taysom Hill rushed for two touchdowns and the host New Orleans Saints won their seventh consecutive game by defeating the Atlanta Falcons 24-9 on Sunday afternoon. Hill made his first NFL start at quarterback as Drew Brees began at least a three-game absence due to rib and lung injuries. Hill completed 18 of 23 passes for 233 yards and had scoring runs of 2 and 10 yards among his team-high 51 rushing yards as the NFC South-leading Saints improved to 8-2.

New Orleans plays its next three games on the road, including a rematch with the Falcons in two weeks. Alvin Kamara added a rushing touchdown and All-Pro receiver Michael Thomas caught nine of Hill's passes for 104 yards. The Saints sacked Matt Ryan eight times, including three by Cameron Jordan and two each by fellow end Trey Hendrickson and tackle David Onyemata, as the Falcons fell to 3-7 overall and 3-2 under interim head coach Raheem Morris.

Washington 20, Bengals 9

The Washington Football Team broke a two-game slide and dispatched visiting Cincinnati at Landover, Md, in a game marred by a left knee injury to Bengals' rookie quarterback Joe Burrow. Burrow was carted off the field after the injury early in the third quarter. He went down after getting hit below the waist while another defender hit him high from the opposite side on a throw. Players from both teams offered words to Burrow as he was treated and taken off, including Washington quarterback Alex Smith. With the game still in progress, Burrow tweeted: "Thanks for all the love. Can't get rid of me that easy. See ya next year." Smith, just two years removed from his own gruesome leg injury, completed 17 of 25 passes for 166 yards with a touchdown and an interception in his first home start this year for Washington (3-7). The Bengals (2-7-1) went with Ryan Finley (3 of 10, 30 yards, interception) after Burrow's injury.

Colts 34, Packers 31 (OT)

Rodrigo Blankenship kicked fourth field



BALTIMORE: Cornerback Malcolm Butler #21 of the Tennessee Titans tackles wide receiver Dez Bryant #88 of the Baltimore Ravens during the second half at M&T Bank Stadium on November 22, 2020. — AFP

goals—including a game-ending 39-yarder with 7:10 to go in overtime—as host Indianapolis rallied to defeat Green Bay. Packers receiver Marquez Valdes-Scantling fumbled a screen pass from Aaron Rodgers on the opening possession of OT to give the Colts the ball deep inside Packers territory. Philip Rivers was 24 of 36 for 288 yards, three touchdowns and an interception for the Colts (7-3), who outscored the Packers 20-3 in the second half and overtime. Rodgers was 27 of 38 for 311 yards, three touchdowns and an interception, one of four turnovers for Green Bay (7-3).

Browns 22, Eagles 17

Sione Takitaki returned an interception for a touchdown and Olivier Vernon had three sacks and a safety to lift Cleveland past visiting Philadelphia at rainy FirstEnergy Stadium. Nick Chubb rushed for 114 yards and Kareem Hunt scored from 5 yards out for the Browns (7-3), who are off to their best 10-game start since going 8-2 in 1994. Cleveland's victory over Philadelphia snapped a five-game losing streak in the series. Carson Wentz threw for 235 yards with two touchdowns and a pair of interceptions

for the Eagles (3-6-1), who had 315 total yards and three turnovers en route to losing their second consecutive contest.

Panthers 20, Lions 0

Carolina posted its first shutout in five years and second-string quarterback PJ Walker orchestrated enough offense to down visiting Detroit in Charlotte, NC. Walker, a former NFL player making his first start in the NFL, completed 24 of 34 passes for 258 yards and one touchdown. He was intercepted twice, both times in the end zone after the Panthers had the ball inside the Detroit 10-yard line. The Panthers played without starting QB Teddy Bridgewater and standout running back Christian McCaffrey, who both missed due to injury. Carolina (4-7) snapped a five-game losing streak by winning for the second time this season at home. Lions quarterback Matt Stafford, who wore a protective wrap on his right thumb, completed 18 of 33 passes for 178 yards. He was sacked five times. Detroit (4-6) finished with just 185 yards of total offense.

Steelers 27, Jaguars 3

Ben Roethlisberger passed for 267

yards and two touchdowns as visiting Pittsburgh overcame a slow start to remain unbeaten with a win over Jacksonville. Pittsburgh (10-0) remains the lone unbeaten team in the NFL. Roethlisberger was 32 of 46 with touchdown passes to Chase Claypool and Eric Ebron. Diontae Johnson had 12 catches for 111 yards. Benny Snell added a touchdown run.

Titans 30, Ravens 24 (OT)

Derrick Henry's 29-yard touchdown run with 5:21 left in overtime Sunday capped a Tennessee rally from a 21-10 third-quarter deficit that started after host Baltimore at M&T Bank Stadium. Henry, who finished with 133 yards on 28 carries, jump-cut from left to right around a tackler and sped into the end zone for his second walk-off score of the year. It finished a 73-yard drive that started after the Ravens (6-4) went three-and-out with their overtime possession. Ryan Tannehill completed 22 of 31 passes for 259 yards with two touchdowns and an interception for Tennessee (7-3). Lamar Jackson connected on 17 of 29 throws for 186 yards with a touchdown and a pick for the Ravens. Baltimore forced overtime when Justin Tucker converted his third field goal of the day, a 29-yarder with 15 seconds left in regulation.

Chargers 34, Jets 28

Justin Herbert threw for 366 yards and three touchdowns to lead Los Angeles to a 34-28 victory over winless New York on Sunday at Inglewood, Calif. Keenan Allen caught a franchise-record 16 passes for 145 yards and a touchdown for the Chargers (3-7) as Herbert became the first NFL rookie to throw at least three touchdowns in five or more games. He was 37 of 49 without an interception. Joe Flacco completed 15 of 30 passes for 205 yards and two touchdowns for the Jets (0-10), who extended their longest single-season losing streak in franchise history. Los Angeles built a 31-13 lead on Herbert's third touchdown pass of the game, a 13-yarder to Allen, with 5:33 left in the third quarter.

Texans 27, Patriots 20

Deshaun Watson passed for 344

yards and totaled three touchdowns while Houston's beleaguered run defense held firm in the victory over visiting New England at NRG Stadium. The Texans (3-7) amassed 399 yards and averaged 7.1 yards per play. Ka'imi Fairbairn boot-ed field goals of 36 and 46 yards in the second half to help keep the Patriots (4-6) at bay. New England twice rallied to within four points in the second half but could not secure the lead. Cam Newton passed for 365 yards, including a 42-yard touchdown to Damiere Byrd in the third quarter, his first touchdown toss to a Patriots wide receiver this season.

Broncos 20, Dolphins 13

Melvin Gordon III rushed for 84 yards and two touchdowns, Phillip Lindsay ran for 82 yards, and host Denver snapped Miami's five-game winning streak. Drew Lock overcame an early interception to throw for 270 yards on 18-for-30 passing. Tim Patrick had five receptions for 119 yards for Denver (4-6), which ended a two-game losing streak. Tua Tagovailoa was 11-for-20 passing for 83 yards and a touchdown for the Dolphins (6-4) before being replaced by Ryan Fitzpatrick in the fourth quarter. Fitzpatrick was 12-for-18 for 117 yards and an interception, which came in the Broncos' end zone with 1:03 left to end a comeback bid.

Cowboys 31, Vikings 28

Andy Dalton threw a go-ahead touchdown pass to Dalton Schultz with 1:37 to go, and Dallas snapped a four-game losing streak by beating host Minnesota in Minneapolis. Dalton completed 22 of 32 passes for 203 yards, three touchdowns and one interception for the Cowboys (3-7). Ezekiel Elliott had 21 carries for 103 yards to go along with a receiving touchdown. The loss spoiled a standout performance by Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins, who completed 22 of 30 passes for 314 yards and three touchdowns. Adam Thielen had eight catches for 123 yards and two touchdowns for Minnesota (4-6), which had a three-game winning streak snapped. — Reuters