



## 4 Industrial Shuwaikh engulfed in darkness



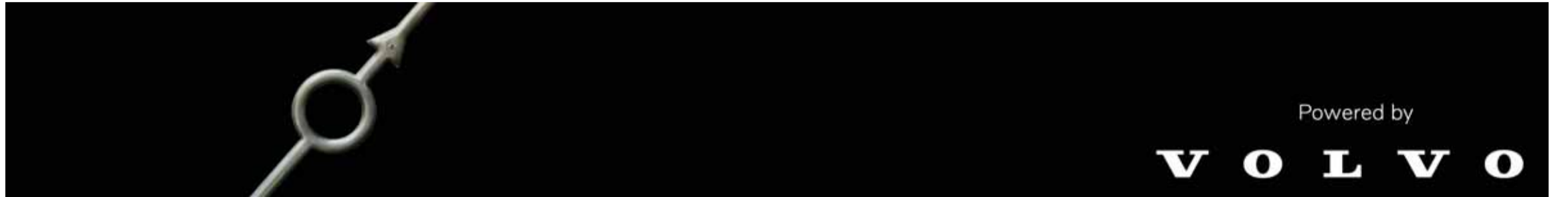
## 5 Egypt town fears worst for men lost en route to Europe



## 13 Private pools, fancy meals in Thailand's luxury quarantine



## 15 Liverpool, Manchester Utd lick wounds after humbling defeats



# Amir extends gratitude over condolences for late Amir

### Sheikh Nawaf thanks leaders, sheikhs, editors-in-chief, nationals, expats



KUWAIT: The headstone of the grave of HH the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is seen at Sulaibikhat Cemetery.

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday expressed appreciation and gratitude to world leaders, including of Gulf Cooperation Council and Arab states, along with heads of regional and international organizations for their heartfelt condolences extended to Kuwait by letter or through attendance on the demise of HH the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf also expressed appreciation and gratitude to senior officials, sheikhs, nationals and expatriates for their heartfelt condolences extended through various means of communication over the demise of HH the late Amir Sheikh Sabah. Gratitude was also extended to local newspaper editors-in-chief, local official and private media bodies, NGOs and charity organizations.

The officials and sheikhs mentioned

include National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, Kuwait National Guard Commander HH Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, KNG Deputy Commander Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, along with sheikhs, ministers and lawmakers.

The international organizations mentioned include the United Nations, Arab League, Organization of the Islamic Conference, Gulf Cooperation Council, NATO, World Health Organization, FAO, UNICEF, UNRWA and UNDP. Heads of agencies operating under the umbrellas of the UN and Arab League and heads of international charity bodies and NGOs were included in his praise. — KUNA



HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

### News in brief

#### Oman reinstates envoy in Syria

DUBAI: Oman has sent an ambassador to Syria, becoming the first Gulf Arab state to do so after they downgraded or shut missions in Damascus in 2012 over attacks by the government there on protests at the start of what turned into a war. Syria's foreign minister on Sunday accepted the credentials of Oman's Ambassador Turki bin Mahmood Al-Busaidi, appointed to the post in a royal decree in March, state news agency ONA said. — AFP

#### UAE granting some work permits

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates has resumed granting work permits for foreigners employed by government and semi-government entities as well as entry permits for domestic workers, the National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority said in a Twitter post yesterday. The UAE had in March suspended the issuance of all types of labor permits as part of measures to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus. — Reuters

#### Record 235 Iran virus deaths

TEHRAN: Iran yesterday announced 235 new fatalities from the novel coronavirus in the past 24 hours, a figure equaling the record high set nearly 10 weeks ago. The Islamic republic also announced a new record for the number of COVID-19 infections in a single day, for the second time in less than a week. Health ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said the 235 deaths had brought the total number of fatalities to 27,192. Lari added 3,902 new infections were recorded in the past 24 hours, raising the country's overall caseload to 475,674. — AFP

#### 103-yr-old survives COVID-19

MEXICO CITY: A 103-year-old Mexican woman suffering from a chronic pulmonary disease has survived a bout of COVID-19, the Mexican Social Security Institute announced. The institute said the woman, identified only as Dona Maria, had been hospitalized for 11 days. She had tested positive for the virus but, despite her pulmonary problems, did not have other aggravating factors such as diabetes, obesity or high blood pressure. — AFP

## Trio win Nobel for discovery of Hepatitis C

STOCKHOLM: Americans Harvey Alter and Charles Rice together with Briton Michael Houghton won the Nobel Medicine Prize yesterday for the discovery of the Hepatitis C virus, paving the way for a cure, the Nobel jury said. The three were honored for their "decisive contribution to the fight against blood-borne hepatitis, a major global health problem that causes cirrhosis and liver cancer in people around the world," the jury said.

The World Health Organization estimates there are around 70 million

Hepatitis C infections globally, causing around 400,000 deaths each year. It is characterized by poor appetite, vomiting, fatigue and jaundice. Thanks to the trio's discoveries, highly sensitive blood tests for the virus are now available and these have "essentially eliminated post-transfusion hepatitis in many parts of the world, greatly improving global health", the Nobel committee said.

Their discoveries allowed the rapid development of antiviral drugs directed at Hepatitis C. "For the first time in history, the disease can now be cured, raising hopes of eradicating Hepatitis C virus from the world population," the jury said. Alter, 85, told Swedish Radio he was stunned to receive an early-morning call from the committee, saying it was "mind-boggling".

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STOCKHOLM: A screen displays the winners of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (from left) American Harvey Alter, Briton Michael Houghton and American Charles Rice during a press conference at the Karolinska Institute yesterday. — AFP

## Outrage after Trump visits supporters

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump sparked an angry backlash from the medical community Sunday with a protocol-breaking visit to his supporters outside the hospital where he is being treated for the highly-infectious, potentially deadly new coronavirus. He was masked as he waved from inside his bulletproof vehicle during the short trip outside Walter Reed military medical center near Washington, which appeared designed to take back the narrative on his improving health after a week-

end of muddled messaging from his doctors.

The last-minute limousine outing came with Trump's doctors satisfied enough about his progress to suggest the possibility of his being discharged yesterday. But experts complained that the outing broke his own government's public health guidelines requiring patients to isolate while they are in treatment and still shedding virus - and endangered his Secret Service protection.

Trump, who has been repeatedly rebuked for flouting public health guidelines and spreading misinformation on the pandemic, said in a video that dropped on Twitter just before the appearance that he had "learned a lot about COVID" by "really going to school" as he has battled the virus.

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BETHESDA, Maryland: A car with US President Trump drives past supporters in a motorcade outside Walter Reed Medical Center on Sunday. — AFP

## Devils released on Aussie mainland

SYDNEY: Tasmanian devils have been released into the wild on Australia's mainland 3,000 years after the feisty marsupials went extinct there, in what conservationists described yesterday as a "historic" step. Aussie Ark, along with a coalition of other conservation groups, revealed yesterday that they had released 26 of the carnivorous mammals into a 400-

hectare sanctuary at Barrington Tops, about 3.5 hours north of Sydney.

Tim Faulkner, president of Aussie Ark, said the "historic" releases in July and September were the first steps in a project akin to the successful move to return wolves to Yellowstone National Park in the United States in the 1990s. After 16 years of work, including the establishment of mainland Australia's largest Tasmanian devil breeding program, Faulkner said it was "incredible and surreal" to have reached the goal.

"It's the stuff dreams are made of," he told AFP. "Our biggest native mainland predator is the tiger

quoll - and they're just over a kilo - so to be bringing back something of this enormity is huge." Tasmanian devils, which weigh up to 8 kg and have a black or brown coat, typically prey on other native animals or scavenge carcasses. According to government environmental authorities, devils are not dangerous to humans or livestock but will defend themselves if attacked and can cause serious injury.

The animals - known for their extremely loud growl, powerful jaws and ferocity when confronting rivals over food or mates - are classified as endangered after a contagious facial tumor disease

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## Local

## World leaders in Kuwait to offer condolences



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani. — Amiri Diwan photos

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at the Amiri Terminal yesterday several presidents and heads of states, who arrived in Kuwait to offer condolences on the passing of the late Amir His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

## Afghanistan

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani and his accompanying delegation, who paid their respects and expressed condolences on the passing of His Highness Sheikh Sabah.

## Lebanon

Lebanese President Michel Aoun and his accompanying delegation also arrived at the Amiri Terminal to meet His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-

Jaber Al-Sabah and offer condolences on the late Amir's passing.

## Mauritania

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received President of Mauritania Mohamed Ould Ghazouani and his accompanying delegation who expressed condolences on Sheikh Sabah's passing.

## Pakistan

Furthermore, Pakistan's President Arif Alvi and his delegation arrived in Kuwait and met with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the Amiri Terminal, where they offered condolences over the late Amir's demise.

## Yemen

Moreover, Yemeni President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi and his accompanying delegation



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Lebanese President Michel Aoun.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Pakistan's President Arif Alvi.

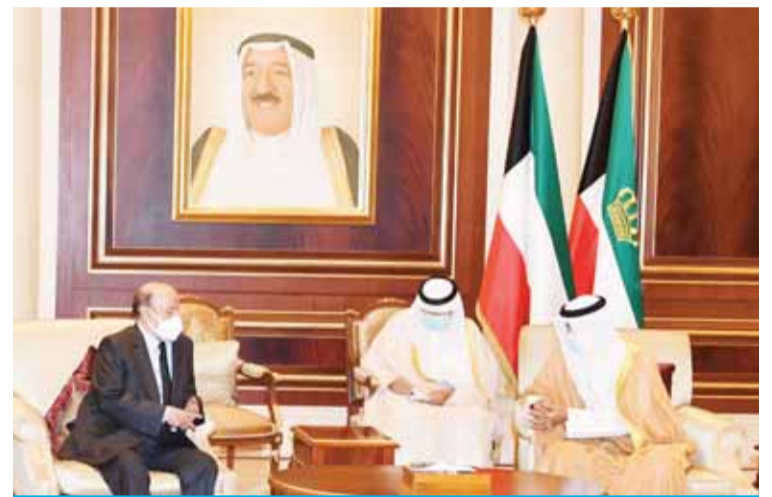
offered condolences on Sheikh Sabah's passing during a meeting with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the Amiri

Terminal.

The presidents also offered condolences to Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem, Deputy Chief of the



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets President of Mauritania Mohamed Ould Ghazouani.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Yemeni President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi.

Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Sheikh Mishal Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah,

His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and other figures. — KUNA

## Devils released on Aussie mainland...

Continued from Page 1

ravaged the remaining population on the Australian island state of Tasmania. It is estimated that fewer than 25,000 Tasmanian devils still live in the wild, down from as many as 150,000 before the mysterious, fatal disease first struck in the mid-1990s. On Australia's mainland, they are believed to have been wiped out by packs of dingoes - wild dogs native to the vast continent - an estimated 3,000 years ago.

Faulkner said it was hoped the project would create an "insurance population" against the face-tumor disease, which has so far proved untreatable, and help restore the native environment. "Devils present one of the only natural solutions to the control of fox and the cat, and the fox and cat are responsible for nearly all of our 40 mammal extinctions (in Australia)," he added. "So there's more than the devil at stake here."

Aussie Ark selected the reintroduced devils for their breeding suitability, placing them in the sprawling, fenced area in the hopes of warding off threats to their survival including feral pests, noxious weeds and cars. "We've put young, healthy devils in, we put them in now which gives them the best part of six months to settle, find their territory (and) prepare for breeding" which usually occurs in February, Faulkner said.

Another 40 are set to be released over the next two years into the sanctuary, which is on land bought by Aussie Ark for its habitat suitability, high number of herbivores and location near a national park. "The



BARRINGTON TOPS, Australia: This undated handout photo shows actors Chris Hemsworth and Elsa Pataky releasing Tasmanian devils into a wild sanctuary in New South Wales state. — AFP

land initially was selected because it's just like a slice of Tasmania," Faulkner said. He said he was confident that close monitoring as the Tasmanian devils make the "massive transition" back to the wild - where they have no supplied food, water or shelter for the first time in their lives - would ensure the program's early success.

As part of the "ambitious" rewilding scheme, Aussie Ark plans to eventually introduce more of the animals to unfenced areas, where they will contend with a much greater range of new threats including the country's notorious bushfires. The Tasmanian devil is one of seven cornerstone species critical to Australia's ecosystem that Aussie Ark plans to reintroduce to the wild sanctuary in the coming years, along with quolls, bandicoots and rock wallabies. — AFP

## Assembly-govt meeting on population law postponed

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: A meeting between the National Assembly's human resources committee with the government to study amendments to the population law has been postponed for next week because the Cabinet weekly meeting was delayed.

The assembly approved the law in the first reading last week with all Cabinet's 12 members present voting against the law after the government objected to a number of points.

The law calls on the government to set a cap for the number of expats needed by the country within six months of issuing the law and asks the government to gradually reduce the number of expats over the next five years. It also requires the government to introduce quotas for various foreign communities in the country. The government has reportedly objected to the six-month period and also to setting specific quotas for expat communities.

The two sides were supposed to make the necessary amendments before sending the law back to the assembly to make its second and final vote on

the legislation that basically aims at substantially reducing the number of expats.

MP Mohammad Al-Dallal yesterday asked the Minister of Social Affairs Mariam Al-Aqeel about measures adopted by the ministry against employers who delay the payment of salaries to employees.

He demanded to know the number of labor complaints filed by individual or groups of workers in the private sector for not receiving their salaries or those who had their passports taken by employers since 2017. He asked for the names of companies which committed such violations.

In the meantime, MP Osama Al-Shaheen asked Interior Minister Anas Al-Saleh about Kuwait's readiness to face the danger of drones. The lawmaker was referring to a statement by a

Pentagon official saying Kuwait needs a comprehensive assessment to its system of countering drones.

Shaheen asked the minister about Kuwait's military and technical preparedness against the dangers of drones and in protecting vital installations and if Kuwait has devised a plan to protect its vital facilities against possible attacks by drones.



## Trio win Nobel for discovery...

Continued from Page 1

"I didn't even realize this was the day the Nobel Prizes were going to be given out," he added. "To see so many people get cured is astounding," he told the Nobel Foundation.

Prior to the trio's work, the discovery of the Hepatitis A and B viruses had been critical steps forward - the discovery of Hepatitis B won the Nobel Medicine Prize in 1976 - but the majority of blood-borne hepatitis cases remained unexplained. The discovery of Hepatitis C virus revealed the cause of the remaining cases of chronic hepatitis, and "made possible blood tests and new medicines that have saved millions of lives", the Nobel committee said.

Alter was credited for his pioneering work studying the occurrence of hepatitis in patients who had received blood transfusions, determining that their illness was neither Hepatitis A or B. Houghton built on Alter's work to isolate the genetic sequence of the new virus. Rice, 68, subsequently completed the puzzle by using genetic engineering to prove that it was the new strain alone - Hepatitis C - that was causing patients to get sick. The trio will share the prize sum of 10 million Swedish kronor (about \$1.1 million).

In 2013, Houghton reportedly declined Canada's Gairdner International Award because two of his key collaborators who worked with him at pharmaceutical group Chiron Corp were not included. Houghton, Alter and Rice would normally receive their prize from King Carl XVI Gustaf at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on Dec 10, the anniversary of the 1896 death of scientist Alfred Nobel who

created the prizes in his will. But the in-person ceremony has been cancelled this year due to the pandemic and replaced with a televised ceremony showing the laureates receiving their awards in their home countries.

The award for work on a virus comes as the world battles the new coronavirus pandemic, which has put the global spotlight on science and research. "The pandemic is a big crisis for mankind, but it illustrates how important science is," Nobel Foundation head Lars Heikensten said. No prizes were expected to be awarded this year directly linked to the coronavirus, as Nobel prize-winning research usually takes many years to be verified.

But Nobel medicine committee chair Patrik Ernfors said yesterday's prize was "relatively easy to relate to today's situation". "The first thing you need to do is to identify the causing virus, and once that has been done, that is in itself the starting point for the development of drugs to treat the disease and also to develop vaccines against the disorder. So the actual viral discovery itself is a critical moment."

The 2020 Nobel season continues today with the physics prize, with astrophysicists Shep Doeleman of the US and Germany's Heino Falcke seen as possible winners for work that led to the first directly observed image of a black hole in April 2019. American mathematician Peter Shor who paved the way for today's research on quantum computers, or France's Alain Aspect for his work on quantum entanglement, have also been mentioned.

The chemistry and literature prizes follow tomorrow and Thursday. Speculation ahead of Friday's peace prize has meanwhile focused on press freedom groups, Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg and other climate activists, or several UN organizations. The economics prize wraps things up on Monday, Oct 12. — AFP

## Outrage after Trump visits...

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But health experts took to the airwaves and social media to criticize the "stunt," which they said demonstrated that he had learned nothing at all.

"Every single person in the vehicle during that completely unnecessary Presidential 'drive-by' just now has to be quarantined for 14 days," said James Phillips, chief of disaster medicine at George Washington University. "They might get sick. They may die. For political theater. Commanded by Trump to put their lives at risk for theater. This is insanity."

White House spokesman Judd Deere said "appropriate" precautions had been taken to protect Trump and his support staff, including protective gear. "The movement was cleared by the medical team as safe to do," he added. But Zeke Emanuel, chair of the Department of Medical Ethics and Health Policy at the University of Pennsylvania and regular TV pundit, described the appearance as "shameful". "Making his Secret Service agents drive with a COVID-19 patient, with windows up no less, put them needlessly at risk for infection. And for what? A PR stunt," he tweeted.

The episode came hours after a briefing by Trump's medical team, who said he had "continued to improve" and could be returned to the White House, which has the facilities to treat and isolate the president, as early as yesterday. The president was flown to Walter Reed with a high fever on Friday after a "rapid progression" of his illness, with his oxygen levels dropping worryingly low, Trump's physician Sean Conley said in a Sunday briefing.

Health experts have complained that the messaging from the administration - and particularly Trump's medical team - has caused widespread confusion. Conley admitted Sunday that he had kept from the public the fact that the president had been given extra

oxygen, in a bid to reflect an "upbeat attitude". And he gave a rosy account of Trump's progress Saturday, only for White House chief of staff Mark Meadows to tell reporters immediately after that Trump's condition had been "very concerning" and that he was "still not on a clear path to a full recovery".

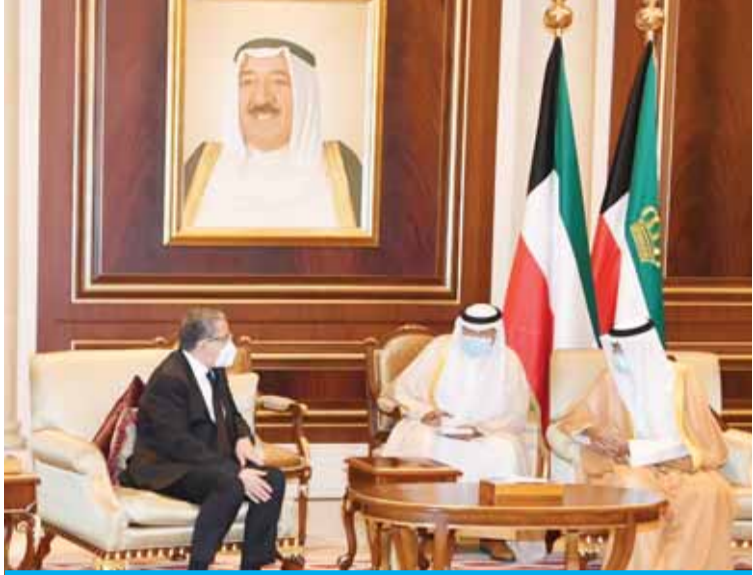
With his tough reelection campaign in its final month against Democratic rival Joe Biden, Trump's diagnosis and hospitalization have left him sidelined from what he does best - campaigning. Meanwhile, Biden - who announced Sunday his latest negative test for the virus - started the week with a trip yesterday to key swing state Florida.

But Trump and his advisors have done their best to project a sense of continuity. His deputy campaign manager Jason Miller told ABC Sunday he had spoken to Trump for a half-hour Saturday and that the president was "cracking jokes". But controversy has been mounting over the possibility that Trump might have exposed numerous others to COVID-19 even after a close aide tested positive.

A timeline provided by his advisors and doctors suggested he met more than 30 donors on Thursday in Bedminster, New Jersey, even after learning that Hope Hicks had the virus - and just hours before he announced his own positive test. There were more than 200 people at the fundraiser, and a contact-tracing operation underway in New Jersey was looking at potentially thousands of people who may have been exposed.

All this came in a week when a Wall Street Journal/NBC poll - taken in the two days after a bruising presidential debate with Biden but before news emerged of Trump's illness - gave Biden a significant 53-39 percent lead among registered voters. As well as Trump and Hicks, numerous White House insiders and at least three Republican senators have contracted COVID-19, along with First Lady Melania Trump, who has not experienced severe symptoms. Public health experts have expressed alarm at the "White House cluster" that has been linked to the Sept 26 Rose Garden celebration of conservative judge Amy Coney Barrett's nomination to the Supreme Court. — AFP

# Foreign govt representatives, public figures pay respects



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Algerian Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad. — Amiri Diwan photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets French Minister of the Armed Forces Florence Parly.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Prince Hussam bin Saud bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, governor of Saudi Arabia's Al-Bahah Province.

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at the Amiri Terminal representatives of presidents and governments of several states, as well as political and public figures of various countries, who arrived in Kuwait yesterday to offer condolences on the passing of the late Amir His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

#### Algeria

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received representative of the Algerian President Abdel Majeed Tabun, Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad and the accompanying delegation, who offered condolences over the passing of the late Amir.

#### Bangladesh

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also received representative of the Bangladeshi government, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and his accompanying delegation, who arrived in Kuwait to pay respects.

#### France

Furthermore, French Presidency's representative, French Minister of the Armed Forces Florence Parly arrived in Kuwait and offered condolences to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Sheikh Sabah's passing.

#### Iraq

Iraqi figure Ammar Al-Hakim and his accompanying delegation also met with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at

the Amiri Terminal, where they offered condolences on the late Amir's passing.

#### Italy

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also received representative of the Italian government, Secretary of the Council of Ministers Riccardo Fraccaro and his accompanying delegation, who paid their respects.

#### Morocco

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received the Moroccan Monarchy's representatives; Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ahmad Al-Tawfiq and Minister of Justice Mohammad Abdulqader, accompanied by an official delegation. The Moroccan figures expressed condolences over the passing of Kuwait's late Amir.

#### Qatar

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also received the Prime Minister of Qatar Sheikh Khaled bin Khalifa Al Thani, as well as Chairman of the Consultative Council of Qatar Ahmad bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud, accompanied by his official delegation. The Qatari officials offered condolences to His Highness the Amir over Sheikh Sabah's passing.

#### Saudi Arabia

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received several governors of Saudi provinces and cities, who arrived in Kuwait to offer condolences over the late Amir's passing.

#### Senegal

Senegalese Presidential representative, Foreign Minister Amadou Ba also arrived in Kuwait and paid respects during a meeting with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the Amiri Terminal. He was accompanied by a delegation of Senegalese officials.

#### Somalia

Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia Mohamed Hussein Roble and his accompanying delegation expressed their condolences during a meeting with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the Amiri Terminal.

#### South Korea

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also received South Korean Presidency's representative; Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport Kim Hyun-mi and her accompanying delegation. The South Korean official offered condolences on the passing of Kuwait's late Amir Sheikh Sabah.

The representatives also offered condolences to Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem, Deputy Chief of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Sheikh Mishal Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and other figures. — KUNA

### News in brief

#### French president consoles Amir

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Sunday a message of solace from French President Emmanuel Macron on the demise of the late Amir His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The French president lauded the late Amir for his generosity, well seen role in boosting relations between the two friendly countries and his contributions to achieve security and stability at the international and regional levels. Moreover, President Macron wished His Highness Sheikh Nawaf patience and endurance amid the distressing event. Reciprocating, His Highness the Amir sent President Macron a cable forwarding his gratitude for his true sentiments of sympathy and solidarity toward the calamity. — KUNA

#### Condolences from Indonesia

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Sunday a cable of condolence from the President of Indonesia Joko Widodo expressing his deepest sympathies to the nation on the passing of His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir responded with a cable thanking and appreciating the message for paying respects and homage for such a tragic occurrence taking place, while also wishing him good health and prosperity. — KUNA

#### Libya pays respects

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Sunday a cable of condolences from Chairman of the Presidential Council of the Government of National Accord (GNA) in Libya Fayez Mustafa Al-Sarraj, over the passing of the late Amir. In the cable, he sent his condolences to His Highness the Amir and to the people of Kuwait, commending the prominent role of the late Amir, with his constant contributions for the unity of the Arab and Islamic nations. His Highness the Amir sent a cable back, in which he thanked and appreciated the sympathetic message, wishing him wellness. — KUNA

#### Laos President expresses grief

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Sunday a cable of condolences from President of Laos Bounnhang Vorachith in which he expressed in the name of his country and people the deepest sorrow and condolences over the passing of His Highness Sheikh Sabah. His Highness Sheikh Nawaf replied with a cable to Vorachith, expressing His Highness' thanks and gratitude for his sincere condolences, and His Highness wished him everlasting health and wellness. — KUNA

#### Kurdistan President offers condolences

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Sunday received a letter of condolences from President of Kurdistan Region Nechirvan Barzani over Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's demise. In reply, His Highness the Amir sent a letter to Barzani, appreciating the heartfelt sentiments, wishing him everlasting good health. — KUNA

#### Sultan's spouse pays respects

**KUWAIT:** Spouse of the Sultan Haitham Bin Tareq of Oman on Sunday, and her accompanying delegation, offered condolences to women of Al-Sabah family on the demise of His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets South Korean Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport Kim Hyun-mi.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Italian Secretary of the Council of Ministers Riccardo Fraccaro.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Iraqi figure Ammar Al-Hakim.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Somalia's Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Moroccan Minister of Justice Mohammad Abdulqader.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets the Prime Minister of Qatar Sheikh Khaled bin Khalifa Al Thani.



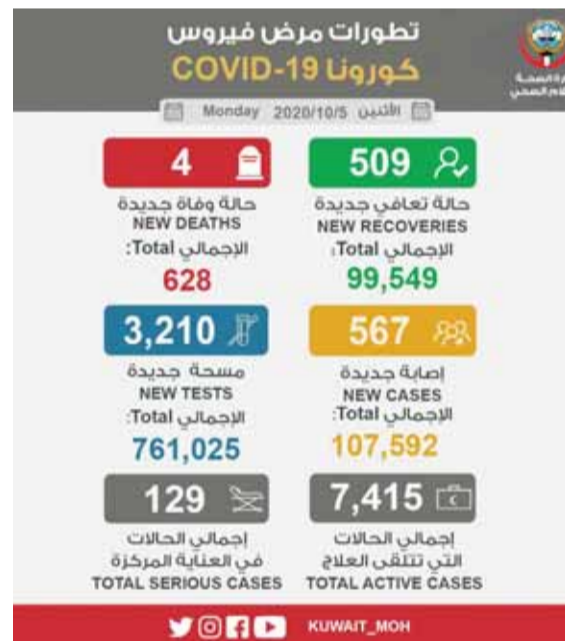
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Bangladeshi Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Senegal's Foreign Minister Amadou Ba.

## Kuwait COVID-19 cases rise by 567, deaths by four

KUWAIT: Kuwait's confirmed coronavirus cases increased by 567 to 107,592 with four people having succumbed to the disease, raising the death toll to 628 in the past 24 hours, the health ministry said yesterday. The figures include people who have come into contact with infected individuals, and others whose source of infection is currently being investigated, read a ministry statement. In terms of health zones, 135 cases were reported in Al-Ahmadi, 127 in Hawalli, 119 in Farwaniyah, 96 in the Capital and 90 in Jahra, the ministry's official spokesman Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad revealed. Earlier, the ministry said 509 people have recovered from the virus, upping the total number of those to have overcome the disease to 99,549. There are 129 people currently receiving treatment in intensive care units out of a total 7,415 patients being hospitalized. Some 3,210 swab tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, out of a total of 761,025 so far, added the spokesman. The official reiterated the strict need to abide by health precautions, urging nationals and expatriates alike that following social distancing rules is the only way to keep the virus at bay. —KUNA



## Indian embassy pays respects to late Amir

KUWAIT: The Indian national flag flew half-mast at the Embassy of India in Kuwait on Sunday. All officials of the mission and that of the Indian public sector undertakings observed two minutes silence at 11 am on Sunday.

Indian nationals in Kuwait from all walks of life, including school students, teachers, academicians, scientists, doctors, businessmen, professionals, skilled and unskilled workers, joined their 1.3 billion brothers and sisters in India to pay homage to the departed leader by observing a two-minute silence from their respective homes and work places.

India had observed a day of state mourning on Sunday, and Indians across the country paid homage to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the late Amir of the State of Kuwait, who passed away on September 29, 2020.

The national tricolor flag flew half-mast atop Rashtrapati Bhavan (Presidential House) and at all government buildings across India and at all buildings of Indian high commissions, embassies, consulates and India houses all over the world.



## Shuwaikh Industrial engulfed in darkness

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: For almost a month, a great part of Shuwaikh Industrial goes dark as night falls. Streetlights have been out of service since last month in almost the entire block, including many streets. Packs of stray dogs roam in this area, and it can be dangerous at night without lights.

Kuwait Times called the emergency line of the Ministry of Electricity and Water (152), which is responsible for resolving this problem. After three complaints made on the MEW hotline and follow-ups after a week of each complaint, the technician of the MEW said this is not their responsibility as these streetlights are located in an industrial area.

# Presidents, heads of states commend Sheikh Nawaf as Kuwait's new Amir

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received cables from several presidents and heads of states on Sunday, congratulating him on taking the oath as Kuwait's new ruler.

### Russia

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a cable of congratulations from Russian President Vladimir Putin on his taking of the helm of power. The Russian president, in the cable, affirmed his determination to pursue cooperation for boosting security and peace in the Middle East. Sheikh Nawaf replied, extending gratitude for President Putin's kind sentiments, noting that he shared the Russian leader's aspiration to broaden cooperation further.

### China

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a cable of congratulations from Chinese President Xi Jinping on his taking of the helm of power. The Chinese president affirmed his keenness on boosting relations and expressed good wishes to His Highness the Amir. Sheikh Nawaf replied, extending gratitude for the kind sentiments, noting that he shared the Chinese leader's aspiration to strengthen the relations further.

### Jordan

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a cable of congratula-

tions from Jordanian King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein, in which he congratulated him on the occasion of assuming power. In the cable, he hopes to continue joint work to develop the existing cooperation between Kuwait and Jordan in various fields, wishing His Highness the Amir for continued success, goodness and development in the homeland. His Highness the Amir sent a cable back, in which he thanked and appreciated the positive message, embracing historical and close ties between Kuwait and Jordan, wishing him good health, as well as progress and prosperity under his leadership.

### Egypt

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a cable of congratulations from Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, on His Highness's ascension to power. In a reply, His Highness the Amir expressed appreciation for the sincere sentiments, wishing the President good health and the brotherly people utmost prosperity.

### Thailand

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a cable of congratulations from Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn, on the occasion of His Highness' ascension to power. In reply, His Highness the Amir sent a letter appreciating the King's heartfelt sentiments and extolling the deep-rooted bilateral relations. His Highness the Amir wished the Thai King everlasting good health, and his country further progress and prosperity.

### Czech Republic

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a cable of congratulations from President of the Czech Republic Milos Zeman on assuming the top post. The president affirmed in the cable keenness on boosting the bilateral relations. Sheikh Nawaf replied, thanking him for the kind feelings, also hailing the solid ties between the two countries. — KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

## Foreign Minister hosts France Armed Forces Minister



KUWAIT: Foreign Minister and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Mohammad Al-Sabah meets French Minister of the Armed Forces Florence Parly. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Foreign Minister and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Mohammad Al-Sabah met yesterday the visiting Representative of France President, French Minister of the Armed Forces Florence Parly and her accompanying delegation. Parly was in Kuwait to offer condolences on the passing of the late Amir His Highness Sheikh

Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. During the meeting, the French envoy expressed deepest sympathy and sorrow over loss of His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Sabah. Parly and Sheikh Dr Ahmad also discussed issues of common concerns and latest regional and international developments. A score of Kuwaiti and French officials also attended the meeting. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Foreign Minister and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Mohammad Al-Sabah meets Bangladesh's Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen — KUNA

## Foreign Minister receives Bangladeshi counterpart

KUWAIT: Foreign Minister and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Mohammad Al-Sabah received yesterday Bangladesh's Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and his accompanying delegation. Minister Abdul Momen visited the country to convey his

condolences over the demise of the late Amir His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and mutual developments between both countries on the regional and international sides. — KUNA

## Palestinian Ambassador congratulates Amir

KUWAIT: Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Rami Tahboub released a statement yesterday, congratulating His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on his taking of the helm of power.

"On behalf of the Palestinian community in the State of Kuwait, myself, my family and Palestine embassy personnel, I am honored to congratulate His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the occasion of assuming power," Tahboub wrote in the statement. "I pray to Allah Almighty to guide him for the sake of the prosperity of Kuwait, as well as the Arab and Muslim nations," the ambassador said, wishing His Highness Sheikh Nawaf good health.

"We undertake that the Palestinian community will always be faithful to His Highness the Amir, Kuwait, and its people who welcomed hundreds of thousands of Palestinians since the 1948 catastrophe and before," Ambassador Tahboub concluded.



Palestinian Ambassador Rami Tahboub



KUWAIT: Street lights turned off in Shuwaikh Industrial. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

director. But most numbers are out of service and two numbers did not answer. This reporter also sent an email describing the problem, in addition to

posting the same complaint on the PAI website. In response, an email was sent noting that the complaint was received and they will respond soon.



Specter of university massacre looms over Thai student protest

## US evictions surge amid pandemic despite federal ban

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BEIRUT: People gather to release white balloons near the seaport of Beirut on Sunday to commemorate the second month after the Aug 4 massive explosion. (Inset) First-aid rescue worker at Beirut's fire brigade Afraa Obeid talks during an interview at the brigade's Karantina neighborhood headquarters on Sept 28, 2020. —AFP photos

# Lebanon emergency services reeling

## Woes of Beirut rescuers 'microcosm' of troubled country

**BEIRUT:** Fierce forest fires, a monster explosion that killed friends, then more Beirut blazes: Lebanon's emergency services are reeling from a devastating year, but are determined to press on. Lebanese firefighter Afraa Obeid, a 27-year-old woman with long black hair, recounted how she lost her close friend Sahar Fares in the August 4 Beirut port blast.

Sahar, Obeid's fellow female emergency worker, was among 10 colleagues killed when they rushed to the port to extinguish a blaze - and were then engulfed by the subsequent cataclysmic explosion. "It could have been me," Obeid said, sitting inside the gutted shell of the capital's main fire station. "I was there the next day to collect her remains. It was very hard."

The authorities had failed to tell the fire brigade of the giant shipment of fertilizer stored at the port. The port explosion, which killed more than 190 people and wounded thousands more, was only the latest blow in a year of tragedy for Lebanon and its fatigued firefighters. In the fall of 2019, ferocious forest fires ravaged huge areas

south of Beirut, putting many lives at risk. The fires, which fuelled public resentment towards a ruling elite seen as corrupt and incompetent, came days before a mass protest movement erupted in October to demand political overhaul.

**'Final blow'**

An ensuing economic crisis - the worst since Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war - meant inflation soared and the value of Lebanon's currency slumped. The purchasing power of the firefighters' pay packet evaporated. Then the outbreak of the novel coronavirus added to their woes, complicating rescues for the firefighters who must wear extra protective gear. The Aug 4 explosion dealt them a knockout punch.

"The Beirut fire department today is a microcosm of Lebanon," Obeid said, waving at the damaged wreck of the fire station, located near Beirut's port. Its windows were shattered by the blast, and exposed electric cables dangle from almost every corner. Firefighters must sleep in tents in the

building's courtyard. "The building is demolished," she said. "Just as are the people who work inside it."

Two months later, repairs are yet to begin, with no resources spare. "We have never seen a year like this one," said Lieutenant Ali Najem, a veteran firefighter working for nearly 25 years. The blast, he said, was a "final blow".

**'Martyr's project'**

Budget cuts and the explosion have left rescuers and firefighters with a diminishing fleet of vehicles and equipment. "Only 10 percent of our vehicles are operational today, down from 50 percent last October," said Najem. It makes tackling fires increasingly difficult and dangerous. There have been a string of major fires since the explosion. Just over a month after the blast, on Sept 10, a massive fire broke out at a warehouse storing oil and tires in Beirut's port.

The blaze took hours to extinguish, and sparked widespread alarm. The traumatized public hail the emergency services as heroes. At Beirut's Civil

Defense command center, rescue teams watch for the next disaster. For Lebanon's 5,000 civil defense volunteers, who don't receive compensation for their service, the situation is dire.

Many have lost their main jobs in the economic crisis, and are now struggling to make ends meet, director of operations Georges Abou Moussa said. "Like everyone else, we suffer," Moussa said. "It's very difficult psychologically. We head off to extinguish fires with preoccupied minds." Yet despite the dangers, "we are receiving a lot of volunteer applications," said Moussa.

For Ayman Al-Taheer, a civil defense volunteer, the past few months were more traumatic than the 33-day war between Lebanon and Israel in 2006. "Even the July war didn't have that much of an impact on me, even though I saw death, body parts and a lot of destruction," the father of six said. For Taheer, being a civil defense volunteer will always be a risky "martyr's project" - but he cannot retire. "Saving the lives of others will remain my priority," he said. —AFP

## Fears for civilians as fighting rages in Nagorno-Karabakh

**GORIS, Armenia:** Clashes between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces were raging yesterday over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region as fears grew for civilians after the two sides began shelling major cities. Separatist forces in Karabakh - an ethnic Armenian enclave that broke away from Azerbaijan in the 1990s - reported firefights along the frontline and the regional capital Stepanakert under heavy artillery fire.

Azerbaijan's defense ministry said Armenian forces were shelling several towns, including the country's second-largest city Ganja which was first hit on Sunday. Increasing artillery fire on urban areas has raised concerns of mass civilian casualties if the fierce fighting, which has already killed nearly 250 people, continues to escalate. The clashes broke out on Sept 27, re-igniting a decades-old conflict between the ex-Soviet neighbors over Karabakh and threatening to draw in regional powers like Russia and Turkey.

Neither side has shown any sign of backing down, ignoring international calls for a ceasefire and a return to long-stalled negotiations on the region. Stepanakert, a city of some 50,000 in the heart of the mountainous province, has been under steady artillery fire since Friday, with residents cramming in to underground shelters. The separatists' foreign ministry said yesterday that shelling of Stepanakert had resumed at 6:30 am (0230 GMT). It released video footage of repeated bursts of heavy shelling and of debris from seriously damaged blocks of flats, claiming Azerbaijan had used cluster munitions. Azerbaijan said Armenian forces were shelling Ganja and the towns of Beylagan, Barda and Terter. Hikmet Hajiyev, an adviser to President Ilham Aliyev, accused the Armenians of "attacking densely populated civilian areas". "Barbarism and vandalism. Sign of weakness and panic," he wrote on Twitter.

### 'Indiscriminate shelling'

The two sides have reported 245 deaths since the fighting erupted, including 43 civilians, but the real toll is expected to be much higher as both sides are claiming to have inflicted heavy military casualties. The separatist government has reported 202 deaths among its forces, while Azerbaijan has not released any figures on its military casualties. The International Committee of the Red Cross on Sunday condemned the reports of "indiscriminate shelling and other alleged unlawful attacks using explosive weaponry in cities, towns and other populated areas". Civilians huddled on Sunday in the basement of Stepanakert's stone-walled Holy Mother of God cathedral. AFP journalists saw, seeking refuge as explosions and air raid warnings sounded. Some residents were fleeing the city for Armenian territory, with many gathering in the border town of Goris hoping to find passage on to the capital Yerevan. Azerbaijan said Sunday that two civilians had been killed in shelling on the southern town of Beylagan, where a journalist working with AFP saw residents picking through the rubble of destroyed homes.

In a fiery address to the nation on Sunday, Aliyev set conditions for a halt to the fighting that would be near impossible for Armenia to accept. He said Armenian forces "must leave our territories, not in words but in deeds," provide a timetable for a full withdrawal, apologize to the Azerbaijani people and recognize the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. —AFP

## Egypt town fears worst for men lost en route to Europe

**DAHMASHA, Egypt:** Thousands of desperate migrants bound for Europe have perished in the Mediterranean Sea. In one impoverished Egyptian town, families fear that 15 of their sons are among the dead. The Nile delta cotton-growing town of Dahmasha already feels like a ghost town. Hundreds of its young men have embarked on the dangerous journey via war-torn Libya. Now a group of tearful, black-clad mothers and wives fear the worst after hearing reports, so far unconfirmed by authorities, that a rickety boat carrying their loved ones sank last month.

Crammed minibuses arranged by human traffickers had left the town northeast of Cairo for lawless Libya in mid-August, carrying 37 young men who had each paid 70,000 Egyptian pounds (\$3,775). About a month later, the International Organization for Migration reported that at least 20 migrants, mainly from Egypt and Morocco, had drowned when a boat capsized off Libya on Sept 14.

Two of the dead have since been returned to Dahmasha, and a short, undated video surfaced online over the weekend apparently showing 20 survivors. But there has been no word from the remaining 15. "I just want a one percent fighting chance... to hear something that will quench my thirst for knowing where my son is," one mother, Horreya Farrag, told AFP. She said she last heard from her 24-year-old son, Mohamed Farrag, hours before he boarded the boat on Sept 12 from the Libyan port of Zawiya, headed for the Italian island of Lampedusa.

### 'Dead before you get there'

Farrag, a house painter and the eldest of three sib-

lings, left behind a young wife and a two-month-old son in Dahmasha, a town of 18,000 people some 50 km northeast of Cairo. "He was the kindest of all of them," said his widowed mother. "I raised the three of them to be as close as a fist." The missing man's 23-year-old brother Karim said: "He had approached me about joining, but I told him: 'I'm not going. You're dead even before you get there. You're holding your own funeral shroud in your hands.'"

The families say they have received no information from Egyptian authorities. AFP also received no reply after reaching out to Egypt's emigration ministry. Egyptian MP Sahar Atman said she had enquired about the missing men with the Egyptian cabinet and foreign ministry. Last week, she said on Facebook that 20 of the men had survived and preparations were under way to return them to Egypt. In a video that circulated on Facebook on Saturday, which Dahmasha's residents shared widely, tired and haggard young men from the village listed the names of relatives who had perished on the trip. Some family members confirmed their identities but could not verify the claims as the apparent survivors still had not been in touch with them directly.

**'Feel our pain'**

The journey the men took became a terrifying ordeal long before they reached the shores of the Mediterranean, said the villagers. Rawya Abdalla, 38, recounted how her brother-in-law Ahmed frantically rang her from Libya, pleading for his family to send ransom money to traffickers who were holding him. "One day he called me, completely panicked, begging me to send him money so we can free him. He said they weren't feeding them or giving them water," Abdalla told AFP. "He was held hostage in a storage warehouse for 25 days and they also whipped them for what they deemed to be the smallest mistake, for talking to each other."

After selling the family car, they gave 20,000 pounds to the local smuggler who said he would pay



DAHMASHA, Egypt: Egyptian Rawya Abdalla shows a phone picture of her relatives, who are among 17 Egyptians who went missing in Libya while trying to get to Europe, during an interview in this village in Sharkia governorate on Sept 23, 2020. —AFP

the ransom. The claims echo a report by rights group Amnesty International last month that described how migrants in Libya were being "abducted by militias, armed groups and traffickers" and being "tortured or raped until their families pay ransoms".

Tens of thousands of migrants have made the perilous sea journey toward Europe in 2020 alone, according to the IOM, though Egyptians make up a relatively small contingent of those from Africa. Abdalla said locals are still desperate for information from President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi's government, and for help in addressing the hardship faced by them and many of the country's over 100 million people.

"We're asking the president to feel our pain," she said in the small town, where many fields are parched because irrigation channels have run dry. "What should our youths do? Kill or steal to survive? They are migrating to bring back some money legitimately. 'We've lost our sons and our money,' she said. 'We've lost everything. We have nothing. We want their corpses so we can bury them here.' —AFP

## International

# US evictions surge amid virus despite federal ban

## Families still being threatened with removal from their homes

WASHINGTON: When single mother Khalyah Jackson-Rivers lost her job in May, she fell behind on her rent despite a payment plan, eventually owing thousands of dollars to her building's management company in South Carolina. "Then I got an eviction notice (in July) and a second eviction notice, and (it) said I had 30 days to move," the 25-year-old said by phone, worrying that she and her five-year-old daughter would have nowhere to go.

Despite a federal ban on evictions amid the coronavirus pandemic, US families are still being threatened with removal from their homes - and the rate of such legal filings may be speeding up, housing experts warn. After a previous ban ended in July, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in September issued a sweeping nationwide order temporarily halting millions of US renters from being evicted, in a bid to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Yet thousands of eviction filings went forward in the weeks leading up to and following the start of the moratorium, brought by some of the largest landlords in the country, according to tracking by the nonprofit Private Equity Stakeholder Project. "We saw a substantial increase in cases in the last month, including since the CDC moratorium was announced," the group's executive director, Jim Baker, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The group warned of a surge in evictions in a September report, saying that "filings by private equity firms and other large landlords appear to be accelerating".

Others like Princeton University's Eviction Lab have noted similar trends. The Eviction Lab reported 1,975 evictions in the 17 cities it tracks during one week in mid-September, and more than 50,000 since the pandemic began. Such data is notoriously difficult to gather, so to get a sense of the national picture, Baker and his colleagues have been focusing on metro areas in five states - Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee and Texas.

They recorded more than 5,200 cases in these areas

brought by private equity firms and other large corporate landlords during the four weeks since the CDC moratorium was announced.

"We're just scratching the surface, but I do think the findings are representative of broader trends," Baker said. A spokeswoman for property leasing firm Invitation Homes, one of the companies highlighted by the study, said in emailed comments that "eviction is never a course we want to pursue". "We have been doing what the CDC order directs since early in the pandemic - working with our residents facing COVID-related financial hardships and offering a variety of payment options so they can stay in their homes," she said.

In September, after speaking with an attorney, Jackson-Rivers found out about the moratorium's declaration form, and signed and handed it over. She is now protected from eviction through the end of the year, but is currently moving out of her apartment anyway and into a family member's house.

A spokesman for AMCS, the management company at Jackson-Rivers's building, did not respond to a request for comment.

### Procedural hurdle

The CDC ban covers nearly all renters, said Sarah Saadian, vice president for public policy at the National Low Income Housing Coalition, but it does have exemptions and requirements. "One of the challenges with the moratorium is that to be protected, renters have to sign a declaration form and give it to their landlord," she said.

Currently, property owners do not have to give formal notice to tenants about the moratorium and steps they have to take if they need its protection, Saadian said, though her office is urging federal agencies involved in housing to change that. "Corporate landlords are moving forward as quickly as possible before renters hear about the moratorium," she said. "That's clearly violating the intention of the order, which is to protect individual and public health."

Many of those evicted will move in with friends and families, Saadian said, making it harder to follow social distancing guidelines. The National Multifamily Housing Council,



Despite a federal ban, thousands of eviction filings went forward in the weeks leading up to and following the start of the moratorium, brought by some of the largest landlords in the country. —Reuters

which represents the apartment industry's largest firms, called on congressional leaders to focus more on rental assistance, which the CDC moratorium does not provide. "It is far better to focus on ensuring renters can pay the rent than to try and come up with policies like eviction moratoriums that do not address the root cause and put housing providers at financial risk," vice president Paula Cino said in emailed comments. Landlords and industry groups have sued over the moratorium, claiming it is unconstitutional.

### Moving into shelters

Some renters have reported instances of landlords not accepting moratorium declarations.

Scott and Martine Thomas had been renting in Riverdale, Georgia, for two years when the pandemic hit this spring, forcing Martine to take a 20% pay cut as well as reduced hours. The family has relied on that salary, as Scott cares for their two teenage sons with special needs.

While the couple was able to keep up on their rent in April and May, they started to fall behind in June, able to make only partial payments until mid-July - when their landlord asked them to move out by October. "We called family and friends and got the rent together, the full rent," Scott said in a phone interview.

But after some back-and-forth, the landlord continued to demand that the Thomases move out. Both Scott and Martine had heard about the CDC moratorium, however, and after consulting with an attorney, gave the landlord the signed declaration. Yet days later, an eviction notice was posted on their door, Scott said. The couple is now awaiting a court date on the eviction.

"Fortunately I'm able to take advantage of the CDC moratorium because otherwise we'd be moving into a shelter," Scott said. He noted that with no co-ed shelter in the county, "it would be just me with the kids, and my wife would be in another shelter by herself." —Reuters

## Laredo's millionaires, nuns and muralists battle border wall

LAREDO: Former US Border Patrol agent Daniel Perales spent hours over the years crouched at the mouth of the Zacata Creek, a tributary of the Rio Grande, listening for the snap of carrizo cane as border crossers from Mexico arrived on the northern banks. These days, he listens for the whistle of the Morelet's seedeater, a bird rare in these parts, and frets about the proposed construction of a border wall here. "It would fragment the habitat of the birds, especially those that live along the river," said Perales, who spent nearly 30 years with the federal agency and oversaw 400 agents at the Laredo North Station before retiring in 2007.

Perales said he voted for President Donald Trump in 2016 and plans to do so again. But that hasn't stopped him from joining the ranks of residents in Laredo opposed to building a barrier here as part of Trump's promised wall spanning the US-Mexico border.

"It's not necessary. You don't need a wall here," said Perales, adding that cameras and patrol roads were sufficient. Less than a month before the US presidential election, resistance to the wall, a centerpiece of Trump's 2016 campaign, is flaring across parts of the approximately 2,000-mile border. Near construction sites in Arizona and California in recent

weeks, members of Native American tribes have clashed with law enforcement and others over plans for building on lands the tribes consider sacred. Two weeks ago in front of a Laredo courthouse, military veterans against the border project mobilized to thwart a caravan of Trump supporters who had sought to drive over a 30-foot "Defund the Wall" street mural. Amid an election upended by Trump's positive coronavirus diagnosis, the future of the wall hangs in the balance. Trump's Democratic challenger, former vice president Joe Biden, has said he would not build "another foot of wall" if elected.

Meanwhile, opposition to plans for a stretch of wall in the counties of Zapata and Webb, which includes Laredo, has united some strange bedfellows: the street artists, multimillionaire Republicans, Catholic nuns, military and border patrol veterans, conservationists and a local Native American tribe. In Webb County, CBP has issued contracts worth \$1.05 billion to three construction companies to build approximately 69 miles of a 30-foot steel bollard wall, as well as construct roads and adding cameras and other surveillance technology. Construction is slated to begin as early as January depending on the availability of land.

In an August press release, CBP officials said the Laredo wall is necessary to "impede and deny illegal border crossings and the drug and human smuggling activities of transnational criminal organizations." In the Laredo sector, traffic has not abated during the coronavirus pandemic as it has in other sectors, government data show. In statements to Reuters, CBP spokesman Matthew Dymen said the agency is committed to protecting cultural and natural

resources, such as wildlife corridors and culturally sensitive Native American artifacts or sites. The agency is now surveying land for possible purchase. Dymen said it is "always CBP's preference" to obtain land voluntarily through negotiated offers but if that is not possible, a condemnation action - known as eminent domain - may be required. The majority of Americans oppose a substantial expansion of the border wall, according to a January 2019 Pew research poll, although the opinions tended to fall along party lines, with 82 percent of Republicans in favor and 93 percent of Democrats opposed. —Reuters

### 'Rewind' of city's reopening

De Blasio has faced criticism previously for his handling of the virus response among the city's Jewish residents. He triggered fury in April when he threatened "the Jewish community" with summons and arrest after a large crowd of Hasidic Jews gathered for a rabbi's funeral in Brooklyn's Williamsburg neighborhood.

The nine neighborhoods now targeted by the mayor have seen the rate at which people are testing positive for the virus remain above three percent for the past seven days, despite authorities intervening to encourage mask-wearing and other safety practices. De Blasio said he intended to "rewind" the city's reopening in the worst-affected areas, according to the New York Times.

The city is also monitoring 11 additional ZIP codes that de Blasio described as of "real concern."

His proposal comes just days after hundreds of thousands of the city's children began returning to in-person school for the first time since March, and restaurants were allowed to resume limited indoor service. New

York City is considered America's cultural capital, and its world-class restaurants have been hard-hit by the virus. However, authorities allowed eateries to resume indoor service at 25 percent capacity as economic pressure grew for loosening restrictions. Following increases in cases in 20 of the city's 146 neighborhoods, New York City's leaders are following a model of localized measures, also taken in other nations like South Korea and Singapore. —AFP

over sweeping government campaigns against illegal construction, which have forced people to pay fines to legalize home ownership.

They came after exiled businessman Mohamed Ali, who has emerged as a vocal critic of President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi since last year, called for protests against the government. On Friday, London-based rights group Amnesty International said Egypt had arrested hundreds of people, and that security forces had killed at least two during the demonstrations. Sisi on Sunday warned against attempts to stoke instability in the country, and said the government was carrying out the campaign against illegal construction as part of reforms. —AFP



Historical buildings that could be affected by the enforcement zone that must be cleared for the border wall according to preliminary plans are seen in Laredo, Texas. —Reuters

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NEW YORK: People cross the street near Times Square in New York City, which now faces potential re- imposition of virus restrictions in some neighborhoods.

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### News in brief

#### Turkey pulls back drilling ship

ISTANBUL: A Turkish drilling ship returned to port yesterday from contested waters near Cyprus, according to a naval tracking website, as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan prepared to receive the head of NATO. The Turkish navy had said last month that the Yavuz would stay in eastern Mediterranean waters southwest of Cyprus until Oct 12. The apparent de-escalation came as Erdogan prepared to hold talks in Ankara later yesterday with NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg about its dispute with Greece and Cyprus about maritime borders and energy rights. —AFP

#### Russia virus cases approach May high

MOSCOW: Russia yesterday recorded a rise in coronavirus cases close to the maximum level in May but it has stopped short of reimposing strict lockdown measures. With the fourth-highest number of cases in the global pandemic, Russia introduced harsh measures during the first outbreak of the virus including the closure of borders from March while Muscovites had to apply for electronic passes to travel round the city. Yesterday, the government confirmed 10,888 new cases, approaching the May 11 highest recorded level of 11,656. Of these, 3,537 were in the capital, the worst-hit city by far, where Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said Sunday there are "many seriously ill". —AFP

#### Guatemala sends back migrants

GUATEMALA CITY: Guatemala has sent back almost 3,500 Honduran migrants from a caravan that was heading to the United States over concerns they might spread COVID-19. President Alejandro Giammattei said on Sunday. In a televised message, Giammattei said Guatemalan security forces were able to "contain" the caravan, that according to the president was a factor in the transmission of the virus. According to the Guatemalan Migration Institute (IGM), the caravan entered eastern Guatemala on Thursday, pushing over a military cordon on the Corinto border before splitting into groups to reach Mexico, which has closed its borders. —AFP

#### Mali frees over 100 militants

BAMAKO: Insurgency-hit Mali has freed over 100 alleged or convicted jihadists to secure the release of a top politician and a French charity worker, sources close to the talks said yesterday. This is a rare mass release of prisoners in the fragile West African country, which is struggling with an eight-year-old Islamist insurgency that has claimed thousands of lives. Soumaila Cisse, a former opposition leader and three-time presidential candidate, was abducted on March 25 while campaigning in his home region of Nifounke ahead of legislative elections. —AFP

#### Turkey backs Libya unity govt

ISTANBUL: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday expressed "full solidarity" with Libya's UN-recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) during a meeting in Istanbul, his office said. Erdogan met with the head of the Tripoli-based government, Fayed Al-Sarraj, who last month announced plans to step down within six weeks as part of efforts to broker a peace agreement. "President Erdogan stated that Turkey would continue to stand by Libya in full solidarity and strengthen relations with the Government of National Accord, the only legitimate representative of Libya," the presidency said. —AFP

## New York seeks shutdowns in 9 neighborhoods

NEW YORK: New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said Sunday he planned to reimpose restrictions on nine neighborhoods as COVID-19 cases rise in parts of the city, which had largely controlled the virus after a catastrophic outbreak. The proposal, which must be approved by state Governor Andrew Cuomo, marks a major setback for America's largest city since it was hit hard in March by the coronavirus. The city has lost almost 24,000 people to the virus. "Today, unfortunately, is not a day for celebration," de Blasio said, announcing he would ask to close nonessential businesses and all schools in nine neighborhoods of Brooklyn and Queens.

If approved by the governor, who has not yet weighed in, the new restrictions would be the first step back toward lockdown in the city. New York City became the global epicenter of the pandemic in spring, but more recently officials had touted the lowest rates of test positivity and infection among major US cities.

## Egypt arrests reporter after protest coverage

CAIRO: Egyptian police have arrested a journalist who had been covering a crackdown in the aftermath of small-scale protests near the southern city of Luxor, her employer and lawyer said. Basma Mostafa was brought before prosecutors on Sunday after she had gone missing the day before while reporting on unrest

## International

## Specter of university massacre looms over Thai student protests

October 6, 1976 one of the darkest days in country's history

**BANGKOK:** Relentless gunfire, lynched bodies, frenzied mobs—the horrific violence Krisadang Nutchart witnessed at Thammasat University more than 40 years ago propelled him into a legal career now spent defending Thailand's young pro-democracy activists.

Like many survivors, he regards October 6, 1976, as one of the darkest days in his country's history, when security forces and royalist militias murdered dozens of youngsters in the middle of Bangkok.

"It wasn't an equal battle—it was a massacre. The students didn't fight back, we didn't have guns," Krisadang tells AFP. "It is a lesson I will never forget."

Today, the 62-year-old represents two prominent faces of a new youth-led movement against the kingdom's military-aligned government—human rights lawyer Anon Numpu and activist Panupong Jadnok. The duo are facing sedition charges after calling for reforms to the kingdom's powerful monarchy in massive demonstrations.



## Students want answers

The latest rally drew 30,000 protesters in the biggest public gathering Thailand has seen in years. The growing momentum of the protests—peaceful so far—has nevertheless raised the haunting memories of 1976 in Krisadang's mind.

"I have to teach the younger generation not to underestimate the military because they are merciless," he says. The kingdom has long seen an interminable cycle of political violence and short-lived civilian governments bracketed by military coups.

But the Thammasat massacre stands out for its brutality against students, who had been protesting for weeks against an ousted dictator's return to the country

from exile. Security forces and royalist mobs shot, beat and stabbed students around the campus, while others were strung up from trees.

Officially, 46 protesters were killed, though survivors believe the true toll was more than 100. No official has ever been held accountable for the bloody event.

## Shots, grenades

Seared in Krisadang's memory are snapshots of state violence—his friend's body dragged across the football pitch, a student shot dead before his eyes and his desperate dive into the Chao Phraya river to escape. Students assumed the riverside campus was a "safe haven" for their daily protests, he says.

But it was surrounded by troops and royalist mobs spurred on by radio broadcasts casting the protesters as communist insurgents bent on toppling the monarchy. At dawn, Krisadang remembers a grenade landing in the football field, instantly killing students. The military-led regime that later seized power claimed the students fired first—something protesters have always denied.

Krisadang escaped by the skin of his teeth, crawling through the campus to avoid gunfire before launching himself into the river and swimming to a nearby pier. "I got help from locals who gave me shelter for four hours and a new set of clothes," he says.

For Thais who lived through this period, the topic remains sensitive and is not openly discussed, which academics say is a product of the establishment's whitewashing of history. But the murkiness surrounding the incident—and Thailand's recurrent inability to sustain a democratically elected government—has bolstered the demands of a new generation demanding an end to the kingdom's perceived culture of impunity. "The stronger the action to bury and conceal a shameful event, the greater the buoyancy of the subject," says Thai-American writer Pitchaya Sudbanthad, whose novel "Bangkok Wakes to Rain" deals with the trauma of the Thammasat massacre.

He believes youngsters today share "the same desire for a functional, progressive democracy as that of the students in the 1970s".

## Eight killed in attack targeting Afghan governor

**JALALABAD:** A suicide attack targeting an Afghan provincial governor killed at least eight people yesterday, officials said, as the president travelled to Qatar where peace talks with the Taliban have stalled. Twenty eight people were wounded when the attacker rammed his explosives-filled vehicle into the convoy of Rahmatullah Yarmal, the governor of eastern Laghman province.

"The governor was driving to his office when his car was hit. Four of his bodyguards and four civilians were killed, 28 wounded," the governor's spokesman Assadullah Daulatazi told AFP, adding that the governor was unhurt. Interior ministry spokesman Tareq Arian confirmed the attack and said most of the wounded were civilians. It comes as President Ashraf Ghani on Monday left for Doha to meet with Qatari officials, three weeks after the launch of landmark peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban.

Ghani will first stop in Kuwait to offer condolences over the death of emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, his spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said. Talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government negotiators, aimed at ending Afghanistan's 19-year conflict, have stalled over disagreements on how to

## Wildfires raze dozens of homes in New Zealand

**WELLINGTON:** Wildfires have destroyed up to 50 homes in New Zealand, authorities announced yesterday, saying it was a miracle no one was hurt as "a wall of orange" razed most of a remote South Island village. The blaze began in a mountain forest early Sunday morning and, fanned by strong winds, swept through the village of Lake Ohau, forcing residents to flee for their lives.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) said the unpredictable winds made fighting the fire "challenging" and by yesterday afternoon it had burned 4,600 hectares (18 square miles) of land.

Waitaki District mayor Gary Kircher said the tiny Lake Ohau community had been devastated. "Of the 60 or 70 houses, we believe that the majority have gone," he told Radio New Zealand.

"The reality is that it's a minor miracle no one has been harmed. If it had been another 15-20 minutes it would have been a very different story." Kircher described how residents awoke to find an inferno bearing down on them. "I talked to a gentleman who got up to his dog (barking) in the early hours, opened his door and there was this wall of orange," he said.

"He was the one that set off the town fire alarm and helped to wake people... there's certainly some scary tales about how close it came to being an absolute disaster with fatalities."

Wildfires are relatively common on the South Island at this time of the year but the scale and intensity of the Ohau fire have been unusual.

## 'War zone'

Village resident Hugh Spiers, who lost his home, said the ferocious blaze was "surreal" and more akin to the huge bushfires that regularly erupt in Australia



**BANGKOK:** Students looking at displays about the Thammasat University massacre at an exhibition commemorating the event at the university in Bangkok. The October 6, 1976 Thammasat massacre stands out for its brutality by security forces and royalist militias against the pro-democracy students, who had been demonstrating for weeks over the return of an ousted ex-dictator from exile. — AFP

## Answers?

Besides calling for the resignation of premier Prayut Chan-O-Cha, a former military chief who masterminded the country's most recent coup in 2014, protesters are questioning the monarchy's role in the kingdom—a taboo subject because of royal defamation laws. "The students want answers to questions that mainstream history does not have," academic Puangthong Pawakapan said.

She co-founded an online archival project documenting the October 6 tragedy, which has seen a surge of new visitors in recent months. "With the new technology, the state and the government cannot monopolize history anymore," she says.

Students onstage now repeatedly invoke October 6 to rouse demonstrators in speeches and protest songs. One recurring ballad is penned by Jin Kammachon, a

survivor of the massacre, whose stirring lyrics read: "Let me offer my life, no matter how many times I die."

Krisadang says he is happy to stay out of the limelight and let the country's youth steer the country's future. "They are doing a better job than my generation," Krisadang says. "But the road to democracy is still long and they must be strong." — AFP

## News in brief

## Malaysia PM quarantines

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia's Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday said he will self-quarantine for 14 days after a minister who attended a high-level government meeting to discuss coronavirus developments on Saturday tested positive for COVID-19. The Southeast Asian country has seen a steady climb in cases in the past week in the aftermath of an election in the state of Sabah in Borneo on Sept 26. Authorities in Malaysia have warned that coronavirus restrictions may have to be reimposed if the trend continues, amid popular anger towards politicians who have been blamed for the spike. In a statement, Muhyiddin confirmed that Religious Affairs Minister Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri had tested positive, and that those identified as close contacts at Saturday's National Security Council meeting to discuss COVID-19 had been issued a 14-day home surveillance order starting Oct 3. — Reuters

## Pacific forum crisis

**KOROR, Palau:** The leaders of five Micronesian nations have threatened to withdraw from the Pacific Islands Forum unless they get to choose the head of the regional grouping, risking instability in an area where China is vying for influence. The Micronesian heads, who do not share a unified stance on Beijing, argue it is their turn to select the PIF secretary-general under an informal arrangement that has stood for decades. But several high-profile candidates from elsewhere in the Pacific have also nominated, including former Cook Islands prime minister Henry Puna. The five leaders—from Palau, the Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) — say they will walk if their wishes are not met. — AFP

## Singapore plan sparks fears

**SINGAPORE:** Singapore hopes to start "cruises to nowhere" in a bid to revive its coronavirus-hit tourism industry, but critics warned yesterday against a risky move that could spark COVID-19 outbreaks. The global cruise industry has largely ground to halt due to virus-related travel restrictions, and following a series of outbreaks on packed vessels. But the tourism board in Singapore, a key port and transport hub in Asia, is holding talks with cruise lines on putting on voyages that depart from and return to the city-state. Officials will put in place "appropriate measures that will enable cruises to resume in a safe manner," the board's cruise director Annie Chang said. She did not say when the cruises might start. — AFP

## Paris shuts bars over virus

**PARIS:** Bars and cafes in Paris, placed on maximum coronavirus alert yesterday, will be shuttered for two weeks under new measures to fight the rapid spread of the epidemic, but restaurants will remain open, officials said. With the rate of new infections, hospitalizations and deaths accelerating months after the lifting of a nationwide lockdown, new rules on social distancing will enter into force starting Tuesday. "These are braking measures because the epidemic is moving too fast," Paris police chief Didier Lallemand told journalists. — AFP



**TOKYO:** Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga (left) gestures with Komeito Party leader Natsuo Yamaguchi during the party's convention in Tokyo in this September 27, 2020 file photo. — AFP

## Japan's Suga defends rejection of scholars for science panel

**TOKYO:** Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, under fire for rejecting six scholars for membership of a science advisory panel, defended the move yesterday amid growing criticism that it violated the constitution's principle of academic freedom.

Suga, who took office last month after Shinzo Abe resigned, has enjoyed high support among voters who approve of his promises to deregulate, reduce mobile phone rates and digitalize services as he tries to revive the economy and rein in COVID-19. But his rejection of the six candidates — some of them known for past criticism of Abe's policies — could stoke a furor that threatens his honeymoon with voters.

At issue is the influential 210-strong Science Council of Japan (SCJ), set up after World War Two to provide independent scientific input for policy. The six were among 105 scholars recommended for membership of the panel, which chooses half its members every three years.

Policies they criticized include Abe's reinterpretation of Japan's pacifist constitution to let troops fight overseas in a historic shift for defense policy, and a 2013 state secrets act that sparked concern over media freedom. Opposition parties have attacked the decision and demanded a public explanation from Suga, critics have taken to social media and a Change.org petition urging the appointments drew more than 100,000 signatures by yesterday evening.

In a group interview with domestic media, Suga repeated that the decision was legitimate, adding that the Council received annual public funds of 1 billion yen (\$9.47 million). He declined to comment on individual cases but said the decision was "totally unrelated to academic freedom," and had nothing to do with scholars' positions on government-backed legislation.

Since 1983, the prime minister has appointed members based on SCJ recommendations, and there is no precedent for rejecting them, political analysts said. "The constitution of Japan has a specific article just for academic freedom, which is ... a direct result of wartime control of academia and science by the militarists," said Sophia University professor Koichi Nakano.

The council, which tangled with Abe's government in 2017 after taking a skeptical stance to academic research with potential military uses, has demanded that Suga explain his decision and appoint the six. "I don't know at all why I was not appointed," one of the six, Masanori Okada, a professor at Waseda Law School, told Reuters. — Reuters

# Business

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2020

## Eurozone economic recovery falters

### German economic rebound remains on course despite slacking services

LONDON: The eurozone's economic recovery faltered in September as the reimposition of some restrictions on activity to halt a resurgence in the coronavirus sent the bloc's dominant service sector into reverse, a survey showed. Rising infection rates in the region, something a Reuters poll said last month was the biggest threat to the recovery, will concern policymakers who had hoped the bloc's economy was healing after contracting an historic 11.8 percent in the second quarter.

To support the economy, the European Central Bank plans to make 1.35 trillion euros of pandemic-related additional asset purchases and the European Union has announced a 750 billion euro recovery fund due to kick in next year. But that didn't stop IHS Markit's final composite Purchasing Managers' Index, seen as a good barometer of economic health, falling to 50.4 in September from August's 51.9, close to the 50 mark separating growth from contraction.

It was dragged down by the PMI for services industries, which accounts for around two thirds of GDP, which slumped to 48.0 from August's 50.5, albeit slightly better than a preliminary 47.6 estimate. "With the euro zone economy having almost stalled in September, the chances of a renewed downturn in the fourth quarter have clearly risen," said Chris Williamson, chief business economist at IHS Markit.

"Much will depend on whether second waves of virus infections can be controlled, and whether social distancing restrictions can therefore be loosened to allow service sector activity to pick up

again." Suggesting any pick up may take some time, demand for services fell in September and firms cut headcount for a seventh month. The new business index fell to 48.1 from 49.8.

Still, optimism about the coming year improved to levels not seen since before Europe felt the full brunt of the pandemic. The composite future output index rose to 60.5 from 57.8, its highest since February.

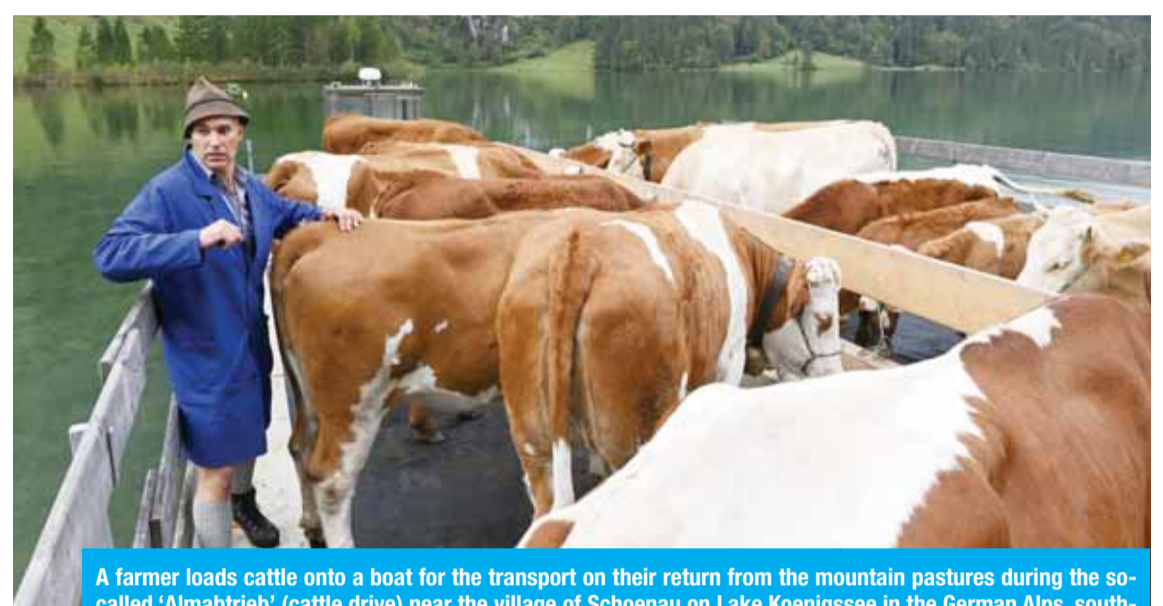
Meanwhile, Germany's service sector barely



Service sector goes into reverse gear

grew in September, but strong manufacturing helped the private sector in Europe's largest economy to remain on track for a solid recovery in the third quarter, a survey showed yesterday. IHS Markit's final services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell to 50.6 from 52.5 in the previous month.

The reading, which came in higher than a flash reading of 49.1, marked the third month in a row that the services index was above the 50 mark dividing growth from contraction. The final compos-



A farmer loads cattle onto a boat for the transport on their return from the mountain pastures during the so-called 'Almabtrieb' (cattle drive) near the village of Schoenau on Lake Koenigssee in the German Alps, southern Germany. The eurozone's economic recovery faltered in September. — AFP

ite PMI covering both the services and manufacturing sectors rose to 54.7 from 54.4 the previous month. That was higher than the flash figure of 53.7. IHS Markit economist Phil Smith said coronavirus infections in Germany had been rising to a smaller extent than in other European countries, so the impact on actual services activity had been smaller than in the likes of Spain and France.

"While the service sector is close to stalling,

growth in Germany has been buoyed by a reviving manufacturing sector, which means the economy carries at least some momentum heading into the final quarter of the year," Smith said. Germany is doing also better than most of its eurozone peers in terms of shielding the labour market from the brunt of the pandemic as there was some hiring across the service sector and a slowdown in factory job cuts, he added. — Reuters

## Egyptians face eviction amid crackdown on illegal housing

CAIRO: In her village in Egypt's Nile Delta, 35-year-old Shaimaa Saleh has spent sleepless nights worrying how to raise almost \$1,000 to save her unfinished three-storey home.

Like hundreds of thousands of others, and many dependents, she faces a deadline at the end of October by which residents of buildings without permits - mostly in poor areas - must apply to regularize their property for a fee, or face demolition. Officials say that the law introduced last year is part of a crackdown on illegal buildings that violate safety standards, hinder traffic and development, and encroach on arable land.

It's part of a drive by President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi to upgrade infrastructure and housing and deal with decades of haphazard construction that accelerated after a 2011 uprising. But for some residents the demolition threat is a fresh blow after years of economic austerity, rising prices and, most recently, the fallout from the coronavirus. "I have been struggling to

make a living as a farm hand to feed my three children since my husband died in Kuwait last year," said Saleh, a resident of Defriya village in Kafr El-Sheikh province.

"I make around 1,500 pounds (\$95.48) (a month) from work and my late father's pension. But the government wants 15,000 pounds to regularize my house." Her husband, who was a construction worker, started building the red brick house in 2014 without a permit and later added two unfinished floors, a typical construction in Egypt where informal housing has long been the norm. Reuters spoke to a dozen residents in three provinces who said they had struggled to pay a settlement fee of between 50 and 2,000 pounds per square meter. Egypt's state press center did not respond to questions about their plight and the fees.

### Sporadic clashes

The government campaign has led to tensions in some communities. In Saryaqos, a village outside Cairo, bulldozers destroyed four informal buildings in late August, before the deadline expired, residents said. Angry residents threw stones at the bulldozers and workers who were accompanied by policemen, according to four residents and a video posted online.

The housing and local development ministries declined to comment on complaints about demolitions before the deadline. Local authorities in Qalyubia province did not respond to questions about the incident, but a security official said 15 men had been



Egypt's crackdown has left hundreds of thousands of residents without permits - mostly in poor areas - to pay fees or face demolition. — Reuters

arrested for rioting. Egyptian authorities have detained several hundred people in recent days, a rights group has said, amid reports of small, scattered demonstrations against Sisi.

The president has complained that not enough people were coming forward to regularize their properties, and in televised remarks threatened to deploy the army in villages to demolish illegal houses if violations did not stop. Some residents in Saryaqos told Reuters that they rushed to regularize their property after the incident. — Reuters

Some residents in Saryaqos told Reuters that they rushed to regularize their property after the incident. — Reuters

## UK must fix budget hole after COVID crisis: Sunak

LONDON: British Finance Minister Rishi Sunak said yesterday he would protect the public finances after a surge in spending, and also defended Prime Minister Boris Johnson whose handling of the coronavirus crisis has come under fire.

Britain is on course for its biggest budget deficit since World War Two, hit by around 200 billion pounds (\$259 billion) of emergency spending and an expected slump in tax revenues after the economy shrank by 20 percent in the second quarter. Sunak used his speech to the annual conference of his Conservative Party - usually a high-profile event but delivered online this year due to the pandemic - to promise he would fix the public finances in the medium term.

"We have a sacred responsibility to future generations to leave the public finances strong, and through careful management of our economy, this Conservative government will always balance the books," he said. "If instead we argue there is no limit on what we can spend, that we can simply borrow our way out of any hole, what is the point in us?"

Sunak, who has been tipped in the British media as the next prime minister after his decisive action early in the crisis, paid tribute to Johnson - whose leadership has been questioned, including by some within the Conservative Party. "Yes, it's been difficult, challenges are part of the job, but on the big calls, in the big moments, Boris Johnson has got it right and we need that leadership," Sunak said.



LONDON: Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak speaks with members of staff as he visits the headquarters of Octopus Energy, in London yesterday. — Reuters

He said he would be creative in finding ways to help the world's sixth-biggest economy recover from its record slump. "Even if this moment is more difficult than any you have ever faced, even if it feels like there is no hope, I am telling you that there is, and that the overwhelming might of the British state will be placed at your service," he said. But he repeated his warning that he would not be able to protect all jobs.

"We are now seeing our economy go through changes as a result of coronavirus that can't be ignored," he said. Sunak announced last month that he would replace his huge subsidy program for furloughed workers, which expires on Oct. 31, with a less generous job support program. Economists expect unemployment to rise sharply in the coming months.

Shopper numbers across all British retail destinations fell for a second consecutive week, dented by the government's new curbs to stem the spread of COVID-19 as well as wet weather, market researcher Springboard said yesterday. — Reuters

## Pakistan invites bids for record six LNG spot cargoes for Dec

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will ramp up spot buying of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the international market, seeking up to six cargoes for December, its procurement subsidiary said on its website, as the country prepares for a potentially crippling gas shortage. December and January see the largest spike in demand for gas in Pakistan, but this year the demand-supply shortfall will be greater on the back of higher consumption and diminishing indigenous supply, authorities believe.

A source in Pakistan LNG Ltd (PLL), which handles LNG imports, told Reuters that six spot cargo purchases for delivery in December would be the most in a single month by the country.

An advertisement by PLL said the country was seeking the cargoes, each of 140,000 cubic meters, in six delivery windows and Nov. 2 is the deadline for submission of bids. Pakistan has long term LNG agreements in place, including one with Qatar, but has also been active on the spot market since August. The country has advertised tenders for delivery of two cargoes in August, three in September, two in October and three in November.

In a press conference last week, Pakistan's Minister for Petroleum Nadeem Babar said the country was headed towards a major gas shortfall in December and January, and blamed dwindling indigenous gas supply and rising demand. He added that there had been a lack of local exploration licenses granted by the previous government, and while new gas discoveries were found, they were small in size. He said his government would advertise more exploration licenses this month. According to a report put out in August by the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority increased demand had resulted in natural gas availability constraint. — Reuters

## CBK forms higher committee of sharia supervision

KUWAIT: In view of Law No. 3 of the year 2020 concerning the formation of a higher Shariah Supervision Authority, the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Board of Directors approved the establishment, on 1 September 2020, of the Higher Committee of Sharia Supervision at the CBK and the guidelines organizing its business, within provisions of relevant laws.

This initiative stems from the CBK's commitment to maintain financial stability and to underpin the governance of sharia supervision and compliance in Islamic financial and banking institutions according to international best practices. This is in line with rapid developments seen in the Islamic finance industry in the State of Kuwait.

In a statement, the CBK highlighted that the decision to establish the Committee was taken after an assessment of global experiences where central banks have sharia supervision authorities in place. The Committee shall play a role in presenting opinions and counsel to the Central Bank of Kuwait on: Sharia compliance of financial transactions between the Central Bank and Islamic banks and finance institutions, on the instructions the CBK issues to these institutions. The Committee will also propose general guidelines for products and services they offer. It shall also propose controls to regulate the business of Sharia supervision bodies, conduct internal and external sharia audits, and govern the activities related to Fatwa and Sharia supervision at Islamic banks and finance institutions.

The Committee will also preapprove candidates for membership on Sharia Boards at Islamic banks and finance institutions, issue final decisions where Sharia supervision authorities deliberations are inconclusive, and present sharia-based opinions on matters referred to it by the courts or arbitration centers relating to issues of Islamic banking and finance business.

The statement added that a decision has been issued by the Governor and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Central Bank of Kuwait, on 5 October 2020, on the establishment of the Higher Committee of Shari'ah Supervision and the appointment of the following four experienced Fiqh and Islamic banking specialists as members:

Dr. Essa Z E Shaqra — Chairman  
Dr. Khaled MY Boodi — Member  
Mostafa Sayed H A Alzelzalah — Member  
Dr. Motlaq J M Aljaser — Member

The appointment is for a three year term and renewable.

In conclusion, the Central Bank of Kuwait stressed its commitment to making diligent efforts toward developing the banking sector in Kuwait and promoting governance across the sector, aiming to bolster the State's financial stability.



Business

# Ooredoo wins gold at 2020 Stevie International Business Awards

A host of international awards reaffirms company's industry leadership

DOHA: Ooredoo has won a total of 26 international business awards as it continues to gain recognition for its market-leading product offerings, business and technology innovation and commitment to social responsibility within the telecommunications industry.



Ooredoo Maldives for 'Most Innovative Company of the Year'.

Ooredoo was also named the winner of eight Bronze Stevie Awards including: Ooredoo Kuwait, Ooredoo Myanmar, Ooredoo Maldives and Ooredoo Group in the category 'Most Valuable Corporate Response'; Ooredoo Kuwait and Ooredoo Maldives in the category 'Business & Government'; Ooredoo Myanmar in the category 'Corporate Social Responsibility Program of the Year'; and Ooredoo Group in 'Company of the Year - Telecommunications'.

Commenting on the awards, Sheikh Saud bin Nasser Al-Thani, Group CEO, Ooredoo, said: "We are delighted by this prestigious recognition of our work as we continue to achieve our mission to deliver world-class mobile services for consumers, businesses, residences and organizations across the Middle East, North Africa and Southeast Asia. These awards acknowledge our commitment to deliver disruptive innovations to our customers, while harnessing the power of mobile technology to help bring about social and economic progress and empowering local communities."

**2020 Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards**  
In July 2020, Ooredoo was named the winner of eight awards at the 2020



Sheikh Saud bin Nasser Al-Thani

Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards, a prestigious international business competition and awards ceremony that recognizes innovation by companies from the 29 nations of the Asia-Pacific region. Ooredoo Maldives received two Gold Stevie Awards. One in the 'Innovation in Apps' category for the enhancement of Ooredoo Moolee, the first-of-its-kind e-commerce marketplace that is providing unprecedented digital opportunities for communities and businesses in the Maldives. The second in the 'Innovation in Customer Service' category for m-Faisaa, an innovative digital payment service that offers Maldivians an easy, secure and affordable way to manage their money.

Ooredoo Myanmar won a Gold Award in the 'Innovation in HR Management, Planning & Practice' category for its 'Winning with People' strategy, demonstrating Ooredoo's commit-



ment to creating a positive work environment within the organization. Ooredoo Maldives received one Silver Stevie Award in the 'Excellence in Innovation in Technology Industries' category in recognition of its continuous efforts in CSR, customer service and IT.

Ooredoo Myanmar was recognized with three Bronze Stevie Awards, including the 'Award for Innovation in Technology Management, Planning & Implementation', the 'Award for Innovation in General Utility Apps' and the 'Award for Innovation in Community Relations of Public Service Communications', recognizing its outstanding innovative solutions within the sector. Indosat Ooredoo also won a

Bronze Stevie in the 'Innovative Use of Technology in Customer Service' category for its highest rated telecommunications app, MyIM3, which is a customer engagement and acquisition platform.

**Asia Responsible Enterprise Awards 2020**

Indosat Ooredoo won the Social Empowerment category at the Asia Responsible Enterprise Awards 2020 for its digital education program, Ooredoo Digital Camp (IDCamp). IDCamp is a scholarship program from Indosat Ooredoo designed to produce young Indonesian developers and programmers and help to address the shortage of digital talent within the Indonesia.

- Ooredoo Group awarded a Grand Stevie as part of the Best of the IBA Awards
- Ooredoo wins 17 awards at the 17th Stevie Annual International Business Awards
- Eight awards won at the 2020 Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards
- Indosat Ooredoo wins for Social Empowerment at the Asia Responsible Enterprise Awards 2020

## UK growth slowed less than thought in September: PMI

LONDON: Britain's economy proved more resilient than initially thought last month, despite a tightening of lockdown restrictions and an end to a temporary government subsidy for businesses such as restaurants and bars, a major survey showed yesterday.

The IHS Markit/CIPS Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for the services sector - which does not cover retailers - dropped to 56.1 in September from August's five-year high of 58.8, but the decline was smaller than an initial "flash" estimate of 55.1. Readings above 50 indicate that a majority of businesses reported growth in activity.

The composite PMI, which includes manufacturing data released last week, fell to 56.5 from August's six-year high of 59.1, again a smaller drop than first reported. "The UK service sector showed encouraging resilience in September, with business activity continuing to grow solidly despite the government's 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme being withdrawn," IHS Markit economist Chris Williamson said. "Many other consumer services activities showed a similar slide back into contraction as renewed

lockdown measures were introduced," he added.

The PMI data painted a more upbeat picture than most other business surveys. The British Chambers of Commerce said on Thursday that many more firms reported falls in sales during the third quarter than saw an increase, and said its data did not point to a sharp, 'V'-shaped recovery. Britain's economy shrank by a record 20% in the second quarter when lockdown measures were tightest, and performed worse than any other major advanced economy in the first half of the year.

However there has been a fairly rapid - though uneven - recovery and economists polled by Reuters forecast on average that August gross domestic product data, due on Friday, will show output was around 7 percent below its year-ago level. Last week the Bank of England's chief economist, Andy Haldane, said he expected output in September to be just 3-4 percent below year-ago levels, and said many commentators had underestimated the strength of the rebound.

Nonetheless, a sharp rise in COVID cases in Britain in



LONDON: Britain's economy proved more resilient than initially thought last month, despite a tightening of lockdown restrictions and an end to a temporary government subsidy for businesses such as restaurants and bars, a major survey showed yesterday. —Reuters

September - following similar surges in France and Spain - has led to new restrictions on socializing at home or outside, though schools and workplaces remain open. IHS Markit said confidence about the future remained positive, but was its weakest since May in both the services and the composite data.

Businesses also cut jobs for a seventh month in a row in September - the longest run since 2010. The reductions, though, were at the slowest pace since March despite the imminent end of a government job support program this month. Lowest September UK new

car sales for two decades

British new car registrations fell to their lowest level for a September in more than two decades, as the coronavirus pandemic continued to hit the sector, an industry group said yesterday. There is normally strong demand in September as it is one of two occasions per year when the license plate series changes. But last month sales dropped by 4 percent to 328,041 cars, the smallest figure since 1999, when the dual number plate series was introduced in Britain, according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT). —Reuters

## WB chief proposes debt cancellation for poorest countries

BERLIN: The COVID-19 pandemic could trigger a debt crisis in some countries, so investors must be ready for granting some form of relief that could also include debt cancellation, World Bank President David Malpass was quoted as saying on Sunday.

"It is evident that some countries are unable to repay the debt they have taken on. We must therefore also reduce the debt level. This can be called debt relief or cancellation," Malpass told Handelsblatt business daily in an interview. "It is important that the amount of debt is reduced by restructuring," Malpass added. He pointed to similar steps in previous financial crises such as in Latin America and the so-called HIPC initiative for highly indebted countries in the 1990s.

Rich countries last month backed an extension of the G20's Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), approved in April to help developing nations survive the coronavirus pandemic, which has seen 43 of a potential 73 eligible countries defer \$5 billion in "official sector" debt payments.

Amid warnings the pandemic could push 100 million people into extreme poverty, Malpass renewed his call for private banks and investment funds to get involved too. "These investors are not doing enough and I am disappointed with them. Also, some of the major Chinese lenders did not get enough involved. The effect of the aid measures is therefore less than it could be," the World Bank head said. — Reuters

## Argentina president hopes for IMF deal 'as soon as possible'

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina: Argentina President Alberto Fernandez said on Sunday he hoped to reach an agreement with the International Monetary Fund to refinance a \$44 billion loan "as soon as possible."

His announcement comes ahead of the arrival Tuesday of an IMF mission to focus on the country's debt restructuring. "I have had many conversations in this time with Kristalina Georgieva," Fernandez told the newspaper Clarin, referring to the IMF chief. "I have the impression that she sees better than anyone the difficulties that exist in Argentina."

Fernandez said an agreement with the Washington-based crisis lender is "basically necessary to give the economy predictability." An understanding "clears up many doubts, which I do not have, but that some sectors of the economy do," he said.

"What I hope is that we continue working as well as we have done up to now, that we can find quick answers to the concerns they have and that we can reach an agreement, a program as soon as possible," he added.

After assuming the presidency last December, Fernandez put repayments on hold and renounced outstanding tranches of the bailout, saying Argentina already had enough debt. After defaulting on its debt in May for the ninth time in history, Fernandez's government in late August reached a deal with foreign creditors to restructure \$66 billion in debt after months of tense negotiations, giving it \$37.7 billion in relief.

Once a deal seemed assured, Buenos Aires formally opened consultations with the IMF to agree new terms on the repayment of a \$44 billion bailout loan agreed in 2018. After the deal was signed, economy minister Martin Guzman said the next step will be to reach an agreement with the IMF for a new credit program.

The IMF announced in late September that it will carry out a mission on Argentina's debt restructuring, after talks on a new accord resumed last month. The mission will be composed of western hemisphere deputy director



BUENOS AIRES: Women carry bags with food portions from a soup kitchen to feed people hit hard by the economic crisis, at the Villa 21-24 shantytown in Buenos Aires amid the new coronavirus pandemic. —AFP

Julie Kozaek, mission chief for Argentina Luis Cubeddu and the IMF's resident Argentina representative Trevor Alley. Argentina's troubles have been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic, with more than a third of the country's population of 44 million living in poverty. — AFP

## Octopus Energy to create 1,000 jobs, new tech hub

LONDON: Britain's Octopus Energy plans to double its workforce by the end of 2021 and launch a new technology hub in Manchester in the northwest of England, creating around 1,000 jobs, it said yesterday. The move comes as economists warn of the stark impact of coronavirus-related restrictions on the economy, with the Bank of England expecting a jump in the jobless rate to 7.5 percent as measures to support jobs ease. "These 1,000 jobs will provide exciting opportunities across the country for those who want to be at the cutting edge of the green revolution," Prime Minister Boris Johnson said in a statement from the company. The new jobs will also be spread across existing sites in London, Brighton, Warwick and Leicester and will primarily go to graduates, the company said.

Octopus Energy is one of Britain's fast growing energy suppliers with around 1.7 million customers in the country and operations in Australia and the United States.

Its propriety Kraken cloud-based energy platform is helping it use smart technology to offer customers cheaper electricity when renewable power supply is high and special tariffs for customers with their own generation such as solar panels. "Our technology is making the UK the Silicon Valley of energy... and can help make Britain the best place to invest in creating new clean technology," CEO Greg Jackson said. — Reuters

## Business

# Star-studded lineup of judges, mentors as Lexus Design Award 2021 deadline nears

Participants have until 11 October 2020 to submit creative ideas

KUWAIT: Lexus has unveiled its full lineup of judges and mentors for the Lexus Design Award 2021, and is reminding emerging designers that they have only a few days remaining to submit their entries before the 11 October 2020 deadline. Now in its ninth year, the annual design competition was established as a global platform to nurture the next generation of creators, and offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for talented designers from around the world.



Six finalists to receive around \$25,000 each

The event's judging panel has been completed with the addition of Dong Gong, an acclaimed young Chinese architect, and Greg Lynn, a highly influential American architect and CEO of robotics company Piaggio Fast Forward. They join the panel's returning judges Paola Antonelli, a renowned design influencer and Senior Curator in the Department of Architecture and Design of New York's MoMA, and Simon Humphries, who heads Lexus' Global Design. The

esteemed judging panel will select one Grand Prix winner from among six finalists during Press Day at the prestigious Milan Design Week 2021. Their decision will be based on three key principles of the Lexus brand: Anticipate, Innovate, and Captivate, with an emphasis on design that leads to a better tomorrow. Lexus will announce the six finalists from thousands of entries in early 2021, who will go on to participate in a workshop with world-class design professionals acting as mentors.

Each will enjoy a priceless experience as the mentors provide direct, interactive guidance in developing prototypes that bring their ideas to life. This year's newest mentor is the artist and designer Sputniknik!, whose innovative video and multimedia installations address technology's impact on society. She joins Nigerian architect Mariam Kamara, Dutch designer Sabine Marcelis, and American creative and entrepreneur Joe Doucet.

The mentorship program offers an individual production budget of up to JPY 3 million (over \$25,000), allowing participants to turn their concepts into functional prototypes that will be exhibited at the finale of Lexus Design Award 2021, scheduled to be held in April 2021. A single winner will be selected after finalists present their prototypes and ideas to the judging panel at the event under the eyes of global media and guests. "The Lexus Design Award embodies our belief in harnessing the power of creativity to build a better future," commented Kei Fujita, Chief Representative, Middle East and Central Asia Representative Office, Toyota



LDA judges



LDA mentors

Motor Corporation. "For almost a decade, this unique platform has been uncovering the brightest new talents and empowering them to turn their ideas into reality. Supporting the next generation is an essential component of our drive to create Amazing Experiences and push the boundaries of what can be achieved through brave design. I'd like to thank the global design community for taking the Lexus Design Award to their hearts and I am looking forward to see what innovations this year's finalists will bring to Milan."

The closing date for entries to the Lexus Design Award 2021 competition is October 11, 2020. Please visit [discoverlexus.com/highlights/entries-open-for-lexus-design-award-2021](https://discoverlexus.com/highlights/entries-open-for-lexus-design-award-2021) for additional information.

## Title

Lexus Design Award 2021  
Last Submission Date  
October 11, 2020

## Judging criteria

- Anticipate: Do the concept and design anticipate not only the needs of user experience but also society?
- Innovate: Does the design demonstrate new thinking and originality in its proposal and execution?
- Captivate: Is the design intriguing and compelling when in concept and execution

## Judges

- Paola Antonelli, Senior Curator for the

Department of Architecture and Design at MoMA, NY

- Dong Gong, Founder / Design Principal of Vector Architects
- Greg Lynn, Architect and CEO, Piaggio Fast Forward
- Simon Humphries, Head of Lexus Global Design

## Mentors

- Joe Doucet, Founder, Joe Doucet x Partners
  - Mariam Kamara, Principal Architect, atelier masm
  - Sabine Marcelis, Designer / Founder, Studio Sabine Marcelis
  - Sputniknik!, Artist and Designer, Associate Professor of Tokyo University of The Arts Department of Design
- Award categories One Grand Prix winner (selected from the six finalists)

## Six finalists

- Prizes/benefits Six finalists invited to the mentorship a session with mentors from diverse fields who provide guidance to help elevate prototype design.
- Six finalists invited to Milan Design Week 2021
- Six prototypes exhibited at the Lexus exhibition space during Milan Design Week 2021
- Six finalists receive up to 3 million JPY (over \$25,000) each to cover prototype production costs
- Prototypes are to be produced between January and March 2021



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

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its weekly draw on 4th October 2020 announcing the names of the winners for the week of 27 September - 1 October 2020. The weekly draw consists of five winners who receive KD 1,000 each, every week.

## The winners this week are:

Hasan Ibrahim Mohsen Albhallam  
Saif Ashour Almajidi  
Ali Yaagoub Mousa Mataqi  
Rosita G. Ortiz  
Ibrahim Najeeb Ibrahim Al-Furaih

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.

## Changing economy, climate hit Austria's Alpine pastures

PERTISAU, Austria: With tender care, Sepp Rieser adorns the bulky heads of his reluctant cows with flower wreaths, adds some more fir twigs, and adjusts the large bells around their necks.

"I've been doing this since I was a little boy," Rieser says of the ancestral tradition in which cattle are decorated for their journey from the high Alpine Gramai pasture in Austria's western Tyrol state, where they graze all summer long, to the valley below where they'll spend the harsh winter months.



Cows decorated with bells and flowers are leaving their summer pastures during the annual ceremonial so-called 'Almabtrieb' (cattle drive) at Gramai-Alm in Tyrol's Karwendel Alpine nature park near Pertisau, Austria. — AFP

Al-Danah offers a number of unique services to customers, including the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card, which allows account holders to deposit money into their accounts at their convenience. Account holders can also calculate their chances of winning the draws through the 'Al-Danah Chances' calculator available on the Gulf Bank website and app. Furthermore, loyal Al-Danah customers are rewarded with loyalty chances. Loyalty chances are the total chances accumulated from the previous year, which are added to the customer's chances the following year. Therefore, the total chances earned by Al-Danah customers in 2019, have been added to their 2020 chances, and the same process will take place in 2021, and so on. Terms and conditions apply.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD200 to open an account and the same amount should be maintained for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD 200 at any given time, a KD 2 fee will be charged to their account monthly until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the weekly draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2020 quarterly and yearly draws, customers must meet the required hold period for each draw.

To Rieser, the festivities surrounding this journey to the village of Pertisau in the Karwendel mountains are as important as his birthday or Christmas. Images of Jesus and the Virgin Mary feature in the adornments of his 90-strong herd, reflecting the region's strong Catholic heritage. But it could soon be a relic of the past: Sweeping economic changes as well as climate change are taking their toll on the landscape and threatening the future of the tradition as well as its bovine stars. The small-scale farms that dominate Tyrol have become economically unviable, forcing thousands of farmers to pivot to more reliable sources of income. As a result, more than 25,000 cows have disappeared over the past decade, and with them the pastures they used to graze on, according to figures from the agriculture ministry.

## The foundation of life

Within the past two decades, around 1,250 pastures in Tyrol alone have been left to revert to nature, a development that is also affecting other regions of the Alps, from southeastern France through Switzerland, as well as parts of Italy, Germany and Slovenia. In Tyrol, where hiking in the summer and skiing in the winter are the mainstays of the economy, the impact is particularly distinct, Rieser explains as he puts the finishing touches on his cow's halter, engraved with his name and three Edelweiss flowers. Taking the cows to the pastures "is very important, firstly for the cows' fitness, their longevity and their health, and of course also to maintain the pastures and the entire landscape," Rieser tells AFP at an altitude of more than 1,260 meters (4,130 feet), where his herd spends the summer grazing on fragrant meadows.

Cows and mountain pastures, says Rieser, "are the foundation of our lives." Without cows, pastures can quickly become overgrown with shrubs and forests, altering the landscape and making it impossible, according to Jasmin Duregger, a climate change expert at Greenpeace Austria. — AFP

## COVID gives boost to Portugal's bicycle makers

LISBON: Portugal's bicycle makers feared for their future when the coronavirus pandemic forced them in March to shut for two months but 2020 now looks set to be a bumper year as people shun public transport and opt for healthier ways of getting around. Portugal, Europe's largest manufacturer of bicycles, had to shut its nearly 40 factories and put their 8,000-strong workforce on furlough to help curb the spread of COVID-19, but is now struggling to keep up with booming global demand.

"When we closed on March 13, we thought it would be a catastrophe, we were scared," said Bruno Salgado, executive board member of RTE Bikes, which owns Europe's largest bike factory, in the city of Gaia, in northern Portugal. "But it turned out to be a blessing in disguise for us," said Salgado, standing between two busy production lines at the factory, which produced 1.1 million bicycles last year. Worldwide, people have been trying to avoid crowded trains and buses during the pandemic, preferring to cycle, walk or jog to work and other destinations.

Cristina Lateira, a civil servant in Lisbon, said it was the pandemic that had finally persuaded her to splash out 800 euros on the electric bike she had long dreamed of buying. "It's the fear of being on very busy public transport, in winter, the fear of contagion that made me choose this mode of transport that I consider much safer," the 42-year-old said. Like most other European countries, Portugal has recently seen the

number of COVID-19 infections rise again after a summer lull.

## Export surge

Portugal exports about 90 percent of the bicycles it produces, with key markets in Germany, France and Italy. As lockdowns imposed to halt the spread of COVID-19 began to ease across Europe during the summer months, distributors around the continent ran out of stock, pushing Portuguese manufacturers to raise production and capacity.

RTE Bikes is now working at full steam, producing about 5,000 bicycles a day, up from an average of 3,000-4,000 this time last year, Salgado said.

Joao Maia, general manager at In Cycles, a rival firm which produced 87,000 bicycles in 2019, has seen demand double. "At the moment, we export bicycles to all countries in the world, including countries that are supposed to be major bicycle producers" such as Italy, Bulgaria and Romania, said Maia, as electric bikes were assembled in a production line behind him.

In Cycles plans to double its production lines to four from this month and already has orders for about 185,000 bicycles in 2021, Maia added. Even before the pandemic struck, partly due to increased concerns over climate change and a move to healthier lifestyles, Portugal's production had jumped 42 percent in 2019 to a record 2.7 million bicycles - almost a quarter of all those built in the European Union, according to Eurostat data.

Despite this year's two-month factory shutdown, Gil Nadais, general secretary of the Portuguese bicycle manufacturers' association Abimota, told Reuters he expects the country will beat last year's record. Lisbon civil servant Lateira certainly has no regrets. "I had hesitated a lot, I was very anxious whether I should make this purchase because it is a bicycle, it can be stolen," she said. "But it was worth it." — Reuters



LISBON: Portugal, Europe's largest manufacturer of bicycles, had to shut its nearly 40 factories and put their 8,000-strong workforce on furlough to help curb the spread of COVID-19, but is now struggling to keep up with booming global demand. — Reuters

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## Lifestyle | Features

# WARS, ROWS AND SCANDALS: WHEN THE NOBELS DIDN'T GO AS PLANNED

**W**ars, jailed laureates and diplomatic rows have occasionally put the brakes on the Nobel prizes through the years. This time it is the coronavirus pandemic that has thwarted plans, and while prize announcements will go ahead this week, December festivities will be scaled back. The traditional December 10 awards ceremony and banquet in Stockholm honoring the laureates in medicine, physics, chemistry, literature and economics has been replaced by a televised event where the winners will receive their prizes in their home countries. The Oslo ceremony for the peace prize, held on the same day, will meanwhile go ahead on a smaller scale, and that banquet has also been cancelled. Here are some previous occasions when the Nobels didn't go as planned.

## Prizes not awarded

The committees tasked with selecting Nobel laureates in the fields of medicine, physics, chemistry, literature, peace and economics can refrain from awarding the prize. The Nobel Foundation's statutes say this is possible when no work or research is deemed worthy. Not awarding the prize can also be an honour. In 1948, several months after the death of Mahatma Gandhi, the Nobel Peace Prize was not awarded, a homage to the Indian pacifist who never won the prize-widely considered a historic omission. The committee at the time said "there was no suitable living candidate".

In total, 49 prizes have not been awarded since the first Nobels in 1901, most of them in the field of peace (16 times). The prize can also be postponed.

That was the case in 2018, when a scandal engulfed the Swedish Academy which selects the literature prize winner. The 2018 prize was awarded instead the following year, to Polish author Olga Tokarczuk.

## World wars

While Sweden remained neutral during the two world wars, the Nobel committees often refrained from awarding the prizes, especially during World War II. Both moral and logistical reasons were cited, as well as the fact that the committees in Stockholm no longer had access to scientific publications. Norway, which awards the peace prize, was meanwhile occupied by Nazi Germany from April 1940. The peace prize was not awarded between 1939 and 1945, when the 1944 prize was awarded retroactively to the Red Cross. In Stockholm, the prizes were awarded again from 1944, though the prize ceremony in December was cancelled.

## Absent friends

In 1924, organizers cancelled the formal prize ceremonies in Stockholm and Oslo because of a combination of ailing laureates, including Polish writer Wladyslaw Reymont, and the fact that the chemistry and peace prizes were not awarded. That was the only time the ceremonies have been cancelled in peacetime. Meanwhile, the celebratory banquet traditionally held after the December 10 prize ceremony at Stockholm's City Hall was cancelled in 1956 to avoid inviting the Soviet ambassador because of the repression of the Hungarian Revolution. An unofficial,



The portrait of Alfred Nobel is seen prior to the announcement of the winners of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm yesterday. — AFP photos



A bust of Alfred Nobel is pictured prior to the announcement of the winners of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm.

smaller dinner was organized instead. Several laureates have over the years been unable to attend the Nobel ceremony for political reasons. German journalist and pacifist Carl Von Ossietzky was detained in a Nazi concentration camp and was unable to receive his peace prize in 1936. He died two years later.

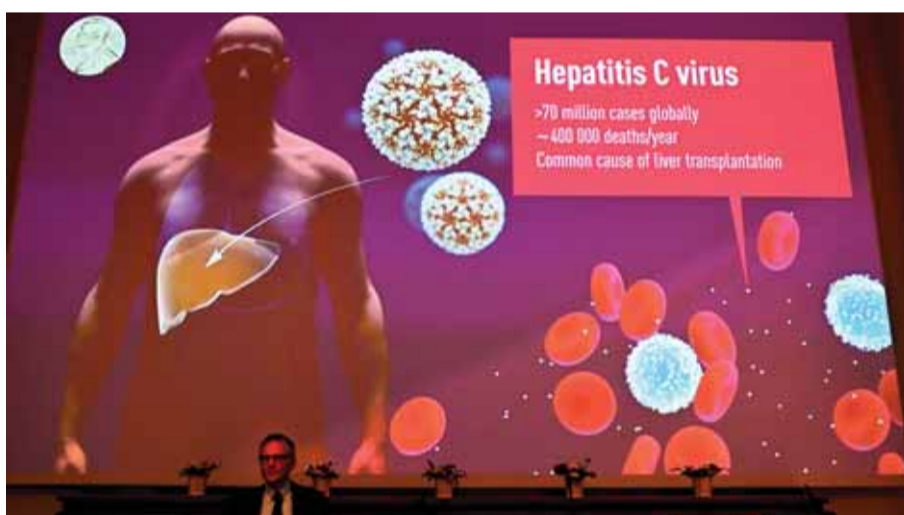
Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi was under house arrest when she won the peace prize in 1991 and was unable to accept her prize in person until 2012. In 2010, Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo was in prison when he was awarded the peace prize. His chair remained empty, where the prize was placed. He died in 2017. In the case of Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the Soviet writer was forced to decline his 1970 literature

prize, fearing that he would not be able to return to his country should he travel to receive it. He finally accepted the award four years later.

## Declined prizes

Several laureates have declined their prizes, including two who did so of their own will. French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre turned the literature prize down in 1964, and although Russian author Boris Pasternak accepted it in 1958, Soviet authorities later forced him to decline it. In 1973, Vietnam's peace negotiator Le Duc Tho refused to share the peace prize with US secretary of state Henry Kissinger, arguing that the ceasefire ending the Vietnam War was not being respected.

Kissinger meanwhile refused to travel to Oslo for the prize ceremony because of the risk of protests, and was replaced by the US ambassador. In the 1930s, three German scientists were awarded Nobels: Richard Kuhn (1938) and Adolf Butenandt (1939) in chemistry, and Gerhard Domagt (1939) in medicine. But Hitler-outraged over the prize to Von Ossietzky-barraged any German from accepting a Nobel, and they were forced to decline their prizes. They received their Nobels after the war. — AFP



Nobel Committee member Patrik Ernfors sits in front of a screen displaying the work field of the winners of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine during a press conference at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm yesterday. Americans Harvey Alter and Charles Rice together with Briton Michael Houghton won the Nobel Medicine Prize yesterday for the discovery of the Hepatitis C virus, the Nobel jury said. — AFP

## Five things to know about Nobel prizes

**S**ince 1901, the Nobel prizes have been awarded to men, women and organizations whose work has led to great advances for mankind, in line with the wishes of inventor Alfred Nobel. Here are five things to know about the prizes and their creator.

### Posthumous awards

Since 1974, the statutes of the Nobel Foundation stipulate that the award may not be given posthumously. But a person may be awarded the honor if she or he dies between the time of the announcement in October and the formal prize ceremony in December. Before the change, only two people had won a Nobel posthumously. One was Dag Hammarskjöld, the Swedish secretary general of the United Nations who died in a plane crash in 1961 but was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize later the same year. And in 1931, the Nobel Prize in Literature was awarded posthumously to another Swede, Erik Axel Karlfeldt. In 2011, the medicine prize committee selected Ralph Steinman of Canada, unaware that he had passed away just three days before its announcement. The foundation decided nevertheless to give him the prize.

### Unlikely peace prize nominations

From Adolf Hitler to Michael Jackson via Stalin or Mussolini, the Nobel Peace Prize has, in almost 120 years of existence, seen its share of improbable, far-fetched or eyebrow-raising candidates pass through. Hitler was nominated for the Peace Prize by a Swedish MP in January 1939, on the brink of the bloodiest conflict in history. The proposal, which was meant as sarcasm and aimed at discrediting the nomination of Britain's Neville Chamberlain after the Munich Agreements, was however withdrawn. Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, later tried for genocide, was also pro-

posed, as was Jules Rimet, the "father" of the football World Cup.

### Only one in 20 female laureates

While their representation among winners has been steadily increasing since the early years, as of 2019 women still only represented five percent of all laureates. Between 1901 and 1920, only four women were honored, which has increased to 24 percent in the last two decades, but still only account for 54 out of the 923 laureates. The economics prize has only been awarded to two women, but it has only been around since 1969, which can be compared to the physics prize which has only three female laureates since 1901. Nevertheless, the first person to win the Nobel Prize twice was Marie Curie, in 1903 in physics and in 1911 in chemistry.

### Nobel the poet

Nobel went down in history as the inventor of dynamite, but he was also keen on English poetry and a fan of Shelley and Byron. He wrote poetry his entire life, sometimes in his native Swedish but mostly in the Bard's language. In a letter to a friend, he wrote: "I have not the slightest pretension to call my verses poetry; I write now and then for no other purpose than to relieve depression, or to improve my English." In 1862, at the age of 29 and questioning his literary talent, he sent a letter to a young woman that said in French: "Physics is my field, not writing." The year of his death, 1896, he wrote a scandalous tragedy in four acts entitled "Nemesis", inspired by Shelley's play "The Cenci" about a woman in 16th-century Rome who murders her incestuous father.

### Mathematics?

Why is there no Nobel prize for mathematics? There were longstanding rumors that Alfred Nobel's lover had an affair with mathematician Gosta Mittag-Leffler, but in the 1980s, researchers were able to put those to rest. There's nothing to support the rumor, and everything suggests otherwise. So why is there no prize? There are two likely explanations. In 1895, when Nobel wrote his will, a maths prize already existed in Sweden and he saw no need for a second one. And at the beginning of the 20th century, the applied sciences were in public and scientific favor. The contribution of mathematics to humanity was not as obvious as it is today. — AFP

## In era of team science, are Nobels out of step?

**W**ith the 2020 Nobel prizes this week comes a recurrent question: has the world's most prestigious awards for physics, chemistry and medicine - first conferred in 1901 - lost touch with the way modern science is conducted? A century ago, landmark discoveries took place mostly in the mind or laboratory of a single individual. More recently, big breakthroughs in the hard sciences are generally collaborations involving dozens, sometimes hundreds of researchers working in separate but interlocking fields. Two teams totalling 1,500 scientists, for example, were behind the landmark detection earlier this year of a so-called intermediate mass black hole.

Major advances in science have also become hugely reliant on technology, which is sometimes used - especially in physics - to detect phenomena theorized to exist before today's scientists were even born. "The Nobel Committee's refusal to make an award to more than three people had led to manifest injustices," Martin Rees, Britain's Astronomer Royal since 1995 and former president of the Royal Society said. Indeed, the recent history of the Nobels is littered with what some have called "deserving losers", a fourth man or woman who would have likely shared in the prize without that limitation.

Rees cited the late Tom Kibble for his work on the elusive sub-atomic particle that came to be known as the Higgs boson. Others lament the failure to recognize American virologist Robert Gallo for his contribution to the discovery of HIV, Rosalind Franklin for her pioneering work on DNA, and Italian physicist Adalberto Giuzotto for his role in detecting gravitational waves. Giuzotto died a month after the prize for that discovery was handed out in 2017.

### Three's the limit

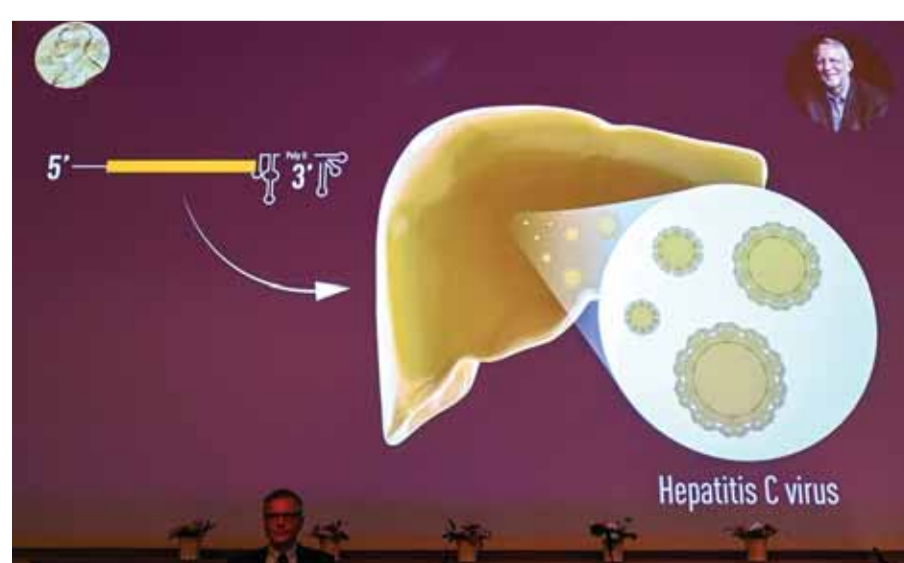
"It has also given a misleading impression of how 'big science' actually advances," added Rees, who notes the prize has excluded "large tracts of science," including mathematics and the environmental sciences. Even the most

ardent defenders of Nobel Prize and its arguably archaic rules acknowledge that science has shifted dramatically since the era of Einstein, Monsieur and Madame Curie, and Karl Landsteiner, the Austrian biologist who figured out in the 1920s that we have blood types. "There has been an enormous change since the early 1900s," Erling Norrby, a Swedish virologist and long-time pillar of the Nobel establishment, told AFP by phone.

"It is true that in modern science you often have very large groups of people interacting," added Norrby, who helped confer Nobels in medicine for 25 years, and has cast votes for the prizes in physics and chemistry since the early 1980s. "But the question is whether we can identify the one or two leaders. I think we can see who has taken the initiative." To some extent, faculty from the Karolinska Institute, which grants the Nobel for medicine, and the Royal Swedish Academy of Science, which does the same for physics and chemistry, have shifted with the times.

From 1920 to 1930, 23 of 30 awards were given to an individual scientist, and in the decade after World War II solo winners numbered 19. In the first twenty years of this century, that has only happened on four occasions, with three-way awards given out 41 times. In medicine, the number of possible recipients was expanded to three in 1934 (for the discovery of the B12 vitamin), with the first three-way prizes for chemistry and physics in 1946 and 1956, respectively.

But the rules have evolved no further, which means the Nobels cannot directly recompense the large, international experiments that have become the backbone of so much modern science. Norrby conceded that Europe's CERN - which runs the world's largest particle physics laboratory and conducted the experiments to detect the Higgs boson - would probably have shared in that Nobel if the rules had allowed, as they do for the Peace Prize.—AFP



Nobel Committee member Patrik Ernfors sits in front of a screen displaying the work field of the winners of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine during a press conference at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm yesterday. — AFP



## Netflix India releases 3 episodes of 'Bad Boy Billionaires'

**N**etflix has partially released its much-awaited series on four Indian tycoons facing fraud allegations after a state court lifted an injunction over the weekend, a lawyer representing Netflix said yesterday. The "Bad Boy Billionaires: India" documentary series about liquor tycoon Vijay Mallya, Subrata Roy of the Sahara group, IT executive Ramalinga Raju and jeweler Nirav Modi was set for release last month. Netflix, the world's largest streaming service, suspended the show's release after an order from the Araria district court in eastern Bihar state where the Sahara group argued it would damage Roy's reputation.

Later on Saturday, the court lifted the injunction, said Amit Shrivastava, a lawyer for Netflix. He declined to comment further and it was not immediately clear why the court overturned its previous order. The official order is yet to be released. Netflix did not respond to a request for comment. A spokesman for Sahara also did not respond. Roy is currently on bail, having been ordered by a court to repay billions of dollars to investors in a scheme which was found to be illegal.

Roy denied wrongdoing in the case and his counsel has said he already has repaid investors. Some Netflix shows in India have faced court challenges and police complaints for obscenity or for hurting religious sentiments. The ongoing legal spat is among the most high-profile ones Netflix has faced in India, one of its key growth markets. The streaming company had argued that halting the show's release "freezes free speech" and hurts the company financially, Reuters has reported.

Yesterday, Netflix made three of the four episodes in the series available on its app for viewers in India. The episode focusing on Raju was unavailable. Raju, who was accused of a \$1 billion accounting fraud more than a decade ago, has obtained a separate injunction on its telecast from a court in south India. The case would be heard later on, A Venkatesh, a lawyer for Raju said. The other two tycoons - Modi and Mallya - are facing extradition attempts and are currently in the United Kingdom. Both have denied wrongdoing. — Reuters

Lifestyle | Features



This aerial photo shows empty swimming pools in a row of hotels on Patong beach in Phuket.



Women sit in front of a sign on Patong beach in Phuket.



This aerial photo shows a near-empty main road along Patong beach in Phuket. A private infinity pool, gourmet meals... and round-the-clock surveillance from a 'war room'—the first foreigners to arrive in Thailand will be ensconced in luxury conditions under some of the strictest quarantine rules in the world. — AFP photos

# 'Gilded cage': Private pools, fancy meals in Thai luxury quarantine

A private infinity pool, gourmet meals - and two temperature checks a day. Welcome to five-star quarantine in Thailand, where well-heeled tourists can live in luxury while obeying some of the world's strictest anti-coronavirus measures. After barring visitors for six months, the tourism-reliant country is reopening to a small number of holiday-makers, with the first batch arriving in Phuket, a popular resort island, in the coming weeks.

But before enjoying the beaches, the 300 tourists from China and Scandinavia will have to complete 14 days of compulsory quarantine, including two coronavirus tests, overseen by a "war room" of doctors and security guards. "It will be comfortable but I am afraid I might be anxious because of the confinement," said Jean-François, a French retiree living in Sweden who hopes to escape the winter in the kingdom.

"I do wonder if Thailand is doing a bit too much," he said. At The Senses Resort overlooking Phuket's Patong Bay, 16 villas have been specially prepared for quarantine guests. The villas, which are up to 220 square meters were redesigned, getting rid of cushioned surfaces to make disinfecting easier, while CCTV security cameras have been installed at the entrances. Employees



Photo shows a villa that has been converted for use as an alternative state quarantine (ASQ) room for incoming overseas tourists at The Senses Resort on Patong beach in Phuket.

have also received training at a hospital in how to spot infections, and given personal protective equipment to deliver room-service meals.

### 'Not much profit'

"We won't make much profit from these special clients because of the expenses involved," says hotel owner Suppachoke Laongphet. But "we had to

find other sources of income to support our staff and the local economy". His resort is one of nine properties in Phuket - mostly luxury hotels - with government approval for quarantining guests.

Upmarket quarantine does not come cheap: confinement at The Senses runs to a hefty \$5,300, or \$18,700 for a family of four. If the Phuket model proves successful, the government will attempt to

replicate it in the rest of the country. Once visitors finish quarantine, they can stay and travel freely for three to nine months on a special visa created to revive tourism. Expectations for a record 40 million visitors this year were dashed after the coronavirus put global travel on hold, sending Thailand's economy into free-fall.

Border closures in April meant an immediate freeze to the incomes of millions of Thais working in the sector - with knock-on effects on the service and restaurant industries. Before the pandemic, tourism generated 93 percent of Phuket's income. Today, nearly all hotels and more than 70 percent of the island's businesses are shuttered, officials say. But Thailand has emerged relatively unscathed from the virus with just 59 deaths, and authorities are hoping travellers can be lured back despite having to abide by strict - and costly - quarantine measures.

### Police on call

The number of visitors under the new visa scheme will likely be limited - "just those with the means and who wish to stay several months in our country", says Kongsak Khoopongsakorn, president of the Thai Hotel Association's southern chapter. But a tourism revival - however

small - is sorely needed, he says. "This is not what will sustainably improve the economy of the country but it allows us to be patient."

At The Senses resort, visitors will wake up to a view of the island's lush sloping mountains and can swim laps in each villa's infinity pool. But attempting to leave the room could bring police at a guest's door within 15 minutes, said Thanchanok Pramkull, the hotel's deputy commercial director, while an infected guest can be taken to hospital within half-an-hour.

Completing quarantine does not ensure unfettered freedom - Thai premier Prayut Chan-O-cha has said visitors' whereabouts will continue to be tracked via mobile phone apps. But the strict rules have not deterred interest. About 20 people from India and Europe have already contacted the hotel since it got approval for the program. "It is effectively a gilded cage," says a 50-year-old Danish visitor planning a stay at The Senses, who declined to be named. "But it's worth it. After the quarantine we will be able to enjoy beautiful sunsets in one of the safest places in the world for COVID." — AFP



Passers-by shelter from the rain under an umbrella, walk past a cineworld cinema in Leicester Square in central London. Cineworld is set to close its 128 UK sites in the coming weeks. — AFP

## Cineworld brings down curtain on US, UK theatres

Cineworld, the world's second-biggest cinema chain, will close its UK and US movie theatres this week, leaving as many as 45,000 workers unemployed, as it fights a coronavirus-related collapse in film releases and cinema-going. The company said the reluctance of studios to go ahead with major releases such as the new James Bond film had left it no choice but to close all 536 Regal theatres in the US and its 127 Cineworld and Picturehouse theatres in the UK from Oct 8.

Cineworld Chief Executive Mooky Greidinger told Sky News that the operations might resume in "two months, or a bit longer". Movies including the superhero sequel "Wonder Woman 1984" are

slated for a Christmas Day release. "From a liquidity point of view, we were bleeding much bigger amounts when we are open than when we were closed," Greidinger said. Cineworld's statement yesterday, confirming leaks over the weekend, spelt out the scale of job losses from its move, which affects thousands of ancillary staff including cleaners and security as well as its own employees. Shares fell as much as 60% to an all-time low within ten minutes of the opening bell yesterday as the group, which is carrying heavy debt due in part to its acquisition of Regal in 2018, said it was looking at all ways of raising additional funds.

By 0915 GMT, they were 30% lower, taking their loss this year to more than 90%. Cineworld's statement follows a grim evaluation by ratings agency S&P on Friday of rival AMC Entertainment, owner of the Odeon chain, which said the US-based group may run out of liquidity in six months unless it can raise more capital. The entertainment industry has been among the heaviest hit by social distancing and other restrictions, with Walt Disney last week announcing plans to lay off roughly 28,000 employees, mostly at its US theme parks. —Reuters

## KENZO, FIRST JAPANESE DESIGNER TO CONQUER PARIS FASHION, DIES

Japan's most famous fashion designer Kenzo Takada, founder of the global Kenzo brand, died in the French capital on Sunday aged 81 after contracting coronavirus. Tributes have poured in for Takada, the first Japanese designer to decamp to Paris and known especially for his signature floral prints. "Today, his optimism, zest for life and generosity continue to be pillars of our Maison (House). He will be greatly missed and always remembered," the Kenzo fashion house he founded wrote on Twitter.

He "helped to write a new page in fashion, at the confluence of the East and the West", said Ralph Toledano of



File photo shows Paris-based Japanese designer Kenzo (left) posing with a model at the end of his Fall-Winter 1995-96 ready-to-wear collection show. — AFP photos

the Haute Couture Federation. His death comes 50 years after he launched his first collection in Paris, which he adopted as his home. "Every wall, every sky and every passer-by helps me build my collections," he once said of the city. He retired from fashion in 1999, six years after selling his brand to luxury conglomerate LVMH, and dedicated his time to one-off projects including a design collection at the start of this year.

### Dreamt of Paris

Born in 1939 into a family of hoteliers, he chose to study art not catering, becoming a star pupil at Tokyo's Bunka Gakuen college, where he carried off the top prize. He went on to work for Sanai, a major chain of fashion shops, but dreamt of Paris. The 1964 Olympic Games finally gave him his opportunity to come to Europe. The block of flats in which he was renting an apartment was to be demolished to make way for a stadium. Like all the tenants, he was paid compensation and decided to blow the money on a one-way ticket on a cargo boat to Marseille.

Arriving in Paris in the winter of 1965, hardly speaking any French, the only job he could get was in a poodle parlor. In 1970, however, he took the lease of premises in the Galerie Vivienne, then a rather down-at-heel shopping arcade. "With a few friends for three months we painted the walls with jungle scenes like Le Douanier Rousseau's Snake Charmer and baptized it Jungle Jap," he recalled later. His first show using amateur models to save money was held there. One of only 20 people invited included the editor-in-chief of Elle magazine, who liked the collection so much she ran it on the front cover.

He became a name almost overnight, and went on to revitalize the knitwear industry with his contemporary interpre-

tations. By the early 1980s, when other Japanese designers were making their way in Paris, Takada was already well established on the French fashion scene. His first men's collection was presented in 1983 and his first perfume, Kenzo Kenzo, in 1988. From the early 1980s boutiques opened all over the world in New York, London, Milan, Tokyo and Rome, followed later by Hong Kong, Munich, Venice, Bangkok and Singapore.



A man walks outside a Kenzo fashion store in Tokyo yesterday - a day after Japanese fashion designer Kenzo Takada died in Paris aged 81.

Kenzo's romantic style, with its eclectic mix of color, touches of exoticism, ethnic prints and folksy embroidery, suited the mood of the 1970s but adapted well to the sharper-looking 1980s and 1990s. He drew inspiration from his travels as well as Japanese work clothes, such as his favorite military tunics and coats. Peruvian striped blanket throws, colorful shawls, oriental blouses, peasant smocks, printed velvet, were all part of his signature. —AFP

## Sports

## Photo of the day



Massi Piffa is seen in Florida. —Photo taken from www.redbullcontentpool.com

# Garcia closes with birdie to win the PGA Sanderson Farms title

## The first US PGA title since capturing 2017 Masters

WASHINGTON: Sergio Garcia made a tap-in birdie on the 72nd hole to win the Sanderson Farms Championship on Sunday, taking his first US PGA title since capturing the 2017 Masters. The 40-year-old Spaniard dropped his approach inside 3 1/2 feet and eagled the par-5 14th to match US clubhouse leader Peter Malnati, then landed an 8-iron from 171 yards just 2 1/2 feet from the cup at 18 and made the winning putt. "It's pretty sweet," Garcia said after a smile and fist pump in celebration. "It's great. Obviously a lot of hard work."

Garcia fired a five-under par 67 to finish 72 holes at the Country Club of Jackson, Mississippi, on 19-under 269 and edge Malnati, who was in the clubhouse with the lead for two hours, by a stroke. "This game is my dream job," Malnati said. "I get to do it every day. It beats me up and it's tough. To have a day like today, what I did out there, just felt awesome. I feel like I won the tournament." Garcia dedicated the victory to his father, Victor Garcia, who has seen two brothers die because of Covid-19.

"It has been tough," Garcia said. "I lost two uncles because of Covid. It has been tough for my dad. But this one was for him." Garcia, who won his first US PGA title as a father, has won three times on the European Tour since capturing the green jacket but is only ranked 51st in the world. "Keep believing. Keep working hard. Keep your mind right," Garcia said of the keys to his victory. "I've also been able to find a couple things here and there that obviously have helped."

"It feels great to stand there on 18 to rip a nice

draw and hit an 8-iron and make a putt." Malnati fired a bogey-free 63 - a career low and one off Roberto Castro's course record - to set the score to beat at 18-under 270. Malnati won his only PGA title at the 2015 Sanderson Farms, but he had only managed three PGA top-10s since then.

### Malnati sets a mark

The world number 312 birdied three of the first four holes on putts from nine to 12 feet, rolled in a six-foot birdie putt at the eighth and began the back nine with three birdies in a row and another at 15. Malnati holed a 32-foot birdie putt at the par-4 17th and left the last groups a challenge. Malnati began the day five strokes adrift of co-leaders Garcia, JT Poston and Cameron Davis, an Australian who never recovered from three front-nine bogeys.

Garcia birdied two of the first three holes and answered bogeys at the sixth and eighth each time with birdies on the next hole, then made the eagle to match Malnati. Garcia sought his fourth birdie of the week at 15 but found the right rough and a greenside bunker before holing a four-foot par putt, building the drama to the final hole. Poston birdied the fifth and sixth, made his first 3-putt of the week to bogey seven, then sank a 10-foot birdie putt at the 10th and a 16-foot birdie putt at the par-5 14th to pull one off Malnati.

But Poston found the rough and a bunker at 16 and couldn't save par from 13 feet, then closed with two pars to shoot 70 and finish third on 272. American Keegan Bradley made a late charge

sional last year. Song, ranked 91st, also missed out on her first LPGA triumph in her 220th career start. World number 74 Reid stretched her lead to three strokes with an eight-foot birdie putt at the par-3 11th to reach 18-under while Song missed a four-foot par putt and joined Kupcho on 15-under. Reid rolled in another birdie at the par-4 12th, her fourth birdie in five holes, to reach 19-under, boosting her advantage to four shots.

Kupcho birdied the 13th to pull within three, but Reid sank a clutch 12-foot par putt at the par-3 15th and Kupcho made a three-putt bogey at the 16th, restoring Reid's four-shot edge. Reid found the rough at the par-3 17th, chipped out to 20 feet and missed her par putt, taking a bogey and her lead was down to two shots on the 18th tee after Song and Kupcho each birdied 17 to reach 16-under. Song, Kupcho and Reid all found the right rough on the par-5 finishing hole. Kupcho blasted onto the front of the green while Song rolled into greenside rough.

Reid smacked a 6-iron within 15 feet of the cup on the edge of the green to all-but seal the victory. "It came out better (than I expected)," Reid said. "We figured being short was fine. Obviously was disappointed at 17. We didn't want to do anything stupid." Kupcho missed a 50-foot eagle putt but tapped-in for birdie while Song settled for par. Reid rolled her eagle putt inches from the cup and tapped in for birdie and the victory, hugging her caddie before friends sprayed her with champagne.

Reid birdied two of the first three holes but stumbled with bogeys at the par-4 sixth, after leaving her approach in rough shy of the green, and par-3 seventh, a tap-in par putt horse-shoe-ing the lip of the cup and staying out to fall one back of Song. But Reid answered with birdies at the eighth and par-5

also in the mix. Alaphilippe moved left from a lead position to knock Hirschi and Pogacar out of contention but as the Frenchman raised his arms, Roglic continued racing and beat the Frenchman over the line. The world champion was later relegated to fifth by race officials, and was as embarrassed as he was apologetic.

"That is the first and last time you'll ever see me celebrate too soon," he said. "I'm really sorry for Hirschi, I have seen the images and I swerve. That won't happen again either." Hirschi was in forgiving mood. "He moved, hit my wheel, that can happen," said Hirschi. That left three Slovenians in the top four with Pogacar second and Matej Mohoric fourth



MISSISSIPPI: Sergio Garcia of Spain celebrates with the trophy after winning the Sanderson Farms Championship at The Country Club of Jackson on October 04, 2020. —AFP

thanks to a 60-foot eagle putt at the par-5 11th and birdies on 14 and 15, but the 2011 PGA Championship winner closed with a bogey and settled for a share of fourth on 273. Sweden's Henrik Norlander was also on 273 after shooting 65, aided by eagles at the par-4 15th, on a stunning 60-foot putt after driving the green, and the par-5 third on a 38-foot putt. —AFP



GALLOWAY: Mel Reid of England kisses the trophy after winning the ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer on the Bay Course at Seaview Hotel and Golf Club on October 04, 2020. —AFP

ninth to reclaim the lead by one on 17-under at the turn. Kupcho stumbled with a bogey at the fourth and a double bogey at eight, but birdies at nine and 10 lifted her back into contention. —AFP

behind Hirschi. The win marks a redemption for Roglic, who led the Tour de France for two weeks before a final-day meltdown. Instead of going under, the former ski-jumper can now close his season with a prestige win.

"It's unbelievable. It was so close. It goes to show you can never stop believing and never stop pushing until the last centimeter," said the 30-year-old Roglic. "It was the first time I did the oldest race in the calendar. It was on my wish list to win a Monument. I'm super happy I managed to win," he said. Former soldier Alaphilippe took the defeat on the chin and also praised the winner. "We have a great winner in Primoz Roglic," he said. "I made a

## England's Reid wins first LPGA title at ShopRite Classic

NEW YORK: England's Mel Reid won her first LPGA title on Sunday, firing a four-under par 67 to capture the ShopRite Classic by two strokes over American Jennifer Kupcho. The 33-year-old from Derby made bogey at the par-3 17th but closed with a birdie to finish 72 holes at the Seaview resort in Galloway, New Jersey, on 19-under 265. "Relief. It's a huge relief," Reid said. "It's so emotional." Kupcho was next on 267 after a final-day 68 with American Jennifer Song third on 268 and Japan's Nasa Hataoka fourth on 270 after closing 69s. Together with compatriot Georgia Hall, a winner two weeks ago at the Portland Classic, Reid's victory produced the first back-to-back LPGA triumphs by English women since Irish Johnson and Caroline Pierce in 1996.

At Portland, Reid fired a final-round 74 to squander a two-stroke lead and settled for sharing fifth while Hall took the trophy. "I just wanted to kind of redeem myself," Reid said. "I'm proud how I handled myself." Reid, a European Solheim Cup veteran, owns six titles on the Ladies European Tour but had not won since the 2017 Women's Victorian Open in Australia. Reid's best prior finish in an LPGA event was a share of third in last year's Women's PGA Championship.

Kupcho, ranked 58th, had a birdie-birdie finish but could not collect her first LPGA title after turning profes-

## Agony for Alaphilippe as Primoz Roglic wins Liege-Bastogne-Liege

LIEGE: Slovenia's Primoz Roglic pipped an already celebrating Julian Alaphilippe to the line Sunday at cycling's top Belgian one-day classic Liege-Bastogne-Liege. The epic 257km run through the Ardennes culminated with four of the hottest racers in the world contesting the finish, with Tour de France winner Tadej Pogacar and Swiss Marc Hirschi

## News in brief

## Shakhtar in self-isolation

KIEV: Six Shakhtar Donetsk players will miss Ukraine's friendly with World Cup winners France tomorrow after the club went into self-isolation following positive COVID-19 tests for two players, Ukraine's football association said. Ukrainian champions Shakhtar reported late Sunday their goalkeeper Andriy Pyatov and midfielder Taras Stepanenko, who had both been named in the squad to play les Bleus, had tested positive for coronavirus. "All Shakhtar representatives are going to self-isolate," the club said in a statement, adding all the staff, including players, will be tested again within four days. It means that another four Shakhtar representatives in the national team - Mykola Matviyenko, Viktor Kovalenko, Marlos and Junior Moraes - will miss the trip to Paris, Ukraine's FA said. —AFP

## Sao Paulo winless run goes on

CURITIBA: Sao Paulo drew 1-1 away at Coritiba on Sunday to extend their winless run to seven games despite having two-thirds of the possession and most of the chances. Robson opened the scoring for Coritiba after six minutes but Reinako equalised from the penalty spot for Sao Paulo in the 69th minute. The result, coupled with Flamengo's 3-1 win over Athletico Paranaense, means Sao Paulo fall into fifth place in the Serie A table, four points behind leaders Atletico Mineiro. Coritiba are fourth bottom of the table with 12 points from 13 games. —Reuters

## Woman jockey makes history

PARIS: Jessica Marcialis made French racing history on Sunday becoming the first woman jockey to win a Group One race landing the Prix Marcel Boussac on Tiger Tanaka. Even better for the 30-year-old Italian, who resumed her career after becoming a mother, her partner Charley Rossi trains Tiger Tanaka. Tiger Tanaka and Marcialis have risen from winning at a very modest level earlier this season to landing France's most prestigious race for two-year-old fillies and on Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe day. "I want to say to all the mums that we can do it, so to be strong," said Marcialis, who first rode competitively in 2013. "It's ladies day! I never thought I would get to 30 and win a Group One race." "When I came past the winning post all I could think about was Charley and our young son who is here too. —AFP

## PSG sign Pereira on loan

PARIS: French champions Paris Saint-Germain yesterday announced the loan signing of Danilo Pereira from Porto. The 29-year-old midfielder, who has won 39 caps for Portugal, has signed until June 30, 2021, with an option to buy. Pereira made 202 appearances for Porto, scoring 19 goals and winning the Portuguese league twice (2018 and 2020), the Portuguese Supercup (2018) and the League Cup (2020). "It's a new challenge for me, and to be part of Paris Saint-Germain fits my ambitions," Pereira said. "Joining one of the biggest clubs in Europe and in the world is a huge moment in my career, and I hope to be able to bring a lot to Paris and its supporters." —AFP

## Ulissi wins Giro 2nd stage

AGRIGENTO: UAE Team Emirates' Italian Diego Ulissi won an uphill dash for the line on stage 2 of the Giro d'Italia on Sunday as compatriot Filippo Ganna kept the overall leader's pink jersey. The victory ahead of Peter Sagan was Ulissi's seventh on the Giro and follows Ganna's home crowd pleasing win on Saturday. "We played the tactics just right, as we had planned in the morning briefing," said Ulissi, backed by mainly Italian coaches. Race favorite, Team Ineos captain Geraint Thomas, and the main contenders for the three-week event all finished together on the Sicilian hilltop. On a sizzling afternoon the peloton left Alcamo to run through the Valley of the Temples with their Minoan archaeological ruins, but the southern coast chalk cliffs and rolling breakers out at sea provided an equally attractive backdrop. —AFP

## Toulouse's Toulon victory

PARIS: South African Rugby World Cup winner Cheslin Kolbe kept up his impressive early season try scoring record by crossing in Toulouse's 39-19 French Top 14 win over Toulon on Sunday. Kolbe has dotted down five times in as many games since the restart and his first half touch-down at Stade Ernest Wallon helped his side to a 25-0 lead at the break. Kolbe's outfit finished with 14 men after replacement prop Rodrigue Neti was sent off for a shoulder charge at a ruck with 20 minutes to play and missed out on a bonus points for scoring three tries more than their opponents. "We started really well and at half-time we knew Toulon's pride would bring them back into it. They showed it a lot in the second half but we grit our teeth and kept the lead." Toulouse fly-half Romain Ntamack told Canal. —AFP

## Watson, du Plessis fire up Chennai

DUBAI: Veterans Shane Watson and Faf du Plessis rewarded Chennai Super Kings' faith in sticking with their old guard after leading their team to a thumping 10-wicket Indian Premier League win. Watson, aged 39, struck form with an attacking 83 in an unbeaten 181-run opening stand with the 36-year-old du Plessis, who plundered 87, as Chennai thrashed Kings XI Punjab on Sunday. Led by 39-year-old Mahendra Singh Dhoni, the three-time Indian Premier League winners are labeled "Dad's Army" by the media and they ended a run of three consecutive defeats by keeping to a philosophy of backing their ageing players. While South Africa's in-from du Plessis struck his third half-century of the season, it was Australian Watson's return to form that enabled the team to bounce back. —AFP

mistake and I have to take full responsibility for it," said the Frenchman who might have been more embarrassed without the decision to strip him of second place.

"The only thing to do is get on with the next race now," said Alaphilippe, who rides for Belgian team Deceuninck-Quick Step. Belgium's Gren van Avermaet is likely to miss the rest of the season after falling at around 100km from the finish. His CCC outfit said later on Sunday the 2017 Paris-Roubaix winner suffered various injuries including breaking three ribs. The five Monuments are the very long one day races with Milan-San Remo, Paris Roubaix, the Tour of Flanders and the Giro Di Lombardia. —AFP

## Sports

# Lewandowski hits 4; Bayern Munich win 7-goal thriller

## Augsburg miss the chance to top the table

**BERLIN:** Robert Lewandowski netted four goals - including the decisive added-time penalty - as defending Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich survived a fight-back by Hertha Berlin to seal a nervy 4-3 win on Sunday. Lewandowski, voted European footballer of the year on Friday, scored twice to put Bayern 2-0 up early in the second half only for Hertha to score three times to make it 3-3 with time almost up. However, the Poland hot-shot then converted a 93rd-minute spot kick to seal the win which lifts Bayern to fourth in the table.

The victory got Bayern back to winning ways after their record 23-match winning streak was ended by a 4-1 defeat at Hoffenheim last Sunday. Yet the European champions again looked jaded at the Allianz Arena while Hertha finished the stronger. Fresh from their 3-2 victory over Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday in the German Super Cup, Bayern gave a first start to US junior international Chris Richards, 20, at right-back. In the build-up, Bayern announced the signing of defensive midfielder Marc Roca from Espanyol to replace Thiago Alcantara who has joined Liverpool.

### Hertha fight back

Bayern made a nervy start as Hertha's Colombia striker Jhon Cordoba beat Manuel Neuer on 15 minutes with a fierce strike, but he was offside. Thomas Mueller headed the ball in the Hertha net on 36 minutes, but the VAR ruled he was offside. Lewandowski first struck on 40 minutes when he fired home the rebound after Hertha goalkeeper

Alexander Schwolow had saved his initial header. It was Lewandowski's 100th Bundesliga goal for Bayern at Munich's Allianz Arena. It was 1-0 at the break, but the Poland star doubled his tally six minutes into the second half when he turned through 180 degrees to fire home after Richard's pass. Hertha pulled a goal back when Cordoba struck with a header on 59 minutes from a free-kick by Matheus Cunha, who has been called up by Brazil.

The 21-year-old Cunha then made it 2-2 after dribbling past Jerome Boateng, then beat David Alaba and Benjamin Pavard before firing past Neuer on 71 minutes. Bayern again pulled ahead when Mueller met Alaba's free-kick and served up a tap-in for Lewandowski on 85 minutes. There was still time for Hertha replacement Jessic Ngankam to header an equaliser past Neuer on 88 minutes. However, Lewandowski netted the decisive spot kick just before the whistle after being pulled down by Berlin defender Maximilian Mittelstaedt.

### Augsburg miss top spot

Earlier, second-placed Augsburg missed the chance to top the table as they were held to a goalless draw at Wolfsburg, who had a first-half goal disallowed. Having beaten Union Berlin and shocked Borussia Dortmund in their opening German league games, a third straight win would have sent Augsburg top ahead of RB Leipzig, who routed bottom side Schalke 4-0 on Saturday. With coach Heiko Herrlich missing on the sidelines due to a lung problem, Augsburg's attack failed to find the net at Wolfsburg,



**MUNICH:** Hertha Berlin's Colombian forward Jhon Cordoba (right) and Bayern Munich's German defender Jerome Boateng vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match FC Bayern Munich vs Hertha Berlin on October 4, 2020. —AFP

who have drawn their opening three league games. The hosts had a first-half goal by midfielder Josip

Brekalo ruled out as the VAR spotted striker Wout Weghorst offside in the build-up. —AFP

## Liverpool, United lick wounds after humbling defeats

**LONDON:** Liverpool became the first reigning English champions to concede seven goals in a league match since 1953 and Manchester United were thrashed 6-1 as inquests started after a humiliating day for England's two most successful clubs. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side thought they had grabbed the headlines for all the wrong reasons against Tottenham on Sunday but Jurgen Klopp's team upstaged them in a scarily credible 7-2 defeat against Aston Villa.

Klopp can argue Liverpool's defeat is a bizarre one-off after an impressive start to the season but United appear to be in deep trouble as the international transfer deadline looms. Liverpool, who romped to the title by 18 points in the 2019/20 campaign, went into their match at an empty Villa Park with a 100 percent record in the league this season.

They were missing first-choice goalkeeper Alisson Becker through injury and were also without Sadio Mane and Thiago Alcantara, who have both tested positive for coronavirus, but were still expected to have too much for their opponents.

But Villa forward Ollie Watkins scored a first-half hat-trick and Jack Grealish had a hand in five goals as Liverpool's high line was torn apart by the home side's counter-attacking. "It was unexpected but it happened tonight," said Klopp, whose side lost just four league matches over the previous two seasons.

"We put all our rubbish things and mistakes in one game and hopefully we can start again." The Liverpool boss said he was desperate to get his players back on the training pitch but they are now heading off for an international break before gathering again for a tough-looking challenge at table-topping Everton. "I would love to have a training session tomorrow and Tuesday and to talk about it, but the boys go back off to international duty," Klopp said. "Hopefully they come back healthy and we use the two days to prepare for Everton."

### United woes

While Liverpool will hope their result is an anomaly, there is plenty of evidence that United have lost their way. The Old Trafford club have not competed for the Premier League title since Alex Ferguson retired in 2013 but hopes were high after they finished third last season.

That optimism has been misplaced, with United soundly beaten 3-1 at home by Crystal Palace and incredibly



**BIRMINGHAM:** Aston Villa's Brazilian midfielder Douglas Luiz (hidden) vies with Liverpool's Portuguese striker Diogo Jota during the English Premier League football match between Aston Villa and Liverpool at Villa Park in Birmingham on October 4, 2020. —AFP

fortunate to escape with a 3-2 victory at Brighton last weekend. But they sank to a new low at an echoing Old Trafford on Sunday as Harry Kane and Son Heung-min ran riot, scoring two goals apiece against the home side, who were reduced to 10 men after the first-half sending-off of Anthony Martial.

Former United defender Gary Neville, now a TV pundit, described their performance as "an absolute shambles" as they matched their 6-1

loss to Manchester City in 2011. United's players were fortunate there were no supporters in the ground to witness the rout. Club captain Harry Maguire apologised to fans in an Instagram post, saying the performance was "unacceptable" and Marcus Rashford said there were no excuses. Solskjaer took the blame for the humiliation, which once again raises major questions about whether he is the man to restore the club to their former glories. —AFP

## Barca held by Sevilla; drop first points of the season

**MADRID:** Barcelona dropped their first points of the season on Sunday as Sevilla made a statement of intent in La Liga's title race by drawing 1-1 at Camp Nou. Luuk de Jong gave Sevilla an early lead and while Philippe Coutinho leveled two minutes later, the visitors were arguably the better side in a frantic contest.

The draw brings an end to Ronald Koeman's perfect start as Barca coach but he might not be too displeased with a point, even if his team also had chances to snatch a winner. "We were less energetic than in the first two games but that also depends on the opposition," said Koeman. "They have defended well." Real Madrid are three points ahead of Barcelona but having played a game more, after their 2-0 win over Levante earlier on Sunday sent them to the top of the table.

Goals from Vinicius Junior and Karim Benzema sealed victory for the reigning champions, who have now won three games on the bounce. Neither Madrid nor Barca are expected to be busy on the last day of the transfer window on Monday, with both clubs finding themselves financially restricted by the coronavirus pandemic. But some players

could be allowed to leave and it was noticeable that Koeman left Ousmane Dembele on the bench, even as his team searched for a winner. Koeman preferred to bring on the youthful duo of Francisco Trincao and Pedri.

"Things can happen," said Koeman afterwards when asked about Dembele. "Right now he's a Barca player, let's see. There is one day left, players can come in or go out." Antoine Griezmann also offered very little down the right but the Frenchman will be given more time under Koeman. Luka Jovic was dropped to the bench by Zinedine Zidane and not brought on, but he is expected to stay after the departure of Borja Mayoral to Roma. De Jong put Sevilla in front after eight minutes as Barcelona failed to react to a short corner and then failed to clear, the ball sitting up nicely for the striker to smash in.

### 'We had to suffer'

But the lead lasted less than two minutes, a brilliant, curved ball over the top by Lionel Messi causing panic in the Sevilla defense, where Jesus Navas slid to intercept but only teed up the resurgent Coutinho to finish. Messi sent a bending shot past the far post and Ansu Fati hit straight at the goalkeeper but Sevilla were the ones in the ascendancy.

Barcelona struggled to get out from the back under pressure from Sevilla's high press and Ronald Araujo almost scored an own goal, spared by the post after Youssef En-Nesyri's run down the left. Trincao and Pedri were both thrown on by

places back. Andre Villas-Boas' Marseille have not won in the four matches since they beat Paris Saint-Germain last month while Lyon's winless run already stretches to five matches in the six-game-old season. The hosts have drawn four of those matches and struggled to break down Marseille even though the away side played most of the match with 10 men following Dmitri Payet's 19th-minute red card for a high challenge on Leo Dubois.

Marseille had taken the lead thanks to talisman Payet's smart finish just three minutes before he was sent off, but Houssem Aouar leveled from the penalty spot just before the half hour mark and that's how the scores remained. Aouar, who was set to be leaving in the summer transfer window which closes on Monday, thought he had also



**BARCELONA:** Barcelona's Brazilian midfielder Philippe Coutinho (right) scores during the Spanish League football match between FC Barcelona and Sevilla FC at the Camp Nou on October 4, 2020. —AFP

Koeman and Trincao might have won it after being put through by Messi late on. But Sevilla goalkeeper Bono made the stop to earn his team a deserved point. Madrid, meanwhile, registered a third clean sheet in four games to see off Levante as Vinicius and a late strike from Benzema sealed victory.

"We had to suffer," said Zinedine Zidane. "We had chances in the second half to kill the game and that would have made it different. We suffered a lot because they also had chances." Zidane's team have become something of a defensive juggernaut after their solidity and resilience formed the basis of their successful title bid last term. —AFP

scored the winner with 14 minutes remaining only to see his goal ruled out for what looked like a soft foul on Marseille keeper Steve Mandanda.

"In the circumstances it's a good point which gives us some confidence," said Villas Boas. "I'm happy because the players gave everything, we rediscovered the spirit that we had last season." Earlier Rennes clung on to top spot in Ligue 1 after scrabbling to a 2-2 home with Reims which allowed Lille to move level on points with the leaders with a 3-0 win at Strasbourg. Rennes were leading at the break and were set to go back clear in first place but Boulaye Dia barged through the home defense before slotting home the goal that would give Reims a point in the 66th minute. —AFP

## Napoli no-show lets, Milan, Atalanta pull clear; Inter held 1-1

**MILAN:** Napoli risk a 3-0 forfeit for failing to turn up for their Serie A clash against Juventus amid a row over coronavirus protocol in Italy on Sunday, allowing title rivals Atalanta and AC Milan move top of Serie A ahead of Inter Milan who were held at Lazio. Gennaro Gattuso's Napoli had been top of the league going into weekend's action with two wins in as many games as they target a third Serie A title and first in 30 years.

But Eljif Elmas and Piotr Zielinski's positive coronavirus tests forced the southerners into home isolation on the instructions of health authorities in the Campania region. The Lega Serie A insisted all the health protocols were in place for the match to safely go ahead as scheduled for Turin at 1845 GMT.

"(Napoli president Aurelio) De Laurentiis asked me to postpone the match, I replied that there are regulations to be respected," Juve president Andrea Agnelli told Sky Sport Italia. "A 3-0 win? I always prefer to win on the field." Agnelli added whose side had four points after two games as they chase a 10th title in a row. Amid the turmoil, Andrea Pirlo's champions prepared their game as usual, naming a starting list, despite solid indications of a Napoli no-show for the third game of the season.

The Juventus bus pulled into the Allianz Stadium an hour beforehand, with the players remaining in their tracksuits on the pitch, along with referees and a handful of supporters under the rain. The match was eventually abandoned 45 minutes after its scheduled start time, with Napoli's fate now depending on a meeting of Italian league officials today. "Honestly, there are people who are competent to deal with situations and problems of this type," said Inter Milan coach Antonio Conte.

Serie A runners-up Inter were held 1-1 in a bad-tempered game against Lazio in Rome where both teams finished a man down. Lazio played the final 20 minutes without last season's top Serie A scorer Ciro Immobile, who was sent off for hitting out at Arturo Vidal, with Inter's Stefano Sensi also seeing red with minutes to go. But Conte was happy to take a point from the Stadio Olimpico before the Milan derby. Lautaro Martinez's first-half goal was cancelled out by Sergej Milinkovic-Savic's header ten minutes into the second half.

### 13 goals in three games

Atalanta are top of the table with a maximum nine points alongside AC Milan, two points ahead of Sassuolo and Inter. Atalanta crushed Cagliari 5-2 in their first game in Bergamo this season, bringing their tally to 13 goals in three games played. Luis Muriel opened the scoring after seven minutes with Papu Gomez blasting in the second from a distance just before the half hour mark, for his fourth goal in three games. Uruguayan defender Diego Godin pulled a goal back for Cagliari on his debut since moving from Inter. But Mario Pasalic and Duvan Zapata also scored in a five-minute spell before the break, with Sam Lammers completing the rout after Joao Pedro scored.

Joao Pedro reduced the deficit for the Sardinians after the break but Sam Lammers marked his first home game with an impressive solo effort with nine minutes to go. "The score could have been much bigger," said Gasperini. "Now the (international) break interrupts this momentum. Hopefully we'll pick up where we left off." AC Milan beat promote Spezia 3-0 to extend their unbeaten run to 15 games. Portuguese Rafael Leao scored two-second half goals, the first off a Hakan Calhanoglu free-kick just before the hour. —AFP

## Marseille and Lyon's struggles continue as Rennes stay top

**PARIS:** Marseille and Lyon continued their shaky starts to the season on Sunday with a 1-1 draw that leaves both sides languishing in mid-table in Ligue 1. Marseille are 10th on nine points following the draw at the Groupama stadium while Rudi Garcia's Lyon, who reached the semi-finals of last season's Champions League, are two points and four

**14** Garcia closes with birdie to win the PGA Sanderson Farms title



**15** Lewandowski hits 4; Bayern Munich win 7-goal thriller



**15** Liverpool, Man United lick their wounds after humbling defeats



LAS VEGAS: John Brown #15 of the Buffalo Bills rolls out of bounds after catching a 14-yard pass at the 1-yard line against Erik Harris #25 of the Las Vegas Raiders in the second half of the NFL game on October 4, 2020. —AFP

## Browns in rare territory after wild win

Brady throws 5 TDs as Buccaneers rally; Burrow gets first NFL win

**NEW YORK:** Odell Beckham Jr caught two touchdown passes and ran for a third that helped stave off a furious Dallas Cowboys comeback in the fourth quarter Sunday as the Cleveland Browns held on for a 49-38 win at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas. In increasing its record to 3-1 for the first time since 2001 with its third straight victory, Cleveland ran roughshod over Dallas' leaky defense, piling up 307 rushing yards despite losing leading rusher Nick Chubb (knee injury) in the first quarter.

Beckham accounted for 50 of those yards on the play that kept the Browns from blowing a 41-14 fourth-quarter lead. With 3:25 remaining, Beckham went right on a reverse, skirted a tackle attempt and used some nice downfield blocking to race into the end zone after Dallas (1-3) had closed to 41-38. Dak Prescott finished with a monstrous stat line thanks to the late rally. The Cowboys' quarterback completed 41 of 58 passes for 502 yards and four touchdowns. His only mistake was an interception by Denzel Ward at the Cleveland 4 with 1:36 left in the game that sealed the outcome.

### Bills 30, Raiders 23

Josh Allen passed for 288 yards and two touchdowns and ran for another as Buffalo remained unbeaten by handing Las Vegas its first home loss. Allen, who completed 24 of 34 passes, left the game briefly late in the second quarter, grabbing at his left shoulder after completing a backhanded, left-handed shovel pass to Stefon Diggs. Diggs caught six passes for 115 yards, and Devin Singletary rushed for 55 yards and a touchdown for Buffalo (4-0). Derek Carr completed 32 of 44 passes for 311 yards and two touchdowns for Las Vegas (2-2), breaking the franchise record with 151 career touchdown passes. Darren Waller caught nine passes for 88 yards but also had a costly fumble. Josh Jacobs rushed for 48 yards on 15 carries and Daniel Carlson kicked three field goals (54, 39 and 25 yards) for the Raiders.

### Vikings 31, Texans 23

Dalvin Cook rushed for 130 yards and two touchdowns while Adam Thielen and Justin Jefferson each posted 100-yard receiving games as visiting Minnesota held off Houston. The Vikings (1-3) needed a last-minute replay reversal to seal the victory, as a 5-yard fourth-down touchdown pass from Deshaun Watson to William Fuller V with 1:15 remaining was ruled incomplete upon review. Thielen (eight receptions for 114 yards and a touchdown) and Jefferson (four catches for 103 yards) teamed with Cook to give the Vikings their first game since 2000 with a 100-yard rusher and two 100-yard receivers. Kirk Cousins passed for 260 yards and a score for the Vikings. Watson passed for 300 yards and two touchdowns, but the Texans dropped to 0-4 for the third time in franchise history (2005, '08). Fuller (six catches, 108 yards) and Kenny Stills (two catches, 39 yards) made the touchdown catches.

### Seahawks 31, Dolphins 23

Russell Wilson threw for 360 yards and two touchdowns and Chris Carson rushed for a pair of 1-yard scores as Seattle remained unbeaten with the victory over host Miami. Wilson,

who completed 24 of 34 passes, found David Moore in the corner of the end zone for a 17-yard score to put the Seahawks (4-0) ahead 24-15 with 5:30 remaining in the fourth quarter. That came after the Dolphins (1-3) had closed to 17-15 on the fifth of Jason Sanders' field goals. Miami's Ryan Fitzpatrick completed 29 of 45 passes for 315 yards and rushed for a team-high 47 yards, including a 10-yard touchdown scamper with 1:50 left. A two-point conversion pulled the Dolphins within eight points, but Seattle recovered an onside kick and ran out the clock.

### Ravens 31, Washington 17

Lamar Jackson threw two touchdown passes to Mark Andrews and also rushed for a 50-yard score to lift Baltimore over the host Washington Football Team. Jackson completed 14 of 21 passes for 193 yards and added 53 rushing yards to lead the Ravens (3-1). Andrews caught a 25-yard touchdown in the second quarter and added a 22-yarder in the third for his fourth career multi-touchdown game. It was the third straight loss for Washington (1-3). Dwayne Haskins Jr. completed 32 of 45 passes for 314 yards, with top target Terry McLaurin hauling in a game-high 10 catches for 118 yards.

### Saints 35, Lions 29

Drew Brees threw two touchdown passes to Tre'Quan Smith, Latavius Murray scored two rushing touchdowns and visiting New Orleans shook off an early deficit to beat Detroit. Brees passed for 246 yards while completing 19 of 25 attempts for the Saints (2-2). Alvin Kamara rushed for 83 yards and a touchdown and Murray gained 64 rushing yards. New Orleans trailed 14-0 before scoring the next 35 points to take control. Matthew Stafford threw for 206 yards and three touchdown passes for Detroit (1-3). The Lions were held to 90 rushing yards, with Adrian Peterson leading the way with 36 yards and a touchdown with 3:40 left that pulled Detroit to within six.

### Buccaneers 38, Chargers 31

Tom Brady passed for 369 yards and five touchdowns to lead Tampa Bay past visiting Los Angeles. Five different receivers caught touchdown passes for the Buccaneers (3-1), led by Mike Evans with seven catches for 122 yards. Justin Herbert completed 20 of 25 passes for 290 yards and three touchdowns for the Chargers (1-3). He was intercepted once.

### Rams 17, Giants 9

Unable to get their offense on track until late, Los Angeles rode its defense to victory over winless New York at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, Calif. Let by two-time defensive player of the year Aaron Donald, the Rams (3-1) held the Giants (0-4) out of the end zone while improving to 2-0 at their new \$5 billion stadium. The Giants fell to 0-4. Los Angeles' high-powered offense finally delivered with just under seven minutes remaining when quarterback Jared Goff hit wide receiver Cooper Kupp on a 55-yard catch-and-run for a touchdown and a 17-9 lead. Goff was 25 of 32 for 200 yards, his lowest passing yardage of the season and his lowest since

Week 10 of last season. Giants quarterback Daniel Jones was 23 of 36 for 190 yards, with an interception.

### Bengals 33, Jaguars 25

Joe Burrow became the first rookie quarterback to throw for 300 or more yards in three straight games, and Joe Mixon scored a career-high three touchdowns as host Cincinnati held off Jacksonville. The touchdowns were the first in four games this season for Mixon, who piled up 181 yards from scrimmage (151 rushing, 30 receiving) for Cincinnati (1-2-1). Burrow completed 25 of 36 passes for 300 yards with a touchdown and an interception. Randy Bullock made all four of his field-goal attempts. Gardner Minshew completed 27 of 40 passes for 351 yards and two touchdowns to DJ Chark Jr, who had eight receptions for 95 yards. Aldrick Rosas converted 4-of-5 field goals for the Jaguars (1-3), who have lost three in a row.

### Panthers 31, Cardinals 21

Teddy Bridgewater threw for two touchdowns and ran for another as Carolina was in control most of the way in the victory over visiting Arizona. Running backs Mike Davis, who rushed for a game-high 84 yards, and Reggie Bonnafon each posted a touchdown. The Panthers (2-2) won for the second week in a row despite the absence of injured All-Pro running back Christian McCaffrey (ankle sprain). Arizona quarterback Kyler Murray completed 24 of 31 passes for 133 yards and three touchdowns. His 78 rushing yards also were tops for the Cardinals (2-2), who lost for the second week in a row.

### Colts 19, Bears 11

Philip Rivers passed for 190 yards and a touchdown and Rodrigo Blankenship kicked four field goals as Indianapolis defeated host Chicago for its third straight victory. Rivers connected with Mo Alie-Cox for a 13-yard touchdown in the opening quarter, and Blankenship, an undrafted rookie, drilled field goals of 21, 30, 44 and 30 yards. Julian Blackmon added an interception in the fourth quarter for the Colts (3-1). Nick Foles was 26-for-42 passing for 249 yards, with one touchdown and one interception in his first start for Chicago (3-1). Foles connected with Allen Robinson for a 16-yard touchdown with 1:35 to go before David Montgomery ran for the two-point conversion. The Colts recovered the ensuing onside kick.

### Eagles 25, 49ers 20

Wideout Travis Fulgham and linebacker Alex Singleton scored their first career NFL touchdowns on consecutive plays from scrimmage late in the fourth quarter, helping visiting Philadelphia shock San Francisco. Fulgham scored on a 42-yard pass from Carson Wentz to give the Eagles the lead with 5:50 remaining and Singleton returned an interception 30 yards on the 49ers' ensuing possession. Wentz threw for one score and ran for another as the Eagles (1-2-1) took over first place in the NFC East. Wentz finished 18 of 28 for 193 yards. Standout tight end George Kittle returned to the 49ers (2-2) after a two-week absence with a knee injury to catch 15 passes for 183 yards. —Reuters

## Butler torches Lakers; Heat cut NBA Finals deficit to 2-1

**LOS ANGELES:** Jimmy Butler and the undermanned Miami Heat breathed new life into the NBA Finals with a gritty 115-104 upset victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday that cut the best-of-seven series deficit to 2-1. The Heat, well aware that no NBA team has ever come back from a 0-3 series deficit to win in seven games, squandered a 14-point third-quarter lead but dug deep in the fourth to avoid being pushed to the brink of elimination. "I think we realized that we belong," said All Star forward Butler after recording his first career playoff triple-double with 40 points, 13 assists, and 11 rebounds. "They can be beaten as long as we do what we are supposed to do."

LeBron James had a team-high 25 points for the Lakers while Anthony Davis, who was a dominant force in the first two games of the series, got in early foul trouble and lacked rhythm as he managed just 15 points. Miami, without injured starters Bam Adebayo and Goran Dragic for a second consecutive game, built a 13-point lead out of the gate but the Lakers clawed back to within four points after two quarters despite 14 turnovers. The Heat opened the third with a 10-0 run to build another double-digit lead and while the Lakers missed their first seven shots of the half they fought back to lead 91-89 with under nine minutes to play.

Miami needed someone to step up and Butler answered the call with eight consecutive points as the Heat pulled away. "I thought Jimmy was phenomenal," said James. "He did everything that they needed for him to do tonight and he came through big time in a big-time game." This year's NBA Finals will cap a season unlike any other as play restarted in July after a four-month hiatus with all games held at Disney World in Florida to limit the risk from the novel coronavirus. Game Four is today. —Reuters